

www.w3uu.org



Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

HRAC meets the second
Wednesday of each
month
at 7:00 pm at HACC,
Public Safety Building,
Gate 5 on Industrial
Road in Harrisburg
****Please note the NEW
location!**

HRAC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Terry Snyder
WB3BKN
(717) 896-0256
terry@djterry.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Nick Rylatt
AA3T
(717) 957-4688
AA3T@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Tim Lehman
KB3OZA
kb3oza@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Joe Stepansky
KQ3F
(717) 657-9792
KQ3F@comcast.net

TRUSTEE

Steve Gobat
KA3PDQ
ka3pdq@juno.net

WEBMASTER

Matt Kiner
N3SOZ
n3soz@arrl.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Shelby Minier
K3EMT
shelbyminier@gmail.com

The President's Letter.....

I hope everyone is getting "spring" things done around the house and shack. I have been taking advantage of the warm spell to get outside painting and yard work done. I live for the warmer weather.

This month we will be getting all of the field day gear out of the Red Cross building. We will begin to check all of it, and doing any repairs necessary. If you would like to help, the plan will be formed at the meeting. I expect to get the equipment in the week following the meeting.

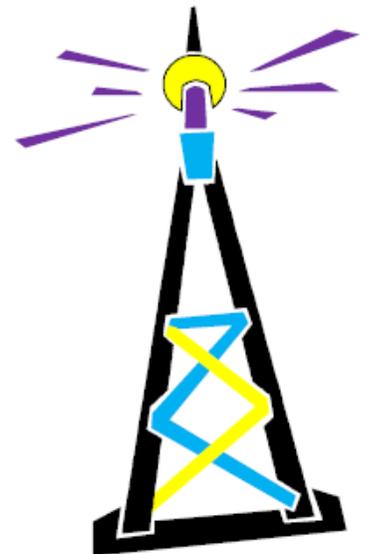
Not really much to report....but we are getting calls about the hamfest already. Vendors are curious about the new location, and how they will fit into the scheme. Everyone should rest assured that there are no bad locations in our commercial vendor area. The tailgating area is HUGE!! There will be lots of areas in which to set up. When we get closer to the date, I will need helpers to get the area marked off for vendors, and the usual pre-event things that need to be done.

I am still looking for people to help be on the air, and to greet the public at the "Halifax on the Air" event on the third weekend in July. Full details can be found at www.HalifaxPaRadioClub.org.

73

See you at the meeting on Wednesday, April 11 at HACC!

Terry (WB3BKN)



March Meeting Minutes

The March 2012 meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was called to order at 7:05 PM. by President Terry (WB3BKN) followed by introductions.

This was our first meeting at the Shumaker Public Safety Center.

Mr. Parish, of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) gave a presentation on the mission and facilities of HACC and improvements currently under construction at the Public Safety Center.

Secretary Report

Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Rick (K2RBT), to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the newsletter. Motion PASSED

Treasurers Report

Joe (KQ3F) presented the treasurer's report. Doug (K3DRE) made a motion, seconded by Rick (K2RBT), to accept the report. Motion PASSED

Membership Committee

Tim (KB3OZA) reported that we gained six new members. Letters were sent to five newly licensed hams, inviting them to the club.

Newsletter

Shelby (K3EMT) still needs articles for publication.

There was also more discussion regarding advertising in the newsletter.

Website

The meeting location is still listed as the Red Cross on N Sixth St.

EMCOMM

Marty (KB3BAA) reported on the following events:

The Tour d'Cure is being moved to the Harrisburg area. There will be an event on 4 May which will require four operators. This will be held in relatively rough terrain.

On 9 Jun the main event of the Tour will be held. It will consist of 25, 75 and 100 km courses and will require approximately 20 operators.

Camp Mucklerats horse ride will be 28/29 Jul. They will need approximately five operators per day to support rest stops along the course.

The Hershey half marathon is scheduled for October and will require approximately five operators.

Wide Vigilance exercise is scheduled for mid-September.

Entertainment

Nick (AA3T) has arranged for Dale Long (N3BNA) to do a slide presentation of his dx-pedition at the April meeting.



March Meeting Minutes, continued

Hamfest

Terry (WB3BKN) reported the following:

Flyers for the event are available. He encouraged members to take some and distribute them at hamfests that they attend. He suggested that it would be best to hand them out personally to people and tell them of the new location, rather than just putting them on a table for people to pick up.

The Fisherville fire company will handle food service for the event.

We will have the garage area and a large tent for vendor space.

Field Day

We have received permission from HACC to hold Field Day at the PSC. We can probably set up our antennas and leave them in place for the ham fest.

The club has a Facebook page and events such as Field Day and the ham fest will be listed.

There was discussion of adding a VHF station to our Field Day set up. Doing so would not change our category, so it would not have an adverse impact on our score.

Old Business - NONE

New Business

It brought up that there are a couple of repeaters in the local area that are using the same frequencies as repeaters in the Lebanon area and this has resulted in some interference problems. A committee was formed to study the matter further and try to formulate a solution to present to the coordination committee. Tim (KB3OZA) and Rick (K2RBT) have volunteered to serve on the committee.

Halifax on the Air – Terry (WB3BKN) reported that his is becoming an international, two-day event with stations in England, North Carolina and Virginia all confirmed as participants. Hopefully Nova Scotia will be represented as well. The event is listed on Terry's web site.

Nick (AA3T) suggested that, even though it is only March, we should work out a plan to move the club's Field Day equipment out of the Red Cross facility as soon as we can to facilitate set-up for that event. He also pointed out that a number of our storage containers should be replaced due to age and deterioration and some additional containers are needed because of new equipment acquisitions.

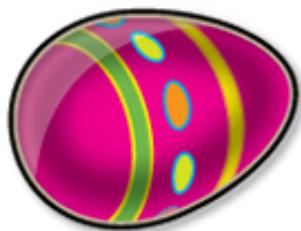
There being no further business to conduct, Pete (KB3WIH) made a motion, seconded by Mike (N3HLK), to adjourn. Motion PASSED

Tim Lehman, KB3OZA

Secretary



W3UU
is
ARRL Affiliated



Weekly HRAC Net

The weekly information net is held every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on the 146.76- repeater, except for the second Wednesday of the month, which is club meeting night.



HRAC Repeater Information

146.76, Tone 100 hz (PEMA 1)

147.075, Tone 123 hz (Dauphin County 1)

224.18, Tone 123 hz (WB3BKN, Terry)

And the newest CPRA repeaters:

444.550 MHz, + 5.00 MHz, Tone 123 hz (Newport)

446.425 mhz, Tone 123 hz (Reeser's Summit)

The Newly Formed Halifax Radio Club

The Halifax Radio Club was formed around a repeater and the special event "Halifax on the Air" (July 21 & 22, 2012). We have applied for the call sign KA3RKW for the repeater, and it will become the club's call sign. The website is www.HalifaxPaRadioClub.org

The following letter was sent to all hams in all cities named Halifax. So far I have Halifax England, North Carolina, Vermont and I am pretty sure that Halifax NS Canada will be part of it.

Hello,

Please allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Terry Snyder (WB3BKN), and I am the President of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Harrisburg, Pa, Chief engineer for UPOD radio stations, voice over talent, and owner of DJTerry.com, a DJ service in Central Pa, as well as a resident of the Halifax, Pa area. I was raised here in the area, although my career has taken me many places, my connection to Halifax has remained strong, and now I have found a way for the world of amateur radio to notice our little Halifax, and your Halifax too.

*You are receiving this letter because you are a licensed radio amateur in the Halifax area. In amateur radio, in case you have not heard of it, there are these things called "special on the air events". I have organized one of these special events for this summer (the weekend of July 21 & 22 from 10am Eastern Saturday to 4pm Eastern Sunday) and you are invited to be part of the event, called **Halifax on the Air**. I am contacting other amateurs in towns, and cities called Halifax all over the world to be involved. Halifax England has committed to it, and I hope that your Halifax will be represented in this world wide event. You do not have to be on the air day and night as we are, but that too could be fun. If you or others in your area find this interesting, please contact me.*

Here is how it will work: In our Halifax, we will be setting up several tents, and antennas in the area that is directly across from Lisi Shell gas station and car wash, a prominent location with a lot of traffic. We will have a display of amateur radio with several working stations, on 40 meters, and 20 meters, making contacts with as many ham radio operators as we can in the two days. The people with whom we make contact will get a commemorative card, or certificate, which the contact can print directly from the special event web site. The participating towns, and cities, will have a page on that web site devoted just to their town, or city. We will take care of entering your log info into the database for the contact. There are many of us out there in radio land who collect such items, and with the international flair to this event, it should be a good time with many contacts.

For our public display, in addition to the ham radio stations, and our educational displays, we are planning to have a sprint car on display, and at this time we are working on a fire truck from one of the local fire departments to show our connection to emergency communications. As we get closer to the date, we hope to arrange to have some additional things on display.

If this sounds like fun, or if you know a group, or club in your area who would like to participate, please contact me. It is my hope to make this a fun and memorable event.

Please contact me on line at (HalifaxOnTheAir@gmail.com) or call me at [717-896-0225](tel:717-896-0225) if interested.

Thank you for your time, and please pass this email around to other hams.

Terry Snyder(WB3BKN)

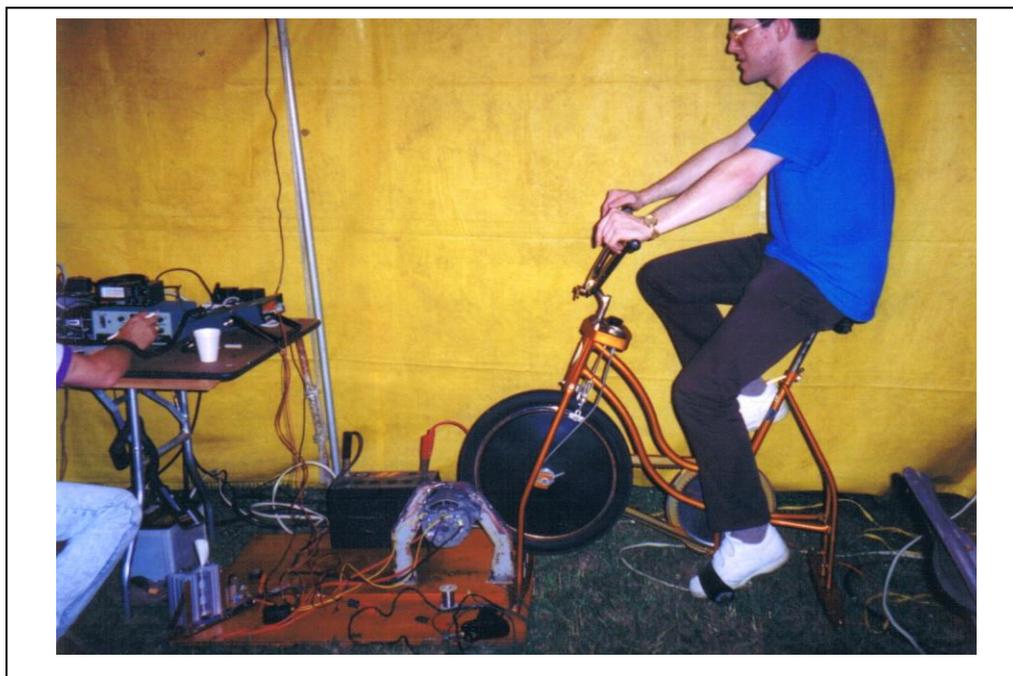
Long Delayed Echoes.....

Looking back through the rich history of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club
By Mark Robinson (WB3JIS)

From the November 1995 Newsletter:

FIELD DAY RESULTS

The 1995 Field Day scores are official with the printing of the November issue of QST magazine. HRAC had 4,140 points operating a 3A station, placing us 76th out of 329 stations in that category. That places HRAC in the top 23% of operating scores for 3A operation in the USA and Canada. We can all feel proud, and special thanks goes out to all who participated and helped make Field Day 1995 a success.



From Mark (WB3JIS) in April, 2012: *While rummaging through my briefcase filled with HRAC newsletters and materials I happened upon the above article. I then found a treasured photo of the bicycle-powered station that was employed that year for human-powered bonus points. Built by Tom Hale WU3X and Charlie Hilbish K3BSV (SK), the bicycle spun a car generator which powered a Heathkit HW-8. I vividly recall several of us trying to make QSO's with that rudimentary QRP CW transceiver with limited success. George Kabroth W3PLI (SK) was encouraged to give it a try, being a seasoned CW op going back to his days on the railroad. While someone took a turn on the bike George tuned for a second, transmitted, scribbled a call, and quietly said "there's one". He did that a couple more times in rapid succession then stood up and said "well I guess it's working". Six contacts were made using that set-up and I know at least half were George's.*

Monthly Ham Radio Lunch

The last Thursday of each month there is a Ham Radio Lunch at the "Old Country Buffet" at noon (unless it is a major holiday).

This restaurant is located on Route 22 in Colonial Park in the vicinity of Value City Furniture, K-Mart and Home Depot.

It's a great way to meet new people!

Outgoing QSL Bureau Mailing to be made by Glenn Kurzenknabe

I will be making a mailing to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau at the end of April for HRAC members...

Please bring your cards to the April HRAC meeting or the April "Ham Lunch"... Don't forget to place them in prefix order from the ARRL DXCC list and provide me with a recent QST mailing label or copy of the label.... The ARRL requires membership to participate in this service.

Questions? Call me at 774-1728 or email k3swz@arrl.net

Glenn, K3SWZ

York Hamfest.....April 14

Sponsored by the York Hamfest Foundation
The Areas Oldest Continuous Hamfest, our 57th Year

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2012

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

PORTERS COMMUNITY FIRE COMPANY
1199 Porters Road • Spring Grove, PA 17362
Easy access from York, PA OR Hanover, PA

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING!

Check our website for updates - www.yorkhamfest.org
FOR GENERAL INFORMATION: duane.sterner@yahoo.com

The next **ham radio testing session** will be held on Saturday April 21st at 9:00 am at the Dauphin County Emergency Operations Center.

Please arrive by 8:30 am

The address of Dauphin County EOC is 911 Gibson Boulevard in Steelton.

.....

Other tentative testing dates for 2012 are as follows:

June 16, August 18, October 20, and December 15

Letter from the Editor

In the upcoming newsletters we will be trying some things that have been suggested to me.

People not involved in Ham have suggested puzzles..... such as find-a-word, Sudoku, and crosswords. It's more work for me, but if it makes the letter better, that's GREAT!

A former HRAC president wants to do flashback section. (Mark, WB3JIS). I really like that idea! It will be called "Long Delayed Echoes". The first of Mark's articles appears in this edition.

I have been told that in the past, licensed amateurs had written articles about themselves to be put into the newsletter. I have decided, after great consideration, that we'd give this another try. If any of you want to be featured, it's not vanity. Consider it pride in your hobby! I'm thinking every few months for one of these. Send me some ideas as to why you got into the hobby and what you enjoy about it! I like hearing stories about others, and I bet I'm not the only one. I have the first submission already to go for May...who wants to be next?!

If anyone else has any ideas, please let me know. As always, I am looking for anything to publish in the newsletter. I'd be very happy to see new ideas from different people!

Happy spring! See you at the meeting April 11th.

Shelby Minier, K3EMT

Reminder: HRAC has a Facebook Fan Page

The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club has a fan page on Facebook.

Here is a link to the page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Harrisburg-Radio-Amateurs-Club/208171495915056>

Be sure to check out some pictures from events the club has had. You can also add your own ham radio pictures to page.

In case you didn't know, the ARRL also has a Facebook fan page.



Please send any articles for the newsletter to shelbyminier@gmail.com



December 21 & the “Hollow Earthers”

I was really unsure if I was going to write an article this month (April) since doubters out there would assume that my article would be cast off as an April's Fool ruse.

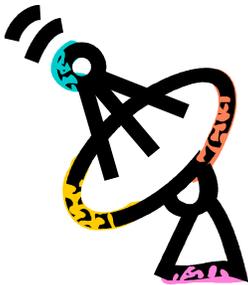


However because I missed last month I have heard that a very small number of readers has inquired of the lack of my article. Well the black helicopters have not landed in the back yard or the newsletter editor has been forced to censure my articles so as not to alert the masses of the simple and undeniable truth presented in these articles.

Since it is fact that the earth is hollow and everyone knows that on December 21 the “hollow earthers” will retake the top side and save us from all our problems!

Now which brings us to the next step and that is to achieve reliable contact prior to the event so as to assure you and your family's survival. If you might me one of those misguided QRPers who think that at a time of turmoil that a flea powered transmitter will be able to stay in contact with the survivors. (Why is it that most QRPers almost always have an unassembled kit and the shelf?) Without any rules it will be dog eat dog so those of us who have prepared with real KW transmitters will rule the air waves. There is nothing in the world more impressive than to see the blue arc of a beam flashing over.

Now some of you might say that there is really no Amateur out there who has amps capable of say 5KW or better, well there are a number of old timers in the area who have real amps that are capable of that output on idle. Personally if I need to fire up by diesel stand by generator from by shelter I want enough watts (20+ KW out) to reach out and touch someone.



Well now that I have gotten off track, back to making contact with the “hollow earthers”.

As some of you have already discovered the pathways to the other side in their backyards. I would suggest starting an antenna array making use of these secret pathways, of course the more power the better and the residual effects of heating the surrounding earth will allow for collection of night crawlers coming to the surface. An enterprising Amateur could then sell the night crawlers, using the proceeds to buy more Kilowatts. My staff has recently reported strange but rhythmic signals emanating from the hollow world which we believe to be an advanced form of digital transmissions. We are currently consulting with computer experts (12 year olds) to help decipher these ever increasing signals.

Next Month more on POWER.....

Steve Gobat (KA3PDQ)



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)
PO Box 453
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0453
717-982-8550

Make checks payable to HRAC—Membership is \$15.00 (\$7.50 if over 62) per year.
Dues end December 31st.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ARRL Member: Y _____ N _____

SIGNATURE _____

I agree to abide by the guidelines of the membership and The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.