



HRAC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at HACC, Shumaker Public Safety Center, Gate 5 on Industrial Road in Harrisburg

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Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club Newsletter

The President's Letter.....

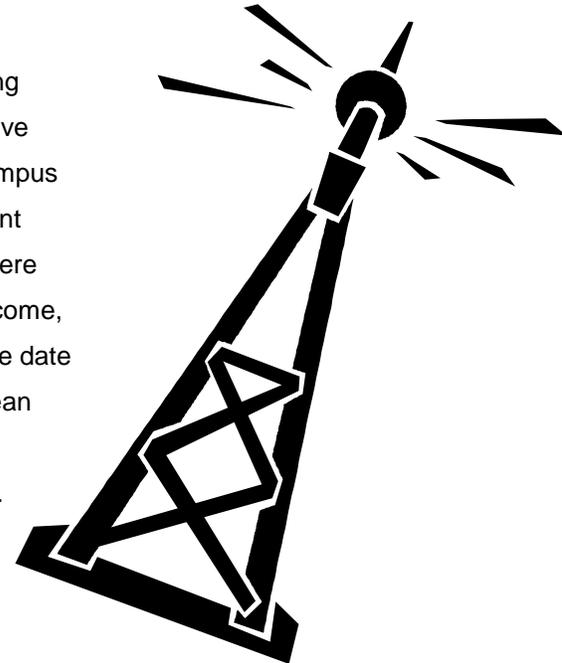
As most of you may know, we have an indoor hamfest every January. This year we are moving the hamfest to the HACC campus. This is a move to keep everything that we do on the HACC campus to make it easier for everyone to find every event that we are doing. We will be in the building where the cafeteria is located. More information is to come, along with a flyer that you can pass around. The date is Saturday January 19th. Be there early... I mean like 7am early, because it usually breaks up by noon, and you may miss a bargain of a lifetime.

This month's meeting will be the first meeting that will include our "Tech" time. Tech time begins at 6:30pm in the same room as our general meeting. Everyone is welcome to arrive at 6:30pm to take part in the discussion, or learning experience. Topics will be chosen by attendees as to address your areas of concern. Some topics include digital modes, and how to set up your station for them, general operating procedures, antennas, and just about anything amateur radio related. If you have an area that you would like to explore, just let me know, and we will include it.

The regular meeting begins at 7pm this Wednesday, October 10th at the Shumaker Public Safety building on the HACC campus, Gate 5 on Industrial road, Harrisburg, PA.

73

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)



September Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Unavailable

FCC Seeks to Change Amateur Radio Licensing Rules, Allow Additional Emission Types

On October 2, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in WT Docket No. 12-121 that seeks to change the Amateur Radio licensing rules, especially as they concern former licensees. Acting upon an April 2011 Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Anchorage VEC to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed, the FCC proposes to revise Section 97.505 to require that Volunteer Examiners (VEs) give examination credit to an applicant who can demonstrate that he or she formerly held a particular class of license. In addition, the Commission seeks to shorten the grace period during which an expired amateur license may be renewed and to reduce the number of VEs needed to administer an amateur license examination.

In response to a Petition for Rulemaking filed by the ARRL in March 2011, the FCC looks to amend the Amateur Service rules to allow amateur stations to transmit additional emission types in order to permit Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) in the Amateur Service. But in doing so, it denied the League's request for a blanket waiver pending the resolution of the rulemaking proceeding.

Comments on these proposed rules changes will be accepted until 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register (this can take up to six weeks after release of the NPRM). Reply comments will be accepted until 90 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Complete information can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-to-change-amateur-radio-licensing-rules-allow-additional-emission-types>



W3UU
is
ARRL Affiliated

FCC Report on Amateur Radio

A copy of the FCC's report regarding **Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service** is available on the W3ZGD club web site: <http://www.qsl.net/w3zgd/FCC%20Report.pdf>

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.

From the September meeting..... Presentation by Marty Gutekunst, KB3BAA



The next **ham radio testing session** will be held on Saturday October 20th at 9:00 am at the Dauphin County Emergency Operations Center.

Please arrive by 8:30 am

The address of the EOC is 911 Gibson Boulevard in Steelton.

The last testing dates for 2012 will be December 15

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

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Be Prepared!

“Be Prepared”. Just two words but many of us live by this motto and it has served us well. For those of us who may participate in the emergency portion of Ham radio **“Be Prepared”** means “Go Bags”, roll up antennas, portable power, and keeping an ear to the weather radio. For some of us it may also mean taking the step of becoming part of a group such as, RACES/ARES, MARS, SCTF-ARWG, who plan how we will respond and work with other groups.

For me, **“Be Prepared”** started when I became a Boy Scout some 40 years ago and still continues to be a mantra I live by. Probably many of you also were Scouts and may have become interested in radio when you were learning Morse code as part of your Signaling Merit Badge. In 1940 part of the requirements for the Merit Badge included: send and receive a Morse message of 35 words at 35 letters per minute, S/R by wigwag and blinker at 20 letters per minute, and S/R by Semaphore at 30 letters per minute. By the way the Merit Badge book costs 20 cents. Skills like this have served our members of military well and there are many examples of Morse saving lives.

Today we have seen a resurgence in Morse/CW activity in direct contrast to the dropping of the requirement for licensing. In fact this popularity has resulted in the BSA adding Morse, this past May, to their Interpreter Strip badge. This badge is earned if a Scout, adult or youth, can demonstrate proficiency in any of 23 languages including Signing and now Morse. The requirements are; 1. Carrying on a five-minute conversation in Morse Code at a speed of at least 5 words per minute. 2. Copying correctly a two-minute message sent in Morse Code at a minimum of 5 words per minute. Copying means writing the message down as it is received. 3. Sending a 25 word written document in Morse Code at a minimum of 5 words per minute.

Many of you may recognize my name and call sign associated with a recent Scouting article in QST and the JOTA e-mails overflowing your inbox. JOTA, Jamboree On The Air, October 19, 20, 21 is your chance to reconnect with or start a new connection with local Scouts and 700,000 Scouts in 180 countries. We will be operating in Field Day like conditions in all modes and bands. A major part of our event will involve radio direction finding, signaling with Morse and blinker, and all combined with general Scouting skills.



As part of our event we will be offering the opportunity to earn the Morse Interpreter Strip, perhaps the first time in the local region. We already have several Scouts planning on taking the challenge. We still need help in several areas in particular experienced CW and RDF/ fox hunting operators. But everyone is welcome.

My personal goal is to connect Scouts with Radio, the perfect lifetime combination, and expect the majority of Scouts will earn their Radio Merit Badge over the weekend. This Merit Badge was recently revised and positions a Scout to take their Technician test. We need to invest in the youth of today for the operators of tomorrow.

Let's help Scouts **“Be Prepared”** by joining them at JOTA.

Contact Don Kunst at W3LNE@arrl.net or 7171-712-9116

Being President.....

Many of you may have wondered what it is like to be the President of a Club such as the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club. At a recent meeting the current President indicated that not much gets by his scrutiny. So what is it that the President does besides run the meeting and oversee every aspect of what the Club might do. After all, with any thriving organization it is the responsibility of the President to ensure the health and continuing existence of the Club while balancing the burden in most cases of making a living or playing loud music for drunks in the middle of the night, while others search the skies for anomalies. Also the President may be the first one asked why its members own surplus rocket launchers, assorted pneumatic wire launching devices and enough electronic equipment to communicate with other worlds. He must also be ready at a moment's notice to mediate in disputes involving government agencies and potential rule and law violations.

The President has the sometime difficult task of keeping committees motivated and slowing other ones down so as not to have the Club banquet at local gentlemen's club no matter how much discount the members would receive. He also has to find stuff.

Stuff finding is probably one of the most daunting tasks he has. Well everybody knows that we had a particular widget or photograph or gantry assembly at one time and it was somewhere 40 years ago so the all-seeing President should know where it is. Right!

He has the difficult task of enslaving members in tasks and positions that there is little or no hope of ever escaping from, less you are carried away by aliens or go to radio shack in the sky. That's why it is extremely important to keep new members coming to the Club. This fresh meat doesn't yet know of these positions and are easily convinced that that are the shining light the club has been waiting for until it is too late the trap sprung, the exit cut off and they try to claw their way out!

Now what the President can do is assemble an inner circle of members who by being promised their very own rocket launcher have decided that they will take on some terrible task in the hopes of getting their very own rocket launcher before Homeland Security comes looking for the surplus launcher that has somehow been declassified and ended up at a Hamfest. One question that might come up is does a Ham really have enough parts in his junk box for a guidance system. Also where did the Ham come up with enough anti matter for warp drive? Will the rocket be ready by December?

All these and many other issues have to be dealt with on a daily basis. The President must be a diplomat in every sense of the word (probably learned from hiding from angry boyfriends while playing loud music for drunks in the middle of the night). These skills come in handy when trying to explain to park officials that the flag pole was bent before we got there, or we really didn't know that our stray RF brought down the 911 system or why the helicopter and swat team landed in the park.

The trials and tribulations of being President are great. Thank you Terry, and thanks to all who have served in the office.

Steven, KA3PDQ

Letter from the Editor

When I sat down to work on the newsletter during the last week of September I realized that I didn't have enough news to make it presentable. As of yesterday I really didn't think the newsletter would be happening for October. You'd think that since I have been the editor for well over a year I'd have grown accustomed to the trials and tribulations of assembling a decent newsletter. Not so. Every month I worry about the content, the formatting, and keeping things somewhat interesting.

Receiving information "on time" is the biggest challenge. I'm not whining.....well, *maybe I am*, just a little bit. I work two jobs and time is a really precious commodity for me. I can't set aside a specific time dedicated to only the newsletter. I need to work at it when I have a spare moment.

I have a favor to ask. It's one that I have asked of the membership at many meetings. If you have something to submit, can you e-mail it to me as you have the information? If it needs to be pushed more towards "publication" time, please try to have it to me by the 25th of each month.

Thanks.....without news being submitted there can be no newsletter. So keep sending me the information you have. If there is an article you want to write, go for it!

Shelby Minier (K3EMT)

Local Repeater Information

146.76 (100) W3UU Blue Mountain

147.075 (123) W3UU Ellendale (Dauphin County)

146.79 (114.8) KB3TWW Reeser's Summit

145.11 (123) W3ND Ellendale

145.29 (123) W3ND IRLP NODE 7060 Blue Mountain

145.47 (123) W3ND Blue Mountain

224.18 (123) KA3RKW Blue Mountain (Halifax Radio Club)

444.45 (123) W3ND Blue Mountain

444.55 (123) W3ND Newport

446.425 (123) W3ND Reeser's Summit

448.075 (123) W3ND Ellendale

147.24 (123) KB3VDL Elizabethville (Berry Mountain Amateur Radio Club)

145.430 -600 (67) N3TWT (Mt Holly Springs)

Ham Killed in Libyan Attack

Sean P. Smith, KG4WSS, of Falls Church, Virginia, was killed when the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, was attacked on September 11. He was 34. Smith was one of four Americans, including Chris Stevens -- the US Ambassador to Libya -- who was killed in the attack.

Smith -- a native of San Diego -- enlisted in the Air Force in 1995 at age 17. He served six years as a ground radio maintenance specialist, including a deployment to Oman, before leaving the service in 2002 as a staff sergeant. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. Smith, who had worked at the State Department for 10 years, was in Libya on a temporary assignment when he was killed; Before his temporary assignment to Benghazi, Smith served for the State Department in Brussels, Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal and The Hague.

"Sean was a friend of mine, and while he was not a very active operator he was an extremely skilled electronic technician," James Kirkham, W4HFK, told the ARRL. "He was instrumental in getting me back into the hobby after a 10 year hiatus."

Smith was well known in the online gaming community as an avid participant of the space fantasy game [EVE Online](#), where he was known as "Vile Rat," one of the leaders of a gamers' alliance and renowned for his diplomatic skill in the multi-player space warfare simulation.

"If you play this stupid game, you may not realize it, but you play in a galaxy created in large part by Vile Rat's talent as a diplomat," said Smith's friend Alex Gianturco, in a tribute posted on his [website](#). No one focused as relentlessly on using diplomacy as a strategic tool as VR." Gianturco wrote that Smith had been under fire before, when he was posted to Baghdad. When that occurred, he usually broke off his messaging. "We'd freak out and he'd come back okay after a bit," Gianturco wrote. "But Tuesday night, after reporting 'GUNFIRE,' he disconnected and never returned." A few hours earlier that evening, Smith posted the following: "assuming we don't die tonight. We saw one of our 'police' that guard the compound taking pictures."

Smith is survived by his wife, Heather, and two young children, Samantha and Nathan. "They will grow up being proud of the service their father gave to our country, service that took him from Pretoria to Baghdad, and finally to Benghazi," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement. -- *Thanks to [The Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), the [US Air Force](#), Bill Cross, W3TN, and James Kirkham, W4HFK, for the information*

Submitted by Glenn Kurzenknabe

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!

Long Delayed Echoes.....

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

The winter-time flooding early in 1996 left many marks on the area. A number of Red Cross shelters were set up and HRAC members provided critical emergency communication services. I remember well pulling the overnight shift at a shelter set up in a Londonderry Township elementary school building. In those days before smartphones, throughout the night I took advantage of my Icom 2SAT's ability to monitor NOAA weather radio and provide updates to the staff as well as normal shelter communications. Below is a photo of some of the volunteers who were recognized at a subsequent club meeting.



If you are a vendor interested in advertising in the newsletter, please contact Terry Snyder, WB3BKN at terry@djerry.com or Shelby Minier, K3EMT at shelbyminier@gmail.com

Swap & Shop ads for ham radio equipment are published at no cost.

Ham Radio Nets

Adams County Amateur Radio Society
Tuesday 7:30 145.35 PL 103.5 except club meeting nights.

Appalachian Amateur Radio Group
Sunday 8 PM 146.64 PL 82.5 and echolink 149493
Thursday 8PM 146.64 PL 82.5 NTS traffic net

Berry Mountain Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday 9PM 147.24 PL 123.0

Cumberland Amateur Radio Club
Wednesday 9 PM 28.440

Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club
Sunday 9 PM 147.12

Ephrata Area Repeater Society
Monday 9 PM 145.45 PL 100.0
Friday 9PM 146.61 PL 131.0 Digital Net

Keystone VHF Club of York
Monday 8:30 PM 146.97 PL 123.0
Tuesday 8 PM 146.97 PL 123.0 Keystone Digital Net
Wednesday 9PM 146.97 PL 123.0 QCWA net

Lancaster Radio Transmitting Society
Thursday 9 PM 147.015 PL 118.8

Lebanon Valley Society of Radio Amateurs
Tuesday 8 PM 147.315 PL 82.5

PennMar Radio Club
Tuesday 8 PM 147.33 PL 123.0
Sunday 8:30 28.450 Dew Drop Inn net
Friday 8 PM 28.495 South Central PA net
Thursday 8:30 146.55 Tri-State Simplex net

Red Rose Repeater Association
Wednesday 9PM PL 118.8

South Mountain Repeater Association
Monday 8 PM 146.46 PL 67.0 Capitol Area Traffic net
Monday 9 PM 145.43 PL 67.0

Tuscarora Amateur Radio Association
Sunday 8 PM 147.045 PL 146.2

If you know of a ham radio net not listed please e-mail the information to shelbyminier@gmail.com

We will keep adding to the list.



Thanks to Dave, N3PRO for compiling the list!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)
PO Box 453
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0453
717-982- 0

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

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ARRL Member: Y _____ N _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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