



W3UU -- ARRL AFFILIATED
**HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S
 CLUB NEWSLETTER**



HRAC meets the second
 Wednesday of each month
 at 7:30 pm at the
 Red Cross Building
 1804 North 6th Street
 Harrisburg, PA

HRAC ANSWER LINE

717-232-6087

Repeater 146.76

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
 Terry Snyder
 WB3BKN
 896-3093
 terry@djterry.com

VICE PRESIDENT
 Nick Rylatt
 AA3T
 957-4688
 nrylatt@gfnet.com

SECRETARY
 Chuck Greiner
 N3WL
 303-0565
 kn6wlcg@juno.com

TREASURER
 Joe Stepansky
 KQ3F
 657-9792
 KQ3F@comcast.net

TRUSTEE
 Steve Gobat
 KA3PDQ
 ka3pdq@juno.net

NEWSLETTER
 EDITOR
 Matt Kiner
 932-5241
 N3SOZ@arrl.net
<http://hrac.tripod.com>

APRIL 2008 EDITION
Monthly Meeting April 9, 2008—7:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I can tell it is spring. The other day I had to repair damage caused by a hungry bear at my hilltop location in the woods. It seems that the new fence around my yard didn't meet with his approval. It's also time to raise the antennas at the new place, so the antenna launching gun will be getting a work-out.

It is also time to take the upcoming club events seriously. I have been talking about Field Day and the ham fest /Convention all year long. Please let me know what you will do to help. With the ARRL Convention in place we expect to see many more in attendance. This means that there will be a job for everyone and their family members. With everyone helping, we can all get a chance to scoop up on bargains at the fest.

Field Day is yet another chance to meet and greet the public. This year we hope to have more public involvement. I have ordered signs for both Field Day and for the ham fest that will direct the public to each event. There will be press releases sent to all media outlets to hopefully get us a little exposure.

In this newsletter you will also see an article about my small media blitz this past month. There is also a web site where you can hear my radio interview on WQLV-FM 98.9. The interview is at www.cfitw.com/cfitw.

Get involved.

73,

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

HRAC Club Meeting Minutes—March 12, 2008

The March meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was opened at 7:30 P. M. by President Terry (WB3BKN).

Secretary Report

The February minutes were approved as published in the March newsletter. Motion to accept was made by Chuck (N3WL) and seconded by Leroy (N3YRF). Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer's report was read into the record by Terry (WB3BKN), as Joe (KQ3F) was absent. Motion to accept was made by Chuck (N3WL) and seconded by Don (KB3NAQ). Motion passed unanimously.

Laurel VE Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) said a test session is scheduled for April 19, at the Dauphin County EOC. The testing starts at 9:00 AM. Steve also reported that the Extra Class question pool will change in July.

Repeater Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) said he had talked to a couple of people, but was unable to find out about the antenna tower. As soon as he can find out he will get an antenna party together to replace our repeater antenna.

Membership Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) said Matt (N3SOZ) had e-mailed him that we had one new member.

ARES and Red Cross

Terry (WB3BKN) said he will need a photo and personal information for anyone needing a Dauphin County EOC badge.

Entertainment Committee

Nick (AA3T) reported that for next month he has someone from the Middle Creek Search and Rescue to talk about Search and Rescue in general and how Ham radio is used by that group.

Hamfest Committee

Chuck (N3WL) mentioned that we can still use more help. Terry (WB3BKN) talked about getting shirts for all the volunteers at the hamfest. He had some catalogues of styles and has a source for getting a logo embroidered on the shirts. The catalogues will be available after the meeting.

New Business

Chuck (N3WL) and Terry (WB3BKN) have been looking into revamping the club logo. If anyone has ideas of what they would like, get them to Chuck or Terry.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dan (KB3NAQ) and seconded by Leroy (W3BBT).

Chuck Greiner, N3WL
Secretary

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor's Note

If you're reading this, then you should have received an email about the April meeting program, which will feature a presentation by a ham member of the Middle Creek Search and Rescue (SAR) group. Here is a recap, hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Ron Small, WB2OOB, will present a program on search and rescue (SAR). He is a member of Middle Creek SAR in Lancaster County and will speak on SAR in general and ham radio involvement with SAR in particular.

A brief resume for WB2OOB:

Amateur Radio

1977 Licensed as WB2OOB

2006 Upgraded to Extra

2006 W5YI VE

Positions held:

Lancaster County ARES Coordinator

Lancaster County Races Coordinator

ARES District Emergency Coordinator - Lancaster, Lebanon and Dauphin counties

Emergency Services

Lifeguard

Volunteer Firefighter

EMT

Paramedic crew drivers (EMT)

YMCA Aquatic instructor Trainer

Grid Search

Managing search operations MSO

Rope 1 High Angle Rescue

Scuba Diver

YMCA Scuba Accident Management

YMCA Scuba Diver Asst. Instructor

Come out for this presentation so you'll know who'll be looking for you next time you get lost!

Be sure to check the club Yahoo group and post your ideas and feedback:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hrac/>

73,

Matt Kiner, N3SOZ

n3soz@arrl.net

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

“MEDIA HIT”

On Thursday, March 27, 2008, Terry Snyder, WB3BKN, the President of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club (PA) was invited to sit in on a two-hour segment at WQLV-FM, 98.9 MHz, located north of Harrisburg, PA. During the period of 0800 to 1000, between the usual programming of music, weather, traffic and news, Terry spoke about Amateur Radio in general, Field Day and the club's local Hamfest held on the 4th of July. He also fielded questions from local callers. The station is posting a flyer for the Hamfest on their web site. Plans are to do a repeat visit closer to Field Day in an effort to get visitors to come out and see Amateur Radio in action.



HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Interesting History

I am sure many of us remember the old famous FT-243 crystals we used as a Novice or on the 6 and 2 Meter bands in rigs of the 50's, 60's and 70's. They were the Phonic cases that were held together with three screws and generally had metal nameplate. As a side note, those packages are called "Compressions Mounts" having reference to the fact that the crystal blank is compressed between two metal plates that match the size of the crystal blank. The entire "sandwich" is compressed in the package and held together with the screws. By today's standards that design was pretty bad, but consider that it was designed 60 plus years ago. Today crystals are enclosed in vacuum-sealed cases and the electrodes are gold or silver or other metals depending on the application. They are far more sophisticated by necessity. Sometimes it is hard to believe that we "won the war" with technology such as the FT-243 crystal! Having spent my entire working career working around and with quartz crystals, I was always fascinated by the unique history of this device. An old timer in the business told me that during WW II, there were about 150 companies cranking out crystals for the war effort and many of them were FT-243 types. I decided to set out on a mission to see just how many different manufactures I could scrounge up at hamfests, etc. I had a few "scouts" helping me also... After 20 years or so of looking in junk boxes and carrying my list around at hamfests, I have 109 different companies represented in my collection! There must have been some truth to that old timers story. All but a very few of these companies are gone and those that remain, probably have no one on their staff who even remembers an FT-243, unless he is an older ham!! What is the collection worth? Probably nothing, except the sentimental value to someone who may want to preserve a bit of history as I have done.

73

de Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ
bgkurz@comcast.net

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER



Nick Rylat, AA3T, giving a presentation on nickel metal hydride batteries at the March club meeting.

HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER



Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Radio Autobiography Template

Many people are interested in how you came to be a radio amateur. You can use this template to get started writing your own radio autobiography. Complete this form, then add more details on other pages as needed. Please feel free to include pictures as well, of you, your rig, your shack, and the like. Send your completed radio autobiography to Bill Moser (KB3IZA) at WMoser183@aol.com, or take it to our next club meeting.

Name _____

Call sign _____

E-mail _____

License class _____

Date first licensed _____

Rig _____

What first interested you in radio _____

Interesting QSOs _____

First QSO _____

Influential person _____

Name one way or an instance in which a ham radio is better than a cell phone

Hobbies _____



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Matt Kiner (N3SOZ)
305 Lewisberry Ct.
Lewisberry, PA 17339
717-932-5241

Make checks payable to HRAC—Membership is \$15.00 per year

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

I agree to abide by the guidelines of the membership and
The Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.
Dues end December 31st.