



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



HRAC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Red Cross Building 1804 North 6th Street Harrisburg, PA

HRAC ANSWER LINE

717-232-6087

Repeater 146.76

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FEBRUARY 2009 EDITION
ANNUAL HAMFEAST THIS MONTH IN PLACE OF MEETING
February 11, 2009—6:00 PM

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well, let's see how this goes...I was at the doctor yesterday for flu and bronchitis. Man did he give me something GOOD. The bottle said it could make you dizzy...Well, there seems to be more...I just went in to the bathroom for something and forgot what I went in there for. So...I brushed my teeth and also found the laundry that I started 9 hours ago... Still can't figure out why I went in there in the first place...

TMI Drill:

This year the TMI emergency drill will take place on Tuesday, April 14th and most likely on Wednesday, April 15th. Red Cross has yet to inform us if we are needed on Wednesday. The time of our involvement is yet to be announced. To participate, you MUST attend the training sessions. The next one will be on Monday, March 2nd at 7:00pm in the Red Cross Building, basement level. There will also be another training session held at the EOC on Thursday April 2 at 7:00 pm.

I also need to know if you are planning to be a radio operator for this drill. Please email me at WB3BKN@DJTerry.com with the subject title "TMI Drill".

The topics to be covered in this session will include a course on directed net operations and message handling. You must also have your NIMS IS-100a, and IS-700a to be involved. The course is found on FEMA web site and is free. <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/NIMSTrainingCourses.shtm>

Please step up and get the proper paperwork and training. If you do not, we all get a black eye and fail.

Ham Feast (Banquet):

It's a day we all look forward to all year long. It is time for the annual banquet, which we call the Ham Feast. Again this year we will meet at the Fire Mountain, 6476 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, Pa 17050 (717) 591-1791. We meet at 6:00 pm in the banquet room to the right of the desert bar. Please plan to be there. We have door prizes for everyone and a chance for a paid up member to win a really cool new rig. Talk in on 146.76. *Continued on Page 3*

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Meeting Minutes

The January meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club was opened at 7:00 P. M. by President Terry (WB3BKN). All in attendance introduced themselves by name and call sign.

Secretary Report

The December minutes were approved as published. Motion to accept was made by Chuck (N3WL) and seconded by Tim (KB3OZA). Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer's report was given by Joe (KQ3F). Motion to approve was made by Glenn (K3SWZ) and seconded by Joe (K3SZH). Motion passed unanimously.

Laurel VE Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) said that for 2008 there had been 6 sessions with 49 elements passed. Tech 19, General 9, and Extra 5 were the number of elements. The following VE's assisted in some or all of the sessions: Mike (N3HLK), Steven (KA3PDQ), Bill (KE3YC), Tim (KB3OZA), Barry (KB3MCK), George (N3YB) and Doug (K3DRE). Steve also said the next test session will be February 20th, at 9:00 AM.

Repeater Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) reported that somehow the telco line is not working. He had not had a chance to look into this problem, but will get to when he can.

Membership Committee

Tim (KB3OZA) reported that we now have 43 members. Tim has sent out 41 letters so far to remind people that their dues are past due.

Web Page Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) and Joe (KQ3F) presented the idea of having a web page named W3UU.ORG. Glenn (K3SWZ) made the motion to open the web page and Tim (KB3OZA) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ARES Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) talked about the need to have proper credentials to work the TMI drill.

DXCC Committee

Glenn (K3SWZ) checked cards for 1 Ham over the Christmas holidays. He will be mailing card to the bureau at the end of March.

Entertainment Committee

Nick (AA3T) has Cookie Night tonight. January - Glenn (K3SWZ) will demonstrate how to install a PL-259.

Hamfest Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) asked that members pick up some flyers and take them to other hamfests.

Winterfest Committee

Glenn (K3SWZ) reminded members that he needed people to show up at 7:00 AM to help set up the tables and chairs. Doors will open to the public at 8:00AM. Terry (WB3BKN) will provide the PA system and Joe (KQ3F) will bring the tickets.

Ham of the Year Committee

Terry (WB3BKN), Matt (N3SOZ), and Joe (KQ3F) will met after the meeting to select the HRAC Ham of the Year. The person selected will receive the plaque at the Hamfeast.

Hamfeast Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) announced the 2009 Hamfeast will be held at the Fire Mountain Buffet on the Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg on February 11th starting at 6:00 PM. There was some discussion about door prizes. It was decided to have a HT as the main prize—to be awarded to a club member. The other prizes will be bought at Harbor Freight as in the past.

Old Business

Joe (K3SZH) reported the young man that is using the radio we sold is on the air quite a bit.

Motion to adjourn was made by Linda (KB3RCY) and seconded by Don (KB3NAQ).

Chuck Greiner, N3WL
Secretary

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President's Letter, cont.

ADVIL.. That's why I went in there...ADVIL!!
Did I mention the strange dreams this stuff makes? So, this is what I missed in the 60's...

73

Hope to see you all at the banquet

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)

Editor's QSO

According to HRAC treasurer Joe Stepansky (KQ3F), the Winterfest had 75 paid admissions and netted \$133 in proceeds for the club. I enjoyed making some eyeball QSO's and managed to pick up a satellite dish on the cheap. No doubt the single digit temperatures kept attendance down (actually it was -1 where I live, and 5 at the Paxtang fire hall).

Please check out the HRAC Yahoo Group. Most of our active membership has already joined the group, so please stop by and sign up if you haven't already.

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

73,

Matt Kiner, N3SOZ

Winterfest Thanks

Thanks to all those HRAC members who braved the single digit temperatures and helped out at the Winterfest on January 17th. I have had many favorable comments from members and non-members who attended. This gives us a reference point to build on. Thanks again for all your help!

Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

DX QSL Cards?

Reminder --- the HRAC will pay the fees for members for your DX QSL cards send to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. I will be making a bulk mailing at the end of March (early April) so please get your QSL cards to me before then if you have any to go out. It doesn't matter if you have 1 or 100... Please sort them in accordance with the rules for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. I will also need a mailing label from a recent issue of QST to show ARRL membership. If you have questions, you may contact me anytime. 73,

Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ
Phone: 774-1728

Monthly Ham Radio Lunch

At the Old Country Buffet in east Harrisburg the last Thursday of each month 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. Good way to meet some new people!

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Joe Spandler And AO-7

Joe Spandler (K3SZH) holds a few impressive records for his amateur radio satellite work. Pictured here is Joe receiving another 1000 contact pin for his AO-7 certificate. This one is for his 7000th contact on AO-7. Since this achievement, Joe had added another 750 to his total. This award was begun by Lee (K3JJK) when Joe picked up his 2000th contact back in 2006. A pin has been added for each 1000 additional contacts.

Joe has been working satellites since 1974 and has been a member of AMSAT since 1976. Joe's contacts are mostly European from Croatia and west, however he does hold a distance record for another area of the world. Joe holds the world record for the longest distance QSO on AO-7 which was to Brazil along the border of Uruguay. You can see the records for his QSOs and more on the AMSAT web site www.amsat.org.

The AO-7 satellite was launched 34 years ago and it went dark some time ago because the batteries went bad. It came back to life 6 years ago and is operating on its solar cells. This satellite works on SSB and CW only with an up-link frequency of 432.150 MHz and a down-link of 145.950 MHz. There are other satellites that work on FM such as AO-51. AO-51 can be heard on 435.30 MHz and has a up-link frequency of 145.92. You may be able to hear it on your HT when the satellite is overhead.

Hats off, and congratulations to Joe on 7000 contacts and counting.



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January Meeting Notes

Our club has been criticized by the ARRL for not doing enough for new hams and in particular, the young student hams. One of the ARRL personnel advised us to give a demonstration on assembly of a PL-259. The fact that this was going to be demonstrated was published in this newsletter. Here are pictures of the wonderful demonstration that Glenn (K3SWZ)

conducted. I believe that everyone present took home a few new pointers. Unfortunately, as usual, not one of the student amateurs who were to benefit from this, came to the meeting.



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Rochester Hamfest Update

Note: This was forwarded from N3PRO and was originally addressed to the CPRA membership. I am passing this along as a favor to the ham community.

We need the assistance of the Central Pennsylvania Repeater Association, Inc. to help clear the air. The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (RARA) has been producing the Rochester Hamfest for the last 74 years. For many years the Hamfest Committee Chairman was Harold Smith, K2HC. At the November meeting of the RaRa BoD it was voted to change the venue and the time frame for the Hamfest. Harold refused to comply and was relieved of his duties. In defiance he refuses to cooperate and because Harold's name is associated with the original Hamfest web site, the BoD at this time does not have control of what is displayed there. Since RARA is the parent organization of the current, and past, Hamfest Committee you can be assured that what RARA says in print and on the web site " www.rochesterham.org" is the TRUTH. The ARRL has already recognized the change in venue and time frame and the "New Rochester Hamfest" is the location of the Atlantic Division Convention for 2009. This can be verified at: "<http://www.arrl.org/sections/WNY.html>".

We realize how confusing this can be if people see Harold's postings on the internet. We have requested he remove the confusing content numerous times, each met with flat out refusal. It's disappointing that someone who has put a great deal of effort into the event in the past has taken up the position to confuse the public. This certainly demonstrates his disloyalty to the club, the event, and his fellow HAMS.

We at RaRa would greatly appreciate it if you

and the Central Pennsylvania Repeater Association, Inc. could use your channels of communications to inform your members, and other area HAMS of the TRUTH: There will only be one Hamfest, not two, and The Rochester Hamfest will be held Saturday May 30th, at the Barnard Carnival Grounds. Further details are available at www.rochesterham.org. Warn them that K2HC no longer has anything to do with the Rochester Hamfest and people should disregard his solicitations for ticket sales. Admission tickets are now only \$5.00 and being sold exclusively at the gate. If anyone is still in disbelief, encourage them to contact their ARRL representative for clarification.

The 2009 Rochester Hamfest flyer can be downloaded here:

http://www.rochesterham.org/Documents/2009_Rochester_Hamfest-Flyer.pdf

Thank you VERY much!

Sincerely,

WB2PYD
Frank Schramm
President, Rochester Amateur Radio Assn
Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO:
Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)
PO Box 453
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0543
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.