

HRAC Newsletter W3UU

January 2008

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President's Letter

I hope everyone has a good new year. I began my new year being taped by channel 27 WHTM while doing a wedding and reception. The couple said I DO at 1 minute past midnight and the highlights were shown about 4 times on WHTM on Jan 1.

Plans are being finalized for our "Ham Feast" at the Fire Mountain restaurant at 6476 Carlisle Pike, Silver Springs Township, on Wednesday February 13. This is our annual club banquet where we get to meet and greet other hams as well as give out the "Ham Of The Year" award. We have a reserved banquet room that will be open at 6:00 PM. Please plan to be there.

A reminder: This year the Hamfest is a convention. Get involved. There are openings for every position to help. We will have a special event station at the convention to talk to or to operate and we need food servers, (not cooks).

73, see you at the meeting,

Terry Snyder
WB3BKN

VE Testing

Thanks to N3YB, KE3YC, KB3OZA, KB3MCK for helping with the December 15th session.

We had 5 applicants all who took the Tech test. We had 3 successful applicants.

I would like to THANK all of you who have made 2007 a good year for the VE Team.

The test dates for 2008 are as follows;
February 16
April 19
June 21
August 16
October 18
December 20

I have put in to reserve the EOC at Dauphin County and I am waiting to hear back from them.

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

December 2007 Meeting Minutes

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

Secretary Report

The November minutes were approved. 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 LeRoy (W3BBT). Motion passed unanimously.

Laurel VE Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) said the next test session is scheduled for December 15th at the Dauphin County EOC. The testing starts at 9:00 AM.

Hamfest Committee

Terry (WB3BKN) reported we had received a letter saying HRAC would be the EPA Section convention for 2008. We already have a call of W3W to use at the station we will set up in the stage area.

Entertainment Committee

Nick (AA3T) has Cookie Night tonight. He is also plans to have an auction if anyone has equipment they want to sell.

DXCC Committee

Glenn (K3SWZ) said he will be mailing QSL cards to the Bureau after the first of the year. He reminded all that proof of membership in the ARRL is needed to use the Bureau to send QSL Cards..

Hamfest Committee

Pete (K3PD) said that we can advertise this years Hamfest as an EPA Convention and the ARRL will provide some speakers for the seminars. We will run a special event station during the day. A discussion followed about getting a special call sign for the event. W3W was chosen as the first choice.

Old Business

Tim (KB3OZA) reported that no one had submitted names to the re-elections committee. The slate of present officers was presented. All were re-elected unanimously

New Business

Terry (WB3BKN) asked about the date for the annual Hamfeast. It was decided we will meet at the Fire Mountain Buffet. The dinner will start at 6:00 P. M.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim (KB3OZA) and seconded by Don (N3OSO).

Chuck Greiner, N3WL
Secretary

Editor's Note

I have some local net information to share this month.

Monday

28.325 "Hamshack Talk Net" 9 PM local

Tuesday

147.330 W3MUM Repeater 8:30 PM local

Wednesday

146.760 W3UU Repeater 8:00 PM local

Thursday

146.550 "Tri-State Simplex Net" 8:30 PM local

50.140 evenings - exact start time ???

Friday

28.495 "South Central PA Sideband Net" 8:30 PM

Sunday

28.450 "Do-Drop In Net" 8:30 PM local

223.440 simplex 8:30 PM local

I have checked into most of these, except for the 223 simplex net. If anyone knows the official start time of the 50.140 net please let me know.

As always send comments my way at n3soz@arrl.net. Be sure to check (and join if you haven't already!) the club Yahoo group and post your ideas and feedback:

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

73 and Happy New Year,

Matt Kiner
N3SOZ



New ASM Added to EPA Cabinet

I am most happy and proud to announce that Joe Ames, W3JY has been appointed as an Assistant Section Manager in the Eastern Pennsylvania Section. Joe who lives in the Malvern, PA area has volunteered his services as a coordinator for the "Presidents Volunteer Service Award". Joe's busy schedule has forced him to curtail his activities in both the Delaware County ARES/RACES organization and the Chester County ARES/RACES organization. Joe had previously set up the DelCo. group to be a "certifying organization" for the Presidents Volunteer Service Award says:

"My intention in setting up Delco ARES as a "certifying organization" was to have a ham-radio aware sponsor -- especially to track the Amateur Radio effort at a high level for political and PR purposes. Seems to me we can roll this out to the entire country and tailor it to our unique circumstances."

As Joe gets the time he will be sending out important information regarding this program. Stay alert for this information and feel free to pass the information along.

My most sincere "Thank You" to Joe for his willingness to help with this valuable service.

73,
Eric, WB3FPL

Meet The Enemy

Allen G Pitts, W1AGP
ARRL Media & PR Manager

During the month of September 2007, there were many positive articles in the media about Amateur Radio. But, there were also a few which did major damage to the public perception of our Service. Unfortunately they were in large metropolitan newspapers and, by the time an ARRL PIO learned about them, it was too late to change things. These articles were proclaiming the "death of Amateur Radio", that it was antique and an anachronism to the 21st century, full of ancient grumpy men and that the hams themselves were not friendly nor welcoming. The real tragedy of this is that the reporters were quoting their community's own local hams!

None of the articles had numbers or empirical data to show the true trends underlying the present state of amateur radio. None looked beyond the personal opinions voiced by their local club or they might see the recent gains following February 2007. None of them saw the larger picture around the country or the work being done in schools, scouting, ARISS, digital work, ARES and other EmComm actions. But they had their quotes, and that was enough to hurt us.

While not all areas of the country are motivated by the same approaches, there really is a lot of new growth in important areas. In some places, emergency operations and EmComm is indeed a BIG deal. We are gaining many new hams entering the field because they want to be part of a response operation. That is part of this year's PR push on EmComm. In other areas, it may not be EmComm that is the big draw. It could be the hobby side of the Service. For them, the "Hello!" materials are still available and timely. If that fits your area, then use them there. In some other places or situations, it will be the technical side of Amateur Radio that is of interest. The ARRL is working on a coordinated program for that to come out in 2008. It will be the hardest of the three to create, but plans are already well along.

These three, Hobby, EmComm and Technical activities are the motivational keystones of the Service. No one thing is going to attract "the general population." We encourage you to look at your own local situation. Which type of motivator works best in your area? Use that one. In the meantime, our importance in EmComm is a motivator in antenna issues, spectrum

defense and other political situations.

Are we "dying" out? Not really. Amateur Radio never was, nor will be, a "mainstream" activity. But recent numbers are up and, just as important, the percentage of hams who actually get on the air or go on to higher class licenses is up. With the 10 year license-lag, most who are dropping out seem never to have been active to begin with. We also see trends which follow the solar cycles -- currently at a low.

To quote Pogo, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Over the past two months the national PR Committee has seen far too many articles quoting their local hams saying we are all dying out! With attitudes like that, is it any wonder the reporters print it? It's a self-fulfilling prophecy.

This is why we need informed, active PIOs and hams need to defer media responses to them. Anytime you or a ham in your area is contacted by the media, steer them to your local PIO. If you don't have one nearby, steer them to your section's PIC. These professionals are trained in showing the best that amateur radio has to offer to the public and to prospective licensees. Fifteen minutes of individual fame is not worth the damage your personal opinions could cause to us all.

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