



**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**

**CLUB OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**  
 Terry Snyder  
 WB3BKN  
 979-9515  
 terry@djterry.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Nick Rylatt  
 AA3T  
 957-4688  
 AA3T@arrl.net

**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://W3UU.org>

**MAY 2009 EDITION**  
**MONTHLY MEETING May 13, 7:00 PM**

**THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

From the desk of the President:

Since we last met, we had a chance to see if all of the training paid off, in the form of several emergency drills. I look at these drills as a chance to improve for the future. It is kind of a test for the big exam, a real emergency.

We, as a group have been doing OK in these drills, but there is always room for improvement. These things will be brought up in future meetings and planning sessions. Thank you to all who helped in our largest deployment, the TMI drill. The TMI drill is usually the most difficult to plan and organize, because of the numbers of personnel involved. It took months of planning on my part along with others to be able to have it come together.

Few of you will ever understand what goes on in the months before such an event to train and organize it. I invite you all to share in the experience some time. Again thank you to all involved.

Throughout the year there are several drills for which we, as an amateur radio group, will be called on. Please get involved. It can be a fun day and also an educational experience.

It is spring, and a young man (or woman's) fancy turns to ... **FIELD DAY!!!** June 27 and 28 marks a great event in amateur radio, and some of us look forward to this all year. Field day offers a chance to test antennas and operating modes that we may not otherwise be able to try. Field day also offers a chance for amateur radio to be seen by the general public. The more glittery and techie it looks, the more the public is attracted. That is why this year I, and others would like to see computers with digital modes in operation. Computers attract attention these days. We must all do our part to publicize the event to all media.

Next is the Hamfest / ARRL EPA Section Convention. Please volunteer to help your club in this event. This is our big money maker for the year. Without it, we would have a hard time surviving. For many years, we have held the FireCracker Hamfest on July 4th.  
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# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

## President's Letter

(Continued From Page 1) Although this year's will be on Saturday July 4th, future Firecracker Hamfests will be on the Saturday before the first Sunday in July. We have decided to lock our hamfest in to Saturday. This is to work in unison with Murgas Amateur Radio Club (K3YTL), who holds their hamfest on the first Sunday of July. By doing this, we can attract vendors who go to both events, and more attendees because of the hamfest being on a weekend.

73

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)

## Editor's QSO

**"All antennas work! Their success or failure is measured in dB's"**

*Dr. Tim Hulick, W9QQ (SK)*

As I write this, 10 and 6 meters are open. A hopeful sign of good propagation to come? Time will tell. At the least, the summer E-skip season is now here.

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, is looking for volunteers to help attempt an end-to-end packet digipeat of the entire length of the Appalachian Trail. The full article is on the next page. The Trail passes right through central Pennsylvania and the Cumberland Valley.

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

## VE Team Report—April 18

We had five applicants, with four who passed elements.

(3) Tech

(1) General

Thanks again to KE3YC, KB3MCK and N3QLB who worked the session.

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

## 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. No PL is required for the net.

## 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!

# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

## Attempt to Packet Digipeat The Appalachian Trail

We are trying to round up as much mountaintop expertise from Georgia to Maine to attempt a packet digipeat all the length of the Appalachian Trail. The sites on Governor Dick Hill and Camelback in Big Pocono state park appear to be good locations in the EPA section.

But we need input from local VHF rovers repeater operators and mountaintop operators in your area to test the paths and give us local detail info... Plus help during event day (late July). For example, we need a list of emitters (preferably 2 meter repeaters) that are on these hills so we can listen for any 2m signals to help us verify paths maybe without having to visit the site for each test.

For packet and for the event, the temporary digipeater station needs be nothing more than a mobile APRS radio. These are all drive-up sites. But we want to make this a team effort and so we need local help.

Anyway, can you help us by spreading the word through your section?

Here is our web page describing the project:

[www.aprs.org/at-golden-packet.html](http://www.aprs.org/at-golden-packet.html)

See the specific links to GD Hill and Camelback etc:

[www.aprs.org/hamtrails/GD-hill.html](http://www.aprs.org/hamtrails/GD-hill.html)

[www.aprs.org/hamtrails/camelback.html](http://www.aprs.org/hamtrails/camelback.html)

Remember, APRS is not a vehicle tracking system. It is a two-way information resource and amateur radio Text messaging system from the front panel of your HT or mobile APRS radio.

Thanks  
Bob Bruninga  
WB4APR (APRS)...

# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Riley Hollingsworth speaking at the April HRAC/CPRA meeting



# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Don Redman KB3NAQ and David Posavec KB3NSX at  
Millersburg High School during the TMI drill on Wednesday



# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

**Joe Stepansky  
KQ3F at the  
Dauphin County  
EOC during the  
Tuesday TMI drill**



**Bill Bratton KI3D  
and another ham  
watching Riley's  
talk at the April  
meeting**

**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.