



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**

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<http://hrac.tripod.com>

**NOVEMBER 2008 EDITION**  
**\*NOTE THE NEW MEETING TIME\***  
**Monthly Meeting November 12, 2008—7:00 PM**

**THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Don't forget that we are gearing up for our emergency communications duties. We are having a series of training sessions that will begin at 7:00 pm, Monday November 10th at the Red Cross building on 6th Street in Harrisburg. Our goal is to prepare you for local drills and to become familiar with procedures that are used throughout the country. Please try to make it there.

To prepare for message handling, get involved in contesting. It can be a fun way to pick up your speed at messaging and improve your station. You should also listen to and participate in nets. The nets on HF are probably the best. Learn what the differences are in the types of nets, and how to participate in each.

We live in potentially troublesome times. It is our responsibility to be prepared.

The club now has a really cool radio that will replace the aged Kenwood that we have had for the past 20 years. I took some pictures and they can be found further into this news letter.

If you did not get the flyer for the January Winter Fest, it can be found on the club's web site. Please pass the word. More info can be found further into this news letter.

How 'bout that '76 repeater...The old repeater that we loved for so long kinda' bit the dust at the tentacles of a herd of stink bugs. It seems that the little "stinkers" made their way into the building by following the cable from the antenna to the repeater. They found a home in and around the little circuit thingies that they probably thought were other, warmer bugs....Long story short, we now have a new '76 repeater, which, by the way, is for general amateur use and not a private special use only repeater, as some believe. Get on it and use it.

73,

Terry Snyder (WB3BKN)

# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

## HRAC Club Meeting Minutes—October 8, 2008

The October meeting of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club opened at 7:30 P. M. by President Terry (WB3BKN). All in attendance introduced themselves by name and call sign.

### Secretary Report

The September minutes were approved as printed in the October newsletter. Motion to accept was made by Chuck (N3WL) and seconded by Don (N3OSO). 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 Tim (KB3OZA). Motion passed unanimously.

### VE Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) said the next test session is scheduled for October 18th at the Dauphin County EOC. The testing starts at 9:00 AM.

### Repeater Committee

Steve (KA3PDQ) said there have been reports of an intermittent in the repeater. Steve has not heard it, Terry (WB3BKN) has and was able to talk about it. Steve will continue to monitor for this problem. Joe reported that we need a better address to get a phone line installed at the repeater site. Cost of the line will be between 18 and 25 dollars per month. Joe (KQ3F) asked what would a new repeater cost? After some discussion Steve said he would look into the cost of a new one.

### Membership Committee

Matt (N3SOZ) was not present, so Terry (WB3BKN) gave the membership report. We currently have 37 active members. Matt said he thought a mailing to all members, with a return envelope, reminding them their membership had expired would help keep members. Matt also asked to be relieved as membership chair. Tim (KB3OZA) volunteered to become the membership chair.

### DXCC Committee

Glenn (K3SWZ) has checked some cards. He plans to make the next mailing at the end of December.

### Entertainment Committee

Nick (AA3T) announced that tonight's entertainment was a DXpedition video.

### ARES and Red Cross Committee

Joe (KQ3F) had nothing to report, but Steve (KA3PDQ) talked about the SCTF drill the 16th through the 18th of October. Terry (WB3BKN) added that there is a training session for EmComm at the Red Cross building on Now 10th at 7:00 P.M.

### Winterfest Committee

Glenn (K3SWZ) has checked with the Paxtang Boro and we can rent the hall for 25.00 dollars an hour. There is some parking in the rear. Glenn proposed that we have the Hamfest from 8:00 A.M. to noon. We would need time to set up and tear down so we would rent the hall from 7:00A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The Ladies Auxiliary will provide all the food sales. Glenn will try to get Jan. 10th or 17th as the dates for the Hamfest. Glenn further stated that we will need help setting up the hall.

### Field Day

Nick (AA3T) showed the new radio we will use for field day. Nick made a motion to purchase a new Power supply for the radio and Glenn (K3SWZ) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### New Business

All present officers stated they would stand for another term. Terry (WB3BKN) mentioned the PA QSO party this weekend and also talked about the HRAC Keystone award. Mike (N3HLK) has agreed to take over as manager for the award. He has plans to advertise this award to the ham community. Glenn (K3SWZ) made the motion that the meetings start at 7:00P.M. beginning with the November meeting. Mike (N3HLK) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### For the good of the Club

Motion to adjourn was made by Glenn (K3SWZ) and seconded by Don (N3OSO).

Chuck Greiner, N3WL  
Secretary

# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

## Editor's QSO

\*\*\* Club meetings now start at 7:00 PM! \*\*\*

I'd like to thank Tim Lehman, KB3OZA for taking over as Membership Committee Chair. From now on all membership duties will be handled by Tim. Tim's email address is kb3oza@yahoo.com and I have put his mailing address on the membership form located in the back of the newsletter.

As Terry mentioned, there will be a meeting of anyone interested in helping with RACES and ARES drills at 7:00 PM, Monday November 10th at the Red Cross building on 6th street in Harrisburg. Topics concerning operation and proper training will be covered. We can no longer just show up at drills without proper paperwork and training. We have the TMI drill coming up and in the past we called out for radio operators and always found enough people at the last minute. Most had no idea what to do when they got to the location, or even how to get there.

The same goes for our calls for operators at PEMA. First, we have few who are able to help, and few who actually know what to do when they get there. If you want to be involved in these drills and future emergencies, you must have the proper training.

**Please contact Terry at [wb3bkn@djterry.com](mailto:wb3bkn@djterry.com) with questions and to RSVP.**

### Nets

As Terry mentioned in the President's Letter, it's good to participate in different types of nets to learn the various operating procedures that are used. Personally I have become active in several 10 meter rag chew nets. Its fun to get on HF and get a "guaranteed" QSO, and at the same time make some new ham acquaintances.

I've compiled the following list of 10 meter nets, PEMA nets, and various VHF/UHF nets. Thanks to CPRA for publishing the PEMA net information.

Check out the club Yahoo group and post your ideas and feedback:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hrac/> 73,

Matt Kiner, N3SOZ

### **PEMA Nets**

Central Area meets on 3993.5 kHz every Sunday at 8:30 AM local

Eastern Area meets on 3987.5 kHz every Sunday at 9:00 AM local

Western Area meets on 3990.5 every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM local

PA State Net meets the FIRST SUNDAY of every month on 3993.5 kHz at 8:00 AM local. This net is usually called by John Kruk, K3KR, Lock Haven at which time he calls Eastern, Central and Western Area Stations in that order.

The New York State net usually meets on 3993.5 kHz at 9:00 AM right after our Central Area net.....

### **10 Meter Nets**

Ham Shack Talk Net meets on 28.325 MHz every Monday at 9:00 PM local

South Central PA Sideband Net meets on 28.495 MHz every Friday at 8:30 PM local

Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club net meets on 28.430 MHz Sunday at 4:00 PM local

'Do Drop In' Net meets on 28.450 MHz every Sunday at 8:30 PM local

### **VHF/UHF Simplex Nets**

Tri-State Simplex Net meets on 146.550 MHz FM every Thursday at 8:30 PM local

6 meter simplex, meets on 50.140 MHz USB every Thursday at approximately 8:30 PM local

1.25 meter simplex, meets on 223.440 FM every Saturday at 8:30 PM local

# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

## News From Around the Club

### 146.760 Repeater Report

After the move of the repeater to the Blue Mountain site everything was going fine. Then several weeks ago I started to receive reports of audio problems, with the repeater suddenly dropping the audio level to almost not being able to hear the audio from the receiver. At the October Club meeting we briefly covered the problem but the problem was intermittent and at that time the repeater was working fine. So, no action was taken. The next week the repeater again failed, this time just before the net. At this time I started to look more closely at the situation.

A repeater consists of several key parts but for this article and problem we will talk about the receiver, the transmitter and the controller. With the audio problem we were having it was more than likely the receiver, the controller or a third culprit: interference from the site itself.

I needed to eliminate some of the parts to come up with a solution. I looked at a new repeater or just changing the RF sections to see if I could locate the problem. With no obligation to the Club I went and ordered (2) ICOM Commercial Radios along with cables and programming interface. I thought that by replacing the RF sections I would be able to eliminate at least one of the suspects.

With the equipment in hand I went up to the site and replaced the RF sections and using the existing CAT 1000 controller .76 was again on the air. This time with a little more RF out of the antenna (about 12 watts more). With another trip up to the site to reset the time-out timer (45 seconds isn't quite long enough) everything was working fine. The one thing I did find up at the site was that the controller had become home to about 30 or 40 stink bugs. While I didn't open the 17 year old repeater up I need to believe that the repeater also has bugs in it since the controller has only tiny openings into its case and the old repeater has many open vents.

So now the Club needs to decide how to proceed. We can either fix the 17 year old ICOM repeater, buy a new repeater package or purchase the

ICOM mobiles from me.

So if you get a chance try out .76 and see what you think.

Steven Gobat, KA3PDQ

### **Don't Forget....**

The weekly club net is held on the W3UU 146.760– repeater every Wednesday at 8:00 PM local time, except for club meeting night.

No tone is required for the net, although the repeater normally requires a 100 Hz tone for access.

Steve Gobat, KA3PDQ serves as Net Control.

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to HRAC members Joe, K3SZH and Lee, K3JJK who had successful QSO's with W5KWQ aboard the International Space Station on 2 Meters FM.....

# HARRISBURG RADIO AMATEUR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

## Meet The New Field Day Rig



Leroy Moppin,  
W3BBT



# 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](mailto: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:  
Tim Lehman (KB3OZA)  
PO Box 453  
Harrisburg, PA 17050-2120  
717-731-9178

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.