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P A R A



>> GENERAL MEETING November 11, 2014 - 7:30 PM !! <<
Lower Providence Township Building
Eagleville, Pennsylvania

PARA WEB SITE: <http://www.w3phl.org>

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Philadelphia Area Repeater Association

Membership Information

PARA is an association of members that operate and support Amateur Radio Repeaters and links in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. PARA was formed in 1970 and incorporated as an IRS 501c3 non-profit in 1973 through a merger of several repeater groups.

PARA repeaters serve the Amateur Radio community for normal everyday hobby communications as well as provide a system for emergency and disaster communications. PARA also promotes technical developments which ham radio has done so much of in the past.

PARA has four quadrant repeaters and one regional system on the 2-meter band as well as other repeaters on the 224 MHz and 440 MHz bands. PARA also has an Amateur TV System that relays television signals in the Philadelphia and Wilmington metropolitan areas.

Your membership dues support those repeaters listed below and help assure availability for emergency communications: 146.76 MHz, 146.82 MHz, 146.94 MHz, 443.90 MHz, 223.86 MHz, 224.94 MHz, 52.41 MHz, 439.25 MHz (ATV), and all links between the remote receivers.

Joining PARA

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DUES \$ 25.00
YEARLY RENEWAL \$ 20.00
5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$ 85.00 (\$90.00 FOR NEW MEMBERS)
LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$400.00
SENIOR LIFE MEMBER \$100.00 (AGE 65 AND OVER)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$ 20.00 (non-hams) no voting privileges

Associate memberships, when licensed, may upgrade to full membership with no additional initiation fee.

Members also gain one free month on their membership for each new member you sponsor.

Corporate annual sponsorship memberships are also available: \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$5000, etc.

Annual sponsorships of \$500 or more will receive free advertising in PARA's newsletter.

Certificates of sponsorships are given to corporate sponsors.

Please detach & fill out (PRINT) the form below and mail with a check or money order to:

PARA, POST OFFICE BOX 64, VALLEY FORGE, PA 19481-0064

Membership Type: New Renewal Full individual Ham 5 Year Life Sr Life

Associate Corporate Amount \$ _____

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (REQUIRED) _____ OK TO LIST YES NO

E-MAIL (REQUIRED) _____

ARRL MEMBER (Y/N) _____ SPONSORED BY _____

I CAN HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING: TOWERS ANTENNAS BLDG MAINTENANCE
Equipment Maintenance WRITING/PUBLISHING PUBLIC RELATIONS Other _____ (10-23-2012)

From the President –Fall 2014 Gene Mitchell K3DSM

Bob K3RF and our EPA Section Manager will be a featured speaker at our November meeting. It should be very interesting. Don't know whether he will be talking about the Tower case in Tredyffrin or not, but he could answer some questions including how this case could affect ham radio throughout the country.

I also want to invite anyone that has a new electronic toy to bring it and show it off at the meeting. Show and Tell has been a well received addition to our meetings.

76 is speaking louder these days with its new amplifier. Irv W3IWJ also did a bang up job supervising the cleaning up of the site's weed problem this summer.

Computers are still a big part of all our lives these days. So are the Vulnerabilities and infections that go with them. Seems everyone is getting hacked, the big companies as well as individuals. In fact most of us have received those phoney calls from people claiming to be from Microsoft or one of its affiliates. Hope you didn't take one of those calls and give these jerks access to your computer. Some of this should also serve as a reminder to listen to the Computer Corner Radio show Saturday mornings at 8AM on WCHE and also the internet (www.5dradio.com). The stream is compatible with all mobile devices. By the way, the radio show celebrated its 10th anniversary this October.

New hams and potential new hams contact me frequently, because Joe Myshko and I mention them on the radio show, so I have a list of ham clubs in the area on the radio web site. I also announce ham courses and testing when I get that information. One of our listeners went to Harrisburg for a course and test and got his license there. If you know of any courses or testing, you should let us know.

Speaking of computers, are you ready for the "Internet of Things"? Everything from your Toaster to your Refrigerator to Dryer and Washer to your Dish Washer and Coffee Pot will be connected to the internet next time you make your purchase. What you may not realize is that you might have to purchase anti-virus software to install into them, because they can be hacked. And how about those spying devices that the Chinese tend to build into electronics these days?

Your car is next. Newer cars will be connected to the internet too (some are right now) and some models have already been hacked. Where will this all end?

How many of you still listen to AM radio and that includes KYW? Most of us, I believe. Have you noticed the noise as you drive down the roads? It's power line noise coming from bad insulators that the power company fails to maintain. PECO used to have a specialist who would confirm and schedule those repairs. Cutbacks have eliminated the solving of these problems. Hence, the noise continues to grow. If enough of us complain to PECO with copies to the FCC, we might be able to get this fixed. The FCC has plans to try to revive AM broadcast in the near future and it seems to me, that this would be a good start.

I hear almost every day about someone "cutting the cord" and that refers to those who stop paying for the cable TV bill and that includes both Comcast and FIOS. Those cord cutters have found lots on over the air TV with those extra channels like 6.2, 6.3 10.2 and 10.3 etc. There is a good traffic channel (Tango) on 17.2. Even HBO is going to serve those cord cutters with Internet streaming next year. Several companies are now making DVRs for cord cutters and not just TIVO. Most don't even require a subscription like TIVO.

Oh, there are several deaths to report: Blu-Ray for one. Would you believe HDTV? Oh yes. There is Ultra HDTV coming to replace it. 3D and curved screens were not enough. The death of copper is coming soon. Have you noticed that the phone company does little to repair their broken poles and hanging wires. They are even replacing copper with fiber phone service and even to some who do not even have internet or FIOS TV.

I replaced my home phone with Magic Jack to cut the cost to less than \$3 a month, just to keep my old home phone number, and many other people are doing the same. Vonage has risen to \$35 a month with all their taxes and fees. I did like their service though. I still use Vonage for the business and studio line.

Speaking of radical changes, I use Square for credit card processing and although the % fee is a bit higher, those monthly charges and fees for the security service on it were getting ridiculous. There are several other companies competing with Square including Intuit.

The iPhone 6 plus is now out with its large screen. I still have my Android Galaxy Note and its screen is just a tad bit larger – I like that. Do you have a phablet in your future?

OK, now I want to bring up a subject and see if I can create a discussion about it. It is video streaming over coax cable and this applies to Comcast, FIOS, and even DirecTV. They all use streaming between the different TVs in your home from their DVRs. I am wondering whether that stream can be captured to a computer or separate recorder and what format it is in. DirecTV has a device called GenieGo and it is a portable unit that can store your recordings from your home DVR to take with you on the go.

You know those useless radio frequencies above 25GHZ? Well, the FCC is trying to determine whether they would make a good cellular band. I have a real problem with that, but I would rather see them there than in our ham bands. This reminds me of what Chester County did with their police radio system, putting it on 800 Mhz with only 6 towers at first, later having to put up 20 more towers to get slightly better coverage. If you haven't heard, Chester County is upgrading to a newer digital system called a P25 Phase II design. The plan also calls for more towers. P25 is a digital standard that makes the system inter-operable and compatible with all other P25 systems, which is coming to all new systems in the future. Goodbye, EF Johnson.

Join us on PARA-Net Tuesday at 8PM on 76 and help keep those repeater relays clicking.

Enough of this rambling for now. See you at the meeting. Gene K3DSM

For Sale: 2- 14 inch LCD Monitors \$25 each or best offer. Gene K3DSM 610-644-3633 or genem@bee.net

PARA Minutes – Meeting May 21, 2014

Eagleville, Pa

In attendance: Gene K3DSM, Dick K3ITH, Hank W3GSC, Ron K3ZKO, Irv W3IWJ, Steve K3ALV, Rocky N3FKR Tom W3EX, Asa AB3O

The meeting was called to order at 730PM by President Gene. The meeting started with the salute to the Flag and introductions of officers and members present.

A motion was made and approved to waive the reading of the Secretary's report since they were published in the recent Paragraphs. The report was submitted by Lloyd K3QNT before he left the area and resigned.

Dick K3ITH read the Treasurers report; \$1383.45 in checking, \$310.41 in savings, and \$10,079.21 in Vanguard. Dick also reported that there were 2 new members while there was also 10 expired members that didn't renew. There are 74 paid members in good standing. It was also noted that there were 2 donations: \$50 by Tom W3CQC and \$50 by Hank W3GSC.

The Tech report was made by Gene K3DSM:

76 up and running less the amp and remote Bacton Hill receiver.

94 up and running

82 up and running

224.94 and 224.86 both up and running 443.9 up and running

53.41 down due to a receiver problem

Links for 76 at Sellersville, Camden, and Eagleville were working

Eagleville had a change in antennas at the site and equipment was moved, still at same site

Sheds at Valley Forge and Worcester still needed repairs while Worcester also needs maintenance at the grounds for weed and grass control. Irv W3IWJ volunteered to take on the project.

He also said he would take on the amplifier and remote receiver projects.

Gene mentioned a \$600 Henry amplifier recommended by N3KKL. Gene mentioned the TPL amp for \$1567

A motion was made: "Authority to spend up to \$2500 to bring the 76 site up to full functionality to include an RF amplifier and the Link receiver and to clear access to the Worcester site, spearheaded by Irv W3IWJ"

Old Business: Gene reported that the net was still going with varying checkins but also helping to keep the repeater active.

New Business: Dick K3ITH brought up a proposal to have a scholarship fund through the ARRL foundation starting with a donation by Marie, Dick K3ECV's widow. There would also be a special moving sale May 31 of ham equipment. The group thought PARA's efforts needed to be on the repeaters rather than the scholarship fund.

Gene was going to investigate the 88 repeater equipment (in possession of Mark Ludlow)

Gene mentioned the need for Secretary. No one volunteered to run. Gene will do it until

PARA GENERAL MEETING
November 11, 2014
Guest Speaker: ARRL EPA Section Manager
Bob Famiglio, K3RF

Please mark your calendars for our next **PARA General Meeting** date which is Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at the Lower Providence Township Building in Eagleville, PA, starting at 7:30 PM; doors open at 7:15 PM. Our guest speaker will be our own **PARA** Member and ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) Section Manager, Bob Famiglio K3RF. Bob will discuss House Bill 4969 (HR 4969) and the importance to amateur radio's future. He will also provide a briefing on the status of federal preemption's of zoning laws prohibiting or limiting amateur radio antennas as well as his own thoughts on both the advantages and failings of the relatively new Pennsylvania law affecting amateur radio antennas from the perspective of someone who has litigated these issues for hams. **This will also be Bob's first public discussion of the decision rendered in the WN3A antenna case in Chester county as the decision of the zoning board of appeals is due to be rendered on October 23 at 7 PM. Bob will discuss any opinion rendered and offer advice as to how any ham should handle an antenna permit application. Examples of the exhibits used at the hearings shall be shown and explained.**

Bob K3RF will also discuss ongoing activities of the ARRL and answer questions you all may have about ongoing national issues involving amateur radio. One of these issues for discussion can be the controversial attempted change in policy by some League officials regarding the definition of emergency communications involving amateur radio; another might be the controversial bandwidth proposals pending with the FCC regarding data transmissions on HF. This is your opportunity to put your own questions to our ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager one on one. Bob K3RF has agreed to stay after his presentation as long as necessary to answer all of your individual questions.

PARA always welcomes guests to our general meetings and encourages local club leaders to share this announcement with their members.

Thank you and 73,

Dick Stewart, K3ITH
For the PARA Board of Directors

ARRL Atlantic Division Members Election by Electronic Ballot Deadline noon, Friday, November 21, 2014

Are you an ARRL Member? Did you receive your electronic ballot? If not, please read the following letter from David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Secretary for the Ethics & Elections Committee. And remember to VOTE for the ARRL ATL Division Director and Vice Director of your choice.

Dear ARRL Atlantic Division Member,

An election for ARRL Director and Vice Director is currently underway in the Atlantic Division. ARRL Full members of record as of September 10, 2014 are eligible to vote. If you have already voted, thank you for your participation. If not, the deadline for voting is noon EST Friday, November 21, 2014.

On October 1, members who were eligible to vote and for whom the ARRL had a valid email address were sent instructions on how to vote electronically, including a unique passcode for logging onto the election website. Those emails were sent from directvote.net operated by Survey & Ballot Systems of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. In a few days Survey & Ballot Systems will re-send those instructions to members who have not yet voted.

Members for whom no valid email address was available were mailed paper ballots on October 1.

Eligible voters may also access the election website by logging onto the ARRL website using their membership username and password and following a link to www.arrl.org/election.

Candidate information is available on the on-line ballot.

For technical support (available Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Central Time, USA, excluding holidays), please call 952-974-2339 or support@directvote.net.

For other questions, please contact Lisa Kustosik, at lkustosik@arrl.org or 860-594-0245.

Thank you for your support as an ARRL member.

73,

David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Secretary for the Ethics & Elections Committee

**ARRL 100 Year Centennial Celebration
July 17-18-19, 2014
Hartford, Connecticut
by Dick K3ITH**

The third weekend in July found 3,000 plus hams and ARRL Members for 3-days (or more) in downtown Hartford, Connecticut attending the 100 Year Celebration of the ARRL Founding. Thursday, July 17, was dedicated to education with top-notch speakers covering topics including Public Safety Communications, Contest, DX, Satellites, Legal, Leadership Tools, and RFI-101. Each subject was a full day of speakers and each speaker covered different themes within the same topic section. Friday and Saturday (July 18 and 19) were pack full of exhibits of new equipment, old equipment, indoor flea market, and all the vendors displaying their latest equipment. Friday afternoon was the formal **FEMA – ARRL Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** signing between FEMA Administrator and dinner keynote Speaker Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. Free bus trips were provided every day between the exhibit hall and ARRL Headquarters so attendees may tour ARRL and operate “W100AW”. The complete weekend went smoothly and ARRL put on a first class show. The outstanding 39-page program guide may be download from: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Centennial%202014/Centennial_Program_Guide.pdf



x-PARA Member Cater N3AO and his International friend Ole LA2RR



ARRL President Kay N3KN with Dick K3ITH



Dick K3ITH with FEMA Craig Fugate KK4INZ

MOVING ???

If moving, please notify **PARA** of your new address as soon as possible. The Post Office will **NOT** forward your mail after 30-days. Please forward your new mailing and e-mail addresses so we may keep our database up-to-date and, of course, *PARA-graphs* in your hands.

ADVERTISING in *PARA-graphs*

At the November 1999 Board meeting approval was received to accept ads in *PARA-graphs* to help offset ever-raising printing and postage costs. The following per issue ad schedule was approved:

Full Page \$125. Half Page \$75. Quarter Page \$50. Business Card \$25. Non-Commercial Classified 3 lines \$10.

Repeat ad in following issue(s) will receive a 10% discount. Contact Dick K3ITH to place an ad.

This and past issues of *PARA-Graphs* may be found at:

<http://para.buxcom.net> or <http://para.k3dsm.net>

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR *PARA-graphs* ??

Several great articles have been submitted in past issues by your fellow **PARA** members such as Hank W3GSC with help from Vince N3AGD, and Gene K3DSM. Please feel free to submit anything Amateur Radio related.

Articles may be mailed to our PO Box, or e-mailed to k3ith@arrl.net

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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>>> PLEASE NOTE <<<

MEETING DAY: TUESDAY

MEETING DATE: November 11, 2014

Doors open at 7:15 PM, Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION:

Lower Providence Township Building

100 Parklane Drive

Eagleville, PA 19403

(Some GPS units may show Norristown instead of Eagleville)

Directions:

- 1. From King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, take Rt. 202 South to Rt. 422 West to the Oaks Exit.**
- 2. At the exit ramp turn Right onto Egypt Road and take the second Left onto Pinetown Road.**
- 3. Go to the second stop sign and turn Left onto Eagleville Road.**
- 4. Go to the traffic light at Ridge Pike and proceed straight into the Lower Providence Township property; bare right and follow the driveway to the township building which is beyond the public library.**

Talk-in on the PARA 146.760 MHz Repeater (minus offset, PL 131.8 Hz)