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P A R A



>> GENERAL MEETING November 13, 2012 - 7:30 PM !! <<
Lower Providence Township Building
Eagleville, Pennsylvania

NEW 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)

PARA Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2012

Officers: President/Sec: Gene K3DSM, VP: Robert NX3S, Treasurer: Caterina KB3POA

Board: W3CQC Tom, K3QNT Lloyd, W3GSC Hank, K3ECV Dick

Members present: Gene K3DSM, Robert NX3S, Dick K3ITH, Ron K3ZKO, Steve K3ALV, Irv W3IWJ, Lloyd K3QNT, Bob W3FYC, Asa AB3O

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by President Gene K3DSM. After the welcome, Gene introduced the officers. Members were then asked to introduce themselves.

The Secretary Report was waived after a motion, second, and approval since they were included in Paragraphs.-

The Treasurer Report was given by Dick K3ITH in the absence of Caterina: Checking \$1310.45, Savings \$310.31, Vanguard \$9368.47, for a total of \$10,989.29 Dick reported 81 paid members, up by 10. It was also noted that 63 were paid life members.

Correspondence reported by Gene: IRS non-profit tax form for 2011 filed timely. ARCC reported no record of any 97 coordination on file after they were contacted when Dick and Gene couldn't find any coordination paperwork in any of the PARA files.

The Technical Report: 76 up and running. 94 is up and running with Allentown still overtaking 94. 82 is limping with a barely readable signal, waiting for a new antenna. Antenna was purchased by Ron K3ZKO. Ron needs help getting it up. Ron K3ZKO asked that \$100 of the \$144.95 antenna cost be put towards his (Ron K3ZKO) PARA Senior Life membership, which has a value equal to \$100. Therefore, PARA only owes Ron the remaining \$44.95 cost. 97 may be off the air – status unknown since John K3ZFD has failed to respond. 224.94 is up and running. 223.86 is kinda off – the receiver hardly hears and is in need of replacement. Dave N3KKL reports that \$250 would replace the receiver with frequency agile control. It was decided to attempt repairs and have Norm check it out. If that failed, PARA would then replace the receiver since that repeater was the only one to have N3CDPs call sign. (it was his call and property that is the Worcester repeater site). 443.9 is up and running. ATV is still off – Ron is still trying to find a repeater site. 52.41 is up and running. 16 links are up from Eagleville, Camden, Valley Forge and Sellersville. Bacton Hills '16 remote input will return this summer. It was also noted that the shack at Valley Forge needs roof work and repairs to a door. It was reiterated that we still need to find a replacement site for 443.9, 52.41, and 224.94. Lloyd (QNT) was to check with Mark Humphry K3XY to see if the 224.94 could go on the KISS tower in Newtown Square.

Old Business: Officer vacancy – Lloyd K3QNT volunteered to be secretary. He was approved by the membership. Gene mentioned that the awareness project, the Tuesday night net was alive and well and would continue.

New Business: Gene mentioned that elections were coming up in November. Also to always be aware of any possible corporate donations or grants that we could obtain. Lloyd mentioned that we should have a domain like W3PHL.ORG. After motions and discussions, Gene would register W3PHL.ORG. Cost would be \$30 a year with domain forwarding. A discussion about liability insurance came up. Gene would obtain new prices and report.

The meeting concluded and Lloyd K3QNT made an excellent presentation on NVIS.

73,

Gene K3DSM

Meeting Minutes
Special Board of Directors Meeting
Philadelphia Area Repeater Association (PARA)
Wednesday, June 20, 2012



In attendance

K3DSM – Gene, President
K3ITH – Dick
KB3POA –Caterina, Treasurer
K3ZKO – Ron
K3ALV – Steve
W3GSC – Hank
W3CQC – Tom
K3ZFD – John
WA3CRM – Marc
NX3S – Robert, Vice-President
AB3O – Asa
AA3JC – Joe
K3QNT- Lloyd, Secretary

Declaring a quorum, the meeting was held in the Lower Providence Township Building in Montgomery County and called to order by President, Gene Mitchell, K3DSM at **1932 hours**.

Gene, K3DSM announced that there were several items on the agenda he planned to discuss and seek a vote.

1. Future of PARA
2. Major improvement of 146.760, the main PARA regional repeater
3. Proposed decommissioning of several outlying repeaters
4. New Liability Insurance coverage for all sites
5. Details on 146.760 mHz improvements
6. Input from those attending on these changes

John, K3ZFD reported that both the 224.980 and 146.970 were off the air due to economic issues. It was also reported that 146.880 was also non-functional. After much discussion from and among the attendees, including conclusions that activity was low and membership interest in these machines was minimal, it was moved and seconded to immediately retire and decommission the following PARA repeaters:

146.970 mHz – Feasterville, PA

224.980 mHz – Feasterville, PA

146.880 mHz – Quakertown, PA

The motion was carried with all in favor.

Dick, K3ITH announced that a new frequency-agile 220 repeater receiver would be installed soon on the 223.860 to improve performance.

Gene, K3DSM, announced as a result of discussion during the last annual meeting, new liability insurance coverage has been purchased from the official ARRL insurance agent for all PARA sites. The cost was much lower than anticipated. The insurance is now in place for an annual premium of \$200.00.

Gene, K3DSM began a discussion regarding the marked decline in repeater activity on all the repeaters. He used examples of other repeater clubs such as MARC and others whose activity is higher. He also questioned the rated TPO of the “76” repeater and that a site visit was due to see if the repeater is making full power.

These comments lead to a discussion by the attendees on what could be done to improve activity. Gene felt that our efforts in the near future should be directed at a major improvement of the “Heritage” repeater 146.760, since it is the only one in the system with regional coverage. Everyone appeared to agree. There was much technical discussion on equipment needed for the upgrades as well as other items which would enhance user interest. Gene proposed the following initial equipment packages for enhancement:

Two – VHF-UHF Link packages including transmit and receive 2 meter verticals and 440 Yagi antennas, coax runs, mounting hardware, amplifiers, improved power supply systems and other necessary components for new inputs. Several members made suggestions on sources, including Ron –K3ZKO, who offered to secure needed input receivers and link transmitters. Other members suggested various repeater packages from Hamtronics and GE “Exec” as alternatives to the component requirements.

The general feeling was these improvements are a necessary first step to improve interest and activity. Without a vote, the group agreed to the overall improvement plan.

Lloyd – K3QNT commented that the equipment improvements were only part of the user enhancement idea. He asserted that more local ham radio involvement at area Hamfests and public service activities would also help user interest. Gene, K3DSM, announced that PARA would have a fully-manned booth at the upcoming Kimberton Hamfest on July 9, 2012. K3QNT volunteered to help. Gene asked for others to participate as well.

Several members including Steve, K3ALV, Hank, W3GSC, Ron, K3ZKO and Joe, AA3JC suggested the addition of ECHOLINK to the “76” repeater as an user enhancement. After much floor discussion, a motion was carried to add this Internet-based service in the near future. The estimated cost was \$200.00 or less.

Because PARA has always been a “Leading” repeater organization, the examination of D-STAR, an Icom proprietary product, and the new 900 MHz repeater band could also be expanded to serve the new technology interests of younger amateurs. There was much enthusiasm for this idea. Gene, K3DSM, mentioned there was already a successful 900 MHz repeater in Boyertown operating under the PARA auspices.

In addition, Gene proposed restoring the DVR digital announcements to PARA repeater on 146.760. K3QNT offered the services of his radio studios to produce these announcements with professional voices. He also suggested that a “Parrot” sound effect would add some fun to the announcements. Gene generously offered his own live Parrot for this purpose.

Lloyd – K3QNT agreed to pursue financial grants to defray the cost of the proposed improvements. He asked the members to provide additional ideas to place in the grant’s executive summary to make the PARA application more appealing. Lloyd will shortly forward a “Draft” grant application to President Gene. After approval and agreement on what precisely the grant request will be, Lloyd will begin to solicit applications.

The meeting was concluded by a short presentation by Ron-K3ZKO about a new Veterans benefit called the “Veteran’s ID Card” which enables the bearer to certain retail discounts and other benefits. These cards may be obtained at your local county office of Recorder of Deeds. These ID cards are available in Bucks, Chester, Montgomery & Delaware County.

With no further business, motion was carried to adjourn at 2051 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lloyd-

Lloyd Bankson Roach – K3QNT
Secretary

DICK SWAYZE, K3ECV, SILENT KEY

Dick Swayze, K3ECV, became a Silent Key Wednesday, October 31, 2012. It was my pleasure to call Dick my friend since I first studied for and passed my Novice ham radio license in 1959, over 53 years ago. Dick was 70 years old. When he married Marie I was Dick's Best Man. Last week I visited with Dick and was able to spend quality time with him, his wife Marie, and their son David and David's wife. Dick was really in good spirits.

PARA members may remember Dick K3ECV as the host of the 146.94 MHz PARA Repeater when it was located in Paoli, Pennsylvania, for over 20 years. Dick was active with PARA and often helped with many technical projects and installations. He will be missed by his family, friends, and the ham radio community.

Arrangements are indicated below.

Dick Stewart, K3ITH

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From: Rev. Marie Z. Swayze

Subject: this day.....

Dear Family and Friends,

Our Richard passed on to glory at 12:40 PM this afternoon, with his immediate family right there with him, as we have been over this past week, right here at home.

There will be a Wake here at our home on Friday coming, 2 November, 5 to 8 PM:

641 Pickering Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460-2549

Richard's Solemn High Requiem will be at St. Mark's Church, 1625 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, 11:00 o'clock in the morning, Saturday, 3 November 2012. All are welcome, no matter your religious tradition. Clergy wishing to vest are welcome to do so and I request that you allow Fr. Sean Mullen at St. Mark's to know that you hope to vest and process.

Please, honor Richard's life and give thanks for his life by donating to his favorite places (beside his home with me and our sons and their lady loves!):

St. Mark's Church,
1625 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
and/or

St. James School,
3217 West Clearfield Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132

The Rector at St. Mark's will use your donation to advance the mission of the parish as will the Head of School at St. James use your donation to advance the mission of the school. These two places of worship and outreach were very dear to Richard's heart and he advanced these missions with his time, talent and treasure.

Please, spread this word about Richard in any way that you can (Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, etc) so that as many people as possible have the news. The obituary will appear in the papers on Friday, but, we wanted you to know as soon as possible. (We have done our best to let many people know of Richard's death *via* telephone.)

With love to each and every one of you,
Marie

Picture below from last year's (2011) Kimberton Hamfest:



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://www.w3phl.org>

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

Check out the new PARA web site:

<http://www.w3phl.org>

>>> PLEASE NOTE <<<

MEETING DAY: TUESDAY

MEETING DATE: November 13, 2012

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 or 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 (PL 131.8 Hz)