



FEEDBACK



Warminster
Amateur Radio Club

Web Site k3dn.org

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

October 2016

Next Meeting October 6th - Using QRZ.com & FCC ULS Database

President's Message

Fall is here, and with it comes Contest Season. I hope you've done all of your antenna installations, repaired any loose ends, and replaced those worn-out feedlines, because October starts the ball rolling with a little something for everyone: Oceania DX Contests (Phone & CW), Russian Digital Contest, Microwave & 432MHz Fall Sprints, QRP ARCI & SKCC events, even our own PA QSO Party! If you've ever wondered about contesting and wanted to give it a try, there's certainly one this month catering to your favorite frequency and mode!

WARC held our first kit building session on Sept. 24, and it was a great success to say the least. You can read the article appearing elsewhere in Feedback to see just how things went. Let me just say that the builders finished off their kits "lights out" – but, is that a good thing? Find out below...

Nominations for the WI3Y Outstanding Ham of the Year award are in, and the Executive Board will be taking them into consideration and choosing this year's recipient. Thanks to everyone who took the time to submit a nominee.

We are eagerly awaiting the November presentation with Bob Allison WB1GCM, ARRL Product Review Engineer, who will be travelling from ARRL HQ in Newington, CT to join us for the evening and discuss QST Product Reviews, the ARRL Lab, and other tidbits and insights that can only be provided by someone who is hands-on the subject matter. This really is one you won't want to miss!

This month, we will be discussing the use and features on the FCC ULS database and QRZ.com, two under-appreciated resources for hams worldwide. If you're not familiar with either or both, or have yet to "manage" your callsign on QRZ, please attend and see what you've been missing.

73 de Tony, W3FLH

Meeting Minutes WARC General Membership Meeting, September 1, 2016

Attendance

Call to Order – *Tony, W3FLH*
Introductions – Pass the mic

Minutes from last Membership Meeting

Approved with no additions, corrections or revisions

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: *Bill, K3FMQ*

As reported at the meeting

Programs: *Vinny, K3VJP*

October – Using QRZ.com and FCC ULS database

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November – Bob Allison, WB1GCM, ARRL Product Review Engineer, QST Product Review Data

December – Holiday Dinner

January – Q&A, Stump the Chumps

Membership: *George, KC3ESH*

Total of 147 members

Public Service: *George, N3HBT*

Columbus Day Golf Outing, October 10 at Five Ponds starts at 9:00 am, we need to be there at 8:30 am until about 2:30 pm. They will also have foot golf this year.

Covered Bridge Ride, October 23; will have sign up sheet

MS150 – 30 Hams short; September 24 & 25

Classes: *George, N3HBT (not in attendance) Ron Small, WB2OOB*

Tech classes will resume on 2nd Monday in September from 7pm to 9pm. General classes will begin at the same time.

Tech about 7 weeks and General about 8 weeks.

VEC Testing: *Larry, WA3ELQ*

No session in August. Next session September 26.

Repeater: *Brian, N3EXA*

One of the Abington receivers needed to be repaired, everything is working. Nothing new on antenna relocation.

Remote receiver inputs. Looking to place one in New Jersey. Email Brain at n3exa@verizon.net.

Good and Welfare: *Vince, KD3TC*

Remind everyone to send him an email if someone is ill or needs a sympathy card.

Other Committees – Nothing to report.

Old Business

WI3Y OHOTY Award – Nominations, outline posted in WARC Talk. Please send your nominations to anyone from the board.

Kit Building – *Tony, W3FLH* September 24 at the Senior Center from 10am-2pm. \$25 fee for the kit and supplies.

Kit is a 10w passive LED dummy load.

Survey Monkey – *Brandon, KC3DYT* tabled for now.

Silent Auction – *Andy, KD3RF* reported silent auction has ended. Sold 6 out of 7 items. The only item not sold is the PK88 TNC. Selling it for \$5 this evening if anyone is interested.

No progress on contingency committee.

Membership committee has made some progress and is waiting for an in person meeting to discuss further.

New Business

Tom Mills, AF4NC – Presented Bob Hecht, *N3AAK* an award from Radio Relay International for the first CW traffic message. He also received an award from the Wolf Pack QRP Club designating Bob as Alpha male.

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Laura Floyd, KC3GWL will be in the member spotlight in the November issue of the QST.

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Presentation: Homebrew Night! Watcha got?

KIT BUILDING 101



The morning of Saturday, September 24, was a dreary one in Warminster, which made it a great day to stay inside and get the solder flowing. Luckily, the Warminster Amateur Radio Club had just that in mind when we got together for our first club-sponsored kit building session, held at the Ben Wilson Senior Center.

Tony Cuttone W3FLH organized the session and chose the kit for the build, a 10-watt Dummy Load with passive LED power scale from the Xtal Set Society, one which he had built previously and had on hand as a reference; the 17 kits purchased by WARC happened to be the final run of this product. This is a great kit to build as an introduction to thru-hole soldering, as it consists of only 22 parts, including several resistors, diodes and LEDs, with no surface-mount components. Mike Shanblatt W3MAS reviewed the kit prior to the session, and prepared a two-page sheet on the theory of operation for everyone present. Mike then started things off by giving a summary explanation of the circuit and how it utilizes the incoming RF to power each successive LED, using Zener diodes to sense the incoming voltages and trigger the appropriate LED at each power level. The scale gives approximate power levels of 1w, 2w, 5w, and 10w, and the dummy load is usable from 160m-2m, although with less accuracy on 2m than at HF.



There were seven club members in attendance as builders, and the same number serving as Elmers to oversee the project and mentor each builder. With each builder at their own work station, and after Mike's introduction, the session began in earnest just after 10:30am. More than half of the builders had no soldering experience coming into the session, making this a true introductory class in all aspects. The participants got off to a good start, learning to identify the individual parts, reading resistor color bands, getting the parts mounted and developing good soldering technique with help from their instructors. The kits also required a pigtail for connection to the device under test, so each builder had the opportunity to install a crimp-type PL-259 on one end of an RG-8X coax jumper, and strip the other end for soldering to the board.



As Murphy would have it, upon completion of the first several kits none were working as intended. This introduced the builders to a more advanced stage of kit-building: diagnostics. With all in attendance putting their heads together, checking against W3FLH's known reference, and testing for possible failures (cold solder joints, bridged traces, etc.), it was found that the LEDs supplied with the kits were reverse-polarity from that indicated in the instructions. Thus, our builders were further intro-



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duced to an even higher level of advanced PCB assembly: de-soldering and re-work! As most of the builders had installed the LEDs close to board level and had properly trimmed the leads, they were left with the difficult process of removing and reversing them on the board. Bill Strunk K3ZMA and Irwin Darak KD3TB did yeoman's work assisting the builders in getting things right for everyone, and as time was winding down on our use of the Center, kits began to be re-tested and were passing with flying colors – both QRP and at the 10w level! In the end, every builder came away with a fully assembled and properly working kit, with no other corrections having to be made. One notable exception was Michelle London KB3MTW, who, having arrived later than the first group after leaving work that morning, was able to build her kit fully aware of the reverse-polarity issue, and was therefore the only builder to complete a functioning kit on the first try!

As a first time activity for our club, the session was quite a success. Each builder left with a better understanding of circuit design, newly acquired/refreshed soldering skills, a working dummy load, and the satisfaction of having assembled it themselves. The feeling all around was that the club should make this an annual activity, which we will certainly explore for next year.

Author's Note: I would like to thank everyone that participated, builders and Elmers alike, as they are the ones that made this a truly successful day. Participants in no particular order: Linda AB3PQ, Larry WA3ELQ, George KC3ESH, Kathy KC3FBY, Irwin KD3TB, Mike W3MAS, Tom KC3HAS, Bill K3ZMA, Brandon KC3DYT, Bill K3FMQ, Bill WS3O, Michelle KB3MTW, Tony W3FLH and George N3HBT.

-Tony Cuttone W3FLH

COVERED BRIDGE BIKE RUN

We are looking for additional volunteers to assist with manning rest stops, net control positions, and Support and Gear vehicles (SAG Wagons) for the Covered Bridges (charity) Ride sponsored by the Central Bucks Bicycle Club.

The ride is on Sunday, October 23. Posts are manned and net operations begin at 8 AM. The ride is generally over by 3 PM. Operators may be released early as their rest stop closes, or the course they are covering is completed by the last of the riders.

SAG vehicles are normally provided by and driven by CBBC members. The ham operators ride along as communicators and keep track of where the vehicle is along the course.

With more than one operator at each rest stop, this is an ideal opportunity for newly-licensed hams to participate and be mentored. Positions to be covered are:

Net Control at start/finish (3 operators - one already assigned)

SAG vehicle communicator (4 operators)

Coverage for rest stops (1 necessary, two preferred per rest stop) at

- Durham-Nockamixon Elementary School, next to Palisades High School

(this is usually the first rest stop to be closed)

- Weisel Youth Hostel (one op already assigned)

- Lorber's Plumbing Supply in Pipersville (this is usually the last rest stop to be closed)

- Ottsville Fire Company

- Bulls Island State Park

There are 5 courses:

Rest stops and hours:

Bulls Island/20 & 30 mile routes: (9:30-2:30)

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Ottsville/33 mile route (9:00-1:00)

Pipersville/33, 50 & 63 mile routes (9:30-3:00)

Weisel Youth Hostel/50 & 63 mile routes (9:30-1:00)

Durham-Nox Elementary/50 & 63 mile routes (9:00-12:00)

Operators will need a mobile radio, mag-mount antenna, and portable power. An operator with only a hand-held radio can be assigned to the start/finish as a runner. Rest stop operators may power radios from their own vehicles.

SAG communicators should be prepared to provide power in addition to the vehicle, because some drivers are using the only source of aux power for their portable GPS units.

If you wish to volunteer, but lack recommended equipment, loaner radios, antennas, and power are available.

To volunteer, contact:

Robert Garland, NX3S

robert@jtan.com

nx3s@arrrl.net

215-453-9284

Please provide call sign and contact information for yourself, your preferred assignment, whether you need loaner

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Australia's Space Weather Services issued a [geomagnetic warning](#), calling for variable geomagnetic conditions -- from active to major storms -- for the next 3 days.

Average daily sunspot numbers and solar flux changed little for September 22-28 from the previous 7 days. Average daily sunspot numbers went from 29.7 to 29.9, and the average daily solar flux declined from 83.4 to 81.4. The average planetary A index was much higher, rising from 8.9 to 19.7. The average mid-latitude A index increased from 7.6 to 12.3.

Projected solar flux for the near term is 85, 80, and 78 for September 29-October 1; 80 on October 2-3; 85 on October 4-7; 90 on October 8-14; 95 on October 15-18; 90 on October 19-21; 85 on October 22-27; 80 on October 28-31; 85 on November 1-3, and 90 on November 4-10.

Predicted planetary A index is 44, 38, 30, 20, 14, 12, and 8 for September 29-October 5; 5 on October 6-14; 8, 10, 20, and 8 on October 15-18; 5 on October 19-22; 18 and 12 on October 23-24; 35 on October 25-27; 25, 20, 16, 10, and 8 on October 28-November 1, and 5 on November 2-10.

Sunspot numbers for September 22 through 28 were 30, 49, 47, 18, 23, 21, and 20, with a mean of 29.7. The 10.7 centimeter flux was 85.1, 85.5, 84.9, 84.6, 86.8, 85.6, and 84.4, with a mean of 81.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 5, 23, 22, 38, and 42, with a mean of 19.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 3, 4, 12, 18, 21, and 24, with a mean of 12.3.

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter

CLUB INFO

PUBLIC SERVICE

Columbus Day Golf Outing, October 10 at Five Ponds starts at 9:00 am, we need to be there at 8:30 am until about 2:30 pm. They will also have foot golf this year.

Craven Hall Run, October 15 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. 6 operators needed.

Covered Bridge Ride, October 23.

CLUB STATION

The WARC club station is open to anyone with an interest, on Tuesday evenings between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 pm. For further information, call George Brechmann N3HBT at 215-443-5656.

WARC ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

An Alumni membership category is available for WARC members who are unable to attend meetings and club activities on a regular basis because of health considerations, travel impediments, or other hardships. Dues for the Alumni membership are \$10.00 annually and are approved by the Board. Please contact the Membership Committee for more information if interested."

ATTENTION MEMBERS

The Membership Committee can provide Club badges. Two types are available: an engraved plastic callsign and name badge for \$5 or a free, laminated plastic, photo ID badge/card. The photo id badge is included with your membership. Pictures for the club badge will be taken before club meetings on even numbered months. If you do not have at least a Warminster Amateur Radio Club badge with your picture on it, please contact your Membership Chairs at the WARC monthly meetings. Otherwise, please contact Membership by email at: membership@k3dn.org.

If you want to have your picture taken to be placed on the 'Members' Photos' section of the www.k3dn.org website, please contact Membership with your interest. When we get enough people who are interested we will post a notice in Feedback and have a camera ready at the following club meeting.

PROGRAMS 2016 - 2017

October - Using QRZ.com & FCC ULS Database

November - Understanding HF Transceiver Data from QST Product Reviews, What do these values mean? - Bob Allison ARRL

December - Holiday Dinner

January - Q&A / Stump the Chumps

February - Club Auction

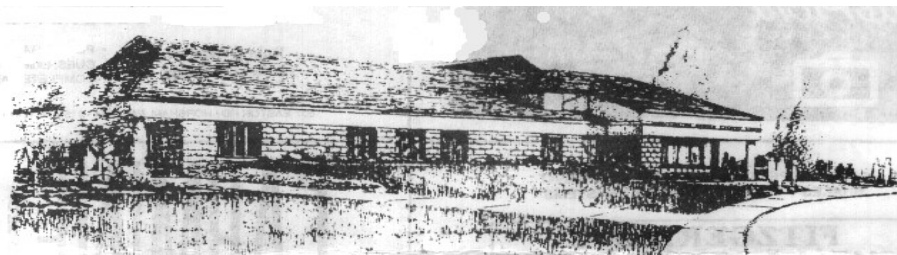
March - QSL card Presentation Tom Mills AF4NC

April - Hamfest

The Club Station - K3DN - is located at the Benjamin Wilson Senior Center, Delmont Avenue, Warminster, PA. The station is open for club members and the interested general public on non-holiday Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. The station is fully operational on HF (80 meters through 10 meters) both phone and CW. There is an assortment of amateur radio shareware which may be copied under the shareware licensing agreement.

For additional information on the Club Station please call the Station Manager N3HBT - George at 215-443-5656.

- **WARC Meetings** are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Benjamin Wilson Senior Center, Delmont Avenue, Warminster, PA. Talk in is available on the 147.09 & 443.950 repeaters.



2016 Contest Calendar

OCTOBER

School Club Roundup

October 17 - 21

1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday

NOVEMBER

ARRL November Sweepstakes

CW - November 5-7

Phone - November 19-21

Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday

QSO PARTIES

California 1600Z, Oct 1 to 2200Z, Oct 2

Pennsylvania 1600Z, Oct 8 to 0500Z, Oct 9 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 9

Arizona 1600Z, Oct 8 to 0600Z, Oct 9 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 9

Iowa 1400Z-2300Z, Oct 15

New York 1400Z, Oct 15 to 0200Z, Oct 16

South Dakota 1800Z, Oct 15 to 1800Z, Oct 16

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must bring two forms of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC'S 2016 test fee is **\$15.00**.

Warminster Amateur Radio Club, Monthly, Last Mon. 7:00 pm at the Wilson Senior Community Center 580 Delmont Avenue Warminster, PA 18974 George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.

Atco, NJ, The fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m. Winslow Township Senior Center, 33 Cooper Folly Road, 08004-2603.
Mark (K2AX) jtra@comcast.net

Levittown, PA, Monthly, 3rd Monday at 6:30. Falls Township Building - Ben Johns, K3JQH, 215-657-5994

Telford, PA, RF Hill ARC. Indian Valley Library. Held the third Monday of odd months (January, March, May, July, September, November)
Contact: Jim Soete 215-723-7294
wa3ylq@arrl.net.

Philadelphia, PA, Testing is done on the 4th, non holiday Thursday of the month at the, Community Ambulance Association of Ambler, 1414 E Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002 at 7:00 PM We also are testing on Saturdays at least once per quarter at 9:00 AM. For further information contact James McCloskey at jmccloskey@msn.com and by phone 215-275-2979.

Lansdale, PA Testing on the first non-holiday Tuesday of the month starting at 7:00 PM. The Lansdale Library Community Room Vine St. and Susquehanna Ave. Lansdale, Pa. Registration is required 48 hrs. or more before the scheduled exam date. If there are no registrations the scheduled exam date will be canceled. NO WALK-INS. You can register by contacting:
Olaf N. Markert ----- Phone (610) 517-5074, E-mail w3pa@arrl.net

➤ ATLANTIC DIV. HAMFESTS ➤ 2016

October 9 - CARAFest 2016

Howard County Fairgrounds 2210 Fairgrounds Road West Friendship, MD 21794

<http://www.carafest.org>

October 16 - RF Hill ARC Hamfest

Sellersville Fire House 50 North Main Street Sellersville, PA 18960

<http://www.rfhillarc.org>

October 22 - 4th Annual TailgateFest

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department 24801 Three Notch Road Hollywood, MD 20636

<http://www.k3hki.org>

October 23 - Sportsman's Hall Skating Rink

15500 Hanover Pike Upperco, MD 21155

<http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

December 10 - SantaFest

American Legion Youth Camp
9201 Surratts Road
Cheltenham, MD 20623

SKYWARN INFORMATION

MOUNT HOLLY NWSFO SKYWARN Weekly Information Net: EVERY THURSDAY AT 21:00 HOURS

SKYWARN Net Repeater Listing/ Streaming Audio of scheduled SKYWARN

Net: <http://www.skywarnnet.net>

You do NOT have to be a certified SKYWARN Weather Spotter to check into the Net

Bucks County SKYWARN Weather Spotter PRIMARY FREQUENCY: 147.300MHZ (+ 131.8)

Fairless Hills, PA (many remote access locations throughout Bucks County)

Mount Holly NWSFO SKYWARN Homepage:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/skywarn/index.html>

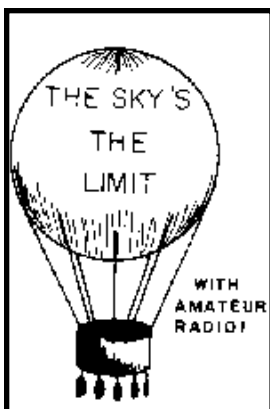
SKYWARN Basic Weather Spotter Educational Programs URL:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/skywarn/training.html#sched>

➤ CLUB EQUIPMENT

WARC has 2 Baofeng UV-5R dual band HT's and a Yaesu FT-2900 2M mobile that are available for use by members of the club. The radios are available on a month-by-month basis and have been purchased primarily to help new hams get on the air. However, they may also be used by any club member who is in need of a temporary 2-meter radio. They are also available for use by participants in WARC's public service activities.

DE, Vinny Porcaro K3VJP
215-493-0783



The Warminster Amateur Radio Club Announces Free Ham Radio Instructional Classes

If you're interested in Ham Radio, or think you might be, this is your opportunity. Perhaps you'd like to learn about digital communications, Morse code, VHF, UHF, satellite, or perhaps you'd rather sit down and chat with someone in South Africa, Russia, Great Britain or in the space station.

For further information contact George Brechmann, N3HBT at 215-443-5656.

Bucks County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (BCARES)

www.bucksares.org

Bucks County ARES will be on the air Wednesdays, at 9:00 PM. We will be using Warminster Amateur Radio Club's repeater on 147.090, pl 131.8. This net is linked as shown in the Net Schedule box for the Wednesday night net. It may also be linked to 147.300.

Winlink Gateway Stations:

Lower Bucks NY3J-10

145.530 Bensalem

Net Schedules

Sunday	2100	10 Meter Net	28.445 MHz
Wednesday	2000	2 Meter Net	147.09 Rptr.
Wednesday	2000	Linked w/ 2 Meter Net	443.95
Rptr. Wednesday	2000	Linked w/ 2 Meter Net	53.230 Rptr.
Sunday	2030	Informal Net	223.5 Simplex
Thursday	1900	Mont. Cnty RACES Net	146.835 Rptr.

Area Repeaters

VHF

145.310 R.F. Hill
145.350 Doylestown R.C.
146.790 Penn Wireless
145.330 Hilltown
146.670 DVRA
146.685 Holmesburg
146.925 Willingboro
147.000 Ham Buergers
147.030 Phil-Mont
147.090 Warminster
147.270 Frankford
147.300 BEARS
147.390 CBRA

220

224.580 PackRats
223.76 K3NAL

UHF

442.650 DVRA
443.250 TAG
443.050 Metro-Comm
443.950 Warminster
444.200 BEARS
447.475 WR3B
448.225 Penn Wireless
444.759 RF Hill Analog/
Fusion

D-STAR

146.61000 K3PDR DV
445.18125 K3PDR DV
445.01875 AA3E Montco
RACES

6 Mtr

53.030 WA3BXW
53.230 N3DQZ
53.320 K3MFI

Are you submitting an article for the Feedback ?

Contributions of articles to be published are always accepted for consideration. Please follow these guidelines:

- E-Mail to:
wa4ywm@comcast.net
Or via snail mail to:
FEEDBACK EDITOR
Warminster Amateur Radio Club
Box 113
Warminster, Pa 18974
- Use both upper and lower case letters.
- Use your program's spell check.
- If you don't have a computer, then typewritten sheets are o.k. but please use both upper and lower case.
- Put your name and call at the beginning or end of the article, and show credits if you are using material from another source.
- Deadline for articles is the Saturday before the regular meeting.

For general club correspondence:
k3dn@k3dn.org

Visit our Home Page at:
<http://www.k3dn.org>

The annual dues rate structure is as follows:

Full Member: \$ 20.00
2nd FamilyMember: \$ 10.00
Student: \$ 10.00
Alumni: \$ 10.00

- Are your dues current ?

2016 Officers

Executive Officers

President	Tony Cuttone	W3FLH	267-679-9297
Vice-President	Vinny Porcaro	K3VJP	215-493-0783
Secretary	Kathy Acker	KC3FBY	215-815-7978
Treasurer	Bill Ballantine	K3FMQ	215-766-0764
Director (A)	Michael Shanblatt	W3MAS	267-491-5773
Director (E)	Larry Abbott	WA3ELQ	215-704-3282
Director (A)	Jim Elmore	WA4YWM	215-538-1889
Director (E)	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Past President	Irwin Darack	KD3TB	215-343-8170

Committee Chairpersons

ARES/RACES Liason	Karl Harris	K3KH	215-264-1855
Arrl Liason	Richard Luce	AG3L	215-441-8264
Awards Manager	Vince Pironti	KD3TC	215-674-0446
Classes	George Altemus	KA3WXV	215-855-3856
Digital and APRS	Ron Wenig	NY3J	215-638-9257
Feedback Editor	Jim Elmore	WA4YWM	215-538-1889
Field Day 16	Doc Whitticar	W3GAD	215-968-6397
Hamfest 16	Mike Karabin	WJ3O	215-317-4029
Hamwear	Kathy Acker	KC3FBY	215-815-7978
Holiday Dinner	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Membership	George Acker	KC3ESH	215-815-7783
Net Manager	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Publicity	Bernice Kraut	KB3PCX	215-884-8195
Refreshments	Brandon Penglase	KC3DYT	215-259-7255
RF Interference	Andy Vavra	KD3RF	610-287-3295
RF Interference	Bill Ballantine	K3FMQ	215-766-0764
Repeater Coordinator	Brian Taylor	N3EXA	215-257-6303
Safety Officer	Vinny Porcaro	K3VJP	215-493-0783
Station Trustee	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Sunshine Club	Vince Pironti	KD3TC	215-674-0446
Township Liason	Richard Luce	AG3L	215-441-8264
VE License Testing	Larry Abbott	WA3ELQ	215-704-3282
VHF/UHF/MW	George Altemus	KA3WXV	215-855-3856
Website Coordinator	Al Konschak	WI3Z	215-491-9941
Youth Programs	Steve Larson	WW3Y	215-822-1511