Web Site k3dn.org

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

February 2017

Next Meeting February 2nd - Club Auction

President's Message

Winter has been somewhat mild in these parts, allowing great opportunity for radio-related activity, whether it be operating portable from a park or rec area, installing new (or repairing old) antennas, or perhaps as simple as opening the windows in the shack to let some of the solder smoke out! No matter your preferred operating conditions, I hope you're all finding a way to enjoy the season.

With the passing of our Vice President, Vinny Porcaro K3VJP (SK), the Board has elected George Acker KC3ESH to fulfill the remainder of Vinny's term. Our members are all familiar with George, as he is our Membership Chair, handling dues payments and new applications, and also provides member ID's, both picture and traditional. George has been a great asset since joining WARC, and is excited to meet this new challenge. Welcome aboard, George, and thank you for taking on this role.

As has been previously announced, WARC has been chosen to host the EPA Section Convention this year, in conjunction with our annual Hamfest (Sunday, May 7). At the same time, we will be relocating to Bucks County Community College's Lower Bucks campus, on Rte. 413 in Bristol, PA. The updated info is available on our website, under "Hamfest". The new site offers several improvements over previous years, and allows us to expand the event to include presentations and seminars, notably a guest speaker from ARRL HQ, as part of the convention. Mike Shanblatt W3MAS has taken on the Chairmanship for this event, and will be coordinating WARC's efforts. With the addition of the EPA SC, the anticipated increase in attendance, and moving to a new site, your participation is needed now more than ever. Let Mike know your availability, and if you are willing to take on a lead role please let him know that, as well. We need "all hands on deck" this year, so we're prepared to stage a top-shelf event!

And don't forget our bus trip to ARRL HQ, taking place on Tuesday, April 4. Word is being spread to several other clubs in the region, and there seems to be a lot of interest in attending. The cost will be \$55 per person for the trip, with a departure time of 5:30am that morning, returning approximately 8:00pm that night. This is a fabulous trip, which includes a tour of HQ, showing the inner workings of the League, including QST, incoming/outgoing QSL buro, and of course, the opportunity to operate W1AW, perhaps the most famous amateur station in the world! If you haven't been, it's something every ham should experience at least once; if you have, you know how much fun this trip is. For more information, you may contact me directly – there are several methods listed in this issue of Feedback.

de Tony, W3FLH 73

HAM Radio Classes in the Spring of 2017

Morse Code is no longer required for HAM Radio licenses

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, 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.

Technician classes will be taught by Ron Small WB2OOB starting March 13th for 6 Mondays in a row from 7pm to 9 pm.

Extra classes will be taught by George Altemus KA3WXV starting March 13th for 8 Mondays in a row from 7pm to 9 pm.

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

Page 2 FEEDBACK

(Continued from page 1)

WARC General Membership Meeting Minutes January 5, 2017

Attendance:

Call to Order – Tony W3FLH Introductions – pass the mic

Minutes from last Board Meeting

No minutes to approve since there was no December Membership Meeting

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Bill K3FMQ

As reported at the meeting

Programs: Tony W3FLH

February - Club Auction

March - QSL Card Presentation w/Tom Mills AF4NC

April - Hamfest prep

Membership: George KC3ESH

New Member Applications – no new applications

Membership Update – 153 members to date

Anyone paid by January 31, 2017 will be eligible for a drawing for an additional year

Pictures will be taken at the next meeting

Public Service: George N3HBT

No public service events for the rest of the year

Classes: George KA3WXV/Ron WB2OOB

Next classes will be the 2nd Monday in March, March 13, 2017 for Tech and Extra

VEC Testing: Larry WA3ELQ

2 candidates neither successful at the December 26, 2016 test session

Next session is January 30, 2017

Repeater: Brian N3EXA

Maintenance items on the repeater

Brian asks that you get on and use the repeater

Still waiting on the township for the antenna relocation

Good and Welfare: Vince KD3TC

Sent a few cards out this month

Other Committees

Old Business

New Member Focus Group (Irwin KD3TB/Bill K3FMQ/Andy KD3RF) – The group met this evening. 11 new members attended and answered several questions that will help our club grow and hopefully help new Hams in the hobby

Day trip to ARRL HQ (Tony W3FLH) – Tuesday, April 4, 2017 - \$55 per person; please invite other clubs to join us; more information will be forthcoming

Special Event station – Union League/W3U (Tony W3FLH): Saturday, June 17, 2017; W3U special event call sign for the entire weekend – in celebration of Juneteenth – need at least 6 operators – more details to follow – please see Tony W3FLH if you are interested in participating

New Business

Interim VP - George Acker KC3ESH - the board voted and approved George's appointment of Interim

(Continued on page 3)

FEEDBACK Page 3

(Continued from page 2)

VicePresident at the December Board Meeting

WARC Hamfest/EPA Section Convention (Tony W3FLH/Mike W3MAS/Irwin KD3TB) – May 7, 2017 – we are looking at the Bucks County Community College Lower Bucks Campus as the new location of the Hamfest this year – the ARRL has approved that we hold the EPA Section Convention at our Hamfest this year – Mike W3MAS has agreed to chair the Hamfest – more details will follow as they become available

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

Presentation: <u>Stump the Chumps – Gameshow format!</u>

THE K7RA SOLAR UPDATE

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: The average daily sunspot number rose from 22.6 to 52.7 -- up from no sunspots 2 weeks ago. Solar flux increased from 77.1 to 83.9 for the January 19-25 reporting week. The first sunspot group of Cycle 25 has appeared, in addition to this recent uptick. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, will have an excellent article about this in the next issue of the Northwest Indiana DX Club newsletter http://nwidxclub.weebly.com/newsletters, available in early February.

Predicted solar flux is 85 on January 26-29; 82 on January 30-February 2; 75 on February 3-7; 76 on February 8; 77 on February 9-12; 78, 79, and 81 on February 13-15; 83 on February 16-18; 85, 83, and 82 on February 19-21; 80 on February 22-24; 78 on February 25; 77 on February 26-27; 76 on February 29-March 1; 75 on March 2-6, and 76 on March 7.

The predicted planetary A index is 5, 12, 15, and 8 on January 26-29; 12 on January 30-31; 8 on February 1-2; 20, 16, 12, 10, and 8 on February 3-7; 5 on February 8-13; 15 on February 14; 10 on February 15-16; 8 on February 17-19, and 5 on February 20-22.

F.K. Janda, OK1HH, sent us this geomagnetic activity forecast for January 27-February 22: Quiet on January 27, February 1, 11-12, 14, 22; mostly quiet on January 30, February 9-10, 20-21; quiet to unsettled on January 31, February 13, 19; quiet to active on January 28-29, February 3-5, 15, 17, and active to disturbed on February 2, 6-7, (8, 16, 18).

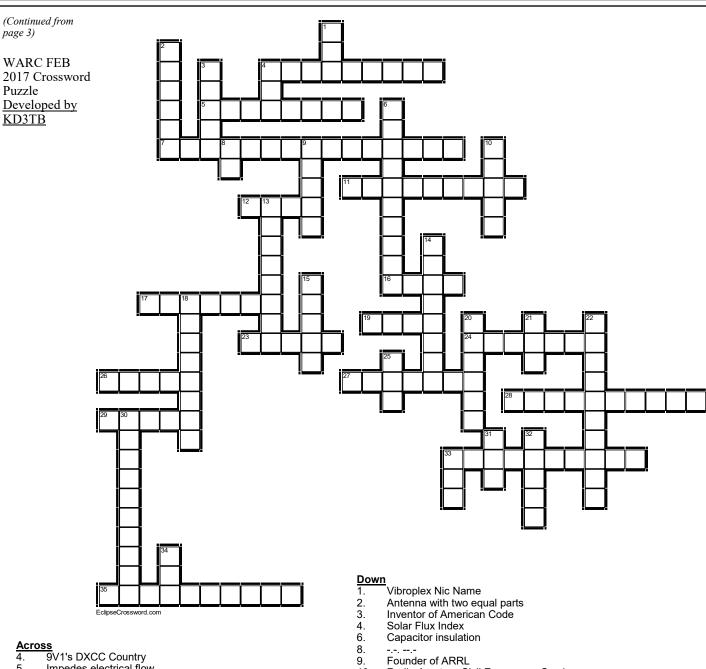
Amplifications of the solar wind from coronal holes are expected on January 26, (31), February (1-5), 9, (15). Parentheses indicate a lower probability of activity enhancement.

Sunspot numbers for January 19-25 were 26, 61, 67, 61, 53, 55, and 46, with a mean of 52.7. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 79.5, 83.2, 86.1, 86.8, 84.1, 82.3, and 85.1, with a mean of 83.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 11, 11, 11, 9, 5, 3, and 6, with a mean of 8. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 10, 9, 9, 8, 2, 3, and 4, with a mean of 6.4.

Send <k7ra@arrl.net> me your reports or observations.

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter

Page 4 **FEEDBACK**



- 5. 7. Impedes electrical flow
- wave responsible for radio wave propagation
- 11 Modulation developed by Edwin Armstrong
- Type of Antenna 12.
- A type of cable 16.
- 17. Development of early radio
- 19. **US Ham Association**
- Standard unit of frequency 23.
- Instrument used to measure current in an electric circuit 24.
- 26. VU2's DXCC Country
- Flow of electrons in a electric circuit
- 28. Semiconductor device used to amplify or switch electronic
- 29. Electric component that conducts primarily in one direction
- 33. **WARC Location**
- Entry level ham license

- 10. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- Type of Battery 13.
- Separation between Sunset and Sunrise 14.
- = Current x Resistance (Ohm's Law) K3DN 147.09+ PL 131.8 15.
- 18.
- 20. Location of large Hamfest
- 21. Volunteer examiners for ham license
- 22. Device that is used to minimize the Standing Wave Ratio between Transmitter and Antenna
- 25. Transmission is being interfered with
- 30. Layer of atmosphere responsible for radio wave propagation
- 31. Who is calling me
- 32.
- 33. Call sign of NIST HF radio station located near Fort Collins, Colorado
- 34. My location

This is my first attempt to add a crossword puzzle to the WARC Feedback. Answers will be published in the following months issue. Please send any comments/questions/suggested words to KD3TB@ARRL.Net

FEEDBACK Page 5

HAMFEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Warminster Amateur Radio Club, Warminster, PA. is proud to announce that this year our Hamfest will also be the <u>ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Convention</u> and a <u>new location</u>.

Date: Sunday, May 7, 2017 - 7 am to 1 pm



NEW LOCATION: Bucks County Community College - Lower Bucks Campus, 1304 Veteran Highway, Bristol, PA 19007 (40.1128° N, 74.8765° W)

Hamfest will include: Inside Tables, Outside Flea Market Space, Forums including an ARRL Speaker, and Amateur Radio License VEC Testing Session

Talk-In Freq: 147.09+ pl of 131.8 General Admission fee: \$5.00

Table fee: Inside: \$15.00/Flea Market: \$10.00

Advance Reservations for inside Tables are highly recommended.

Please contact: George Brechmann Warminster Amateur Radio Club PO Box 113 Warminster, PA 18974 Email: N3HBT@ARRL.Net

Phone: 215-443-5656

Website: http://wp.k3dn.org/hamfest/

General Hamfest contact information:

Mike Shanblatt, Chairman, W3MAS@ARRL.net

Irwin Darack, KD3TB@ARRL.Net

The Warminster Amateur Radio Club is a ARRL Special Services club that meets at the Ben Wilson Senior Citizens Center in Warminster, PA on the first Thursday of every month starting at 7:30 pm. Amateur Radio FCC (VEC) exams are offered on the last Monday of every month at the same location.

Warminster Amateur Radio Club General Club Contact: K3DN@ARRL.net

CIA DECLASSIFIED DATABASE INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET-ERA AMATEUR RADIO

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA http://www.cia.gov/) reports relating to Amateur Radio in the former Soviet Union (including the Baltic States) and Warsaw Pact countries are among documents declassified to a new searchable online database https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site/%20amateur%20ham%20radio, the CIA Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room. Documents cover translations and assessments of Amateur Radio clubs; training; monitoring Sputniks; technology and equipment; QSL cards, and ruminations on a plan to monitor US ham radio transmissions for activities "of interest" to the intelligence community. Searches on "Amateur Radio" or "ham radio" will yield multiple documents, some heavily redacted.

For example, a 1949 memo largely dismissed the use of Amateur Radio in the Soviet Bloc as an intelligence-gathering tool. "Except for possibilities in the counter-espionage field, it is believed that exploitation of amateurs with reference to the USSR and satellites could lead at best only to information concerning the location of ham transmitters, an item of dubious intelligence value," said the memo, which carried the subject line "Exploitation of Radio Amateurs." Another memo from the same year showed that the USSR viewed the growing "cadre" of radio amateurs as the next generation of engineers.

Documents covering a wide range of topics not necessarily related to Amateur Radio also have been declassified, sanitized, and made available to the public for the first time in this archive. Some of these documents were only available previously in a closed system at the US National Archives https://www.archives.gov/. -- Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Andy Thomas, G0SFJ

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter

Page 6 FEEDBACK

CLUB INFO

PUBLIC SERVICE

CLUB STATION

The WARC club station is open to anyone with an interest, on the first Thursday of the month (meeting night) between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 pm. with the exception of the December dinner meeting. 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.

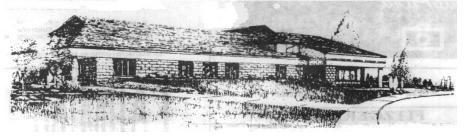
If you want to have your picture taken to be placed on the 'Members' Photos' section of the www.k3dn.org website, please contact Membership with your interest. When we get enough people who are interested we will post a notice in Feedback and have a camera ready at the following club meeting.

PROGRAMS 2017

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 the first Thursday of the month (meeting night) between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 pm. with the exception of the December dinner meeting . 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. FEEDBACK Page 7

2017 Contest Calendar

FEBRUARY

School Club Roundup - February 13 - 17

Monday through Friday from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday

International DX - CW - February 17-18

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday

MARCH

International DX- Phone - March 4-5

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday

QSO Parties

Vermont 0000Z, Feb 4 to 2400Z, Feb 5

Minnesota 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 4

New Hampshire 1600Z, Feb 11 to 2200Z, Feb 12 South Carolina 1500Z, Feb 25 to 0159Z, Feb 26 North Carolina 1500Z, Feb 26 to 0059Z, Feb 27

> ATLANTIC DIV. HAMFESTS > 2017

March 25 - Fredfest Indoor Hamfest Independent Hose Company 310 Baughmans Lane Frederick, MD 21701

http://frederickarc.org

March 26 - JSARS Hamfest by the Shore

Riverwood Park 100 Riverwood Drive Toms River, NJ 08753 http://JSARS.ORG

April 22 - Delaware State Convention (Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics EX-

Cheer Center

20520 Sand Hill Road

Georgetown, DE 19947

http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com

May 7 - Eastern PA Section Convention (Warminster Amateur Radio Club - Hamfest)
Bucks County Community College - Lower Bucks Campus

1304 Veterans Highway

Bristol, PA 19007

http://www.k3dn.org

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 2017 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 fourth non-holiday Thursday 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
Alt Contact: Jim, 610-287-5630

Page 8 FEEDBACK

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)

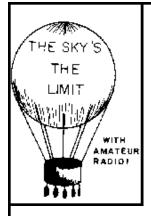
Fairless Hills, PA (many remote access locations throughout Bucks County)

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



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.

Technician classes will be taught by Ron Small WB2OOB March 13th for 6 Mondays in a row from 7pm to 9 pm.

Extra classes will be taught by George Altemus KA3WXV March 13th for 8 Mondays in a row from 7pm to 9 pm.

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

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, George Acker KC3ESH

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

Page 9 **FEEDBACK**

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
- 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 ma-terial from another source.
- Deadline for articles is the Saturday before the regular meeting.

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The annual dues rate structure is as follows:

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

Are your dues current?

2017 Officers

Executive Officers

President	Tony Cuttone	W3FLH	267-679-9297
Vice-President	George Acker	KC3ESH	215-815-7783
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)	Brandon Penglase	KC3DYT	215-259-7255
Director (E)	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Past President	Irwin Darack	KD3TB	215-343-8170

<u>Committee Chairpersons</u>							
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 17	Doc Whitticar	W3GAD	215-968-6397				
Hamfest 17	Michael Shanblatt	W3MAS	267-491-5773				
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	·						
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				