



# FEEDBACK



Web Site [k3dn.org](http://k3dn.org)

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

September 2017

## Next Meeting September 7th - Home Brew Night

### President's Message

Amateur Radio is all over the news these days, and for an unfortunate reason. Hurricane Harvey has devastated SE Texas, and hams by the thousands have been volunteering their services in various ways. The Hurricane Watch Net came up as the storm prepared to make landfall, while a multitude answered the call for communications assistance as emergency personnel reacted to the damage left in its wake, whether as part of response teams with the Red Cross and FEMA, or as part of local emergency management organizations. Our prayers and hopes for a safe and speedy recovery are with all those who have been affected, and those helping in the recovery effort.

Also, the Amateur Radio Parity Act (H.R. 555) is gaining steam in the Senate, as it makes a steady march towards the President's desk for signing into law. Opinions vary on the effectiveness of the legislation, with some feeling the bill does not go far enough to help alleviate the restrictions some hams face at the hands of HOA's & CCR's, while others feel it inadvertently empowers the opponents of the bill more so than the hams it seeks to help. Whichever side you find yourself favoring, it's good to see that ham radio is getting serious attention in Congress. The ARRL has fought very hard, at considerable expense, to get the bill this far, and their efforts are to be commended.

On the air, a new digital mode is taking off, and seems to be gaining in popularity every day: FT8 is faster and more sensitive than other weak signal modes such as JT65, and is another development from Nobel laureate Joe Taylor K1JT (in collaboration with Steven Franke, K9AN). Have you tried it yet? Do you intend to?

One of the benefits of WARC membership, the online Club Auction, has just ended, and the winners have received their notifications. All the items listed received bids, and many had multiple bids placed. We thank everyone who placed bids, and congratulate the winners. Also, we send a big "Thank You" to Andy KD3RF for his work in dealing with the donating estate, reviewing and assessing the equipment, setting up the auction and wrapping it all up once it was over – his efforts are truly appreciated!

Our annual Holiday Dinner will take place on Thursday, December 7, in lieu of our regular meeting that night. As always, the dinner starts at 6:30pm, one hour earlier than our standard start time. The specific details, such as the menu, as well as a PayPal link for early payment, are now posted on our website: [www.k3dn.org](http://www.k3dn.org) – please check it out and get your payment in early, as it helps a great deal in our preparation.

This month is Homebrew Night – what are you bringing to the table? I look forward to seeing it, whatever it is!

de Tony, W3FLH

73

### WARC General Membership Meeting Minutes August 3rd, 2017

Call to Order – *Tony W3FLH*

Introductions - pass mic

#### Minutes from last Meeting

Additions/Corrections – Minutes approved as printed in Feedback.

#### Committee Reports

**Treasurer's Report:** *Herb KB3VMN*

As presented at the meeting

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Will be opening money market account and move money from checking account

**Programs:** *George KC3ESH*

September – Homebrew Night

October – ARRL Night w/Bob Famiglio K3RF - Bob wants suggestions of topics or questions for ARRL. An email will be sent out asking for suggestions.

November – Contesting w/Tim K3LR (via Skype)

December – Holiday Dinner

January – Stump the Chumps

**Membership:** *Jacek KC3HXF*

135 active members and 1 new application

**Public Service:** *George N3HBT*

Nothing for the summer, we were not asked to help with Hatboro car show

Columbus Day golf outing at Five Ponds is next. We will need 10 hams

**Classes:** *George KA3WXV/Ron WB2OOB*

Tech/General will start back up on Monday, September 11.

**VEC Testing:** *Larry WA3ELQ*

We had a successful session on Monday evening, July 31 – 7 candidates – 5 new technicians, 1 general, 1 extra

No VE Session in August; next session will be Monday, September 25

**Repeater:** *Brian N3EXA*

Filters were changed, clock adjusted and everything seems to be working properly

**Good and Welfare:** *Vince KD3TC – not in attendance.*

**Other Committees**

*Karl K3KH* – BCARES has been dormant but wanted to report that *Ron NY3J* has been named digital emergency operator.

**Old Business**

*Joe AA3JH* – Union League special event – Thanked the operators and those who helped organize and set up the event and presented them with certificates. Certificates were sent out to the contacts that were made during the event.

AED Committee (*Herb KC3VMN*) – The board and the committee has decided that the best course of action at this time is to have club members trained in first aid, CPR and AED training from the American Red Cross and not purchase an AED. We are looking into scheduling classes which will be limited to 10 people per session.

**New Business**

*Mike WJ3O* – He is proposing that we pay rent of \$50 per month to Ben Wilson Senior Center. This matter will be taken to the next board meeting for discussion.

WI3Y OHOTY Award - Nominations are being accepted. Please contact someone on the board if you would like to nominate someone.

Estate sale/Online auction (*Andy KD3RF*) - Auction ends August 31. Another email reminder will be sent on Sunday.

If you haven't gotten the survey monkey email link, double check your email junk folder. Also make sure your email is up to date with membership. See Andy if you have any questions or want to make sure he has your correct email address. There are some nice items available.

Holiday Dinner – December 7, 6:30 pm. The menu has been chosen and we will be putting the Holiday Dinner infor-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

mation on the website with a PayPal link. The cost this year is \$15 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 and under.

Kit Building session (*Marty NR3Z*) – Chatter on WARC Talk regarding interest in kit building and Marty will be heading that up. Stay tuned for more details.

**Motion to Adjourn** – meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

**Presentation:** *Receiving Jupiter w/Laura KC3GWL*

### Kenwood TM-281A For Sale

The box containing the radio has never been opened. I would like to receive \$100 for the sale.

Doc KA3RAU sylvan.morein@gmail.com

### 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 15. 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)  
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

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)

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: Drex, W3ICC (215) 598-3934 or Dean Hedin, Communications Coordinator for this year's Central Bucks Covered Bridge Ride (267) 760-3114. Please provide call sign and contact information for yourself, your preferred assignment, whether you need loaner.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

## **HAM Radio Classes in the Fall of 2017 – Starting September 11th**

Morse Code is no longer required for HAM Radio licenses

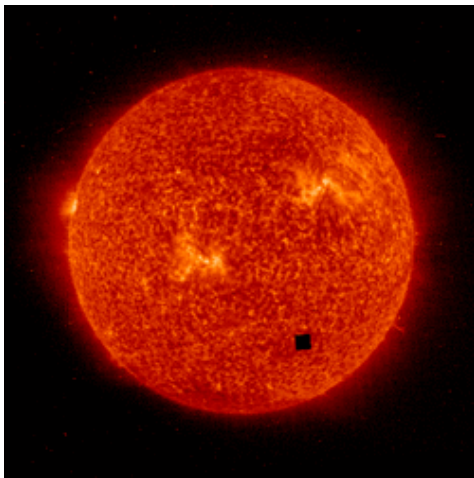
If you're interested in Ham Radio, or think you might be, this is your opportunity. Perhaps you'd like to learn about digital communications, VHF, UHF, satellite, or perhaps you'd rather sit down and chat with someone in South Africa, Russia, Great Britain or in the space station.

**Technician** classes will be taught by **Ron Small WB2OOB** starting September 11th for 6 Mondays in a row from 7 to 9 pm

**General** classes will be taught by **George Altemus KA3WXV** starting September 11th for 8 Mondays in a row from 7 to 9 pm

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

### **THE K7RA SOLAR UPDATE**



Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Average daily sunspot numbers and solar flux declined over the August 24-30 reporting week. The average daily sunspot number went from 39.9 to 33.3, while average daily solar flux declined to 81.2 from 84.6.

The average planetary A index declined from 23.1 to 7.1, and average mid-latitude A index went from 18.6 to 7.4.

The latest forecast shows the planetary A index at 30 on August 31; 35, 20, 12, and 8 on September 1-4; 5 on September 5-7; 10 and 8 on September 8-9; 5 on September 10-12; 25 on September 13; 30 on September 14-15; 25 and 12 on September 16-17; 8 on September 18-19; 5 on September 20-22; 10 on September 23-24; 8, 15, 25, 18, 15, and 8 on September 25-30, and 5 on October 1-4.

Predicted solar flux is 89 on August 31; 91 on September 1-2; 89 on September 3; 88 on September 4-6; 86 and 80 on September 7-8; 85 on September 9-14; 88 on September 15-18; 85 on September 19-20; 82 and 80 on September 21-22, and 78 on September 23

-25.

Sunspot numbers for August 24-30, 2017 were 43, 39, 35, 22, 17, 35, and 42, with a mean of 33.3. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 78.8, 80.8, 77.5, 78.2, 81.6, 84.3, and 86.9, with a mean of 81.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 11, 5, 5, 10, 4, 10, and 5, with a mean of 7.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 16, 7, 5, 6, 3, 10, and 5, with a mean of 7.4.

The K7RA Solar Update in The ARRL Letter is a preview of the weekly Propagation Bulletin, issued each Friday. The latest bulletin and an archive of past propagation bulletins <<http://arrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive-propagation>> is on the ARRL website.

In Friday's bulletin, look for an updated forecast and reports from readers, including one from QST's "The World Above 50 MHz" columnist Jon Jones, N0JK, about a revival of 10-meter propagation. Send <[k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net)> me your reports or observations.

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### **HISTORIC PROJECT AMELIA EARHART FLIGHT ENDS SUCCESSFULLY**

His 'round-the-world Project Amelia Earhart <<http://projectameliaearhart.org/>> commemorative flight now complete, pilot and radio amateur Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN, is back on his home turf in Texas. The solo circumnavigation in his single-engine plane Spirit took a little longer than 2 months.

"I did it! I did it!" Lloyd exclaimed to the crowd awaiting his arrival at Kestrel Airpark in Texas on August 4. "This was not a solo flight. This was a flight that was supported by hundreds of people," he said after landing. Lloyd logged hundreds of Amateur Radio contacts over the course of his entire adventure, which was funded by The Classic Aircraft Aviation Museum and through other donations. He retraced the route the famous aviator never finished in 1937.

A problem with the plane's fuel system at the approximate halfway point caused Lloyd to turn back for repairs. That and some poor weather delayed his return to Texas by a few days.

*(Continued on page 5)*

---

At mid-week, Lloyd wrote <http://projectameliaearhart.org/photos/> in his blog that he was working up "all the information about my flight to both Earthrounders <http://www.earthrounders.com/> and the NAA <https://naa.aero/> [National Aeronautic Association], so that my circumnavigation becomes official."

Lloyd said on his website that he's not sure what to attempt next. "There is still Lindbergh's flight and a shot at the world speed record over the route from NYC to Paris," he mused. He acknowledged that a lot of hams he contacted are waiting for a QSL card. "Trying to fly, make contacts, and getting the info onto paper is a challenge," he said.

Lloyd landed in Oakland, California, on July 31, marking his return to the Continental US. On his final leg, he visited the Amelia Earhart Museum in Atchison, Kansas, before ending his epic flight at his home airfield, Kestrel Airpark in Texas, where the celebration awaited. Lloyd crossed the meridian that passes through Kestrel Airpark on his way to Atchison, Earhart's birthplace, at that point successfully circumnavigating the globe.

After landing in Texas, Lloyd offered his remaining supply of granola bars that had traveled with him around the globe to those crowding around Spirit.

The actual length of his 'round-the-world flight was 34,463 miles, Lloyd determined after reviewing his flight log. "If you include the hops where I had to turn back for problems and test hops after maintenance, the distance would have been over 31,000 nautical miles," he noted. "That is a long way to fly." The entire trip took 66 days, with some 200 hours in the air. -- Thanks to Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN, and Jim Linton, VK3PC

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### **TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME ".RADIO" NOW AVAILABLE**

The top-level domain (TLD) name ".radio" is now available to the radio industry and Amateur Radio enthusiasts, and is reserved for individuals and companies with active interest in the radio sector. The .radio TLD can be used for web and e-mail addresses and will be managed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) with support from other world broadcasting unions. Visit the .radio domains registration site <http://www.register.radio/> to request a .radio domain.

Individuals or entities in these categories will be accepted for the use of a .radio domain:

- Radio broadcasting stations
- Unions of Broadcasters
- Internet radios
- Radio Amateurs
- Radio professionals (journalists, radio hosts, DJs, etc.)
- Radio-related companies selling radio goods and services
- Radio products and services

One or more .radio domain name(s) can be requested during the launch period, which ends on October 31, 2017. The cost for individual radio amateurs is about \$30, including tax.

"The EBU believes radio stations should be the focus of this new space on the internet, and considers them our highest priority," the announcement said. "However, other categories of applications from the radio sector will also be considered during this phase."

EBU's .radio TLD Manager Alain Artero suggested that those in the radio community may want to consider securing the integrity of their web presence by requesting appropriate .radio domains "for defensive reasons, initially."

"The TLD will be focused on content and matters specific to radio, and we want to prevent speculation and cybersquatting in this TLD; therefore, this extension will rapidly become a high-value internet space for websites, mail systems, and other internet applications," he continued.

The launch process will not be first come, first served. "The .radio team will seek to optimize domain name allocation to solve contentious issues and prioritize existing radio services," the EBU announcement said.

---

---

Starting in November, first come, first served rules will apply, although eligibility requirements remain the same.

For more information, visit [www.nic.radio](http://www.nic.radio) <<http://www.nic.radio>>.

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### **FT8 MODE IS LATEST BRIGHT SHINY OBJECT IN AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL WORLD**

It's still in beta testing, but FT8 -- the latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community -- has been luring away many of those already using the already-popular JT65 "weak-signal" mode. FT8 is included in a beta release of WSJT-X <<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>>, version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The notes <[https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release\\_Notes\\_1.8.0.txt](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release_Notes_1.8.0.txt)> for the "candidate" release say that FT8 offers "sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel." Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.

The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's eight-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Unlike JT65 or JT9, transmit and receive cycles in FT8 each last about 15 seconds. Like JT65, FT8 requires accurate time synchronization. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ.

"FT8 is an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop Es on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable," Taylor's release notes assert.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, has been using FT8 from the start and put W1AW on FT8 for the first time a few weeks ago on 6 meters.

"This mode is a game changer for 6 meters," Corey said. "Activity is intense, and contacts are possible using this mode when the band seems totally dead." Corey said it's easy to get on with FT8, call CQ, and "quickly fill the log," and he rated the auto-sequencing feature as "awesome."

"FT8 gives small and modest stations a real chance at participating in programs like DXCC, VUCC and WAS; and, to top it off, at a time when band conditions are far from optimal." Corey said.

The beta release came out just days before the July CQ VHF Contest and proved to be a boon to many operators who took advantage of FT8 on 6 meters. In a limited outing for the CQ VHF, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, made 22 FT8 contacts on 6 meters, some of which "may have been difficult to complete on CW," he said.

"We know that the advent of new mode FT8 means that new material is needed for the User Guide," Taylor told the Yahoo Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group <<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wsjtgroup/info>> this week. "We will be working on that in the near future." A new Facebook group <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FT8.Digital.Mode/>> has been established for FT8 experimenters. Read more <<http://www.arrl.org/news/ft8-mode-is-latest-bright-shiny-object-in-amateur-radio-digital-world>>.

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### **SOLAR ECLIPSE QSO PARTY A HIT, SCIENCE CONCLUSIONS AWAIT ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS**

The 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) is history, and, while logs are still coming in, the preliminary participation numbers look good, according to Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, of HamSCI <<http://www.hamsci.org>>.

"Although the final numbers are not yet in, preliminary reports show that over 670,000 spots were detected by the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN), and over 542,000 spots were reported to PSKReporter <<https://pskreporter.info/>> [PSK Automatic Propagation Reporter] during the SEQP," Frissell told ARRL on August 22. "These numbers will increase as data is processed."

Frissell said overall, the event went well, and he heard a lot of on-the-air activity during the 8 hours the SEQP was running.

"It will take some time to get a more scientific analysis of this, but we should have some results by the middle of this semester," said Frissell, who is an associate research professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Frissell and others are investigating whether the sudden absence of sunlight during the eclipse -- and especially of solar ultra-violet and x-rays -- would briefly change the properties of the upper atmosphere.

Despite more than 60 years of research, "open questions remain regarding eclipse-induced ionospheric impacts," Frissell explained in a paper, "HamSCI and the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse," that he'll deliver this year at the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications

---

---

Conference (DCC).

He is encouraging anyone who took part in the SEQP to submit a log <<http://hamsci.org/seqp>> by September 30. Once their logs are submitted, SEQP participants will get a PDF Certificate of Participation. Frissell, who was in Gilbertsville, Kentucky, to observe the eclipse, said, "Totality was beautiful."

At Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, the focus was more on keeping on top of any emergency situations that could arise from the thousands of visitors converging along the narrow strip of totality. ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, and his assistant Ken Bailey, K1FUG, checked into and monitored the SATERN Net on 20 meters. They also monitored the interoperability channel 1 on 60 meters for coordination with federal partners. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, checked into WL2K nodes on 40 meters for any possible traffic. "Also, during this time, we went outside to look at the eclipse!" Carcia added.

Many Amateur Radio special event stations were also on the air along the path of totality on August 21.

Veteran Broadcast Listener (BCL) Bill Feidt, NG3K, in Maryland, conducted an informal propagation experiment on the AM broadcast band, listening on 1,070 kHz, which, he reported, "came alive with many signals" at about 1830 UTC. "It was pretty much a jumble," he told ARRL. "But just before 1900 UTC, I was able to identify WNCT in Greenville, North Carolina, which became quite strong and dominant for a few minutes." WNCT's 50 kW daytime signal is aimed away from Maryland.

Elsewhere, using the S-meter on his Panasonic RF-4900 receiver, 88-year-old John S. Erickson of Schenectady, New York, the father of ionospheric researcher Phil Erickson, W1PJE, recorded the signal strength of WWV time signals on 10 and 15 MHz every 10 minutes. His results show that nighttime conditions, where WWV got stronger on 10 MHz and weaker at 15 MHz, occurred before local eclipse passage on long paths. His data is being passed on to HamSCI for analysis.

### "RF Seismograph" Sees Little Effect

Elsewhere, an initial analysis of solar eclipse RF Seismograph <[http://www.nsrc.ca/hf/rf\\_seismo/main.html](http://www.nsrc.ca/hf/rf_seismo/main.html)> measurements by Alex Schwarz, VE7DXW, and his Modulation-Demodulation Software Radio (MDSR) group has suggested that the effect of the brief interruption in solar radiation within an approximately 70-mile-wide strip had minimal overall effect on radio propagation. The Scanning RF Seismograph is a real-time HF propagation monitoring tool.

"The Solar Eclipse RF Seismograph exclusively showed that propagation changes, but not to the extent that folktales report," Schwarz and the MDSR team said in a news release. "During the eclipse, we measured in three locations, and two did not show any changes in the way propagation behaves. On the third station, at an elevation of 900 meters, the 40-meter band came up, but that is not any different from regular 40-meter behavior."

The team believes that increased absorption on the low bands from high solar activity may have been a factor in the measurement's not yielding expected results. "The small band of darkness could not compensate for the thicker D Layer," the MDSR news release said.

Frissell told Schwarz that he'd be "very hesitant to make these conclusions so quickly and based on observations from a single point of reference."

"We know from past experiments that there are significant ionospheric changes resulting from the eclipse. Even from a citizen-science standpoint, many of these changes have been documented. We are hoping to see these effects on a larger scale." Read more <<http://www.arrl.org/news/solar-eclipse-qso-party-a-hit-science-conclusions-await-additional-analysis>>.

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING WHERE NEEDED IN HARVEY RESPONSE

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers have been pitching in to support communication at some Red Cross shelters in south Texas in the ongoing aftermath of catastrophic and unprecedented flooding resulting from Hurricane Harvey, now a Tropical Depression. ARES members also have been serving as net control liaisons to the Harris County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). At mid-week, some 3 dozen volunteers were assisting at shelters. Another dozen were on tap to serve as OEM liaisons. ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, said the Red Cross is in need of Red Cross-trained shelter managers and volunteer management specialists. Anyone interested should contact <[mcorey@arrl.org](mailto:mcorey@arrl.org)> him.

A variety of emergency, health-and-welfare, traffic, and tactical nets in south Texas have been active on HF at various

---

---

times of the day as well as on a wide array of VHF and UHF repeaters, which remain available as needed. The Salvation Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) has been convening on 14.265 MHz, while the Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) has been using the 5.330.5 (USB) MHz interoperability channel on 60 meters.

On August 31, the National Hurricane Center reported that flooding rains were continuing across far eastern Texas and western Louisiana, with heavy rainfall expected to spread northeastward through the lower Mississippi Valley and into the Tennessee Valley over the next day or two. ARES volunteers are on standby in Louisiana.

"During the storm response, all Amateur Radio operators -- and perhaps especially those involved in contest activity -- are advised to listen first and respect any frequencies in use for emergency response communication," Corey said. He cited the SATERN Net on 14.265 MHz and the South Texas Traffic Emergency and Health and Welfare nets on 7.285, 7.290, 3.873, and 3.935 MHz. Digital emergency and health and welfare frequencies are 3.5925 and 7.095 MHz.

Earlier this week, ARES team members were advised that the impact to the region's communications infrastructure had been relatively minimal, considering the strength of the storm and the magnitude of the flooding. The storm did ravage cellular service in some Texas counties, however, especially Aransas (84%) and Refugio (73%) counties, the FCC reported. Overall, however, the FCC deemed the cellular system 95% functional.

ARRL South Texas Public Information Officer Mike Ulrich, KA5CVH, told ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/News/Audio%20News/Audio%20News%20Extra%20Edition/KA5CVH%20-%20August%2030.mp3> on August 30 that "hardening" of the telecommunications infrastructure to make it more immune to storm damage has diminished the need for Amateur Radio communication support and altered hams' traditional role there. Ulrich pointed out, however, that the Amateur Radio telecommunications infrastructure in South Texas has remained analog, as "the lowest common denominator" of technology -- VHF/UHF FM, and HF -- and has the highest degree of interoperability. "That's what we train to, that's what we teach, that's what we practice," he said.

Ulrich spent more than 40 hours alternating shifts at the Harris County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Ulrich said the area's extensive system of repeaters makes it possible for local radio amateurs to serve as "another set of eyes and ears" in spotting and reporting problems that may require official attention.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN <<http://www.hwn.org>>) suspended operations for Hurricane Harvey on August 26 after 51.5 continuous hours of activation. The VoIP Hurricane Net <<http://www.voipwx.net/>>, and WX4NHC <[w4ehw.fiu.edu/](http://w4ehw.fiu.edu/)>, the Amateur Radio station at the NHC in Miami, also activated as Harvey approached landfall in Texas as a Category 4 hurricane. The VoIP Hurricane Net has been informally monitoring EchoLink <<http://www.echolink.org>> 7203, IRLP <http://www.irlp.net> 9219, and AllStar <<https://allstarlink.org/>> \*33007203 for requests from the affected area at the request of Humanity Road <<http://www.humanityroad.org>>, said Lloyd Colston, KC5FM.

He said a station checked in via EchoLink to request the rescue of a grandmother and children. "That request was relayed to the United States Coast Guard Houston," Colston told ARRL. He said hams in the affected region needing to relay rescue needs should first call 911, then their local emergency operations center, and, if those aren't available, then the US Coast Guard -- in that order. He also said individuals in the flood zone are reporting cellular telephone degradation.

ARRL South Texas Section <<http://www.arrlstx.org/index.php>> Manager Lee Cooper, W5LHC, told ARRL on Monday that the disaster would remain in the response phase for several days, although needs may change later in the response phase or when it transitions to the recovery phase. ARRL South Texas SEC Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, said ARES members could participate in any nets related to the storm response from home.

"Harris County and the City of Houston have issued a shelter-in-place order," Walter pointed out over the past weekend. "The local region is paralyzed. Resources are stretched to accommodate all calls for assistance. Take care of your family first, then if you are able to help in the recovery phase, contact your local Emergency Coordinator or District Emergency Coordinator for instruction on what to do. Do not show up without approval from your local EC."

As of August 31, some 195,000 customers were without power in Texas. American Red Cross shelters were reporting more than 34,000 occupants in Texas; more than 980,000 people have been ordered to evacuate. The Texas Emergency Operations Center is at full activation, and Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster for 50 Texas counties, while evacuation orders and advisories are in effect for eight counties and several independent communities in Louisiana, where the state EOC is fully activated. A state of emergency also exists for all Louisiana parishes in preparation for widespread flooding. Read more <<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-volunteers-assisting-where-needed-in-hurricane-response>>.

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

---



### CLUB INFO

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

Columbus Day (October 9) golf outing at Five Ponds. We will need 10 hams.  
Central Bucks Covered Bridge Ride - October 15.

#### 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 call sign and name badge for \$8 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](mailto:membership@k3dn.org).

If you want to have your picture taken to be placed on the 'Members' Photos' section of the [www.k3dn.org](http://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

September – Home Brew Night

October - ARRL Night - Bob Famiglio, K3RF, Vice Director Atlantic Division

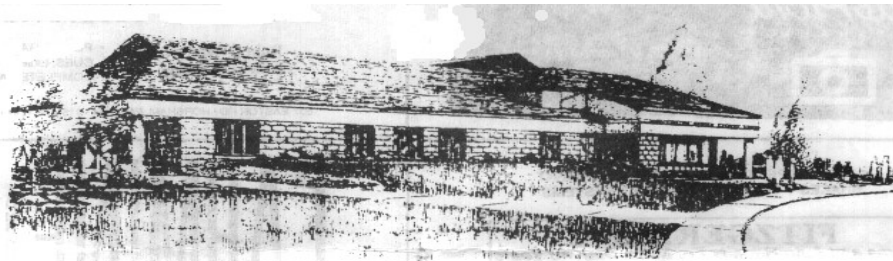
November - Contesting from DX Engineering – Tim K3LR Skype call

December - Holiday Dinner

January – Stump the Chumps

February - Club Auction

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.

### 2017 Contest Calendar

#### SEPTEMBER

**EME - 2.3 GHz & Up** - September 9-10

0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday

**September VHF** - September 9-11

1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday

**10 GHz & Up - Round 2** - September 16-17

6:00 AM local Saturday through 12:00 midnight local Sunday

#### QSO Parties

Colorado	1300Z, Sep 2 to 0400Z, Sep 3
Tennessee	1800Z, Sep 3 to 0300Z, Sep 4
Iowa	1400Z, Sep 16 to 0200Z, Sep 17
New Hampshire	1600Z, Sep 16 to 0400Z, Sep 17 and 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 17
New Jersey	1600Z, Sep 16 to 0359Z, Sep 17 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 17
Maine	1200Z, Sep 23 to 1200Z, Sep 24
Texas	1400Z, Sep 23 to 0200Z, Sep 24 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 24

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:w3pa@arrl.net)  
Alt Contact: Jim, 610-287-5630

### ➤ ATLANTIC DIV. HAMFESTS ➤ 2017

**September 10** - New Jersey State Convention  
Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds 235 Bridgeton Pike (Route 77)  
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062  
<http://w2mmd.org>

**September 16** - 5th Annual TailgateFest  
Volunteer Fire Department Bingo Hall  
24801 Three Notch Road (MD Route 235)  
Hollywood, MD 20636  
<http://www.k3hki.org/>

**September 16** - Delaware Valley Radio Association Hamfest  
West Windsor Community Park Bernt Midland Blvd. West Windsor, NJ  
<http://www.w2zq.com/>

**October 6** - Mid-Atlantic States VHF Conference  
Holiday Inn Bensalem-Philadelphia 3327 Street Road  
Bensalem, PA 19020  
<http://packratvhf.com>

**October 15** - RF Hill ARC Hamfest  
Sellersville Fire House 50 North Main Street Sellersville, PA 18960  
<http://www.rfhillarc.org>

**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, 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 Buegers
- 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

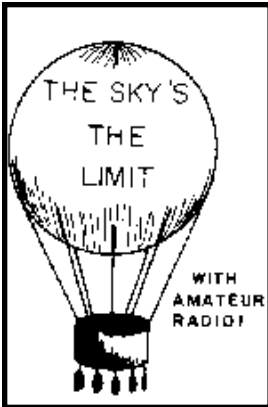
**D-STAR**

- 146.61000 K3PDR DV
- 445.18125 K3PDR DV
- 445.01875 AA3E Montco RACES

**6 Mtr**

- 53.030 WA3BXW
- 53.230 N3DQZ
- 53.320 K3MFI

*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 WB2OQB** starting September 11th for 6 Mondays in a row from 7 to 9 pm

**General classes** will be taught by **George Altemus KA3WXV** starting September 11th for 8 Mondays in a row from 7 to 9 pm

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

**Bucks County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (BCARES)**

[www.bucksares.org](http://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.

### 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 ?

## 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	Herb Hickmott	KB3VMN	267-718-3601
Director (A)	Michael Shanblatt	W3MAS	267-491-5773
Director (E)	Larry Abbott	WA3ELQ	215-704-3282
Director (A)	Brandon Penglase	N3UO	215-259-7255
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	Irwin Darack	KD3TB	215-343-8170
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 18	Doc Whitticar	W3GAD	215-968-6397
Hamfest 18	Michael Shanblatt	W3MAS	267-491-5773
Hamwear	Kathy Acker	KC3FBY	215-815-7978
Holiday Dinner	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Membership	Jacek Ostrowski	KC3HFX	
Net Manager	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Publicity	Bernice Kraut	KB3PCX	215-884-8195
Refreshments	Brandon Penglase	N3UO	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	Mike Malone	W3MJM	
Station Trustee	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Sunshine Club	Vince Pironti	KD3TC	215-674-0446
Township Liason	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
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