



# FEEDBACK



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

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

August 2023

## Next Meeting August 3rd - Club Repeater, Brian N3EXA

### President's Message

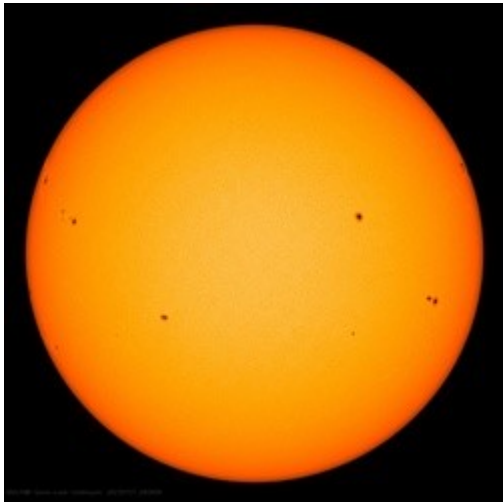
Hello Folks,

Well August is upon us. The remaining weeks of summer are here. With the heat that's going on outside, it's a great time to stay in the air conditioning and get some radio time in. The heat can be a killer, so stay hydrated and keep cool. Could be a good time to think of Fall antenna projects. Make a list of what you need done and plan it out. Once the cooler weather is here, attack that list. Some contests will be happening in August. Good time to get your DXCC or WAS.

Think of your health, and please keep yourself and your family safe. Hope to see everyone at the August meeting.

Ray – KA3TRU

### The K7RA Solar Update



Solar disk image taken July 27, 2023, courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI.

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP030:

Average daily sunspot numbers declined from 130.6 to 128.1 over the past week of July 20 - 26.

Average daily solar flux declined significantly from 190.5 to 172.2.

The solar flux forecast sees values at 168, 165, and 162 on July 27 - 29; 158 on July 30 - 31; 155 and 158 on August 1 - 2; 165 on August 3 - 4; 170 and 175 on August 5 - 6; 180 on August 7 - 10; 175 on August 11 - 13; 180 on August 14 - 15; 175 on August 16 - 18; 170 on August 19; 165, 165, and 160 on August 20 - 22, and 155 on August 23 - 26.

Predicted planetary A index is 20, 10, 5, 10, and 8 on July 27 - 31; 5, 5, 10, and 8 on August 1 - 4; 5 on August 5 - 9; 10 on August 10; 8 on August 11 - 13; 5 on August 14 - 19, and 10, 8, and 5 on August 20 - 22.

Read about sunspots, flares, and aurora at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/44JxcRp>

Check out a story about the Mars rover seeing the far side of the sun at the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3KbRV8b>

Also, see the report of a rocket punching a hole in the ionosphere at:

<https://bit.ly/3KceBFB>

Nearly 5 decades ago in Marin County, California, I, too, witnessed a rocket penetrating the ionosphere. It was a huge, dramatic display. My friend had seen a similar thing before, and said it was created by a rocket launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Southern California.

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Sunspot numbers for July 20 - 26, 2023, were 131, 121, 103, 117, 141, 137, and 147, with a mean of 128.1. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 184.3, 172.8, 174.4, 172.5, 165.1, 169, and 167.4, with a mean of 172.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 10, 13, 9, 6, 7, 11, and 21, with a mean of 11. Middle latitude A index was 10, 11, 9, 5, 8, 12, and 23, with a mean of 11.1.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelshwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

## ARRL and NASA Team Up to Help Teachers

A radio experiment held on July 26, 2023, to decode a slow-scan TV (SSTV) message sent via the ham radio station on the International Space Station (ISS) was successful.

The image was received by a group of educators at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut through the voice repeater on the ISS. Teachers from around the United States were on hand for the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#), a program that empowers educators to incorporate amateur radio into their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum. As part of the professional development program, the group received and decoded the image sent by volunteers with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS). The transmitted image said, "ARRL Teachers Institute: ensuring a space for radio in the next generation."



**The teachers made tape measure Yagi antennas for the experiment. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]**

and wings.

For ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, the experiment was a way to allow teachers to engage with the power of radio. "When teachers can pull an image off the ISS via amateur radio, it gives a sense of accomplishment that gets them excited. We want to get them fired up about radio, so they can carry that energy back to their classrooms and do the same thing with their students," said Goodgame.



**The image transmitted from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology participants via the ISS repeater.**



**Teachers decode the SSTV image over a picnic of pizza and wings while a photojournalist from WFSB-TV shot video of them. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]**

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Each of the teachers on hand for the second phase of the institute, -- "TI-2: Remote Sensing and Data Analysis," -- have already been through the introductory course and they are all licensed radio amateurs. The institute costs teachers nothing to attend, thanks to funding from [the ARRL Education & Technology Program](#).

Several local television stations from the Hartford-New Haven market covered the event. See coverage from [WTNH News 8 \(ABC\)](#) and [WFSB Eyewitness News 3 \(CBS\)](#).

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### Summits on the Air 2023: North America

Summits on the Air (SOTA) in North America has three events scheduled between August 4 - 7, 2023. The [Colorado 14er](#) annual event will run from August 4 - 7, the [SoCal SOTAFest](#) in Southern California will run from August 4 - 6, and the [Pacific Northwest Not-Quite-Fourteener](#) event will run from August 5 - 6, and includes climbers in Washington and Oregon.

SOTA is an award scheme for radio amateurs that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. It provides opportunities for summit climbers (known as activators) to scale some of the highest peaks in North America and contact amateur radio stations locally and around the world.

Many different frequencies and modes will be used during the August events, but the recommended 2-meter FM frequencies have been changed to 146.58, 146.55, and 146.49 MHz to align with the use of the North America Adventure Frequency for SOTA (146.58 MHz). Operation is also permitted on select HF frequencies. The National Simplex Frequency (146.52 MHz) may also be used. Each event website provides a list of operating frequencies. All amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners are invited to participate.

Read more about [SOTA](#) at their website.

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### Commercial Interests Petition FCC for High Power Allocation on Shortwave Spectrum

The ad hoc group Shortwave Modernization Coalition petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 - 25 MHz range with up to 20 kW, including on bands immediately adjacent to spectrums allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests. The FCC has assigned the public notice as docket number RM-11953. Comments are due by July 31, 2023, and comment replies are due by August 15, 2023. While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high-power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed. ARRL is reviewing the petition.



A PDF of the petition is available at: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1>.

*Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter*

### Techs: Now is the Time to Upgrade to General!

A new question pool took effect on July 1, 2023, for General-class license exams. ARRL has released new editions of its popular study resources including the 10th edition of [The ARRL General Class License Manual](#) and the 7th edition of [ARRL's General Q&A](#).

ARRL has also updated its free online review and practice resource, [ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio](#)™.

"ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are already administering the new General-class exams," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. Somma suggests that candidates first take a practice test using ARRL Exam Review. "If you're already passing online practice exams, then you're ready to search for an in-person exam session team, or you can take the exam online via a remote video-supervised session." Visit the [exam session search page](#) on the ARRL website.

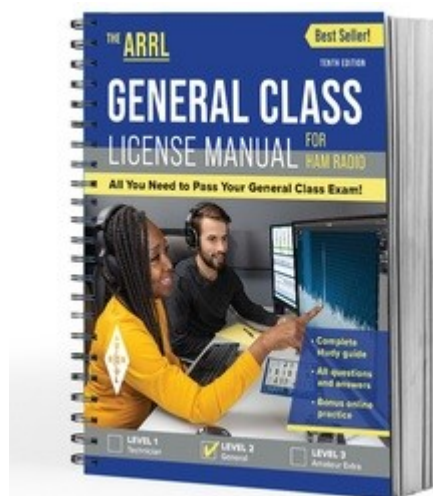
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The new General-class question pool is valid for examinations taken between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2027. "Upgrading from a Technician-class license to General-class significantly opens more operating privileges on HF bands," added Somma.

**The ARRL General Class License Manual** has been updated for the new question pool.

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter



## **ARRL Simulated Emergency Test Ahead: Montgomery County (Pennsylvania) Prepares for Nuclear Drill**

Every 2 years, the Limerick Nuclear Generating Station (LGS) conducts a drill in coordination with the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Department of Public Safety. The drill is evaluated by representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). Montgomery County activates its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Eagleville, Pennsylvania, as well as the 20 Municipal EOCs that lie within the LGS 10 Mile Radius Emergency Protection Zone (EPZ). Since the 1980s, Montgomery County ARES RACES (MCAR) has consistently deployed its operators to the County and Municipal EOCs and provided primary, confirming or *When All Else Fails* communications between the County and Municipal EOCs. The presence of an Amateur Radio operator in each EOC appears to be a "checkbox" item for the FEMA and PEMA evaluators. MCAR contemplates utilizing its AA3E 2-meter and 70-centimeter repeaters and with permission, the Pottstown Amateur Radio Club's 2-meter repeater for FM and digital modes, an evolving local MESH RF and tunnel network as well as HF voice communications. This year's Drill is scheduled to take place on September 26th and will serve as MCAR's Simulated Emergency Test (the ARRL SET).

At MCAR's July meeting, Emergency Coordinator (EC) Chuck Farrell, W3AFV, initiated the drill location assignment process and Assistant EC Rocky Pistilli, N3FKR, conducted a presentation reviewing Fldigi setup and operations. The meeting was conducted in person at the County EOC and via Zoom. Attendees updated and tested MCAR go-kits as well as their own laptops and handhelds. For more information about MCAR, visit [AA3E.org](http://AA3E.org). -- Robert Alan Griffiths, NE3I, MCAR PIO



EC Chuck Farrell, W3AFV (standing), with former EC Robert Lees, W3ZQN, testing an MCAR go-kit. [Photo courtesy of Robert Alan Griffiths, NE3I, MCAR PIO]

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter



## 2023 Contest Calendar

### August

#### 5-6 North American QSO Party, CW

1800Z, Aug 5 to 0559Z, Aug 6

#### 19-20 North American QSO Party, SSB

1800Z, Aug 19 to 0559Z, Aug 20

#### 20 Rookie Roundup – RTTY

6 hours (from 1800 to 2359 UTC)

#### 26-27 World Wide Digi DX Contest

1200Z, Aug 26 to 1200Z, Aug 27

### September

#### 9-11 September VHF

1800 UTC Saturday, ends 0259 UTC Monday

#### 23-24 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY

0000Z, Sep 23 to 2400Z, Sep 24

### QSO Parties

Maryland-DC 1400Z, Aug 12 to 0400Z, Aug 13

Hawaii 0400Z, Aug 26 to 0400Z, Aug 28

Kansas 1400Z, Aug 26 to 0200Z, Aug 27 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 27

Ohio 1600Z, Aug 26 to 0400Z, Aug 27

## 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 2023 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, 1st Wednesday at 6:30. Levittown Library - 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 3rd, non holiday Monday of the month at the Giant Supermarket, 315 York Rd., Willow Grove, 19090 at 6:30 PM in the Community Room. 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 ➤ 2023

### August

#### 5 Reading Radio Club Hamfest

Heritage Park 992 Clematis St.

Sinking Spring, PA

<http://www.qsl.net/w3bn/>

#### 13 Valley Forge Hamfest

Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds 762 Pike Springs Rd.

Phoenixville, PA 19460

<http://marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm>

### September

#### 10 ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Convention and Hamfest

Gloucester County 4H Fairgrounds

235 Bridgeton Pike (Rt 77)

Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

<http://w2mmd.org>

#### 17 EPARA Hamfest

Moose Lodge 1336

705 Stokes Mill Rd.

East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

<http://qsl.net/n3is>

## 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

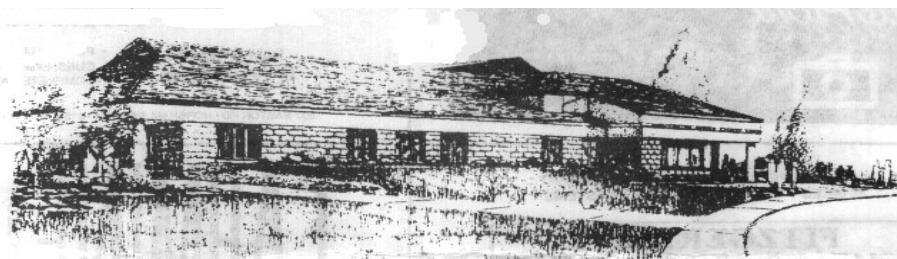
The Membership Committee can provide Club badges. Two types are available: an engraved plastic callsign and name badge for \$8 or a free, laminated plastic, photo ID badge/card. The photo id badge is included with your membership. Pictures for the club badge will be taken before club meetings on even 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 2023

### August—Club Repeater Brian N3EXA

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.

**SKYWARN INFORMATION****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:**

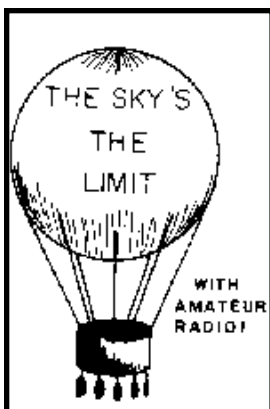
<https://www.weather.gov/phi/Info>

**SKYWARN Basic Weather Spotter Educational Programs URL:**

<https://www.weather.gov/phi/classes>

**➤ 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, Dave McGowan KC3RAT



*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, 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.

**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

**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         | 2000 | 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:

[WARMrinfo@gmail.com](mailto:WARMrinfo@gmail.com)

### Visit our Home Page at:

<http://www.k3dn.org>

### The annual dues rate structure is as follows:

**Full Member:       \$25.00**  
**Student:             \$ 7.50**  
**Alumni:               \$12.50**

- Are your dues current ?

## 2023 Officers

### Executive Officers

|                |                  |                     |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| President      | Ray Oechslin     | KA3TRU 267-269-3198 |
| Vice-President | Dave McGowan     | KC3RAT 215-850-5846 |
| Secretary      | Tony Simek       | N3YNH               |
| Treasurer      | Tom Newman       | K3PLA 215-630-5965  |
| Director (A)   | Doug Becker      | KC3MNQ 215-932-1370 |
| Director (E)   | Larry Abbott     | WA3ELQ 215-704-3282 |
| Director (A)   | Bruce Farrington | WA3ZPC 215-262-4215 |
| Director (E)   | George Brechmann | N3HBT 215-443-5656  |
| Past President | Tony Cuttone     | W3FLH 267-679-9297  |

### 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              | Dave McGowan     | KC3RAT 215-850-5846 |
|                      | Dan Clementi     | K3GMQ               |
| Digital and APRS     | Ron Wenig        | NY3J 215-638-9257   |
| Feedback Editor      | Jim Elmore       | WA4YWM 215-538-1889 |
| Field Day 23         | Herb Hickmott    | KB3VMN 267-718-3601 |
| Hamfest 23           | Tony Cuttone     | W3FLH 267-679-9297  |
| Hamwear              | Kathy Acker      | KC3FBY 215-815-7978 |
| Holiday Dinner       | George Brechmann | N3HBT 215-443-5656  |
| Membership           | Tony Cuttone     | W3FLH 267-679-9297  |
| Net Manager          | George Brechmann | N3HBT 215-443-5656  |
| PA QSO Party         | Mark Kempisty    | AA3K                |
| Publicity            | Herb Hickmott    | KB3VMN 267-718-3601 |
| Refreshments         | Arlene Newman    | KA3PLA 215-345-4539 |
| RF Interference      | Bill Ballantine  | K3FMQ 215-766-0764  |
| Repeater Coordinator | Brian Taylor     | N3EXA 215-257-6303  |
| Safety Officer       | Mike Malone      | W3MJM 215-639-2175  |
| Station Trustee      | George Brechmann | N3HBT 215-443-5656  |
| Good and Welfare     | Regina Litman    | KC3LRF              |
| 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  | Kathy Acker      | KC3FBY 215-815-7978 |
| Youth Programs       |                  |                     |