



FEEDBACK



Warminster
Amateur Radio Club

Web Site k3dn.org

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

July 2023

Next Meeting August 3rd - **THERE IS NO JULY MEETING**

Warminster ARC General Meeting Minutes June 1, 2023

7:30 pm start with Pizza Night and Presentation of "Philo T. Farnsworth" by Springfield Twp. Historical Society's Coxey Too-good.

Call to Order: 8:20 pm

Introductions and Attendance: 36

Minutes from last Meeting:

Approved as submitted with no additions or corrections.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Tom (K3PLA) *As given*

Programs: Dave (KC3RAT)

July: No Meeting due to proximity to July 4th Holiday

August: T/B /D

Membership: Tony (W3FLH) 123 Members with 84 in good-standing. 18 members are past due and will be dropped from the roll. Two pending, four new with paid application.

Public Service: George (N3HBT)

** Warminster Memorial Day Parade. Thank you operators for helping.*

** June 1, Five Ponds Golf Outing. Thank you operators for helping.*

** Waiting to hear about the Hatboro Moonlight Memories Car Show.*

Classes: Dan (K3GMQ) & Dave (KC3RAT)

New Classes (Tech and General) to start in August or September.

VEC Testing: Larry (WA3ELQ)

Four candidates; three new techs one upgrade to General.

Repeater: Brian (N3EXA) *All is working. Need to buy a deep-cycle battery. There are five RX Repeater Input Sites; Bristol, Hilltown, Warminster, West Rockhill and Ivyland. Still looking for a center-city Philia. input site.*

Good and Welfare: Regina (KC3LRF) *No Report*

Other Committees:

Radiosport: Irwin (KD3TB) *ARRL July VHF Contest*

Hamfest: Tony (W3FLH) - 275 Gate tickets sold with a profit of \$1,500.

Field Day: Herb (KB3VMN) June 24-25. *Need help transporting equipment to and from the site, along with setting up the tent. Power Generators and operators also needed.*

Refreshments: Arlene (KA3PLA) *Pizza night was a big success!*

Old Business:

Club Station: *Not active. Still waiting for the completion of the HVAC project.*

Elmer Program: *No Report*

Website: *Ongoing. Kathy (KB3FCY) working on updating the web site.*

New Business:

Elections of Officers and Directors. Slate will be available to vote on via Constant Contact as follows:

Ray (KA3TRU) - President

George (N3HBT) - Director

Dave (KC3RAT) - Vice President

Larry (WA3ELQ) - Director

Tony (N3YNH) - Secretary

Tom (K3PLA) - Treasurer

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 pm

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Hams to the Rescue



“When the power is out, when the (digital) infrastructure goes down, or other forms of communications are challenged, ham radio will be there. It’s self-sufficient,” said Tony Cuttone, of Levittown, sitting in his “radio shack” at home in Levittown.

PHOTOS BY JD MULLANE/BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Old school radio operators wired for action in case of emergency

NASA is prepping for an “internet apocalypse,” sending a probe to gather data on solar flares that jam satellites, ending digital communications on earth for months, perhaps years. And when that digital blackout comes, a group of Bucks County people will save our tails. Meet the members of the Warminster Amateur Radio Club.

Yep, ham radio, more than a century old with roots in Morse Code, is alive and well and thriving. recently, more than 30 members attended the club’s June meeting to talk shop, and to enjoy the company of (mostly) men who testified to the motto of hams worldwide: “When All Else Fails.”

“When the power is out, when the (digital) infrastructure goes down, or other forms of communications are challenged, ham radio will be there. It’s self-sufficient,” said Tony Cuttone, 54, of Levittown, who has had his ham radio license since 1992.

Hams do use computer tech to assist in sending and receiving. But what makes this old school tech indispensable is that no digital is required. Ham radio signals are malleable. While digital relies on satellite technology, ham radio is old-fashioned analog, communicating in megahertz and antennas (both above and below ground) on an infinite frequency dial. While sunspots also affect transmission of radio signals, with hams there’s always a workaround.

“You can literally go around the world on as little as 5 watts,” Cuttone said.

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Hams, as they call themselves, are Bucks County's backstop communications system in emergencies or natural disasters, especially when first responders are stretched thin. Hams have been sent to survey the Neshaminy Creek to give on-the-ground reports of flooding to the county, and were active in helping the county Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Cuttone said.

You will find ham radio operators in every country on earth.

"There are even hams in North Korea, but as you might imagine, it's somewhat restricted there," he said.

When Haiti loses communications systems after an earthquake, or Puerto Rico is raked by a hurricane, hams spring into action. They keep emergency workers and government officials informed on where services are needed most. When Hurricane Fiona struck last year, power and communications went out all over, isolating remote towns in the mountains.

"Hams in the mountains had to relay information to (hams in) Florida, and then Florida relayed that back to the lowlands so people knew who needed help," Cuttone said. "Just because of how radio signals can bounce around, it was easier for them (in the mountains) to talk to Florida than to talk 30 miles across the island."

Last winter, it was hams who gave life-saving info to rescue workers for people trapped in heavy snows in Northern California.

Ham radio is also having a moment.

"There are now 750,000 licensed hams in the U.S., which is more than there were 40 years ago," Cuttone said.

Among those in its ranks are students at Council Rock South High School, which has an active amateur radio club. Last month, the hams at CR South were able to use their equipment to speak with astronauts aboard the International Space Station as it sped over Bucks County.

At his home in the Goldenridge section of Levittown, Cuttone spun a weighted dial on his rig, as he calls his radio, calling out his handle into a mic, "Whiskey 3 Foxtrot Lima Hotel." After a few minutes, a distant voice crackled back from Elgin, Illinois, a small city about 35 miles west of Chicago.

"We're outside Philly and was wondering if you've been affected by the smoke from the (Canada) wildfires," Cuttone said.

Yes, said the man, hazy from smoke, but clearing.

"And that's basically what we do, send and receive information, and that becomes crucial when all else fails," he said.

JD Mullane can be reached at 215-704-8116 or at jmullane@couriertimes.com

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Cuttone stands next to his ham radio antenna. "This isn't all of it," he said. "There are 30, 30-foot wires buried under my yard."

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The K7RA Solar Update



Solar disk image taken June 29, 2023, courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI.

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP026:

Conditions were favorable over Field Day weekend, with the exception of a brief period where planetary K index was at 5 on Saturday night.

There were five new sunspot groups on June 23, two more on June 24, another on June 26, and another on June 27.

Average daily sunspot numbers were up, and solar flux was down.

The average daily sunspot number rose from 143 to 170, and the average daily solar flux declined slightly from 165.4 to 160.3.

This was unexpected because we normally see these values track together.

Predicted solar flux is 155 on June 29; 150 on June 30 through July 4; 145 on July 5; 135 on July 6 - 8; 145, 155, 160, 165, and 170 on July 9 - 13; 175 on July 14 - 18; 170 on July 19 - 21; 160, 150, 145, 145, 140, and 135 on July 22 - 27, and 130 on July 28 - 31.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on June 29 - 30; 15 and 10 on July 1 - 2; 5 on July 3 - 7; 12 and 8 on July 8 - 9; 5 on July 10 - 11; a stormy 20 and 30 on July 12 - 13; 8 on July 14 - 23; 12 on July 24 - 25, and 8 on July 26 - 27.

Read about the cycle peak and see images at <https://bit.ly/3ps6iOI>.

Check out a useful glossary for space weather terms at <https://bit.ly/3XuimeQ>.

Sunspot numbers for June 22 - 28, 2023, were 176, 194, 200, 180, 158, 141, and 141, with a mean of 170. 10.7-centimeter flux was 173.2, 169.7, 160.8, 154.8, 157.7, 151.2, and 154.9, with a mean of 160.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 9, 16, 15, 11, 8, and 8, with a mean of 10.7. Middle latitude A index was 8, 9, 16, 10, 11, 7, and 8, with a mean of 9.9.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to k7ra@arrrl.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 Luetzel-schwab, 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](#).

ARRL Elected to Serve on SAFECOM

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has been elected to serve on SAFECOM®. SAFECOM is a group of national thought leaders and officials within the emergency communications and response space that works to set standards at every level. The program is managed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), an agency of the US Department of

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Homeland Security.

SAFECOM sets the standards of interoperability procedures. As a part of the group, ARRL solidifies the Amateur Radio Service as a robust resource before and during times of crisis.



A letter from the SAFECOM Chair, Chief Gerald R. Reardon, stated, "On behalf of the SAFECOM Executive Board, it is with great pleasure that I inform you of our offer to join SAFECOM as a member association. SAFECOM aims to improve multi-jurisdictional and intergovernmental communications interoperability through collaboration with emergency responders and policymakers across federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and international partners. SAFECOM recognizes the organization's dedication to emergency communications and interoperability, and therefore is pleased to extend a membership offer."

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, "Gaining a seat at the table is a major step in strengthening the role and capability of amateur radio with emergency communication agencies. This will give us the sounding board and resources we need to set standards and create training for our [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) volunteers that will better suit Authorities Having Jurisdiction and partner organizations." The opportunity for ARRL to provide a more comprehensive emergency communications program is part of the goal the Board and ARRL leadership has begun to emphasize over the past few years, and this is one more example of the commitment to do so. ARRL will provide premier resources for the served agencies to support them in all phases of emergency management.

Johnston will serve as the Representative for ARRL on SAFECOM and will be meeting with leadership over the coming days to begin the process of better understanding the roles and responsibilities that come with being a member association. "I look forward to working with the SAFECOM leadership as we move forward and with the ARRL leadership to better serve the ham community, our served agencies, and our partners," Johnston said.



For more information about ARES and other ARRL emergency programs and training, check out our web page at <http://arrl.org/public-service>.

For more information about SAFECOM, visit <https://www.cisa.gov/safecom>.

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter

Women of Influence in Engineering 2023 Ham Honoree

Michelle Thompson, W5NYV, Cofounder and CEO of the Open Research Institute (ORI), has been selected as a 2023 honoree for the Women of Influence in Engineering section published by the *San Diego Business Journal*. The publication celebrates female trailblazers and highlights the honorees careers and accomplishments.

Thompson has been an amateur radio operator for more than 25 years and was drawn to the hobby by her father and grandfather, who were amateur radio operators.

"We were a family of tinkerers, and my dad and granddad were always fixing and building things, including amateur radios," said Thompson. "Because of their influence, I was drawn to the vocation of helping people navigate difficult rules and regulations that impeded their learning and success."

In 2020, Thompson founded ORI, a nonprofit research and development organization that provides all of its work to the general public under the principles of [Open Source](#) and [Open Access to Research](#). She is responsible for amateur satellite service regulatory reform and is a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council.



Michelle Thompson, W5NYV, 2023 Honoree
(photo courtesy of W5NYV)

Thompson is also chair of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) San Diego Section. She founded the IEEE Information Theory Society, as well as the local Open Source Digital Radio Group.

Thompson serves the ARRL Field Organization Southwestern Division as a Technical Specialist for the San Diego Section, and she is an ARRL Life Member.

Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter

2023 Contest Calendar

July

8-9 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

1200 UTC Saturday and runs through 1159 UTC Sunday

15-16 North American QSO Party, RTTY

1800Z, Jul 15 to 0559Z, Jul 16

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

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 Monday 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.

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 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

➤ ATLANTIC DIV. HAMFESTS ➤ 2023

July

1 [Firecracker Hamfest](#)

Harrisburg Postal Employees Picnic Grounds 1500 Roberts Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17101
<http://www.W3uu.org>

29 [CVARC 2023 Hamfest, ARRL Pennsylvania State Convention](#)

CVAEMA Show grounds 1501 Criders Church Road
Chambersburg, PA 17201
<http://w3ach.com>

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>

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."

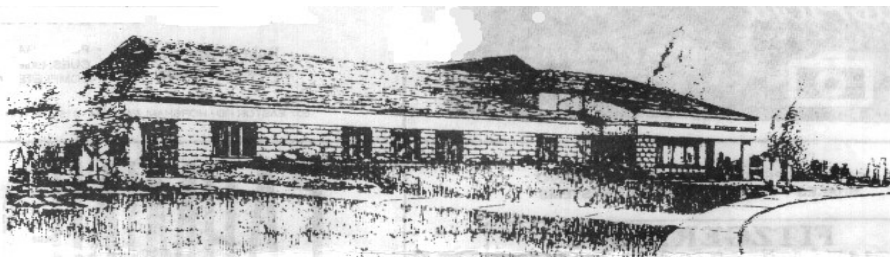
ATTENTION MEMBERS

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.

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 2023

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:

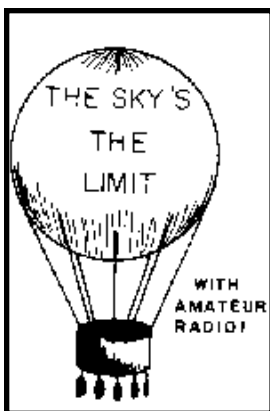
<https://www.weather.gov/phi/Info>

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

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

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	Dan Myers	K3NXX	215-957-2343
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			