



FEEDBACK



Web Site k3dn.org

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

January 2024

Next Meeting January 4th - Town Hall

Editor's Message

Well, things are unique this month for Feedback. Instead of a President's Message you will find an Editor's message.

Ray is unable to provide his usual President's Message. His time is consumed by the Channel 6 crash investigation. For those of you that don't know, Ray is a helicopter pilot who performs flight duties for Channel 6. Fortunately he was not on the fatal flight. However, he has known the two victims for many years – a great loss.

So, I will see if I can fill in for Ray. He and I both wish everyone a Happy New Year.

This should be an interesting meeting as we will have an open discussion of issues and opportunities for the club going forward.

There is a lineup of contests this month for every taste; SSB, CW, RTTY and VHF. See the Contest section for details.

Some hams (especially VHF folks) say this is the best month for antenna work. Get it done before the contest. Not being a Packrat (and a child of the South) I don't agree.

Whatever your interests have fun with ham radio!

73,
Jim WA4YWM

The K7RA Solar Update

The recent reporting week, December 21-27, saw counter-intuitive solar numbers, with solar flux rising but sunspot numbers in decline. This happens from time to time.

Average daily sunspot numbers declined from 137.4 to 114.4. Only three new sunspot groups emerged, two on December 22, and one on December 27. On Thursday, December 28 one more sunspot emerged and the sunspot number increased from 78 to 83.

Average daily solar flux rose from 162.7 to 172.6.

Predicted solar flux over the next month is 145 on December 29-30, 140 on December 31 to January 1, 2024, 135 on January 2-4, 150 on January 5-7, 155 on January 8-11, then 150, 155, 160, 170 and 175 on January 12-16, 180 on January 17-19. The recent reporting week, December 21-27, saw counter-intuitive solar numbers, with solar flux rising but sunspot numbers in decline. This happens from time to time.

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Predicted planetary A index is 5, 10, 8, 16, and 8 on December 29 through January 2, 2024, then 5 on January 3-7, then 10, 10 and 8 on January 8-10, then 5 on January 11-25, then 12, 10, 10 and 8 on January 26-29, and 5 on January 30 through February 3.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere, December 28, 2023 from F. K. Janda, OK1HH.

"There are active regions on the Sun that may not even be large, but whose magnetic configuration points to the possibility of solar flares, up to moderately important ones. CMEs are no exception, but they may not hit the Earth at all.

"On December 24, three moderate-importance flares were observed. At least one of them produced a CME. Based on measurements of its velocity, the collision with Earth was predicted to December 27. However, nothing happened, and despite the extension of the prediction of the onset of the disturbance by a day, calm continued on 28 December.

"For many days now there has been such a large active region on the Sun's far side that it is affecting the vibration of the entire Sun. In addition, it has been observed by NASA's Mars Perseverance rover camera. While it is primarily designed to see if there is dust in the air, it can see large sunspots and, most importantly, the sun's far side is now visible from Mars.

"So we await the return of AR 3514, which will rise in the northeastern solar disk shortly after the New Year. It will be a significant contributor to the further rise in solar activity in the days ahead. Furthermore, longer term forecasts are calling for high solar activity in the second half of January. So perhaps we will finally see an improvement in shortwave conditions."

Don't forget ARRL Straight Key Night is this weekend, for all of New Years Day (UTC), so that starts at 4:00 PM Sunday here on the Left Coast where I live. Operate CW in a casual event using your straight key or semi-automatic bug.

Recent activity: <https://bit.ly/3vhqLIE>

Sun as revolving field motor: <https://bit.ly/41CbEFA>

Aurora: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8qwdc5>

2023 solar activity:

<http://tinyurl.com/55x96tfd> <https://bit.ly/3RYngj1>

Cosmic spectacle: <https://bit.ly/41C8kdR>

Larger storms: <https://bit.ly/3RDI4fB>

Tamitha Skov's latest report: <https://youtu.be/-xt-qMPQWwE>

Send your tips, reports, observations, questions and comments to k7ra@arrl.net . When reporting observations, don't forget to tell us which mode you were operating.

For more information concerning shortwave radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at, <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals> . For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see

<http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>

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An archive of past propagation bulletins is at

<http://arrrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive-propagation> . More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>

Also, check this: <https://bit.ly/3Rc8Njt>

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrrl.org/bulletins>

Sunspot numbers for December 21 through 27, 2023 were 138, 157, 123, 113, 98, 94, and 78, with a mean of 114.4. 10.7 cm flux was 193.6, 186.7, 174.2, 183.4, 166.7, 154.2, and 149.4, with a mean of 172.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 7, 9, 4, 5, and 4, with a mean of 5.4. Middle latitude A index was 3, 3, 5, 7, 2, 4, and 4, with a mean of 4.31 to February 3.

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Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

ARDC and ARRL Announce \$2.1 Million for the Next Generation of Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) and The ARRL Foundation announced a three-year commitment with over \$2.1 million in combined funding to support scholarships for radio amateurs, radio technology for classroom teachers, and amateur radio club grants. This commitment reinforces a strong shared vision between ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® and ARDC to invest in the future of amateur radio through programs supporting the next generation of radio amateurs.



"ARRL and ARDC share a common vision for the future of Amateur Radio," says The ARRL Foundation President David Norris, K5UZ. "The Foundation exists to support the next generation of radio amateurs, and we are so proud to collaborate with ARDC to make these programs possible."

The ARDC Scholarship at The ARRL Foundation has supported nearly 100 amateur radio operators in pursuit of their educational goals since its inception in 2020. The renewed commitment will result in over 200 total scholarships, awarded over the next three years, for radio amateurs pursuing higher education, with scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. This competitive scholarship program is run through The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program, and recipients who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need can use this funding for tuition, room & board, books, and other fees essential to advance their education. More information on eligibility and application deadlines may be found online at The ARRL Foundation website at www.arrl.org/scholarship-program.

The ARRL Club Grants program was introduced in 2022 with initial funding from ARDC. Thanks to this next round of collaboration, the ARRL Club Grants Program will continue in 2024. Beginning with significant funding from ARDC in 2022, the ARRL Club Grants program is administered by The ARRL Foundation, together with the ARRL Field Organization. These club grants are critical to the future of amateur radio because of the importance of mentoring and helping licensees become active in Amateur Radio. ARRL encourages clubs to revitalize this critical aspect of their role by applying for funding to support programs in one of the available categories, including ham skills development, STEAM learning and education, or club station improvement, among others. This transformational program will launch in the Spring of 2024. More details will be provided through upcoming informational sessions and on The ARRL Foundation website at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program.



Additional funding from ARDC will extend the effectiveness of ARRL outreach programs to teachers and schools, including the

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ARRL Teachers Institute for Wireless Technology. Monies will be used to purchase equipment to allow students to get hands-on STEM experiences through radio communications and radio technology.

Read more about the exciting announcement on [ARRL News](#)

Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

40 Years of Amateur Radio in Space

Melissa Gaskill, a science author from Austin, Texas, has written a comprehensive review about the 40-year history of amateur radio in space. In her article, "[Ham Radio in Space: Engaging with Students Worldwide for 40 Years](#)," Gaskill explores the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX), which is now known as Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS).

Gaskill said that while she wrote the article, she is not an expert on the subject but there are many who are including Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, International Space Station (ISS) Ham Project Coordinator since 2004.

Ransom said that amateur radio in space was a possibility even before 1983, when Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL (SK), made history during the STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia mission with the first amateur radio contact from space. NASA had been looking for ways to bring amateur radio to Skylab (a space station designed as an orbiting workshop for scientific research) and even the moon.

"Having amateur radio in space has added a heightened level of interest, not only for hams, but for the overall program as well," said Ransom. "Just being able to talk to a crew member on board a spacecraft is an amazing accomplishment."

Garriott's son, Richard Garriott, who operated amateur radio during a short-term mission on the ISS in 2008, will present a special webinar on December 7, 2023, at 1800 UTC to discuss his father's first historic mission. The presentation will be available to watch on [ARISS - YouTube](#). The event is hosted by ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program, the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](#), and AMSAT.

Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

ARRL Teachers Institute Grad Prepares Students for Ham Radio Contact with Astronaut

[ARRL](#) celebrates the success of an [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) graduate. The skills learned in the Teachers Institute (TI) have led to a school having an amazing opportunity using amateur radio.

On Monday, December 11, 2023, students at Harbor Creek Senior High School in Harbors Creek, Pennsylvania, will host an [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station \(ARISS\)](#) contact. Assistant Principal Drew Mortensen, AC3DS, completed the ARRL TI-1: Introduction to Wireless Technology program. Mortensen; Allen Lombardozi, KC3TGY, and Elaine LaFuria, KC3SFY, have led the development of a robust amateur radio program at the school.



Teachers downlink images from an NOAA GOES satellite during the ARRL Teachers Institute for Wireless Technology. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

After attending the ARRL Teachers Institute, their students prepared and launched their own high-altitude balloon, capturing the interest and passion of other students, teachers, and the community.

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Fifteen Harbor Creek students participating in the ARISS contact are licensed amateur radio operators. Since applying for the contact in November 2022, Harbor Creek has seen 16 students earn their amateur radio licenses, with three going on to earn their General-class licenses and three more going on to earn their Amateur Extra-class licenses. Mortensen expressed gratitude for the [ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program](#), which reimburses the \$35 amateur radio licensing fee to those younger than 18, for helping to lower the barrier of entry for students.

Students at the Harbor Creek School District Advanced Technologies Group, KC3SGV, meet regularly and fill the meeting space to maximum capacity. The students of the group will livestream the event on their YouTube channel at youtube.com/@advancedtechnologiesgroup. This livestream will be run and managed by students.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, is excited about the school's success, stating, "The program at Harbor Creek Senior High School is a shining example of the impact the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology can have on students."

If you are interested in supporting STEM education through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, visit www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM.

December ARISS Contact with South Carolina School

On Tuesday, December 5, students at Orangeburg Christian Academy (OCA) in Orangeburg, South Carolina, had the opportunity to speak with Astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli, K15WSL, onboard the International Space Station (ISS).

OCA is a small school of about 250 students in grades K-12. The faculty includes space science, space travel, science on the ISS, electronics, amateur radio, and more astronomy in various STEM studies.

The event lasted just more than 10 minutes, and Moghbeli answered 20 questions ranging from safety in space to what astronauts drink in space and what it is like to shower in space.

The contact was arranged by Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS). Each year, ARISS conducts 60 - 80 of these special amateur radio contacts between students around the globe and crew members with ham radio licenses aboard the ISS.

Phillip Shreves, N7GZT, assisted with the ARISS contact by operating the link to the radio ground station to establish and maintain the ISS connection.

Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

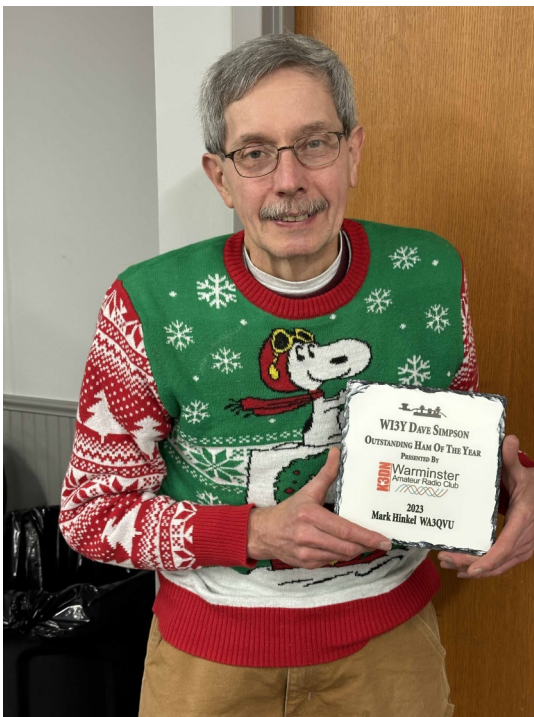
Elmer's Corner

Welcome to Elmer's Corner. This will be a section where hams can request help with ham related issues. Our goal is to match someone with experience with the issue you are having in order to resolve your problem. This is intended to cover all aspects of ham radio:

Equipment
Software
Antennas
Operations

Send the editor an email detailing the issue: wa4ywm@comcast.net.

Holiday Dinner Photos



2024 Contest Calendar

January

1 Straight Key Night:

0000 UTC - 2359 UTC

6-7 ARRL RTTY Roundup

1800Z, Jan 6 to 2400Z, Jan 7

13-14 North American QSO Party, CW

1800Z, Jan 13 to 0559Z, Jan 14

20-21 North American QSO Party, SSB

1800Z, Jan 20 to 0559Z, Jan 21

20-22 January VHF Contest

1900Z, Jan 20 to 0359Z, Jan 22

February

4 North American Sprint, CW

0000Z-0359Z, Feb 4

10-11 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

0000Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 11

12-16 [School Club Roundup](#)**17-18 [International DX – CW](#)**

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 2024 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.

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 jmcloskey@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-

➤ ATLANTIC DIV. HAMFESTS

➤ 2024

**Jan 13 - [Winterfest](#)**

Vietnam Veterans Association Building
8000 Derry Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
<http://www.w3uu.org>

April 20 - [Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware State Convention](#)

Cheer Center
20520 Sand Hill Rd.
Georgetown, DE 19947

May 5 - [Warminster ARC - Annual Hamfest](#)

Bucks County Community College-Lower Bucks Campus
1304 Veterans Highway (Route 413)
Bristol, PA 19007
<https://wp.k3dn.org/hamfest/>

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 \$12.50 annually and are approved by the Board. Please contact the Membership Committee for more information if interested."

ATTENTION MEMBERS

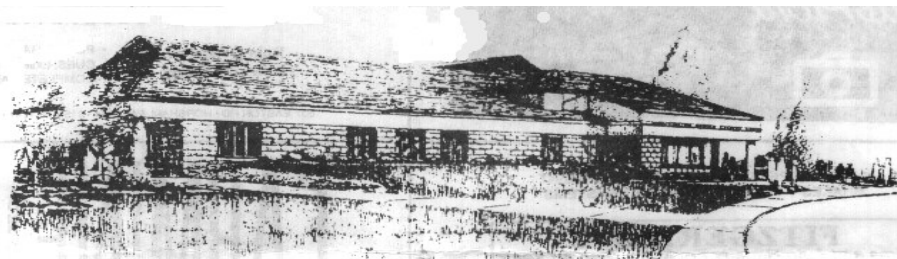
The Membership Committee can provide Club badges. Two types are available: an engraved plastic callsign and name badge for \$8 or a free, laminated plastic, photo ID badge/card. The photo id badge is included with your membership. Pictures for the club badge will be taken before club meetings on even 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 2024**January - Town Hall**

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,

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

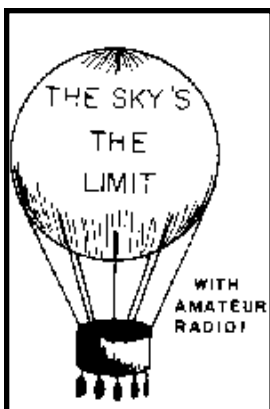
Fairless Hills, PA (many remote access locations throughout Bucks County)

Mount Holly NWSFO SKYWARN Homepage:

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

SKYWARN Basic Weather Spotter Educational Programs URL:

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



*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.

New Classes (Tech and General) to start Sept 13 from 7 pm to 9 pm.

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

Bucks County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (BCARES)

www.bucksares.org

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

Winlink Gateway Stations:

Lower Bucks NY3J-10 145.530 Bensalem

Net Schedules

Sunday	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.

➤ 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

Area Repeaters**VHF**

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

220

224.580 PackRats
223.76 K3NAL

UHF

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

D-STAR

146.61000 K3PDR DV
445.18125 K3PDR DV
445.01875 AA3E Montco
RACES

6 Mtr

53.030 WA3BXW
53.230 N3DQZ
53.320 K3MFI

Are you submitting an article for the Feedback ?

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

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

For general club correspondence:

WARMcinfo@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 ?

2024 Officers

Executive Officers

President	Ray Oechslein	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 24	Herb Hickmott	KB3VMN	267-718-3601
Hamfest 24	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			