

Web Site k3dn.org

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

March 2024

Next Meeting March 7th - Mesh Networks

Warminster ARC General Meeting Minutes February 1, 2024

Call to Order: 7:30 pm by Dave (KC3RAT) Introductions and Attendance: 45 Minutes from last Meeting: Minutes of the January meeting were approved as submitted. <u>Committee Reports:</u> **Treasurer's Report**: Tom (K3PLA) As given. Copies were available for members to review. **Programs**: Dave (KC3RAT)

February – Club Auction March – MeSH Networks April – Antenna Simulation May – Hamfest Preparations June – Pizza Night

Membership: Tony (W3FLH) 117 Active members, 85 in good standing (78 regular, 7 alumni)

Public Service: George (N3HBT)

May – Warminster Memorial Day Parade June – Golf Outing October – Golf Outing Part 2 More information as we get closer to the dates.

Classes: Dave (K3RAT) - A General class is being considered to start mid-February. An Extra class is being considered, however the question pool for extra will change later this year so for now this is on hold.

VEC Testing: January 29. Six candidates, all passed. Next session is scheduled for February 26th at 7 PM at the Ben Wilson Senior Center.

Repeater: Brian (N3EMA) - Three inputs are working. The Bristol input is still down due to roofing work. We are waiting to hear if we can continue to use the current location once the roofing work is done.

Good and Welfare: Nothing to report at this time.

Hamfest: Tony (W3FLH) – Date of the event is Sunday May 5th, 2024. The Club has obtained the Bucks County Community College campus in Bristol for the 2024 Hamfest. The Warminster Hamfest will be the site for the ARRL Section Convention again this year. Volunteers will be needed to help with set-up on Saturday May 4th in the evening and again on Sunday May 5th for various assignments, so keep your calendars open.

Refreshments: Arlene (KA3PLA) reported that costs increased from last month.

Old Business:

Club Station: Everything working with no problems. Space is still an issue that should resolve with the Club Auction.

Field Day: Field Day is scheduled for the last Saturday and Sunday in June. The club is considering holding a family picnic on Saturday evening. Anyone interested in helping or has any ideas for the evening should let one of the club officers know your thoughts.

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Constitution Changes: The Constitution and Bylaws have been signed and will be available on the website shortly. A hard copy was available for review at the meeting.

New Business:

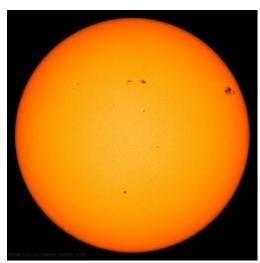
No new business was brought up.

Business Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 pm

The club auction began at 8:00 PM

The results from HamSCI's first Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science event have been released

HamSCI has announced the results from the inaugural running of the <u>Gladstone Signal Spotting Challenge</u>. Held during the October 14, 2023, North American annular solar eclipse, the challenge was designed to recognize operators of digital mode stations who contribute valuable data to ionospheric research. Receiving stations uploaded their records to sites such as <u>PSK reporter.info</u>, <u>WSPRnet.org</u>, and <u>reversebeacon.net</u> Transmitting stations were received by stations worldwide who uploaded their results to the same databases, creating records of the transmitting stations' activities. Here is the <u>link to the full results</u>, including participant scores and a sampling of station design details and station photographs. The next event will be held on April 8, 2024, during the North American total solar eclipse.



This solar disk image was taken on February 29, 2024. [Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP009:

Seven new sunspot groups emerged this week: four on February 23, one on February 25, another on February 26, and one more on February 28.

Solar activity increased this reporting week, compared to the week before. The average daily sunspot number rose from 84.4 to 108.4, and the solar flux rose from 164 to 175.

Despite the numbers rising, geomagnetic conditions were quiet. The planetary A index went from 4.4 to 8.4, and middle latitude numbers increased from 3.3 to 7.4.

A solar flux prediction from the United States Air Force shows that we are currently at a peak that may return between March 20 - 24.

Predicted solar flux is 180 on February 29; 175, 170, 170, 175, and 175 on March 1 - 5; 165 on March 6 - 9; 168 on March 10; 165 on March 11 - 12; 160 on March 13 - 14; 168 and 172 on March 15 - 16; 175, 175, and 178 on March 17 - 19; 180 on March 20 - 24, and 175 on March 25 - 26.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on February 29 through March 2, 5 on March 3 - 23, and 15, 12, and 12 on March 24 - 26.

<u>Spaceweather.com</u> reported on giant sunspot AR3590. "In only 23 hours spanning February 21 - 22, the active region unleashed three powerful X-class solar flares (X1.8, X1.7, and X6.3). The X6.3 flare is the strongest of Solar Cycle 25 so far, and the most powerful flare since the great solar storms of September 2017."

Because there were no coronal mass ejections there were no geomagnetic storms, but extreme ultraviolet radiation ionized the top of Earth's atmosphere and caused several shortwave blackouts over Hawaii and Australia during February 21 - 22.

Sunspot group AR3590 is the largest of the current solar cycle.

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Here is a brief article on solar basics: https://www.ktvh.com/news/weather-wise/weather-wise-sunspots

Sunspot numbers for February 22 - 28 were 46, 116, 106, 114, 133, 103, and 127, with a mean of 106.4. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 173.3, 172.9, 179.2, 180.8, 171.7, 168.3, and 179.1, with a mean of 175. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 3, 7, 13, 11, 13, and 6, with a mean of 8.4. Middle latitude A index was 6, 2, 6, 14, 10, 9, and 5, with a mean of 7.4.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to k7ra@arrl.net.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, <u>visit</u> the ARRL Technical Information Service, <u>read</u> "What the Numbers Mean...," and <u>check out</u> the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin <u>archive</u> is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the <u>VOACAP Online for Ham Radio</u> website.

Share your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on <u>ARRL News</u>.

Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

Amateur Radio Operators Needed for Help with Solar Eclipse Project

The <u>Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU</u>, the club station at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is asking for amateur radio operators to help with a research project centered around the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

W8EDU club member Adam Goodman, W7OKE, said the project centers around studying the effects of the eclipse on propagation to better understand the recombination time of the ionosphere.

"To do this, we are recruiting North American amateur stations interested in recording the Canadian time standard station CHU (Canada's WWV) for two weeks surrounding the eclipse," added Goodman. "Anyone with a <u>KiwiSDR</u> or a rig that can interface with analysis/recording software such as <u>Fldigi</u> is encouraged to reach out to us to participate."

W8EDU club member and project software manager Maris Usis, KE8TXG, said that while the software is simple to use, there is some detailed work involved. "We can help make it easier and there are good online instructions as well," said Usis.



All of the participation details are on the club's website at https://w8edu.wordpress.com/chu-eclipse-data-collection/.

W8EDU club faculty advisor David Kazdan, AD8Y, said the research project has received positive attention from the <u>ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program</u> community, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (<u>HamSCI</u>) community, and Case Western Reserve University's engineering deans. "It is already a truly international effort, and we are collaborating with more than 20 stations across the continent, from collegiate and high school stations, to a representative from the Radio Amateurs of Canada, to a station in Mexico," said Kazdan.

The <u>2024 solar eclipse</u> will over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. ARRL is a partner with HamSCI to help promote this opportunity for radio amateurs to participate in an active science experiment, through the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

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Senators Roger Wicker and Richard Blumenthal Introduce S.3690 to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced <u>S.3690</u>, the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, <u>introduced last</u> <u>June</u>. Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by <u>ARRL</u> to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

Amateur Radio Operators repeatedly are relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

US Senators Richard Blumenthal (CT) [left] and Roger Wicker (MS) [right]

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."

In a similar announcement, Senator enthal stated: "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications.

In the face of emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allow listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

Read more on ARRL News

Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

Amateur Radio as Educational Tool Represented to Policymakers in Washington DC

ARRL and Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) represented Amateur Radio at a symposium in Washington on February 1 at which the top domestic spectrum policymakers from across the federal government considered implementation of the <u>National Spectrum Strategy</u> (NSS) [PDF].

ARRL ensures that Amateur Radio is represented at sessions such as this so that decisionmakers understand amateur radio's roles when spectrum decisions are made, including its substantial contributions to student interest and education in STEM subjects at schools throughout the country and its role during emergencies and natural disasters.

In the NSS, released by the White House in November, national policymakers identified some 2,790 megahertz of spectrum to be considered for future commercial needs. No new amateur spectrum was included, with only the ongoing reallo-



radio in the National Telecommunications and

Information Administration spectrum symposi-

um. [BOC Engineering - YouTube, photo]



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cation studies related to 3.1 - 3.45 GHz being addressed.

The NSS was prepared for the President by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). NTIA considered input from Federal Executive Branch agencies that use spectrum as well as from other spectrum users, including amateur radio operators. As the NSS was being formulated during 2023, ARRL's Washington Counsel presented information on amateur radio to the policymakers at an NTIA listening session. This was followed with <u>a written submission about amateur radio spectrum concerns</u>, and later with a one-on-one meeting with NTIA's Senior Spectrum Advisor in overall charge of formulating the NSS.

The February symposium followed release of the NSS in November and was in support of finalizing implementation plans for the strategy that are expected to be announced by the White House in mid-March.

For the symposium, ARRL Life Member Phil Karn KA9Q, a director and pastpresident of ARDC, participated as a panelist and reinforced amateur radio's important national role in workforce development with personal testimony based on his own career.

Karn's recruitment by Qualcomm in its early days was due directly to his pioneering amateur radio accomplishments with digital wireless projects that included many firsts. Karn retired from Qualcomm as Vice President for Technology in 2011. He shared with policymakers the value of amateur radio to interest and recruit youth into STEM areas and into wireless specifically. Karn's life experience lent special weight to his remarks about amateur radio's role in attracting youth to STEM projects.

"I see [amateur radio] - having been involved in it for 52 years now - as fundamental as an educational system... It is a type of hands-on intuitive learning that is almost impossible to get any other way," said Karn. <u>Watch a video of the panel on</u> <u>YouTube</u>.



Phil Karn, KA9Q, relayed how amateur radio resulted in his successful professional career. [ARDC, photo]

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.

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quired 48 hrs. or more before the sched-

uled exam date. If there are no registra-

tions the scheduled exam date will be canceled. NO WALK-INS. You can

Olaf N. Markert - Phone (610) 517-5074, E-mail w3pa@arrl.net

Alt Contact: Jim, 610-287-5630

register by contacting:

	V.E. TEST LOCATIONS	
2024 Contest Calendar		
March 2-3 International DX- Phone 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday 10 North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0359Z 24 North American SSB Sprint Contest 0000Z-0400Z 30-31 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 30 to 2359Z, Mar 31, 2024	Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed appli- cants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All appli- cants, 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.	
April 21 <u>Rookie Roundup – Phone</u> 1800 to 2359 UTC	Warminster Amateur Radio Club, Monthly, Last Mon. 7:00 pm at the Wil- son Senior Community Center 580 Del- mont Avenue Warminster, PA 18974 George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.	
QSO Parties 9-10 Oklahoma 1500Z, Mar 9 to 0200Z, Mar 10 and 1500Z-2100Z, Mar 10 9-10 Idaho 1900Z, Mar 9 to 1900Z, Mar 10 10-11 Wisconsin 1800Z, Mar 10 to 0100Z, Mar 11 16-17 Virginia 1400Z, Mar 16 to 0400Z, Mar 17 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 17	Atco, NJ, The fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m. Winslow Town- ship Senior Center, 33 Cooper Folly Road, 08004-2603. Mark (K2AX) jtra@comcast.net Levittown, PA, Monthly, 1st Wednes-	
	day at 6:30. Levittown Library - Ben Johns, K3JQH, 215-657-5994	
 ATLANTIC DIV. HAMFESTS 2024 March 16 - Fredfest '24 Independent Hose Company 310 Baughmans Ln. 	Telford, PA , RF Hill ARC. Indian Val- ley Library. Held the third Monday of odd months (January, March, May, July, September, November) Contact: Jim Soete 215-723-7294 wa3ylq@arrl.net.	
Frederick, MD 21701 <u>http://frederickarc.org</u> April 20 - <u>Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware</u> <u>State Convention</u> Cheer Center 20520 Sand Hill Rd. Georgetown, DE 19947	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 fur- ther information contact James McClos- key at jmccloskey@msn.com and by phone 215-275-2979.	
April 21 - <u>Maryland Mobileeers Spring Hamfest</u> Odenton Volunteer Fire Company 1425 Annapolis Rd. Odenton, MD 21113 <u>https://sites.google.com/view/marylandmobileers/hamfest?authuser=0</u> April 27 - York Hamfest	Lansdale, PA Testing on the fourth non- holiday Thursday of the month starting at 7:00 PM. The Lansdale Library Com- munity Room Vine St. and Susquehanna Ave. Lansdale, Pa. Registration is re-	

April 27 - <u>York Hamfest</u> Elicker's Grove Park 511 Roth Church Rd. Spring Grove, PA 17362 <u>http://www.yorkhamfest.org</u>

May 5 - <u>Warminster ARC - Annual Hamfest</u> Bucks County Community College-Lower Bucks Campus 1304 Veterans Highway (Route 413) Bristol, PA 19007 <u>https://wp.k3dn.org/hamfest/</u>

CLUB INFO

PUBLIC SERVICE

May – Warminster Memorial Day Parade June – Golf Outing October – Golf Outing Part

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

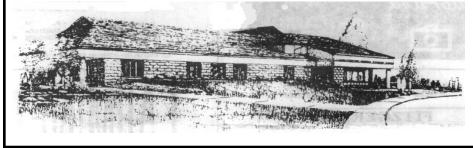
The Membership Committee can provide Club badges. Two types are available: an engraved plastic callsign and name badge for \$8 or a free, laminated plastic, photo ID badge/card. The photo id badge is included with your membership. Pictures for the club badge will be taken before club meetings on even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

- March: Mesh Networks (Bill Telford WB3CQK)
- April: Antenna Simulators (Dan Clementi K3GMQ) May: TBD

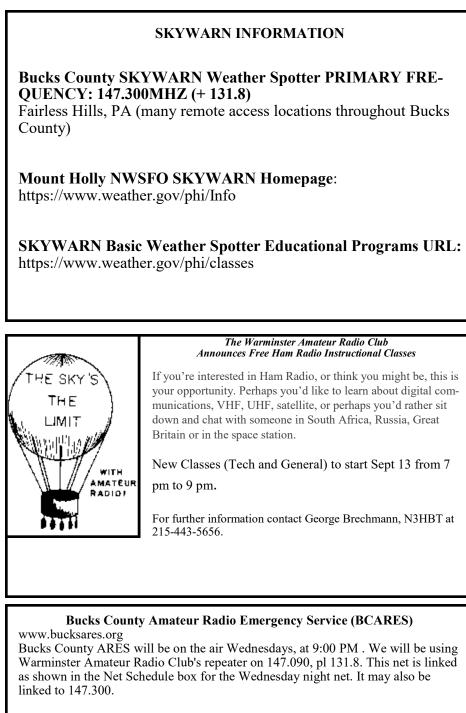
The Club Station - K3DN - is located at the Benjamin Wilson Senior Center, Delmont Avenue, Warminster, PA. The station is open for club members and the interested general public on the first Thursday of the month (meeting night) between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 pm. with the exception of the December 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.

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Winlink Gateway Stations: Lower Bucks NY3J-10

145.530 Bensalem

Net Schedules					
2000	10 Meter Net	28.445 MHz			
2000	2 Meter Net	147.09 Rptr.			
2000	Linked w/ 2 Meter Net	443.95			
2000	Linked w/ 2 Meter Net	53.230 Rptr.			
2030	Informal Net	223.5 Simplex			
1900	Mont. Cnty RACES Net	t 146.835 Rptr.			
	2000 2000 2000 2000 2000 2030	200010 Meter Net20002 Meter Net2000Linked w/ 2 Meter Net2000Linked w/ 2 Meter Net2000Linked w/ 2 Meter Net2030Informal Net			

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 N3DOZ 53.320 K3MFI

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Are you submitting an article for the Feedback ?			1.5
Contributions of articles to be pub-			
lished are always accepted for consid-	Europeting Officers		
eration. Please follow these guidelines:	Executive Officers President	Day Occhelin	KA3TRU 267-269-3198
wa4ywm@comcast.net	Vice-President	Ray Oechslin Dave McGowan	KA3TRU 267-269-3198 KC3RAT 215-850-5846
Or via snail mail to:		Tony Simek	N3YNH
FEEDBACK EDITOR	Secretary Treasurer	Tom Newman	K3PLA 215-630-5965
Warminster Amateur Radio Club Box 113	Director (A)	Doug Becker	KC3MNQ 215-932-1370
Warminster, Pa 18974	Director (E)	Larry Abbott	WA3ELQ 215-704-3282
	Director (A)	Bruce Farrington	WA3ZPC 215-262-4215
Use both upper and lower case	Director (E)	George Brechmann	N3HBT 215-443-5656
letters. Vse your program's spell check.	Past President	Tony Cuttone	W3FLH 267-679-9297
	i ust i resident	Tony Cuttone	(1) ST EIT 207 077 7277
If you don't have a computer, then typewritten sheets are o.k,	Committee Chairpe	rsons	
but please use both upper and	ARES/RACES Liaso		K3KH 215-264-1855
lower case,	ARRL Liason	Irwin Darack	KD3TB 215-343-8170
Put your name and call at the be- ginning or end of the article, and	Awards Manager	Vince Pironti	KD3TC 215-674-0446
show credits if you are using ma-	Classes	Dave McGowan	KC3RAT 215-850-5846
terial from another source.		Dan Clementi	K3GMQ
Deadline for articles is the Satur-	Digital and APRS	Ron Wenig	NY3J 215-638-9257
day before the regular meeting.	Feedback Editor	Jim Elmore	WA4YWM215-538-1889
	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
For general club corre-	RF Interference	Bill Ballantine	K3FMQ 215-766-0764
spondence:	Repeater Coordinator		N3EXA 215-257-6303
WARMrcinfo@gmail.com	Safety Officer	Mike Malone	W3MJM 215-639-2175
	Station Trustee	George Brechmann	N3HBT 215-443-5656
	Good and Welfare	Regina Litman	KC3LRF
Visit our Home Page at:	Township Liason	George Brechmann	N3HBT 215-443-5656
http://www.k3dn.org	VE License Testing	Larry Abbott	WA3ELQ 215-704-3282
	VHF/UHF/MW Wabsita Coordinator	George Altemus	KA3WXV 215-855-3856 KC3FBY 215-815-7978
	Website Coordinator Youth Programs	Kally ACKEI	KC5FD1 215-015-7970
The annual dues rate	1 outil 1 logiallis		
structure is as follows:			
Full Member:\$25.00			
Student: \$ 7.50			
Alumni: \$12.50			
Are your dues cur-			
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