



FEEDBACK



Web Site k3dn.org

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

October 2024

Next Meeting October 3rd -

President's Message

Greetings everyone, as we start the fall season and prepare for the changing leaves, shorter days and cooler temperatures, we need your help.

- If you have any nominations for HOTY, please send them to WARMrinfo@gmail.com
- The holiday dinner will soon be upon us, we need volunteers to help with the planning, gauge interest, & are we happy with having at it BWSC.
- The Club Auction will be here before we know it (Feb 2025), we are looking for volunteers to start planning.
- If you are interested in participating in the Member Spotlight giving a short 15-minute talk or Feedback article on how you got into the hobby, your likes, what they do when they are not on the radio, etc. Please let us know.

Thanks Dave K3FTD

Warminster ARC General Meeting Minutes September 5, 2024

Call to order: 7:30 PM

Introductions: 39 in attendance

Minutes from last Meeting: Motion to approve and accepted

Committee Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Tom (K3PLA)
 - As reported
- Programs: Rich (KC3WNX) - [Dan Clementi \(K3GMQ\) - "An Introduction to Antenna Modeling"](#)
- Membership: Tony (W3FLH): No update since last meeting
- VE Testing – Larry (WA3ELQ): Next session will be September 30th
- Public Service: George (N3HBT):
- 9/20 – Golf Outing, as of today, event is covered
- 10/03 – Covered Bridge Ride. Contact Dean at KC3JXT@ARRL.NET
- License Classes: Dave (K3FTD)/Dan (K3GMQ)/Tony (N3YNH):
- Planning General Class in Oct, followed by a Technician Class.
- Other Free ARRL Courses (From a Phil-Mont post)
 - ARRL Courses: <https://learn.arrl.org/courses>
 - Technician Course: <https://learn.arrl.org/courses/35902>
 - General course: <https://learn.arrl.org/courses/36256>
 - Amateur Extra: <https://learn.arrl.org/courses/37720>
- Refreshments: Arlene (KA3PLA) – more donations encouraged.
- Repeater: Brian (N3EXA)
 - All is presently good and working as expected.
- Radio Sport: Irwin (KD3TB)
 - Contest season is Sept – Oct. Check out ContestCalendar.com

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- Hamfest: Tony (W3FLH) – Looking for future Chair, next year’s date is 5/4/2025.
- Field day: Herb (KB3VMN) – looking for new location for 2025. Possibly Warminster Community Park.
- Club Station Status: George (N3HBT)
Up and running but facility is not usable due to ceiling issue.

- Old Business
 - Clean up on hold until the Center fixes the ceiling.
 - ARRL Grant – Herb (KB3VMN)

- New Business
 - Ham Of The Year – Please send any nominations to WARMrcinfo@gmail.com
 - Holiday Dinner – Kathy KC3FBY has agreed to coordinate this event.

- Club Auction - Need volunteers to start planning the club auction (Feb 2025) preferably a non-board member
- Fund raising- Discussion to obtain a DX Engineering gift card for \$500 to raffle off. Limited to 50 tickets, and initially limited it to club members. The drawing was held at the holiday dinner. Members present were in agreement and voted to proceed.
- Member Spotlight - Completely voluntary, members give a short 15-minute talk or Feedback article on how you got into the hobby, what their likes, etc. are and what they do when they are not on the radio.
- Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 PM

Presentation - Dan Clementi (K3GMQ) - “An Introduction to Antenna Modeling”

ARRL Announces Partnership with Grouper

“This partnership allows us to connect more people who share a passion for amateur radio...”

NEWINGTON, CT – ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® is pleased to announce a partnership with Grouper, the national leader in activity benefit administration. The collaboration between ARRL and Grouper aims to enhance the health of ARRL members by providing access to benefits that support staying active and engaged.

READ PRESS RELEASE (PDF)

Guided by its mission of encouraging healthy living through meaningful social connections, Grouper connects its members to benefits that cover costs associated with group activities. By joining Grouper and staying connected through amateur radio, ARRL members who are 65+ and have participating Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plans can unlock the activity benefit offered by these plans and receive a check in the mail to support their membership dues.

“Grouper is thrilled to help support ARRL members by offering access to an activity benefit that encourages social connection,” said Doug Wenners, Grouper’s Chief Executive Officer. “This partnership is a natural fit because both organizations understand that social connection builds relationships, encourages involvement, and enhances our communities.”

Grouper supports ARRL members who are eligible for the activity benefit by helping to offset membership dues and the participation costs associated with their amateur radio activities. Members are then encouraged to remain active so they can receive ongoing activity benefits.

“ARRL is excited to partner with Grouper to expand opportunities for connection and learning within our community,” said ARRL Membership Manager Marc Spardello, W1NJ. “This partnership allows us to connect more people who share a passion for amateur radio through ARRL membership and ARRL Affiliated Clubs. We’ll also reach other Grouper members, inviting them to explore radio communications through ARRL and our engaged community of members.”

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ARRL Members: Check Your Eligibility for Grouper!

To find out if you qualify for the activity benefit administered by Grouper and to join the social fitness movement, visit <https://helloworldgrouper.com/arrl>.

About Grouper

Grouper partners with health plans that offer their members activity benefits. Grouper helps you connect to social activities that match your passions. As you stay socially active and participate in qualifying in-person activities with your group, Grouper works with your health plan to support the cost of your membership dues and make other benefits available to you related to your social activity. For more information about Grouper, please visit <https://helloworldgrouper.com>. *“This partnership allows us to connect more people who share a passion for amateur radio...”*

ARRL Defends 902-928 Amateur Radio Band

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 902 — 928 MHz Amateur Radio Band

ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® has filed comments [PDF] with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging that the 902 – 928 MHz amateur radio band be protected. ARRL joins hundreds of licensed radio amateurs who utilize the band in opposing a proposal from NextNav Inc., a licensee in the 900-MHz Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), to completely reconfigure the 902 – 928 MHz band and replace the LMS with high-powered 5G cellular and related location services.



Read more about NextNav’s proposal on ARRL News (8/15/2024)

ARRL’s comments, filed by our Washington, D.C. Counsel on behalf of ARRL members and radio amateurs, point out several problems with NextNav’s request.

“Contrary to NextNav’s assertions, the band is extremely crowded with millions of devices and transmitters in operation in multiple services, including the Amateur Service. Adoption of the proposal would result in either massive interference that would prevent proper operation or displacement to other bands. The difficulty is that there are no other bands known to be available, and in fact, some of the Amateur operations in this band are here because they were displaced when a portion of the 420 – 450 MHz band North of “Line A” was closed to the Amateur Service some years ago. Others were displaced from the same band when new Federal Government defense radars were initiated and continued Amateur secondary operations would have interfered with their operation.”

Pushing amateur radio out of heavily used spectrum is a risk to public service, ARRL argues in the comments.

“When space can be found in this band, Amateurs employ it to establish wide-area voice and some television signal repeaters. Others are actively experimenting with digital mesh networks and associated control links. These networks are a testbed for digital design and experimentation, but also are available and used for back-up emergency communications purposes. Still others operate low power beacons for propagation research. Weak signal work – tuning and experimenting to communicate over the longest paths with the least power – also is popular and leads to improvements in equipment.”

Mesh networks are becoming increasingly useful in emergency communications. Just this past week, the ARRL Utah Section announced that dozens of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers are working to expand the mesh network around the state. “The needs of participating agencies have evolved to require more than analog voice and low-speed data modes,” said ARRL Utah Section Public Information Coordinator Scott Rosenbush, K7HSR. “High-speed mesh networks using AREDN® [Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network] software will allow amateur radio to play a larger role in supporting these agencies in emergencies.” The ARRL Utah Section already has a five-county mesh network in place. The proposal from NextNav make it more difficult to operate networks like this one.

“Under NextNav’s proposal, the much higher-powered transmitters would be ubiquitous and operating 24/7. The resulting interference would effectively exclude many of the current Amateur operations that are operating in the 902-928 MHz band.”

The FCC docket remains open for reply comments from the public until September 20, 2024. As of September 6, over 800 comments have been filed by Amateurs and others who use this spectrum.

The comments can be viewed at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ypxh583p>.

(Continued on page 4)

[Click here for an ARRL Guide to Filing Comments with FCC.](#)

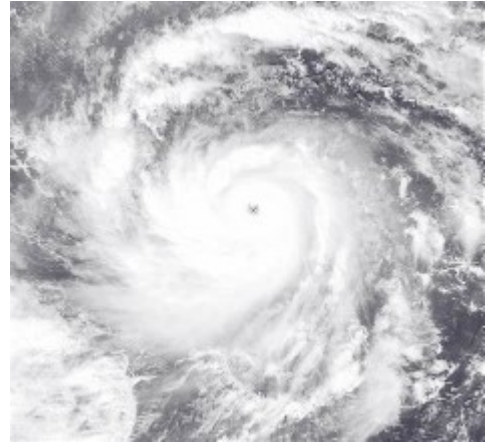
ARRL will continue to defend amateur access to this and other threatened amateur allocations.

Courtesy ARRL Newsletter

Hams Respond as Hawaii Threatened by Three Major Storms

In late August, Hawaii's big island was threatened by three major tropical storms and amateur radio operators were prepared to assist as the threat grew more intense. Russell Roberts, KH6JRM, Public Information Officer, Hawaii County, ARRL Pacific Section, said that beginning August 23, storm watches and warnings were being issued for tropical storms Hone, Gilma, and Hector, all churning off the island's southern coast.

By August 31 and September 1, Hone had become a Category 1 hurricane with winds over 75 miles per hour (MPH), occasional gusts to 100 MPH and heavy rain. Gilma was next as a Category 1, but later intensified to a Category 3 hurricane, dropping 28 inches of rain which flooded roads, along with high winds that brought down trees, power and communications lines.



Hurricane Hone 2024 [Photo courtesy of the National Hurricane Center]

“We had 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) operators on the net for about 24 hours beginning August 30 and they handled 41 contacts,” said Roberts. “Some repeaters were out of fuel, so we switched to HF to pass traffic and assess the damage.”

The storms never made landfall and while there were no fatalities or injuries, the damage was severe. Nearly 30,000 residents were affected. Power is still out for over 200 customers, cleanup and road repair are active.

“We were very fortunate,” said Roberts. “There was concern a fire warning would need to be issued for several parts of the island. But the approaching weather brought rain and lowered temperatures.”

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.

ARRL Systems Service Disruption

Updated 9/25/24

Two major systems that have not been returned to service include DXCC and our accounting system. Most other systems have returned to full service, and we are working to clean up the stragglers.

DXCC® System

Our DXCC software was written some 20 years ago. Although an attempt was made 8 years ago to reprogram it to function in a newer environment, that effort was unsuccessful, so the old system remains running today. The complication with bringing it back to service is that it runs on an older version of Windows that is not supported, and more importantly, we cannot purchase adequate protection to return it to service on an internet-based network.

We have created an air-gapped network to run the system on and have it operating in a test, using a different method for connecting it to Logbook of The World® and online DXCC -- the web service that runs the online DXCC application. This configuration is being tested and we expect it can go into production soon. We will work to process the backlog as quickly as possible.

New DXCC?

There were statements made by an ARRL Director about work on a new DXCC system. That is not factual. While we have ideas for merging DXCC and LoTW® into a single ARRL Radiosport platform, this concept has not been fully spec'd out or put into development.

ARRL Financials

The system we use for accounting was hit hard by the cyber-attack. Currently, the system is fully operational and the ARRL Foundation books are in place. ARRL's corporate books are current as of 6/30/23, and we are working to load the balance of the data through 12/31/23. Once we are certain that the books tie to the audited 2023 financials, we will move to load the 2024 transactions, which are in digital and paper formats. That will take some time, but we will have all the data current in time for the 2025 Annual Meeting and the annual audit.

Backups

Another statement made was about ARRL's backups of our IT environment. There was an effort last year to move all of our backups into the cloud. That was completed mid-2023. There was a routine discipline of backups that went through mid-May 2024 when the cyber attack occurred. Unfortunately, the entire cloud infrastructure was penetrated, and all of the environments were deleted. Not encrypted. This caused us to revert to other backups that had been made and stored in other places. As a result, we were largely able to continue all of our major services especially publishing our 4 magazines and keeping book projects, like ARRL Handbook 101, on schedule.

Today, ARRL is using a proprietary system to backup systems and data locally and to the cloud. We are also continuing to use air gapped, off-site backups in specific areas and are expanding that for disaster recovery purposes. The new IT environment is currently being rolled out, so the assertion that there is something wrong or staff are incompetent is not factual.

We appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

2024 Contest Calendar

October

19-20 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday

21-25 [School Club Roundup](#)

1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday

26-27 [CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB](#)

0000Z, Oct 26 to 2359Z, Oct 27

November

2-4 [Nov Sweepstakes-CW](#)

2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday

QSO Parties

California 1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6

Nevada 0300Z, Oct 12 to 2100Z, Oct 13

Arizona 1500Z, Oct 12 to 0500Z, Oct 13

**Pennsylvania 1600Z, Oct 12 to 0400Z, Oct 13
1300Z-2200Z, Oct 13**

South Dakota 1800Z, Oct 12 to 1800Z, Oct 13

New York 1400Z, Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20

Illinois 1700Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21

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 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

➤ 2024



October 6 - [CARA Fest 2024](#)

Howard County Fairgrounds 221 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794

<http://www.carafest.org>

October 20 - [RF Hill Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2.0](#)

Upper County Campus of the Bucks County Community College

1 Hillendale Rd. (Use Blooming Glen Rd. entrance 40° 22'57.2"N 75°16'26.3"W)

Perkasie, PA 18944

<http://www.rfhillarc.club>

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."

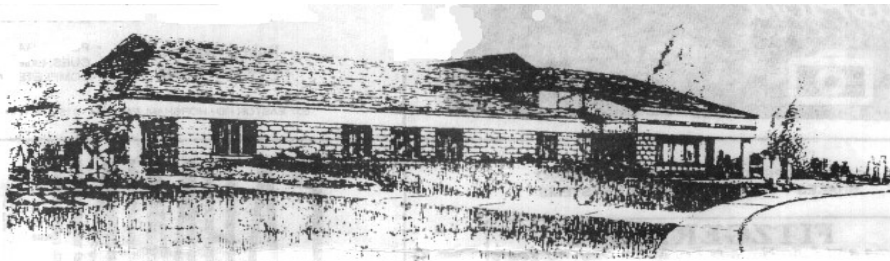
ATTENTION MEMBERS

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

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

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 Bueggers
- 147.030 Phil-Mont
- 147.090 Warminster
- 147.270 Frankford
- 147.300 BEARS
- 147.390 CBRA

220

- 224.580 PackRats
- 223.76 K3NAL

UHF

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

D-STAR

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

6 Mtr

- 53.030 WA3BXW
- 53.230 N3DQZ
- 53.320 K3MFI

*The Warminster Amateur Radio Club
Announces Free Ham Radio Instructional Classes*



If you're interested in Ham Radio, or think you might be, this is your opportunity. Perhaps you'd like to learn about digital communications, 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.

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 ?

2024 Officers

Executive Officers

President	Dave McGowan	K3FTD	215-850-5846
Vice-President	Rich Parker	KC3WNX	215-913-1860
Secretary	Tony Simek	N3YNH	215-796-0336
Treasurer	Tom Newman	K3PLA	215-630-5965
Director (A)	Doug Becker	KC3MNQ	215-932-1370
Director (E)	Herb Hickmott	KB3VMN	
Director (A)	Bruce Farrington	WA3ZPC	215-262-4215
Director (E)	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Past President	Ray Oechslin	KA3TRU	267-269-3198

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	267-337-0392
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			