



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
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December 2006



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The *Blurb* is published monthly
by, and for, the

members of **The PHIL-MONT
MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.**

whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and
Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a
credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio
clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to
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Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the
Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month
(except during July and August) at

Northeast High School,

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC
wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M.**
Sharp! Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q 215 482 0386 (for
the latest information.

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For club information: contact any club officer, or the
repeaters listed below. Address or club directory
changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail
list should be sent to: **wb3koj@comcast.net**

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-**
holiday Wednesday of every month except
July and August at

The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill

801 Ridge Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA 19444-1799

All visitors are welcome!

Club Stations

W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA – **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz ➡ 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

W3AA -Trustee: WU3I

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

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Committees

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Awards: open

Blurb folding:

WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Directory:WB3KOJ

DX: N3MT

Emerg.Coord.: K3HVE

Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS

Membership: N3XKE

Net Control: KB3IV

Publicity: W3RM

Program: Club VP

Public Service: KE3QB

Refreshments: W3AOK

Repeater: W3AOK

Skywarn: WX3PHI

Sunshine: N3GLU

Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS

VE Program: ND3Q

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

Welcome: K3CJ.

December 12, 1949

When we lose long-time PMRC members, I'm at a disadvantage as Blurb editor in not having been with the club for as many years as some of the more senior Phil-Monters.

But in the task that I undertake here, I am truly humbled. Jim was a founding member of Phil-Mont and served the club for nearly six decades. Every club member, and probably every ham in the Delaware Valley-past and present-knew Jim and his fine work.

I have done my best here, not to do justice to his contributions -- who could do that in a dozen pages? -- but perhaps to present just a flavor of his many accomplishments.

We shall miss you, Jim. Thanks.

-de K3XS

The first regular meeting of the Phil*Mont Mobile Radio Club was called to order by Roy Hauser, W3PMD at 2020.

A list of those present showed the following:

W3PMD	Roy Hauser
W3AAG	Dick Dickenson
W3OQI	Bill Krewson
W3PXY	Geo King
W3GEX	Joe Eckert
W3UQM	Chat Ratacki
W3MXP	Chas Van Dyke
W3KCG	Bruce Williams
	Jim Spencer



Jim Spencer using a field strength meter in Fairmount Park

"By their fruits shall ye know them..."

Clinton R. "Jim" Spencer Jr.

1923-2006

W3BBB/W3QQH SK

PMRC founding member and ex-President

Engineer - Craftsman - Mentor - Friend



The club in 1956, after the state recognized their service during the Hurricane Diane emergency by issuing what we believe to be the first amateur radio callsign license plates in Pennsylvania. Note Jim Spencer in the far right of the back row.



One of Jim's early 10m AM mobile installations

The following is based on a biography distributed at Jim's memorial service, produced by Jim's children: Rick, Duane and Jayne. Errors or omissions are mine
-K3XS

Clinton R. (Jim) Spencer, Jr was born December 27, 1923 in Abington PA. He was the son of Clinton R, Sr. and Ellen (Strode) Spencer. He graduated from Abingdon High School in 1941 and served in the Army Signal Corps, from December 1942 to December 1945 as a telephone repair man in the 101st Signal Battalion. Jim began in Cape Crowder, Missouri, and spent time in Hawaii, with service in the Phillipines, Okinawa and Korea before returning to the states. Jim took over his father's building and maintenance business in 1946.

Jim was introduced to Elaine Keyser by their respective fathers, who served together in World War I. They married on February 26, 1949, and lived in an apartment in Glenside until Jim built their home on Central Avenue in North Hills. Thier first son, Rick (N3FD) was born in



Jim and the W3QQH station appear in the club's 1956 movie, "Every Single Minute"

December 1951. Jayne arrived in February 1955, and Duane in September 1957. They lived in North Hills for 31 years. In 1983, they relocated to Lansdale, and remained there until 2005, when they entered the Telford Lutheran Community. Jim has three grandchildren: Keri, Christopher and Daniel.

Jim was self-employed as a building and maintenance contractor. He worked primarily doing additions and renovations to existing structures. He build three single homes other than his North Hills home, the WFLN radio station, several microwave relay facilities for a large communications company,



One incarnation of the W3RQZ mobile communications center, this one a converted bookmobile. That's Jim at the wheel.



Jim inside the "Mocom". An amazingly complete mobile communications center.

and a warehouse facility for a candy manufacturer. He continued to work part-time through his sixties until he finally retired in 1994.

Jim became a member of the Edge Hill Fire Company, where he served as Captain of the Fire Police for 25 years. He was a Life Member of that organization.

Jim was a Charter Member of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. He was part of the select group that founded the club in 1949, and Jim got his Class B Amateur Radio Licence (W3QQH) in 1950. He acquired an additional Advanced class licence, W3BBB, in 1955, which was ultimately upgraded to Amateur Extra class. Jim's expertise in building construction and electronics gave him the tools necessary to build no less than five mobile communications vehicles,

three educational amateur radio stations at the Franklin Institute Science Museum, and several radio repeater facilities. These projects helped enhance Amateur radio as a hobby and significantly improved emergency communications facilities in the Philadelphia area. Jim's guiding presence was felt by many members of the radio club.

[Your Blurb editor was drawn to amateur radio specifically by the presence of the W3TKQ station Jim built in 1960.]

He donated countless hours to help others in pursuit of Amateur Radio. Jim was awarded the Grand Ole Ham award of the Atlantic Division of the Amateur Radio Relay League



Another view of the Mocom interior. Note the briefcase-sized 10m walkie-talkie at the far end of the operating desk. The walkie-talkie was also built by Jim. It was used for balloon-borne aeronautical mobile communications on several occasions, once yielding an article in the October 1959 QST by our own Robert Thomas (then W3QZO, now W3NE). Jim also operated W3QQH/M during these operations.



Jim's W3TKQ exhibit at the Franklin Institute Science Museum, 1960



The interior of W3TKQ. Telephone sets arranged around the exterior allowed crowds of museum visitors to listen in on station operations while plate glass kept the station transmissions clean -- important especially when the "Man-Made Lightning" demonstration in the same room was exploding chunks of wood by discharging arcs from huge capacitor banks through them!

in 1993, and dozens of other awards presented by the Phil-Mont club and other amateur radio organizations throughout his lifetime.

In 1975, Jim became a member of

the Lu Lu Country Club, where he discovered the joy of "chasing the little white ball". Elane and Jim played golf together regularly at Lu Lu, travelled extensively, playing in Hawaii, Arizona, Florida and



Jim doing antenna work on a telephone pole

South Carolina. They were thrilled to have the opportunity to travel to the United Kingdom and play golf where the game started in Scotland, then made a transatlantic return on the *Queen Elizabeth II*.

Jim's last round of golf was played with his wife and daughter, where he shot a marvelous round of 89 at age 80.

Jim was known by everyone as a quiet man, who treated others with compassion, love and respect. He was a calm, laid-back individual who rarely got upset about anything and never lost his temper, no matter how bad the situation looked. He lived his life every day by the words of the serenity prayer by his desk: "God grant me the strength to accept things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference".



W3QQH station sometime in the later 1950's. Note the meticulous craftsmanship and attention to detail, so characteristic of Jim's work. Also note that the Hammarlund HQ-192-X receiver and Hallicrafters HT-19 "Master Oscillator" (VFO HF exciter) (seen in our cover photo) are still in use.



The same W3QQH console, in 1987



W3BBB doing an interview on cable television before a broadcast of the PMRC-produced movie, "Every Single Minute"



W3TKQ (later W3AA) at its re-dedication in 1991, on the fourth floor of the Franklin Institute. It was equipped for multiple HF operations, VHF, slow-scan TV and ATV, amateur packet radio and satellite/space operations.



Jim Spencer

de WA3KLR Tom Bohlander
November 17, 2006

I grew up ¼ mile from the Spencer household in North Hills. I was at their house a lot, playing with Rick (now N3FD) after school and on Saturdays.

My earliest memory of Jim: When I was very small, about 3 years old, my father installed a fenced-in pen in our back yard for my brother and me. Jim helped to build it. The pen had a swinging gate and I remember trying to break out of the pen for the first time by climbing up on the gate. I went over the top and as I attempted to come down on the outside of the gate, my belt at the back of my pants became hooked on the top of the gate. I was stuck hanging at the top of gate right side up by the back of my pants. Jim happened to be there

and lifted me off of the gate.

Some memories at the W3QQH/W3BBB QTH, North Hills:

- The pipe smell, the table saw in the garage, the flashing red light when the power tools were on, co-located with a sign "Children stay out" of the garage.

- The wonderful junk pile out back with interesting electronics parts. Old radio chasses, and wood scraps galore of course.

His W.W. II Army service with wire communications – not much mentioned, but I remember a war story of witnessing a dogfight between a P-51 Mustang and a Japanese plane. He mentioned being in Korea also.

My first FCC Amateur test was for the Novice class license in 1968. It could not be taken at the FCC office in Philadelphia like the higher class of licenses, but had to be administered by mail with a local licensed Amateur. I wanted to surprise my father with my license. Jim volunteered to





Memories of Jim Spencer

In the latter part of 1978, a rag-tag band of newly hatched amateurs, fresh off the CB Bands, began invading the sanctuary known as '03.

Immediately a sense of hostility could be felt. The old cadre could not believe that a group, later to be named "The Dirty Dozen", would have the nerve to attempt to penetrate such an old line bastion.

They upstarts were raw, intolerant and unwise. The initial response was one of "who are these *kids*, and who needs them?"

Slowly, over time, and with the tutelage and extreme patience of Jim, both on and off the air, the group morphed into Phil-monters. Most went on to upper license ranks and many served as officers and committee chairpersons in what was a growing organization.

Were it not for Jim's encouragement and friendly attitude, I am sure most would have found other paths.

Today the few that are left in the area still fondly remember the help they received from "the ham of hams", Jim Spencer.

Rest well Jim, you, your many deeds and achievements will always remain a target that many will aim for, but few will ever achieve.

de WB3KOJ



The PMRC W3QV/R repeater system main site. Shelter building and repeater system by Jim Spencer.

administer to me the Novice test in secrecy. I passed the test and surprised my father (Paul W3VVS).

I remember as most Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club members – the hard work he did for the radio club for 55 years – including renovating our communications buses and vans, silver house trailer. Some had nicknames – The Red

truck, yellow peril (bus). The last was a white comm. van. They of course required a driver also, which he usually did. He built all of the repeater systems – racks and racks of equipment, requiring periodic maintenance.

He was an honest and hard-working man.



A moment's rest and reflection...



Jim's maintenance workbench at the W3QV/R main site

Belated Photo Credits:

The photo of W3RM and N3FD at Field Day on our October cover was taken by Chris Brady N3CB. The photo of W3BBB used in the bulletin included with the November Blurb was taken by Fred WA3KIO



236th Monthly Phil-Mont VE Exam Session Statistics for November 2, 2006

Two candidates took three elements, and we had one new amateur.

The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were :

Jim McCloskey NS3K
Jack Coupe Jr. WA3BXH
Ray Hefferman N3FH
Carol Hutkins K2BL
Bob Freer W3YLT

*VE Exam Session for
December is cancelled.*



December Birthdays

- 01 Eric Marano - N3QV
- 02 Don Gordon -WB3KOJ
Patricia Katz (XYL N3OWM)
- 08 Jules Stein - KB3AFH
- 10 David Spangler - W3DSS
- 12 Ed Titterton - KB3RN
- 15 Larry Sturgeon - W3LYS
- 19 Larry Stevenson - K3HWE
- 21 Rick Spencer - N3FD
- 23 Roy Newman - KC2FIO
- 24 Richard Devirgiliis - KB3JWK*
Marty Weinberg - WP4MSX
- 25 Jim McCloskey - NS3K
- 27 Mindy Pollack (XYL N3VLC)
- 28 Betty King (XYL W3PXY)

Membership Stats At press time

P.M.R.C. has:

- 91 Full paid members
- 8 Family members
- 1 Youth member (under 17)
- 1 Honorary members



Yet another of Jim's "Mocoms"; this one a converted school bus

The Prez Sez

*--de Ed KB3IV, PMRC
President*

*How fragile are we! Our origin,
dust our end, dust;*

*And while we live we imperil our
lives for our daily bread!*

Like an earthen vessel, we break;

Like a blade of grass, we wither;

Like a flower, we fade away;

Like a shadow, we flit away;

Like a cloud, we vanish;

*Like a breath of air, we are wafted
away;*

Like a mote of dust, we are blown away;

Like a dream, we are no more.

I know that this issue of the Blurb will be filled with many remembrances of Jim Spencer, so I just wanted to share a passage that is recited every year during the High Holy Days.



But Jim will always be with us every time we look at or turn on our radio. All of Us have benefited from his wise counsel, friendship and ongoing support.

Thank you, Jim.

Greetings, club members!

Here are the results of the nomination committee's efforts to produce an election ballot for the clubs 12/06 election of officers. The nominees are:

President	Ed KB3IV
Vice President	Bill W3AOK
Secretary	Ra N3FH
Treasurer	Dick W3RM
Directors (3)	Maggie K3XS
	Mike N3MT
	Al W3STW

(petition submitted and accepted by the BoD).

All of the nominees are uncontested and shall be elected with the cast of a single yea vote from the secretary at the 12/06 general meeting.

*-de Al W3STW
chair, nominating committee*

Don't forget:
 We will be hosting our
 Eleventh Annual
 "Ham Radio Auction-Fest"
 on Wednesday evening,
 January 10, 2007,
 at the Masonic Village
 7:00 p.m.

December 2006 with PMRC	
1 Fri	
2 Sat	
3 Sun	NCS-N3OWM
4 Mon	
5 Tue	
6 Wed	Board of Directors Meeting – WRDV
7 Thu	December VE exam cancelled
8 Fri	
9 Sat	
10 Sun	NCS-K3XS
11 Mon	
12 Tue	
13 Wed	General Mtg – Masonic Village (see p2)
14 Thu	
15 Fri	
16 Sat	
17 Sun	NCS-KB3IV
18 Mon	
19 Tue	
20 Wed	
21 Thu	
22 Fri	
23 Sat	
24 Sun	NCS-WB3KOJ
25 Mon	
26 Tue	
27 Wed	
28 Thu	
29 Fri	
30 Sat	
31 Sun	NCS-N3QV

First Class Mail

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The Blue