



The Blurb



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949*

Volume 75 Number 3

www.phil-mont.org



Winter Field Day 2024

Certificate of Participation

presented to Amateur Radio Station

W3EM

for their active and invaluable participation during the 2024 Winter Field Day Event. The WFDA, gratefully thanks you for your effort and recognizes your dedication to improving your operating skills, which may be crucial during an emergency event.

Contacts Logged: 95



Photo by Andrew Wells, KJ7OPR operating 10 in WY.

Marvin Turner

Marvin Turner, President
Winter Field Day Association

The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE... They never knowingly operate in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... They offer loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in their country, through which Amateur Radio in their country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... They keep their station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. Their operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY... They operate slowly and patiently when requested; offer friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... Their station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

Get the Net!

There's no ham radio without YOU!

Get on the air and share! Operate, cooperate, & celebrate ham radio!

Phil-Mont's Drive Time Net

Join us every Monday-Friday 1700 to 1800 ET on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

DENn-Digital Education Net for newbies

Every Tuesday 2000-2130 on our VHF repeater with Zoom back channel for video only. Watch our Groups.io for posts tagged #DENn for details.

Tinker Net

3rd Saturdays 0900-1030 ET in non-Radio-Labs Months on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

Philadelphia ARES

Sundays 8 PM ET on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink
OMIK Net Sat. 11am

CLUB REPEATERS

VHF: 147.030 MHz
(+offset 91.5 PL)

Bucks County and North PL 88.5
(147.030)

UHF: 444.80 MHz Yaesu System
Fusion WiresX
[ECHOLINK W3QV-R](#) &

[ALLSTAR 47970](#)

[EMAIL REPEATER COMMITTEE](#)

Phil-Mont Simplex Frequency
147.510MHz PL91.5 TSQ

CQ! CQ! CQ!



**Calling CQ for New
Net Control
Operators!**

[Click Here and Sign Up To-day! It's a Fun Way to Meet Our Members!](#)

Sunday Morning Nets

Three Nets on three bands, all in a Row!

Tune in on any or all for a Sunday morning 'Hello!'

0930 ET:

VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

1000 ET:

75 meter Net (3.993 MHz LSB +/-QRM)

1020 EDT:

10 meter Net (28.393 MHz USB +/-QRM)

MARCH Sunday Net Control Schedule

3/3/2024 W3UP

3/10/2024 WA3GM

3/17/2024 W3MHP

3/24/2024 KB3IV

3/31/2024 N3QV

Club Business

NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING:

Wednesday, March 13th
IN PERSON *ONLY*

Giant Supermarket 315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090

7PM Presentation - 6:30PM Start -
5:30PM Yack & Snack)

March Preso:
AA3E0 Satcom

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

KT3H Paul T Keener 3/1
KC3VDL Emmanoah Perez 3/1
KC3WHU Walt Mankowski 3/4
W3FRB Bill Hewitt 3/8
K3FZT Steve Davidson 3/9
KC3WGN Edward Greipp 3/11
KC3NVS James Walston Jr 3/29

*Want your Birthday read
on the Nets? Update your
info at hamclubonline.com*

New Club Members

Casey Stanton, KC3YHP, Technician

Mark Francis, KC3YKJ, General

Deirdre Hebert, AD2GQ, Extra



welcomes you!

Phil-Mont Membership Statistics

March 2024

Member Types Statistics: (Active Members)

REGULAR Membership	170
Honorary	4
Additional Family Member (EACH	11
Student Membership	3
Total	188

Philadelphia



ARES

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service are trained licensed amateur radio operators providing radio communications as a public service in disaster situations. All licensed operators are welcome to join. To learn more join our [Groups.io](https://www.groups.io/g/philares) and visit [PHLARES.org](https://www.phlares.org).

**Join the A.R.E.S.
Training Net**

**Every Sunday
evening at 2000
(8:00 PM)
147.030 MHz**

The Prez Sez...

Fellow Phil-Monters,

We are checking things off the list for 2024:

- Winter Field Day—In the books—Thanks K3NOP!
- Tinker Net—Projects shared—Thanks KC3SMW
- Fox Hunting presentation at the meeting—Beginning of a new club activity—Thanks K3CHJ!



What's Next? How about building your own handheld YAGI antenna for less than \$20? Signup and show up at the PMRC Labs on March 16th! Greg, KC3SMW will show you the way! Signup here to order your kit for the lab. <https://forms.gle/qo9tcFFgDUkzSjch9>

Then in April you'll put them to use when we kickoff POTA MANIA '24 .

Save the date!!

To celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we are going to have a banquet in place of our November General Meeting. November 9th, 2024 at the Veterans Home Association of Whitemarsh Valley 493 S. Bethlehem Pike Fort Washington, PA

More details to follow but looking forward to an epic celebration of our club.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP before it expires! If your membership expires, you'll have to pay the \$8.00 initiation fee again. Log in to hamclubonline.com and renew your membership. There's still about 30 members who have not done so. It's the best \$25 you'll spend in the hobby. While you're in there, if you're using an @arrl.net email, update it to your actual email address. Messages from hamclubonline are not getting forwarded to the ARRL email addresses. Also, make sure to update your skills. This includes ARRL membership, net control, etc. You must update your ARRL membership skill annually.

The Prez Sez...

This is the best hobby ever with unlimited possibilities. It is always there whether you play daily, weekly or monthly. We're all busy but have our club to keep us together through radio. So don't stress it and keep having fun playing radio. We play radio, that's what we do. Play, Break, Learn.

See you at the meeting.

73,

Rich, AA3RC

Remember, this is **YOUR HOBBY, YOUR Club, YOUR repeaters. USE them. MONITOR them. BE A REPEATER GREETER.**

Answer calls when you can.

Let's leave **NO CALL UNANSWERED.**

FAIL = First Attempt in Learning

"Ham I Am" - Member Spotlight

Name: Jack Harding Penns Grove, NJ KC3TIQ

First Licensed: January 11, 2022

I have been a member of PMRC since January 11, 2022 "2 Years"

Any positions or committee chairs you served:

Joined the Drive Time Net Control Team in April of 2022.

Summer of 2023 I participated in summer field day as the 40 Meter Band Captain and we achieved over 250 contacts it was rewarding to have so many club members jump on the radio or log contacts

Highlights of Shack:

My Shack includes a Yaesu FT 991A with a LDG AT-200 ProII Tuner and a Yaesu FTM 400DR

The antennas I chose were:

A Comet GP-6 for VHF/UHF

A Diamond A144S5 5 Element VHF Beam

A MFJ-1984LP EFHW 10-40 Meters

MY Antennas EFHW 8010LP 10-80 Meters

Mirage 100 Watt VHF Amplifier

Favorite Band and Mode: 40 Meters, Phone

How I first got interested/started in amateur radio: I was about 14 years old when I got my first CB Radio. At that time I began tinkering with electronics. At the age of 16 I bought a kit to descramble WHT a wireless subscription movie channel and assembled all the components successfully. I then proceeded to count binary on phase lock loop "PLL Chips in you guessed it... CB radios. Why you ask to add additional frequencies for Shooting Skip "DX". Ok those who are cringing can stop now, LoL. An Elmer introduced me to HAM Radio in 1982 but life got in the way. Marriage and kids came along. Fast forward to 2022 when I passed my Tech and General. I Then passed amateur extra in April of 2022, I'm most active on VHF/UHF and C4FM. When I get spare time working HF and hunting POTA is fun!

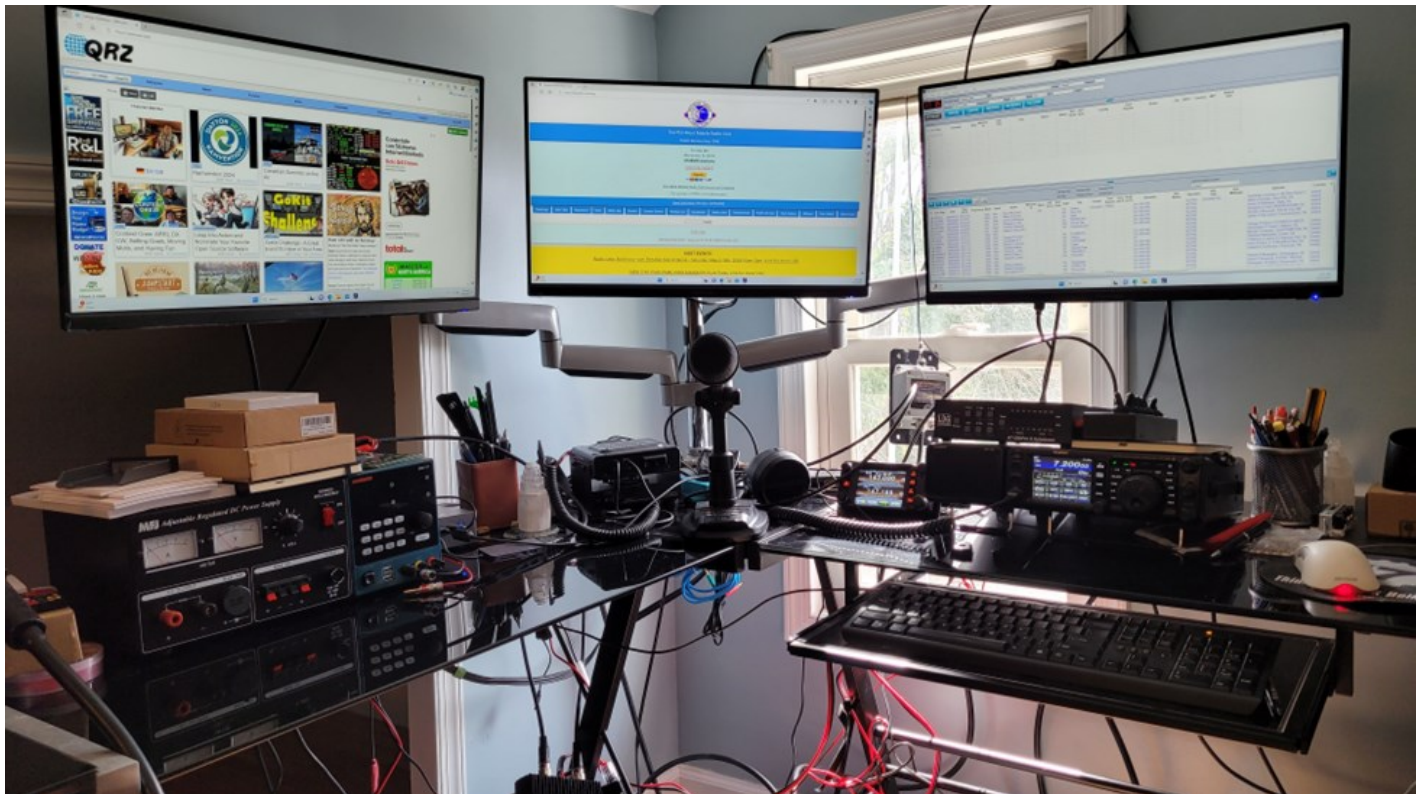
Interesting facts: I took basic electricity as my shop class in high school. Worked in the graphic arts industry for over 25 years. Went to night school at the Information Computer Systems Institute and received my CompTIA A+ certification as well as the Microsoft Computer Systems Engineer MCSE Certification. I have built and installed Exchange and SQL Servers, VOIP Phone Systems, Configured and managed Networks. My hobbies include Fishing, Drones and HAM Radio

What I like most about PMRC: Well to start with the PMRC repeater was the first to be programmed into my Baofeng and the drive time net was my first experience on 2 Meters FM. While listening to the repeater I was impressed with how helpful, friendly and how active the club was!

My latest interest: Recently I decided to get a weather station. Which was fun until the array was blown down in the high winds we had a while back. Replacement array is coming soon.

"Ham I Am" - Member Spotlight

This picture is something I'll never Forget. The things Jim Fisher AJ3DI SK would do to make events more memorable. He Crowned me Heat Miser for reaching over 1,000 contacts on WinterHeat. I laughed so hard I cried. It truly was a happy moment and made winter field day so very special.



Upcoming Club Events

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Presents: **PMRC LABS! March 16th, 10 am – 2 pm**

Join us at the Giant Community Center in Willow Grove for an exciting Radiolabs event on March 16th!

Agenda:

- 10:00 AM: Set up and mingle during our Yack and Snack session
- 11:00 AM: Dive into the Lab - Let's build a Handheld Yagi Antenna
 - 1:30 PM: Wind down and Clean up

Build Your Own Handheld Yagi Antenna: Ever wanted a portable handheld yagi antenna for your HT? This is your chance! We will be building the "Tape Measure" Yagi. All parts will be pre-cut and sorted for the lab. Secure your spot by signing up and purchasing the Yagi kit before March 2nd.

What You Need:

- Bring your own BNC female to SMA cable suitable for your HT
- Consider getting an optional attenuator for foxhunts (available for purchase <https://www.byonics.com/attenuators>)

Yagi Antenna Kit Purchase: \$16.00

Signup here to order your kit. <https://forms.gle/qo9tcFFgDUkzSjch9>

Payment instructions will be sent to your email.

Discover the World of VHF Handheld Yagi Antennas:

Learn about the specialized 2-meter VHF handheld Yagi antenna designed for the 144-148 MHz frequency range. These antennas are essential for fox hunting, direction finding, and even satellite communication within the amateur radio community. Portable, collapsible, and foldable, these antennas offer directional precision and versatility for various applications.

Explore Beyond Fox Hunting:

While perfect for terrestrial fox hunting, these antennas also find application in satellite communication. Ham radio operators can align them with passing satellites, enhancing communication with orbiting amateur radio satellites.

Uncover the Science:

Understand the intricacies of Yagi antennas, from the driven element to the reflector and directors, and how these elements significantly impact performance characteristics.

Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the world of Yagi antennas!
Secure your spot today and get ready to build your very own handheld masterpiece.

See you there!!!!

--

Greg KC3SMW

Upcoming Club Events

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Presents: **PMRC POTA-MANIA 2024**

Join us for an exciting series of park radio events from April to October, showcasing the beauty of Fort Washington State Park and the joy of amateur radio!

Event Schedule: Mark your calendar!

April 13: 8:00 AM onwards— Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

May 11: 8:00 AM onwards— Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

June 22-23: FIELD DAY—Location: Fort Washington State Park Campsites A—C

July 13: 8:00 AM onwards— Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

August: 17-18—International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend (Details to come)

September 14: 8:00 AM onwards—Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

October 19-20: OKTPOTA FEST—Location: Fort Washington State Park Campsite B

Activities:

Picnic in the Park with Radio: Bring food, enjoy a picnic, and share radio enthusiasm with fellow hams. Test your equipment, see how others do POTA, try a new setup, HAVE FUN.

Park Activation: Activate the park individually or join forces with the club to showcase your radio skills and equipment.

Foxhunt: Challenge your foxhunting skills and have a blast locating a hidden transmitter within the park.

Anything ham radio goes, the limit is only your imagination.

Experience the Magic:

POTA-MANIA 2024 is a celebration of amateur radio and the great outdoors. Whether you're an experienced operator or completely new to POTA or ham radio, all are welcome! Come and see what it's all about, get on the air, and most importantly, have fun!

Don't miss out on the chance to combine radio fun with a beautiful natural setting. Let's make each event memorable and a source of camaraderie among radio lovers.

Note: Fort Washington is a carry-in / carry-out park. Please be sure to police your trash and take it with you.

Upcoming ARES Event

Pennsylvania Selected for National Mass Care Exercise

Each year FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) selects one state to conduct the National Mass Care Exercise. In 2024 Pennsylvania has been selected. FEMA and PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency) are working together to make this statewide exercise a success. They will be opening a state-run shelter in Shippensburg, PA on May 21st. In order to make this exercise as realistic as possible PEMA has reached out to The American Red Cross to participate. In PA, there are 2 Red Cross organizational regions. SEPA (South East PA) comprises Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. GPA (Greater PA) comprises the rest of the state.

Pennsylvania Red Cross has elected to expand on the NMCE to further drill and educate its volunteers and staff. The weekend before the state-run shelter (May 18/19) Red Cross is holding a Disaster Training Institute in Shippensburg called "Ship Shape". Ship Shape will involve two days of classes for Red Cross staff and volunteers on a variety of subjects aimed at increasing readiness for, response to, and recovery from disasters.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania Red Cross has decided to hold an expanded sheltering exercise on May 22nd. which will include the demonstration of emergency communications abilities. The SEPA and GPA Emcomm teams along with EPA and WPA ARES are collaborating on a series of exercises and drills leading up to and including the main exercise.

Some portion of these exercises will take place on local repeaters (including the W3QV repeater). Other portions will involve HF and digital communications. The idea is to test and demonstrate all forms of communication that the emergency communications teams are capable of using and fall within their Standard Operating Procedures. These exercises will also introduce PA hams to the newly opened Red Cross Emcomm Stations (RCES) located in each of the Red Cross Pennsylvania Disaster Response Areas.

While some elements of the exercise will be directed at Red Cross EmComm members, others will be open to all members of the PA ham community.

The dates of the upcoming exercises are:

March 16, 1-4pm – RCES check in by PA hams via local repeaters.

April 6 – The Spring ARES Simulated Emergency Test

May 4 – Emergency Communications Exercise Dry Run

May 22 – National Mass Care/Red Cross Exercise – ARC Shelter Messaging

The details and times of these events will continue to develop and be announced ahead of time. One feature of the NMCE on May 22nd is to not know the details of the exercise. It is to develop as a real disaster would. But mark your calendars that there will be something happening that day!

If you would like to be involved with any portion of the NMCE contact:

SEPA Region: Cliff Hotchkiss cliff.hotchkiss@redcross.org

GPA Region: Dave Herzog dave.herzog@redcross.org

Winter Field Day

Great job to all who participated!

From our Field Day Captain, Charlie, K3NOP

Thank you to everyone who came out for Winter Field Day 2024 at Nockamixon State Park! I am pleased to report our final results. We made 75 phone QSOs and 15 CW QSOs on four bands, for a total of 525 points. The club also received a certificate for our participation in the event.

Thank you to everyone who came out, and I look forward to next year's field day!



Winter Field Day



Upcoming Club Events

Won't You Join Us...

in ***The DENn!***

Phil-Mont's *Digital Education Net for newbies!*

Tuesday Evenings @8:00pm

W3QV Repeater: 147.030 MHz + 91.5

Allstar Node: 47970 Echolink: W3QV-R

Don't let the name fool you!

All are welcomed to join us and play. It doesn't matter if you are new to Ham Radio, new to digital modes, or are an already experienced ham and digital operator.

We are here to play, learn, and test our equipment.

With the digital modes if you can do it on the repeater you can do it pretty much everywhere, *including HF.*

*So come on out, test your setup, and **HAVE SOME FUN!***

NET CONTROLS KC3SMW, Greg—NY3J, Ron—W3ZO, Rob

Upcoming DENn Topics

- ♦ 3/5/24—FLMsg
- ♦ 3/12/24—FLAmp
- ♦ 3/19/24—Simulated NBEMS Net with Traffic

Upcoming Hamfests

03/09/2024 - [WEARS-FEST](#)

Location: Greensburg, PA

Sponsor: Westmoreland Emergency Amateur Radio Service Inc.

Website: <http://wc3ps.org>

03/16/2024 - [Fredfest '24](#)

Location: Frederick, MD

Sponsor: Frederick Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://frederickarc.org>



N3ZP's Contest Corner

Here are some of the contests and special events coming up in March, a busy contesting month with plenty of on-the-air activity. March starts and ends with big ones and also has some state QSO parties too.

Mar. 1 - Mar 3

ARRL International DX Contest, SSB - 0000Z Mar. 2 - 2400Z Mar. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Worldwide. Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. U.S. and Canadian stations work worldwide DX stations. A great to chance work DX on SSB. There will be lots of DX stations seeking US stations. Add to your DXCC count and work DX on every band. 10 Meters in particular has had great propagation and every license class can be on it. This is a huge contest and the band will be hopping. Try out your HF phone skills.

Mar. 9 - Mar 11

South America 10 Meter Contest. 1200Z Mar. 9 - 1200Z Mar. 10. SSB, CW. Worldwide. Rules; <http://sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules/>. To encourage worldwide activity on 10 Meters with emphasis on South American stations. 10 Meters is a great band for working South America. Another chance to take advantage of current propagation.

Stew Perry Topband Challenge. 1500Z Mar. 9 - 1500Z Mar.10. 160 Meters. CW. Worldwide. Rules:<http://www.kkn.net/stew/>. A contest to encourage operation on 160 Meters with points based on distance between stations. A simpler contest sometimes described as "a boy and his radio". If you can get your antenna to tune 160 you can work a lot of stations before warmer weather raises noise levels on 160.

Oklahoma QSO Party. 1500Z Mar. 9 - 0200Z Mar. 10 and 1500Z Mar. 10 - 2100Z Mar. 10. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 Meters. SSB, CW, Digital (no FT8). Rules:<http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm>. Described as "OKQP for the fun of it". Another chance to pickup a new state for your Worked All States. No FT8 but PSK is allowed, so look for those digital stations to try your DENN skills.

Idaho QSO Party. 1900Z Mar. 9 - 1900Z Mar. 10. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters, SSB, CW, Digital (no FT8). Rules:<https://www.idahoqsoparty.org/>. Idaho is rarer state on the air. It was the last state I need for WAS on phone. I got what I needed in this contest. Pick up that elusive ID QSO

Wisconsin QSO Party. 1800Z Mar. 10 - 0100Z Mar.11. All bands except WARC. SSB, CW, Digital (no FT8). Rules: <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>. Another state QSO party for your WAS total.

Mar. 16 - Mar. 18

Russian DX Contest. 1200Z Mar. 16 - 1200Z Mar.17. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. SSB, CW, Worldwide. Rules: <http://www.rdx.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp>. Russia has a huge ham population and they will be active, many with huge signals and excellent operators.

Virginia QSO Party. 1200Z Mar. 16 - 0400Z Mar.17, 1200Z - 2400Z Mar.17. All bands except WARC. CW, SSB, Digital (including FT8/FT4). Rules:https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2024_VQP/2024_VQP_Main.html. A chance to pickup another state even on 6 or 2 Meters. Look for FT8 and FT4 activity in this one.

Mar. 23 - Mar. 24

North American SSB Sprint Contest. 0000Z - 0400Z Mar. 24. 80, 40 and 20 Meters. Worldwide. Rules:<http://ssbsprint.com/rules/>. Focused on North American stations. A quick sprint to pickup some new states, provinces or countries.

Mar. 30 - Mar.31

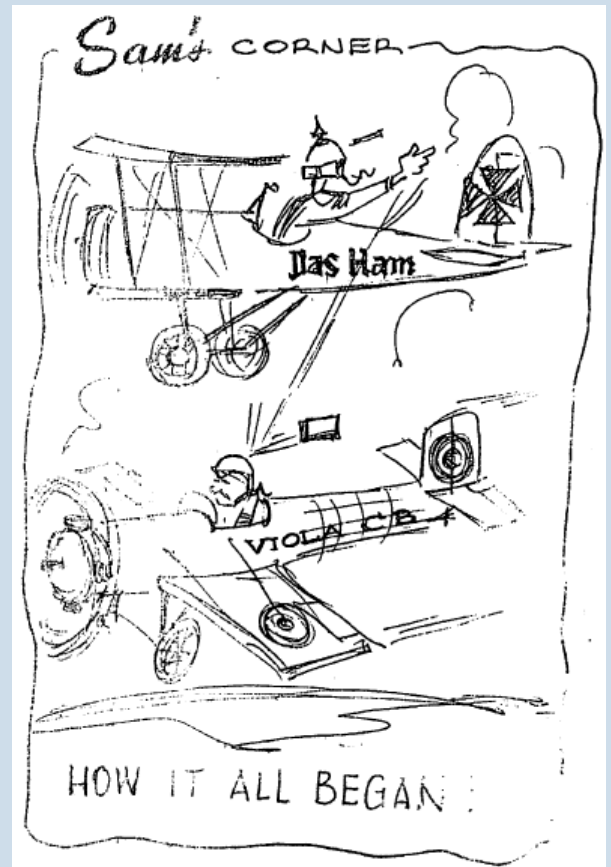
CQ World-Wide WPX Contest, SSB. 0000Z Mar. 30 - 2359Z Mar. 31. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Worldwide. Rules:<https://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>. Work everyone on HF bands. A big contest with lots of activity. The phone bands will be busy and they need you in the log. Also, look for that 10 Meter DX.

This is just a sample of March activity. Feel free to contact me with questions, recommendations or advice on working contests.

Contact Phil N3ZP on the groups.io for contesting and contest logging information. Use the hashtag #contest

From the PMRC Archive...

Here are some highlights from this month in Blurb history, March 1964...



The Philadelphia Inquirer recently devoted quite a bit of space to the Delaware County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC). Much of the material centered around Ralph Garrick, W3FLP, a Philmonter, better known as "Radio Ralph". The article clearly stated the organization, aims and usefulness of Corps. An excellent article and good publicity for hams in general and the Delaware County ARPSC in particular.

What goes around comes around.....50 years later!!! See any similarities to the 2024 plans???

For the first time in a long while, Phil-Mont will hold a **TRANSMITTER HUNT**! The date is April 5, and the secret stuff is under the direction of **K3DJE**, Bob Diefenderfer.

Our Technical Staff informs me that the April **BLURB** will feature ideas and information useful in the construction of transmitter hunting equipment. (Ed.)

The Last Page



The Blurb wants to hear from **YOU!**

Got a hot lead on antenna design? Soldering up a special circuit? Digging some new DSP? Reminiscing about some retro receivers? Maybe you have some goodies for sale?

Click the big blue envelope

PMRC Officers for 2024

Officers

President: AA3RC Rich

V. President: KC3SMW Greg

Treasurer: Jim NS3K

Secretary: Dave K3DFG

Board of Directors

KC3GJX Jeff (25)

KC3SSG Dil (24)

K3NOP Charlie (25) N3PEG Peg (24)

KC3UDZ Muggs (25) N3ZP Phil (24)

W3AOK Bill (A)

Blurb Editors:

Daniel Wagaman - W4GMN, Editor Emeritus

Steve Davidson—K3FZT

Jim McCusker—K3YO

Richard Roth—AA3RC



Club Email List