



# The Blurbs



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

Volume 75 Number 4

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

## PMRC Labs Success! Antennas Built, Antennas Working!



## 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 Today! 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)

## **April** Sunday Net Control Schedule

**4/7/2024 W3AFV**

**4/14/2024 KB3SJS**

**4/21/2024 W3UP**

**4/28/2024 WA3GM**

# Club Business

## NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING:

Wednesday, April 10th  
IN PERSON \*ONLY\*

Giant Supermarket 315 York Rd.  
Willow Grove, PA 19090

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

April Preso:

**POTA**

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

KC3DRE	Mark G Thomas	4/1
KC2PMW	Andrew J Furlong	4/6
K3HIJ	Michael Elmaleh	4/10
N3BKR	Kent D Simmons	4/15
K3NOP	Charlie Bricker	4/17
WB3BPI	Brad King	4/21
K3YO	Jim McCusker	4/26
NG3P	Gwen Patton	4/28
WB3JAC	John A Cunnion	4/29
K3ZMJ	Juergen A Kaufmann	4/30

*Want your Birthday read on the Nets?  
Update your info at [hamclubonline.com](http://hamclubonline.com)*

## New Club Members

**Nicholas Wambold, N3SMC, Technician**

**Philip Maniscalco, KC3YMF, Technician**

**Christopher Baker, K0BUF, General**

**Michael Treacy, KC3YRD, Technician**



welcomes you!



# Phil-Mont Membership Statistics

April 2024

## Member Types Statistics: (Active Members)

REGULAR Membership	160
Honorary	3
Additional Family Member (EACH	8
Student Membership	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>

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](#) and visit [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,

This issue speaks for itself. So much happening, so many contributions to the April Blurb. You are making it a great newsletter. Thanks to all the members and non-members for adding to this month's issue.

Labs success. What an enjoyable event. It was so enjoyable to watch everyone work through the build. Sanding, assembling, soldering and finally testing a new hand built antenna. Everyone left with a working antenna! Greg, KC3SMW deserves much credit and many thanks for organizing and leading the most successful PMRC LABS we've had to date. Great job!



As winter turns to spring, a Philmonter's thoughts turn from things to do in the shack to things to do on the roof. **FIX THAT ANTENNA! INSTALL THAT ANTENNA!** There's been lots of wind and rain, time to check your feedlines and connections. Just ask for help like Charlie, K3NOP did. I heard it was a successful antenna party. There's lots of willing and able members. Plan the install and call in the troops.

## 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 Whitmarsh Valley 493 S. Bethlehem Pike Fort Washington, PA More details to follow but looking forward to an epic celebration of our club.

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:** Jim McCloskey

**QTH:** Springhouse, Pa.

**Call:** NS3K

**First Licensed:** 6/08/1993

**Years as a member of PMRC:** 30 years.

**Any positions or committees you've chaired?** I've been the treasurer of Phil-Mont several times including currently. I also run the VE program since Dusty (ND3Q) passed away. I became a VE in November 1994. Also, a member and treasurer of the Philadelphia Digital Radio Association.

**Highlights of your shack:** I have had many different radios over my amateur career. I currently have an ICOM 9700, 7100, 5100, several ID 51's several Yaesu FTM 400's, FTM 500, FTM-300, FT2DR FT6R, Motorola DMR mobile, Anytone D578UV mobile as well as an Anytone 878UV handheld. I also own a DV Megacast internet transceiver which I can use for Dstar, DMR and Fusion. I did a demo of this radio a few years back at a club meeting. Thanks to Bill, W3AOK, I am able to use a remote rig set-up for my Icom 7100 to use HF via an antenna at his QTH.

**Antennas:** I currently have multiple Diamond X50 dual band antennas in the attic as well as a Diamond Discone antenna. Since I live in a townhouse community I am not permitted to have any outdoor antennas.

**Favorite band:** My favorite band right now is two meters, usually on the club repeater but I also enjoy using digital voice over the internet.

**How did you get interested/started in amateur radio?** I first heard about Amateur radio from a co-worker who was going to take a class to get his license. I decided to join him, and the rest is history.

**Interesting facts about you:** I have a BS degree in business from Jefferson University (formally Philadelphia Textile) and have worked in accounting all my career, which I hope will be ending in a year or two. I have been together with my wonderful XYL, Maureen, for 24 years. We love to travel and have been to many foreign countries as well as many places in the US and Canada. We'll visit Peru shortly.

**What do you like most about PMRC?** I really enjoy the many friends I have made being a member of Phil-Mont and look forward to meeting many more. The meetings are great get togethers.

**Anything else?** Oh yeah, I've been to Dayton Hamvention many, many times and look forward to going again this year. Looking forward to what's coming next in amateur radio.

73, for now.

Jim, NS3K



# "Ham I Am" - Member Spotlight





# PMRC LABS 3/16/24

## *The Labs went fantastic!*

Thank you everyone who participated in the labs. It was an extremely fun time. Hearing everyone's radios come life after building the antenna was a huge sense of gratification for me. And thanks to Rich AA3RC, Steve K3FZT, Mugs KC3UDZ, Ron NY3J, Jim K3YO and all who helped out with soldering and assembly. And thanks to James KC3NVS for coming up with the idea. I am glad everyone enjoyed it. I also love the fact that everyone enjoyed the secret message in the CW beacon.

**Next up POTA-MANIA!!!! Playing POTA enjoying the outdoors,  
making contacts, and hunting CW foxes.**

**Stay tuned for the next Lab in June. This one will be a special one with a special guest instructor.**

**Always something to look forward to with PMRC! Don't miss out!**

**Thanks again for playing radio with me!**

**Greg KC3SMW**



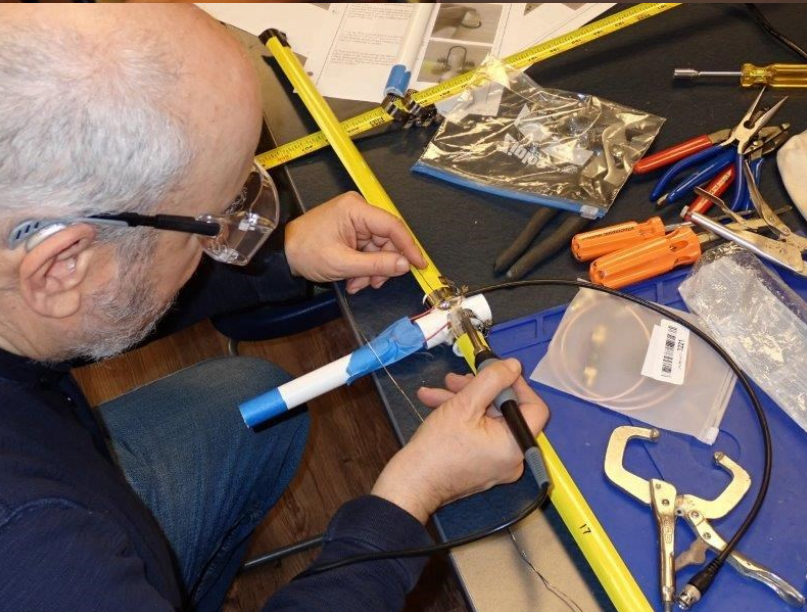


# PMRC LABS 3/16/24





# PMRC LABS 3/16/24





# Long Delayed Echoes— An HF radio phenomenon

By Ellwood Brem – K3YV

One of the many mysteries of HF radio is a phenomenon known as long delayed echoes. These echoes (LDEs) can best be described as hearing an HF radio transmission echoed back to the sending station long after the original signal was transmitted. Short wave stations have reported hearing long delayed echoes as far back as the 1920s. Over the years, these reports have persisted. LDEs have been heard with various delays ranging from a few milliseconds to amazingly several days. The physical science of these LDEs remains a mystery to this day. In the 1970s, Wayne Green, the then publisher of 73 magazine, became interested in LDEs and funded research into the phenomenon. His engineers conducted experiments launching HF signals and timing the variation of any delayed echoes that they detected. After months of research, they developed a theory to account for radio echoes returning to the transmitting station after hours or even days.

Radio waves travel at the speed of light, so for delays to take hours and days, the radio waves would have to travel vast distances before they return to the sending station. Mr. Green's engineers theorized that some RF signals escape the ionosphere and travel throughout the solar system. The engineers noticed that there are several Lagrange points along the earth's orbit where Trojan asteroids collect in clusters. Specifically, these are the L3, L4, and L5 Lagrange points. These three points form an equilateral triangle along the Earth's orbit. The clusters of asteroids at these Lagrangian points tend to become ionized by solar radiation. Radio waves that escape the Earth's ionosphere are reflected from one group of ionized Trojan asteroids to the next, thus traveling in circular motion along the Earth's orbit from one Lagrange point to the next. The circular rotation of HF radio signals can continue for hours, days, or even weeks until eventually the signal becomes too weak to continue. Occasionally, the Earth will be in the path of the circulating RF when the RF is passing between the L4 and L5 lagrangian points. At that time the signal will reenter the Earth's ionosphere and become detectable. Mr. Green's lead engineer, Dr. Aperial Phule, was recognized by the Academy of Sciences for his team's efforts in discovering the nature of Long delayed echoes.

# I Got my Extra!

By Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT

I passed my extra class amateur radio license exam on Saturday night! I took the exam remotely. It took almost a year of study. I feel so happy.

Ham radio requires a license, like driving. Our signals can travel around the world or into outer space. When I started at age twelve in 1989, we had five license classes: novice, technician, general, advanced, and extra. We now have three: technician, general, and extra. Each class gives you more frequencies you can use, and other privileges. The exams get progressively harder. Most people could get their technician class license. The general requires more knowledge, but it opens up the world of HF, the high frequency signals which travel around the world. Both of those require taking a 35-question multiple choice exam. The extra exam has 50 questions. You need to get 74% to pass.

I remember when I touched and heard a ham radio for the first time. It happened at the Franklin Institute Science Museum, which had a radio room at the time. I pleaded with my parents to get me a ham radio on the way back home. They explained that I needed to pass a test. That didn't phase me, since I took tests all the time. I got some four track tapes for the blind called Tune IN the World, and listened to them constantly.

A few years later I got my novice. I remember the VEs, the volunteer examiners, came to my house. They gave me the test, including tactile block diagrams, and I also had to pass a 5 WPM Morse Code test. Somehow I did.

A few years later I wanted to upgrade to technician and general. I went to a radio camp run by Handiham in Malibu, California. I had a wonderful time relaxing with ham radio friends in the sun. I failed.

The next year they had another radio camp in Bemidji, Minnesota. I remember flying into Minneapolis. I had to take a terrifying plane flight in sub zero temperatures, and landed in an airport the size of a kitchen. I passed.

Sadly I got out of the hobby when I went off to college, but I didn't let my license expire. I got back into ham radio in 2019 as part of my healing journey. I needed my hobby back. I brushed up on my technician and general theory, and got back on air.

I knew that I wanted my extra. I made a few starts. Finally last May I started in earnest. I went back to my old friend, Gordon West. He does an entertaining audio presentation. I used his tapes during childhood, and bought his CDs when getting back into the hobby so I wouldn't sound like an idiot when I got back on air. I also purchased the No Nonsense Study Guide from Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, after working him on 40 meters. It really helped, especially when it came time to cram and take practice exams. I also used ChatGPT. I chose ChatGPT because I started studying in May of 2023. Better alternatives may exist now.

Learning from an AI really did feel like living in the future. I saw its potential and its limitations. I struggled for years to understand exactly what happens when I hit transmit on my radio, and how that results in sending out an electromagnetic wave. I got it in one night with an AI. It still makes mistakes. For example it told me that a half wave antenna for 60 meters measures 56 feet. My primitive human brain didn't immediately know the exact number, but I knew that it got it wrong. A half wave antenna for 40 meters measures 66 ft. A quick calculation revealed the right answer of around 87.5 ft. It got a lot of stuff right though.

I finished Gordo's audio course a little over a month ago. I started taking practice exams. I tried a few tools, and settled on the Exam Review tool from the ARRL. It lets you suppress questions with images, an exemption which blind people can request. I began using the No Nonsense Study Guides a lot at this point. My score started improving. Once I started scoring 90% I decided that the time had come to bite the bullet and take the test.

I belong to the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. They administer testing sessions, but I didn't feel like going out to Willow Grove. I decided to try a remote exam. They became popular during the pandemic. I heard good things about the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group, so decided to try them.

I emailed the AD4VE testing team, and asked if they could accommodate a blind applicant. I got a quick reply from Dave that they could, and he suggested using my iPhone for video and a desktop computer to share the screen to take the exam. He couldn't attend live, but assured me that I would have a strong team.



# I Got my Extra!

I made the appointment for the next night. I felt nervous but confident. I hadn't taken a test in a long time. I thought about how far we've come. When I got my novice in 1989, we didn't have practice exams. You had to study, then hope for the best.

I woke up on Saturday feeling OK. I didn't have any signs of a migraine. I took a practice exam, and got 74%, the minimum passing score. That made me more nervous, but I reminded myself that I needed to get my brain going. I tried one later in the afternoon and got 90%, more like what I had hoped for. I had taken all the practice exams I could take. I had dinner and prepared myself.

I had Zoom ready on my iPhone and on my Mac. I had my photo ID, which they require for verification. I had a bottle of water. I joined on time. They greeted me.

"Someone named Art is already in there. He says he knows you."

I didn't know which Art he meant, as I've contacted a few, but should have.

"Well! You didn't want to go to Willow Grove, but you ended up with me anyway!" I recognized the enthusiastic voice of Art, N8BLK. He belongs to both Phil-mont and Holmesburg, two local radio clubs. I felt even more at ease. The three volunteer examiners introduced themselves.

Richard, N6LGO

Bob, N1UVO

Michael, KG6TDP (who had a funny phonetic but I forgot it)

"We are going to need more light." The sudden words froze me. I turned on the light switch, but the bulb must have burned out, and of course I didn't notice. I started to panic, but kept it under control. I brought over a 15 Watt red salt lamp, but that didn't really do it. I thought about apologizing and rescheduling in embarrassment, but they persevered.

One of the volunteer examiners said, "Art, if you can verify that that is Austin, then we are OK with that."

"Oh, that's definitely Austin!" he proclaimed. He saved me. World's greatest hobby!.

I battled with Zoom on my phone. I had VoiceOver focus issues sharing a web URL, so switched to the Mac for the exam. I shared the screen. Art asked me why I had an Emacs window open. I said that I would use it for its calculator. He laughed. They asked me to hold the phone up to the screen of the Mac. I had the monitor hooked up to my Linux machine. I apologized again for the weird situation, and started crawling under my desk to unplug the cable. I heard them calling me back. They decided not to worry about it. They did ask me to slow down my speech so they could understand it. Finally we had video on the iPhone, the shared screen with Safari on my Mac, and slower speech. Suddenly I found myself taking the exam.

I filled out the form without any issues. Each question had four radio buttons for choices. At one point I began to get thirsty. I felt scared to make any moves after everything that had happen, so asked if I could drink some water.

"You can drink all you want!" replied Art happily. I made my way through the questions and felt good about my answers.

"Of course, you can always go back and edit any of your choices." he said, but I didn't want to change a thing. I took a big breath and hit the Submit Exam button.

The page loaded, but before I could begin reading it, Art said, "Well, now you can annoy everyone on Holmesburg and Phil-Mont by calling yourself KA3TTT/AE!!!" He referred to the rule that if you have upgraded your license and received your Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE), you can append /AG or /AE to your call for General or Extra until you get your license.

"I passed?" I asked. I still couldn't quite believe it.

"You passed!" they all confirmed. I scrolled down and saw my score. I got 45 questions correct, for a score of 90%!

# I Got my Extra!

“Those were five that you don’t need to know.” said one of the examiners. “Now comes the fun part.” I had to fill out the form to submit to the FCC. Everything worked fine until I got to the electronic signature. VoiceOver only read the signature area as an image. Unfortunately screen reader users often have issues with electronic signatures. We tried on the Mac using the Magic Track pad, but then Art suggested trying it on my iPhone. I battled again with Zoom to share the web URL, and after several attempts I made a line in the field. The submit button undimmed. They excitedly yelled for me to hurry and submit it before we had another focus issue. I quickly hit the button. It asked me to confirm my submission. “Hurry! Hurry!” they yelled again. This had become the final test. I hit the submit button. It went through.! We cheered.

I felt so happy. They thanked me for not giving up on them. I said that I wanted to thank them for the same reason. They assured me that they would have found a way to make it work no matter what. They had more good news.

“Everyone in tonight’s session passed.”

I asked how many.

“Only seven.” That amazed me. Remote testing has really opened things up, and GLARC does great work. After more congratulations they moved me to the exit room. I heard them congratulating a new ham. They then congratulated me. Someone suggested that I become a volunteer examiner, since extras can do that. I hadn’t considered it.

“You can’t see to verify if someone is cheating, but there is plenty to do.” I asked if they knew of any blind VEs.

Art responded, “KS3X.”

“Of course.” Enoch lives in Philadelphia and checks into the net which I run.

“And there was Carl Owens, W0CPR, formerly WB0CPR, but he passed.”

“Carl passed away?”

“Yeah. He moved to Michigan to live with his brother, and passed about two years ago.”

The celebration stopped for a moment. I knew Carl during middle school and high school. He gave me stern guidance, but also loved to laugh. He made sure my license didn’t expire. One time I gave him a broken laptop, the first Keynote talking laptop for the blind. I don’t know what I had done to it, but I believe it involved battery acid. I complained about the broken machine.

“Of course you broke it. You’re a kid.” he stated. That hurt, and I held it against him for many years, until my younger sisters trashed the family computer with spyware. They infected it with a nasty virus which altered the BIOS. The machine barely ran. They cursed at it and called it slow, and told Mom that they needed a new computer instead of this broken one.

“Of course you broke it. You’re a kid.” As the words left my mouth I heard Carl’s voice echoing through time, like in a movie. I instantly forgave him. I never got to tell him as an adult. He would often end our conversations by saying, “Keep a smile.” I found his obituary.

I left the session with a strange mixture of emotions. I felt happy I passed, though still couldn’t believe it. I felt annoyed about the lighting issue. I felt sad about Carl. I felt relieved that I wouldn’t need to study anymore for the exam. Getting an extra class license feels like the Return of the King – the grand third installment of a trilogy which explains everything.

I had to work a station. Luckily we had a contest going on. I quickly found Bud, AA3B, in the extra portion of 80 meters. He spoke at Holmesburg, and I worked him many times. This time I answered sending KA3TTT/AE. I had made my first contact as an extra.

I want to thank everyone for making this possible. Gordon and Dan made excellent study guides. ChatGPT helped me understand concepts, and showed me the potential of AI in education. Everyone at GLARG went above and beyond to accommodate me. See you on the extra bands!

# 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 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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:**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:cliff.hotchkiss@redcross.org)

GPA Region: Dave Herzog [dave.herzog@redcross.org](mailto:dave.herzog@redcross.org)

# Packrat ARRL Night

## Announcement April 18th

Packrat ARRL night in April. All local Radio clubs are invited.

The Packrats will be holding their general meeting April 18th at the Ben Wilson Senior Activity Center 580 Delmont Avenue, Warminster, PA, 18974

-- Presentation starting time is 7:30pm.

The presentation will be by Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, the ARRL/FCC Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator and Bob Famiglio K3RF, the Atlantic Division Director.

### **Topics to be covered include:**

- ARRL today, who/what/why.
- Protection of frequency allocations, Spectrum threats, and RF pollution.
- Challenges to Amateur Radio, Protection of Antenna rights, HOA lobbying.
- VUCC status of the use of digital modes in contests, concentrating on 50 MHz and above.

This is YOUR chance to hear from the ARRL and Atlantic Division and ask questions.

All local Radio Clubs are cordially invited to attend.

# 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

- Packet Radio How To, Soundmodem TNC with EasyTerm, Packet Chatting—Apr 9
- APRS—Apr 16
- Packet BBS—Apr 23
- Packet Winlink Peer to Peer—Apr 30



# Upcoming Hamfests

04/07/2024 - [TRARC 52nd Hamfest/Computer Show](#)

**Location:** Elizabeth, PA

**Website:** <http://www.trarc.net>

04/20/2024 - [Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware State Convention](#)

**Location:** Georgetown, DE



# N3ZP's Contest Corner

Here are some of the many contests and special events coming up in April. No major DX contests but lots of state QSO parties, POTA activity and Canadian provinces too.

## **Apr. 6 - Apr. 8**

PODXS 070 Club 31 Flavors PSK Contest - 1000Z Apr. 6 - 0400Z Apr. 7. All PSK Modes. 20 Meters Only - Worldwide. Maximum operating time 6 hours. 50 Watts maximum power. Rules:<http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-club-sponsored-contests/31-flavors>. A short duration contest with a good chance for DX. Try out your DENN skills running various PSK modes in FLDIGI.

Georgia State Parks on the Air - 1200 Apr. 6 - 2359Z Apr. 7. All modes including FT4/FT8. Any band except WARC (60, 30, 17 and 12 Meters). Rules:<https://gaparks.org/forms-rules-register/>. A Parks-on-the-Air event for all you POTA Hunters or P to P activators. Will likely include activation of seldom heard of GA 52 state parks.

Louisiana QSO Party - 1400Z Apr. 6 - 0200Z Apr. 7. CW, Digital modes, Phone. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 Meters. Rules:[http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/laqso\\_rules.htm](http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/laqso_rules.htm). Work all LA Parishes.

Mississippi QSO Party - 1400Z Apr. 6 - 0200Z Apr. 7. CW, Phone, RTTY, FT4/FT8. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 Meters, Rules:<https://www.arrlmiss.org/>. Work all MS counties.

Missouri QSO Party - 1400Z Apr. 6 - 0400Z Apr. 7, 1400Z - 2000Z Apr. 7. CW, Phone, Digital. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF. Rules:<http://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party>. Work all MO counties. Certificates available,

Florida State Parks on the Air - 1400Z - 2200Z Apr. 6, 1400Z - 2200Z Apr. 7. Any mode. 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Rules:<https://flspota.org/rules/>. Not specifically a POTA event but extra points for POTA entities. Another good one for POTA hunters and activators.

Solar Eclipse QSO Party - 1400Z - 2400Z Apr. 8. CW, Phone, Digital. 160, 80, 40, 15, 10 and 6 Meters. Rules: <https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules>. A North America focused event with extra points for PSKReporter and Reverse Beacon Network reception reports. POTA/SOTA operation is encouraged. A rare opportunity to see the effects on propagation from the eclipse.

## **Apr. 13 - Apr. 14**

OK/OM DX Contest - 1200Z Apr. 13 - 1200Z Apr. 14. SSB. 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters, Worldwide, Rules:<http://okomdx.crk.cz/index.php?page=SSB-rules-english>. Work Czech and Slovak stations. A chance to pickup a couple new countries for your DXCC.

New Mexico QSO Party - 1400Z Apr. 13 to 0200Z Apr. 14. CW, Phone, Digital. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 Meters, Rules:<http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/>. Work NM counties in a fun event. New contesters and rag-chewers are welcome.

Georgia QSO Party - 1800Z Apr. 13 - 0359Z Apr. 14, 1400Z - 2359Z Apr. 14. CW, SSB. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 Meters, Rules:<https://gaqsoparty.com/log-submission-2/>. Work GA Counties. Expect a number of rover and portable stations. A special spotting page will be available.

North Dakota QSO Party - 1800Z Apr. 13 to 1800Z Apr. 14. CW, Phone, Digital (RTTY, PSK). 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 1, 6 and 2 Meters. Rules:[https://ndarrlsection.com/2024/2024\\_ND\\_QSO\\_Party\\_Rule.pdf](https://ndarrlsection.com/2024/2024_ND_QSO_Party_Rule.pdf). Work 53 ND counties. ND is a rarer state, so here is a chance to add them to your Worked All States.

## **Apr. 20 - Apr. 21**

Nebraska QSO Party - 1100Z Apr. 20 - 2259Z Apr. 21. CW, Phone, Digital. Separate rules for FT4/FT8. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters, VHF/UHF. Rules:<https://nebraskaqsoparty.com/qso-party-rules/f/rules-for-2022-nebraska-qso-party>. Work NE counties. Another rare state for your WAS,

Texas State Parks on the Air - 1400Z Apr. 20 - 0200Z Apr. 21, 1400Z - 2000Z Apr. 21. All modes except FT4/FT8. All bands except WARC (60, 30, 17, 12 Meters). Rules:<http://www.tspota.org/>. Celebrating 100 years of TX state parks to promote amateur radio and the state park system. Expect a lot of POTA entities to hunt and P to P for activators.

# N3ZP's Contest Corner

Michigan QSO Party - 1600Z Apr. 20 - 0400Z Apr. 21. CW, SSB. 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Rules:<https://miqp.org/index.php/rules/>. Work MI stations on new bands to add to your state totals.

Ontario QSO Party - 1800Z - 0500Z Apr. 20, 1200Z - 1800Z Apr. 21. CW, Phone. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 Meters. Rules:<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm>. This time it's a Canadian QSO Party. ON is big and expect a few PO-TA operations.

Quebec QSO Party - 1200Z to 2200Z Apr.21. CW, Phone. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 Meters. Rules:<https://wp1.quebecqsoparty.org/>. As long as you were working Ontario, now work Quebec.

ARRL Rookie Roundup - 1800Z - 2359Z Apr. 21. SSB. 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Rules:<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>. Emphasis is on working ops licensed less than 3 years on HF. We have a lot of rookies in the club and this is for you. Get on 10 Meter Phone. OT ops need to work the rookies in a friendly event.

## **Apr. 27 - Apr.28**

10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital - 0001Z Apr. 27 - 2359Z Apr.28. 10 Meter Band. RTTY, BPSK modes (no FT4/FT8). Rules:<http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>. Another chance to use your DEDN skills with FLDIGI. Collect 10, 10-10 member numbers to join the group promoting 10 Meter activity. All license classes can operate. 10 has been open every day.

Florida QSO Party - 1600Z Apr. 27 - 0159 Apr.28, 1200Z - 2159Z Apr.28. CW, Phone. 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Rules:<http://floridaqsoparty.org/rules/>. Work all 67 FL counties.

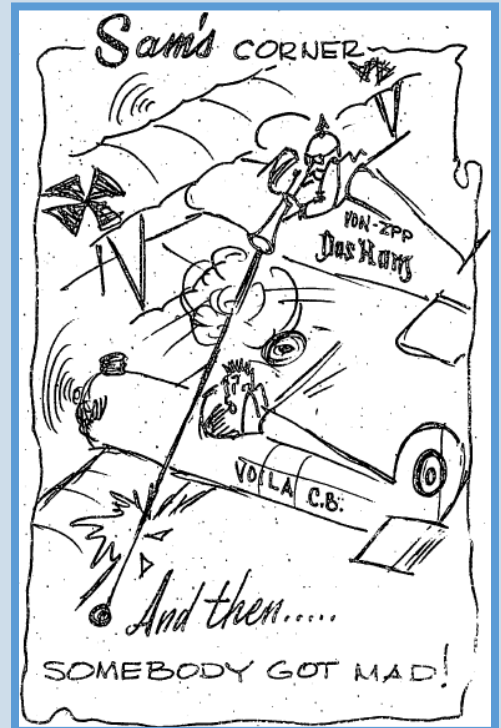
As always, you can reach out to me for assistance in participating in a contest and logging.

**Contact Phil N3ZP on the [groups.io](https://groups.io) for contesting and contest logging information. Use the hashtag [#contest](https://twitter.com/contests)**

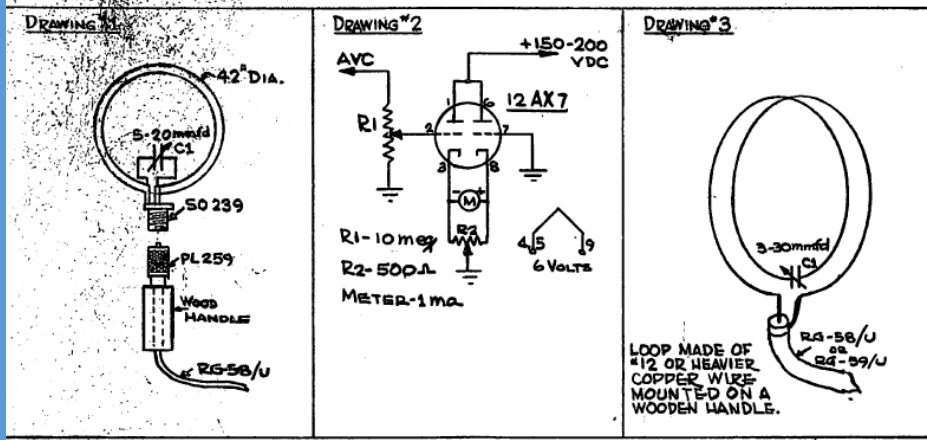


# From the PMRC Archive...

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



## PHILMONT TEK-NI-GRAM APRIL 1964 GOODIES FOR HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNTS



### Report of the W3TKQ Committee:

Approval has been received from the FCC for the remote operation of W3TKQ. Control points for remote operation of the station are as follows: W3ADV; K3HIJ; K3GNJ; W3GIF; W3AWH; W3CDY. The necessary equipment for remote control has been developed and is being built by K3HIJ. When completed and installed, the operation of W3TKQ for such purposes as our code practice sessions will be greatly simplified.

It is intended to resume our code practice sessions very shortly. They will once again be on a six night per week schedule.

Chairman, W3ADV, announced that Bell Telephone Company has made available to Phil-Mont a microwave station. This equipment will be put to use by the club as an educational project. Details will be forthcoming in the near future.

**You know our club call W3EM? Well here is the original Whiskey 3 Easy Money!**

For sale: Viking Mobile Transmitter w/transistor power supply. (Estate of W3FUY)

\$50.00

Contact - Brad Algeo, W3EM

# 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***

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**V. President:** KC3SMW Greg

**Treasurer:** Jim NS3K

**Secretary:** Dave K3DFG

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**Daniel Wagaman - W4GMN, Editor Emeritus**

**Steve Davidson—K3FZT**

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***Club Email List***

*The Blurb*