



# *The* **Blurb**



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*

*69 Years of Public Service, 1949-2018*

Volume 70 Number 1

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

January 2019

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***General Meeting & Auctionfest on Tuesday the 8th***

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**Happy New Year!**

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*New Year's Day  
Auctionfest  
Martin Luther King Day*



<p><i>The Blurb</i> 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. <b>Copying and quoting</b> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor:  <b>Rick DeVigiliis ND3B@ARRL.net</b></p> <p><b>Subscriptions</b> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</b></p> <p><b>Submissions deadline:</b> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>	<p><b>Directors:</b>                  WA3DSP (20)                  WU3I(20)                  KB2ERL (20)                  K3RON (19)                  N3QV (19)                  KB3IV (19)                  NC3U (A)                  W3RM                  (EMERITUS)</p>	<p><b>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 404 Warminster, PA 18974</b>  <a href="http://www.phil-mont.org">http://www.phil-mont.org</a>                  Website: Eric N3QV &amp; Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p><b>For club information:</b> Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>	
<p><b>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Meter/ 70cm Net</b>..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater</li> <li>• <b>10-on-10 Net</b> ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)</li> <li>• <b>75 meter Net</b> ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB</li> <li>• <b>ARES</b> at 2100L on the W3QV repeater</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Committees</b></p> <p>Blurb folding: KB3IV &amp; N3GLU                  Directory: KB3IV                  Field Day: KC2PMW                  Fusion Coord: NC3U</p>	<p>Internet: N3QV &amp; KC2PMW                  Membership: KB3IV                  Net Control: KB3IV</p>	<p>Program: W3AOK                  Refreshments: W3AOK                  Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: KB3IV                  Sunshine: N3GLU                  VE Program: NS3K                  Welcome: N3UBY                  Youth: KC2PMW</p>

**All visitors are welcome!**

The club meets at 7:00 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at Giant Supermarket, 315 York Rd, Willow Grove, PA  
 Maps and directions are available at [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org).

**License Examinations** are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or [jmccloskey@msn.com](mailto:jmccloskey@msn.com) for the latest information.

**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 C4FM Fusion digital  
 Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R AllStar Node 41624  
**W3AA Trustee: WU3I**  
**W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV**

**The Officers**

**President: Greg Malone WA3GM** [gregmalone@yahoo.com](mailto:gregmalone@yahoo.com)  
**Vice President: Jim Fisher AJ3DI** [kc3bra@gmail.com](mailto:kc3bra@gmail.com)  
**Treas: WB3DZZ** [GeorgeGianios@verizon.net](mailto:GeorgeGianios@verizon.net)  
**Secretary: W3AFV** [chuckfarrell@comcast.net](mailto:chuckfarrell@comcast.net)

# The Prez Sez ...



Hello Phil-Mont

Merry Christmas /Happy Chanukah / Happy New Year Phil-Mont. Hopefully everyone had a great holiday and were able to spend some time with your families.

Thank you for electing me as your President for the **THIRD** time. I would also like to welcome our new Officers for 2019:

- President: Greg WA3GM
- Vice Pres: Jim AJ3DI
- Secretary: Chuck W3AFV
- Treasurer: George WB3DZZ

Doug, WA3DSP, Steve WU3I, Bobby KB2ERL were elected to BOD and will serve until 2020 and Ed KB3IV was elected to fill the empty board position of George WB3DZZ upon his election as treasurer. AS the president also has the duty to appoint an additional board member I have appointed Sal, NC3U to fill this position.

We will again strive to do the best for Phil-Mont in the coming year. As always if you have any suggestions on how we can make things better for the organization please let us know.

Coming up in January will be our Annual Auction. This is always a fun event. Check your shack for boat anchors and other items you don't need and bring them to the auction. Let our actioner sell your wares and you will be helping Phil-Mont in the process. Just a reminder the auction **WILL NOT** be at the GIANT in Willow Grove. We will

continue to hold our auction at the Roxboro Memorial Hospital as we have done so for many years.

**REMINDER: THE AUCTION FEST WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY JANUARY 8, 2019 AT THE WOLCOFF AUDITORIUM OF ROXBORO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 5800 RIDGE AVE PHILA., PA 19128 TALK IN WILL BE ON 147.030 PL 91.5**

If anyone has any suggestions for a speaker or would like to speak at one of our meetings please let any of the club officers or board members know. Your input is vital and we welcome all suggestions.

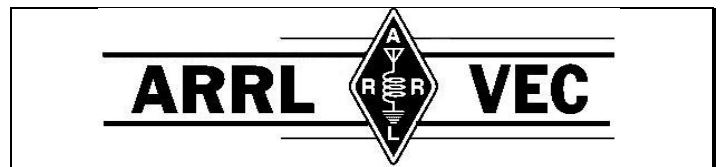
Just a quick reminder that Dues are Due. The response so far has been great and we appreciate your attentiveness in supporting Phil-Mont. If you have not done so please take a moment to do so today.

Don't forget to sign up for the Phil-Mont Yahoo Group. This is a good way to share ideas amongst the membership. Sal NC3U is the moderator the group. For more info and to join the group contact Sal.

Thank you for your support.

See you all at the next meeting.

**73, Greg WA3GM**



*Thursday evening session is on the 24th this month.*

*As always, many thanks to our VE team!*

*From the Secretary*

***Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes***

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Jon Verlin - K3VU  
Dotty Toth (XYL K3CHJ)
- 05 Dorene Weiner (XYL WX3PHI)
- 13 James Leahy - N0VVV  
James Toth - K3CHJ
- 14 John Bates - KC3CEW
- 15 Karen Lenczynski (XYL KA3EIP)
- 23 Susan Garretson - KB3YQM
- 26 Colleen Moon (XYL KCEDII)  
Steven Frederick-K3KIC
- 27 Maureen McCloskey (XYL NS3K)

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**Membership Stats**

- 110 Full paid Members
  - 10 Family Members
  - 1 Youth Member
  - 1 Honorary Member
- 

12/5/2018

NC3U opened the Board Meeting at 7:00 PM. In Attendance K3RON, W3AOK, WA3DSP,KB3IV,WB3DZZ, WA3KIO, WU3I, KB2ERL and N3QV.

W3AOK reported that all was well with the repeater. Would like to modernize equipment over time.

KB3IV reported that the Auction is 1/8/2018 At Roxborough Memorial Hospital in the Wolcoff Auditorium. Treasury was reported in fine shape. W3AOK made the motion to accept Treasurers report. N3QV Seconded. Motion carried. Field Day Reservations have been made for 2019.

WB3DZZ reported Membership packages have been sent to new members. K3RON mentioned using PAYPAL on line for dues. We have PAYPAL.

N3QV reported receipt of the database and his intents to modernize it into Microsoft Access.

No Board meeting for January maybe no meeting February.

Motion to close WA3DSP, seconded W3AOK, Motion carried.

12/12/2018

NC3U opened the general meeting at 7:09 AM. There were 28 plus members in attendance.

W3AOK reported all is well with the repeater. WA3DSP has tweaked the ALLSTAR connection.

KB3IV reported Treasury all ok. No Membership activity this month. Net controls new schedule for 2019 coming soon.

NY3J reported Digital Education Net all OK doing well.

NS3K reported there were 10 candidates at the 12/8 VE Session.

NC3U reported that we were ranked third in the local clubs in our class for Field Day.

WA3DSP reported on the passing of K3GBA several of us attended the service held appropriately on Pearl Harbor Day. There was a Navy service at the grave.

NC3U Thanked all for the assistance in the last years as President.

WA3GM then announced the slate for Elections:

President WA3GM

Vice President AJ3DI

Secretary K3AFV

Treasurer WB3DZZ

Board of Directors WU3I, WA3DSP and KB3IV

As all offices are unopposed the Secretary cast a single Vote for the Slate of Candidates.

Field Day is Coming Soon. Auction fest is 1/8/2018. Directory coming soon via email.

WA3GM introduced WA3DSP who demoed a new allstar device that is a direct connection to the internet.

AJ3DI made the motion to close. WA3GM Seconded. Meeting was closed at 7:44 PM

Respectfully submitted

*Stephen Hoch WU3I*

## This from Barry, K3EUI

### What is the new FT8 mode all about?

If you tune into the digital portion of 80, 40, or 20 meters you will likely hear the slow, distinct pitch sounds of the new digital mode **FT8**, which is part of the suite of modes available with free **WSJT-X** software. FT8 mode began in the summer of 2017 and quickly spread over the world, replacing RTTY and PSK31 as the dominant HF keyboard station-to-station mode. With FT8 you can have a (short) QSO with someone using minimal power and minimal antenna gain. Often 10W and a dipole is sufficient to work DX stations on 20m. Here is an example of a short FT8 QSO I just had with a station on 40 meters (vfo dial was on 7074.0 kHz, USB mode). Examine the right-hand window of the image. First, W4DOW sent a CQ at 13hr59min30seconds at an audio frequency of 1386 Hz (see image) from grid location **EM96**. Then I responded to that CQ in the next 15-second sequence, sending his call, my call (K3EUI) and my grid **FM29**. Note that I responded to his CQ on his same audio frequency (1386 Hz) but I did not have to do that. Next, W4DOW sent his acknowledgement with our two calls, and then with a **R -10** which means roger, and my signal at his location is s/n = -10. I then respond with **R+09** indicating I copy his report, and send him a s/n =+09 (which is very strong). That tells me that W4DOW is likely running too much power, as FT8 can copy easily down to a level of 20dB BELOW the average noise power. We both then end the qso with a **RR73** and **73** and our calls. The entire QSO ends in 1min, 30 seconds. That was easy! I was running 10W to a 65 feet NVIS dipole 25 ft above ground. Note that at no time did I adjust my VFO dial; I leave it on 7074.00 kHz.

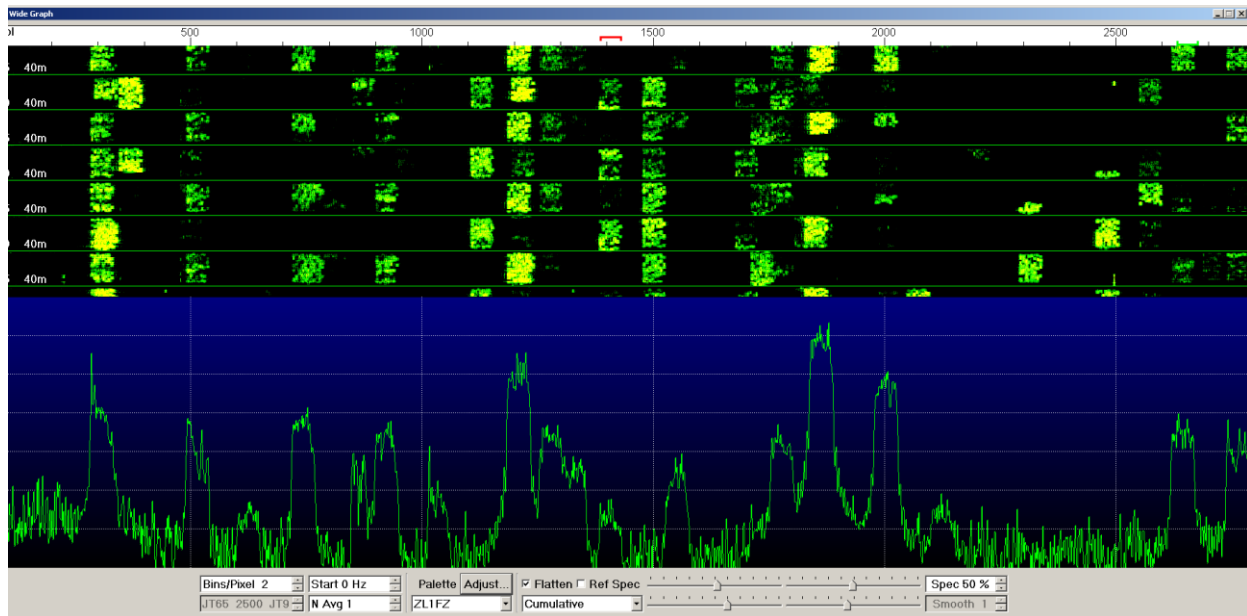
The screenshot shows the WSJT-X v2.0.0 software interface. The main window is divided into two panes. The left pane shows a log of activity with columns for UTC, dB, DT, Freq, and Message. The right pane shows a similar log for the current QSO. Below the logs is a control panel with buttons for 'CQ only', 'Log QSO', 'Stop', 'Monitor', 'Erase', 'Decode', 'Enable Tx', 'Halt Tx', and 'Tune'. The 'Monitor' button is highlighted in green. The control panel also displays the current frequency (7.074 000), a signal strength indicator (80 dB), and a call grid (W4DOW, EM96). The bottom status bar shows 'Receiving FT8' and 'Last Tx: W4DOW K3EUI 73'.

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
140000	0	0.1	1594	~ CQ KD4SEV EM74
140000	-8	0.1	1713	~ AD5IT N4WDL R-02
140000	-6	0.1	1745	~ CQ HI KD9IBT EN64
140000	1	1.1	1822	~ JI6IHG W5AT -13
140000	-3	0.4	1879	~ N8DOD AE4GH RR73
140000	-5	-0.1	2001	~ W4JHU N4VUG R-05
----- 40m -----				
140030	7	-0.6	1386	~ K3EUI W4DOW RR73
140030	-16	0.4	775	~ K0PT K9TA -04
140030	-2	0.2	1002	~ KB8SSH KN4COE EM79
140030	7	0.1	1196	~ KM4F WV8DH -10
140030	-4	0.2	1594	~ K4RCG KD4SEV -04
140030	-3	0.1	1642	~ W5DMT K4ICQ EM91
140030	-2	0.2	1745	~ CQ HI KD9IBT EN64
140030	3	1.1	1821	~ JI6IHG W5AT -13
140030	-8	-0.1	2001	~ W4JHU N4VUG 73

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
135930	4	-0.6	1386	~ CQ W4DOW EM96
135945	Tx		1386	~ W4DOW K3EUI FM29
140000	9	-0.6	1386	~ K3EUI W4DOW -10
140015	Tx		1386	~ W4DOW K3EUI R+09
140030	7	-0.6	1386	~ K3EUI W4DOW RR73
140045	Tx		1386	~ W4DOW K3EUI 73

Meanwhile, in the left-hand window of WSJT-X I see many stations in QSO with each other while I am working W4DOW. So after I end my QSO with W4DOW, I can try to call someone else, or listen for another CQ or call CQ myself. On a color monitor, the CQ's and QSO's all show up with different highlighted colors.

The “waterfall” display in the next photo shows me the occupied parts of the 40m band, within the limits of my audio bandpass filter, set at a wide 3.0 kHz for this mode. The horizontal axis of the waterfall is audio frequency: 0 to 3000 Hz. The vertical axis is time, in 15 second intervals, since FT8 transmits data for 13 seconds, and then listens for 2 seconds, with 15 second “windows”. Therefore your computer clock needs to be accurate to within one second of “true” UTC time. You do not need to engage narrow IF filters (<500 Hz) in your receiver that are commonly used for digital modes. You simply allow the software to distinguish one station from the nearby signals.



In this photo you can see about a dozen simultaneous QSO's taking place. One of the advantages of FT8 is its narrow bandwidth; the amount of spectrum needed to send and receive. Typically 50 Hz is all that is needed, so that from 7074 kHz to 7077 kHz (a 3 kHz window) you might have a dozen QSO's all operating in the same passband, with NO INTERFERENCE to each other.

The new FT8 is now available in WSJT-X Version 2.0 from K1JT Joe Taylor's website at Princeton University. Just GOOGLE WSJT-X. The new version of FT8 can now be used for a variety of contests, where more than just the grid and S/N are needed for a valid QSO. So for example, for Field Day, one can send the typical exchange 6A EPA notation as part of the FT8 exchange. It will be interesting to see how many CW RTTY and PSK31 stations move over to FT8 for Field Day in 2019. Perhaps PMRC will sponsor one such station.

Submitted December 15, 2018

Barry Feierman K3EUI West Chester, PA

***January at Phil-Mont***

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

Sun 6 WU3I

Tue 8 General Meeting & Auctionfest

Sun 13 KB3IV

Sun 20 NC3U

Mon 21 MLK Day

Thur 24 VE Session

Sun 27 KB3IV

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***First Class Mail***

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc  
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

