



# The Blurb

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

Volume 77, Number 7 — [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

July 2026

## Big Month for PMRC!



## PREZ SEZ...

### Fellow Phil-Monters,

Great news from the repeater infrastructure front — PMRC now has a fourth way to access our 147.030 2M repeater system!

Thanks to the incredible generosity and technical expertise of our good friend Jeff, WN3A, we have a brand new South Jersey remote input now live and ready for your use.

South Jersey Input: PL 82.5 (147.030)

The antenna is sitting at 650 feet on a major communications tower in South Jersey, fed with serious hardline — which means the coverage is absolutely extraordinary. If you've ever struggled to get into the system from anywhere south or southeast of the city, this is your answer.

Our complete lineup of inputs now stands at:

RF/Roxborough — Main TX/RX Site: PL 91.5 Delaware County Input — PL 100.0 Bucks Co/Lawrenceville Input — PL 88.5 South Jersey Input — PL 82.5 (NEW!)

A huge thank you to Jeff, WN3A — whom we can now officially nickname "Why Not 3 Antennas!" — for his continued and extraordinary support of this club. What you're reading about today has been quietly in the works for over six months, from concept to tower climb to hardline run, and the results are well worth the wait. His contributions to our infrastructure have been nothing short of remarkable. Get on the air and give it a try — the signal will speak for itself!

### June Presentation

Our June presentation was delivered by Jax, KC3UFO, on the topic of bike mobile radio. She brought her actual bike to the meeting and walked us through the complete setup — wiring, mounting, and even some custom 3D-printed hardware she designed to fit her specific needs, including spacers for the battery and radio body. It was a creative and impressive build that sparked great conversation.

### Field Day!

Photos from Field Day are up on the club's shared Google Photos album — feel free to add yours!  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/I7JSu5uAQ9m7kgP6>



*Rich Roth, AA3RC*



## PREZ SEZ...

What a great event it was. Despite the weather forecast, it really wasn't that bad at all. Yes, we got some rain, but it was never heavy and we never saw a thunderstorm. We operated as a 6A club, meaning we had six transmitters on the air simultaneously. The official numbers aren't in yet, but I'd estimate around 500 total contacts logged across the six stations by numerous operators throughout the weekend.

It was well attended as usual by newtimers, sometimers, and old-timers alike. There are always hams who go above and beyond to make sure everyone has a fun and successful Field Day, and this year was no exception. A special thank you to Field Day Captain Charlie, K3NOP, and to Mike, KC3UKC, Greg, KC3SMW, Bill, W3AOK, and Peg, KB3DID — among the too many to name.

I also want to give a well-deserved shoutout to newcomer Matt, KD3BIS, who jumped right in — helping hang antennas, spending serious time operating at the 40m station, and staying to the very end to help with cleanup and load-out. That kind of attitude is exactly what makes this club great. Thanks for being there, Matt.

And we can't overlook another of our newest — and youngest — members, Doug, KD3BBA, who at around 12 years old came to play radio and learn. He wasted no time jumping in, running from station to station, asking questions, and soaking it all in. He even got right on the air at the 40m station and quickly learned how to spin the dial and make contacts. A sharp young man, and we're excited to see what he does in this, the best hobby ever.

### Coming Up

POTA-Mania continues on July 11 — get out and play radio!

### A Note on The Blurb

You may notice some changes to the look and feel of The Blurb in the coming months — and you can thank Microsoft for that. Publisher, the software we've relied on for years to produce this newsletter, is being discontinued later this year. So, thanks Microsoft! Rather than simply jumping to another off-the-shelf tool, we're taking this forced opportunity to completely refresh our production process from the ground up.

Fair warning: this will be a work in progress for the next several issues as we continue to refine the new format, so your patience is sincerely appreciated. What won't change is what matters most — the content. The Blurb will continue to be filled with the same great articles, event coverage, and contributions from the talented members and hams who make this club what it is, and we fully expect it to keep getting better. Stay tuned.



*The new South Jersey repeater input site*

## THE RADIO AMATEUR'S CODE

### **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, and the IARU Radio Society, 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.



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

Every Monday–Friday, 5 to 6 PM  
VHF Repeater, Allstar, or Echolink

Sunday Morning Nets

0930 ET: VHF Repeater, Allstar, or Echolink  
1000 ET: 75 Meter Net — 3.993 MHz LSB ± QRM

PHILADELPHIA ARES

Sundays 8:00 PM ET on VHF Repeater, Allstar, or Echolink.  
All licensed operators welcome • [PHLARES.org](http://PHLARES.org)

OTHER NETS

OMIK Net: Saturdays 11 AM  
PASTA Net: Mondays 7:30 PM

CLUB REPEATERS

**VHF: 147.030 MHz** (+offset, 91.5 PL)

Remote VHF inputs:

Bucks Co / Lawrenceville — PL 88.5  
Delaware Co West/South — PL 100.0  
South Jersey — PL 82.5

**UHF: 444.80 MHz**

Yaesu System Fusion / WiresX

Echolink: W3QV-R • Allstar: Node 47970

Simplex: 147.510 MHz PL 91.5 TSQ

CQ! CQ! CQ!

Calling CQ for New Net Control Operators!

DENN — DIGITAL EDUCATION NET

DENN is on summer hiatus. See you in September! Watch  
[Groups.io](http://Groups.io) for details.

NET LOGGER

Net Control opens [netlogger.org](http://netlogger.org) and calls for check-ins.  
Members appear in rotation order as they check in.

JULY SUNDAY NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

| Date   | Net Control           |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 5-Jul  | W3UP — July 4 Weekend |
| 12-Jul | WA3GM                 |
| 19-Jul | W3MHP                 |
| 26-Jul | KB3IV                 |

CLUB BUSINESS

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

| Callsign | Name            | Date   |
|----------|-----------------|--------|
| N3MUG    | Wayne Lewis     | 9-Jul  |
| KA3TTT   | Austin Seraphin | 14-Jul |
| WA3DB    | Drew Birden     | 14-Jul |
| W3JNF    | Jim Foster      | 22-Jul |
| WU3I     | Stephen Hoch    | 31-Jul |

Want your birthday read on the nets? Update your info at [hamclubonline.com](http://hamclubonline.com)

NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING

No General Meeting in July or August  
Next meeting: Wednesday, September 9th  
Enjoy your summer! Topic TBD — watch Groups.io for details.

PRESENTATION

Topic TBD

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

| Callsign | Name                   | License Class |
|----------|------------------------|---------------|
| KE2IJZ   | Ethan Hudak            | Technician    |
| KE5KTU   | Jacob "Jake" Lancaster | Extra         |
| K3YLE    | Kyle Yankanich         | General       |
| W3JAA    | James "Jim" Armenti    | Extra         |
| KB2LEN   | Leonard Campbell       | Technician    |
| KB3MNK   | David Markowitz        | General       |

*Phil-Mont welcomes you!*

PHIL-MONT MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

July 2026

| Member Category    | Count |
|--------------------|-------|
| REGULAR Membership | 203   |
| Honorary           | 3     |
| Board Member       | 7     |
| Officer            | 4     |
| Total              | 217   |

217  
TOTAL  
MEMBERS



Philadelphia ARES

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

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

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service trains licensed amateur radio operators to provide radio communications as a public service in disaster situations. All licensed operators are welcome to join.

Join our [Groups.io](#) • Visit [PHLARES.org](#)



UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

*MARK YOUR 2026 CALENDARS! Upcoming Club Radio Activities*

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| July 11th      | POTAMania                        |
| August 15-16th | Lighthouse Weekend               |
| September 12th | POTAMania                        |
| October 2-3    | OCTPOTAFEST (leave 4th at 11 AM) |

*What an amazing 2026 lineup. Get ready for some serious fun.*



# FIELD DAY 2026





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## BIG POCONO STATE PARK

# Packrats Welcome Phil-Mont to Big Pocono

*By Drew Birden, WA3DB*

Amateur Radio Operators took over Big Pocono State Park on Saturday, June 13th. The Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club (whose members are commonly known as the Packrats), welcomed members of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club (PMRC) to visit during ARRL's annual June VHF contest weekend held on the second full weekend of June.

As early as February, Mt. Airy VHF Club member Jim KC3BVL, extended an invitation to Phil-Mont to join the club at Big Pocono State Park, and four PMRC members responded, Walt KC3WHU, Mike KC3UKC, Jim W3JG, and Drew WA3DB. Upon arrival the contest setup was nothing less than impressive, as this is not the Packrats' first rodeo by any means. The star of the show was not only the mini antenna farm with three impressive masts for park visitors to see, but also a large 30+ ft trailer-bus supporting two of its own smaller masts, all with coax that made its way to their respective radios. The trailer served as a base station for multiple bands and had enough space for over a half dozen operators to work them at the same time.

Most clubs celebrate Field Day as their big annual event, but the June VHF contest is a special event for the Microwave community and is considered a favorite among the Packrats. The June VHF contest operates under slightly different rules when compared to Field Day and only allows use of any amateur band above 50 MHz. The club operated using their memorial callsign, W3CCX, across ten bands and logged contacts and their Maidenhead grid squares for points. Jim W3JG and Walt KC3WHU operated on the 2m SSB station using a beam rotator to hone in on signals and a foot pedal to transmit with.

Next to the trailer was a large tent that provided shelter, hydration, and a place to escape for a friendly eyeball QSO after a contest shift. Mt. Airy VHF Club members were welcoming and enjoyed sharing some of their stories; the June VHF Contest dates to the 1950s and was a large part of the club's focus early in its conception in 1956, hence the name, the Mt. Airy VHF

Club. While they are not necessarily a contest club, contesting is an important aspect of the club's culture which gives them a unique legacy in not only the Microwave community, but also the Delaware Valley Amateur Radio community and beyond. It's also important to note that the club has a special status with Big Pocono State Park as they've been allowed to operate there for over thirty years, which is nothing less than remarkable. Promoting radio craft to the public is vital for the future of Amateur Radio and the Mt. Airy VHF Club demonstrates how a knowledgeable club can operate responsibly and share the experience with others.

Working so many bands successfully requires a lot of specialty gear and it is rare that the entire contest goes through without some sort of challenge, be it weather, equipment, or even propagation, but regardless of one, two, or all three, the Packrats come prepared. Jim KC3BVL reminded us that "most technical problems require improvised solutions" and this is where the club is known for their technical expertise as the club prides itself on building and modifying a lot of their own equipment that they use in contesting. If you are interested in learning more about operating 50 MHz and above, the June VHF weekend would be the best opportunity. On this particular weekend, on Saturday at least, propagation seemed to be the main culprit the first few hours after 1800 UTC when the contest started. That didn't stop Walt KC3WHU from pressing on and making double-digit contacts during his shift with Jim W3JG. In addition to the June VHF activities, three Phil-Monters took advantage of their first visit to Big Pocono State Park, also known as US-1333 among the POTA community, and made sure to get an activation in. Walt KC3WHU activated on FT8, Drew WA3DB on SSB, and Mike KC3UKC on CW. Aside from a few bug bites, it was a great visit and the Mt. Airy VHF Club made sure to let us know we are welcome again next year. Their club meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 at the Ben Wilson Senior Center in Warminster, PA.



## PACKRATS AT BIG POCONO





## PACKRATS AT BIG POCONO





## UPCOMING HAMFESTS

The Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club presents the



**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds**

762 Pike Springs Rd. (Rt. 113) at Firehouse Lane, Phoenixville, Pa.  
( 40.12748° N, 75.56720° W )

**Admission: Buyers 8:00 AM / Sellers 7:00 AM**

\$10 – Admission (free admission for unlicensed spouse and children of licensed Hams)

**\*Tailgate Space:**

\$10 – Admission  
\$10 – Car width space/head in parking  
No reserved tailgate spaces

**\*Indoor Tables:**

\$ 10 – Admission  
\$ 10 each for 1 - 4 tables  
\$ 8 each for 5 or more

*For updates and info, contact Bob Palin, N3JIZ, Hamfest Chair, at (610) 420-1535  
or [hamfest@marc-radio.org](mailto:hamfest@marc-radio.org), or visit our website: [www.marc-radio.org](http://www.marc-radio.org)*

- ✓ Rain or shine  
Indoor & Outdoor Facilities!
- ✓ VE tests at 10 a.m.! Register by contacting  
Brian Kelly at [bjkelly45@gmail.com](mailto:bjkelly45@gmail.com).
- ✓ QSL Card checking on site!
- ✓ Food Vendor on site!
- ✓ Lots of great door prizes from over 20 vendors!

Talk In: 145.130/- and  
147.060/+ CTCSS 131.8

Food and beverage sales  
by approved vendors only

**Vendor set up starts Sunday 8/9  
at 7:00 AM. No early setup  
without prior authorization from  
the Hamfest Chair!**

**Indoor table reservations**

(LIMITED ELECTRICAL) –  
Contact: Bob Palin, N3JIZ,  
Hamfest Chair, at 610-420-1535



## UPCOMING HAMFESTS

# CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA HAMFEST

Presented by Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club

[www.clearfieldcountyarcc.net/hamfest](http://www.clearfieldcountyarcc.net/hamfest)

Swap Meet | Meet n Greet | Rag Chew | Exam Session



## WHEN

Sunday September 13 2026  
8AM to 12 PM

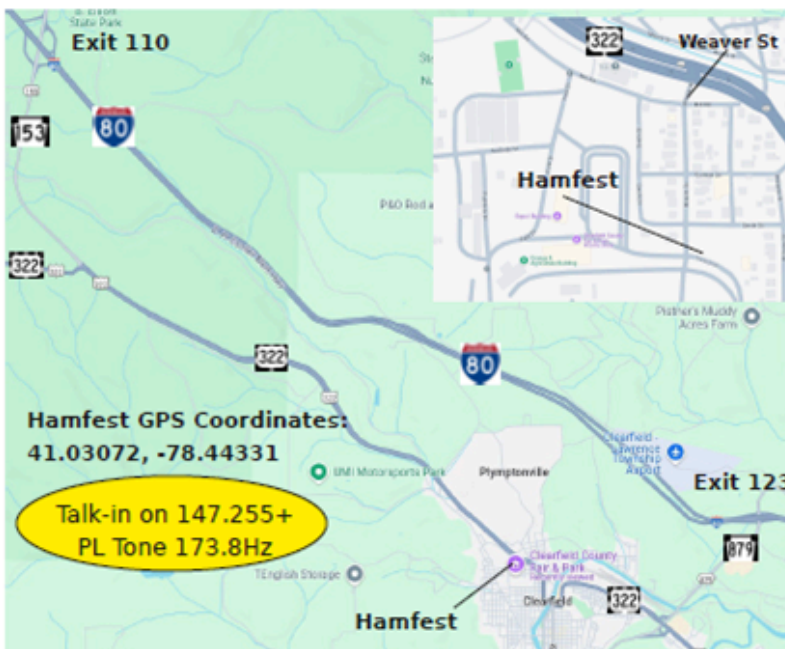
## WHERE

**DOOR PRIZES**

Clearfield County Fair Grounds

Community Hall Building and surrounding grounds

Use Weaver Street Exit on US 322 at Clearfield



Hamfest GPS Coordinates:  
41.03072, -78.44331

Talk-in on 147.255+  
PL Tone 173.8Hz

## CLEARFIELD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HAMFEST COMMITTEE

Rich Brink N3RBJ  
[rich.brnik@gmail.com](mailto:rich.brnik@gmail.com)  
814-571-5866

John Szwarc N3SPW  
[johnszwarc@gmail.com](mailto:johnszwarc@gmail.com)  
(814)553-5649

Tim Lumadue N3PUL  
[tlumadue176@gmail.com](mailto:tlumadue176@gmail.com)  
(814)761-5002

## FEES

Parking: FREE

General Admission: \$5\*

Inside Vendor Table: \$10

Tailgate Spaces: \$5

\*Active Duty Military/Emergency in uniform/  
under 12 free.

Reserve and pay for your table ahead of  
time: [hamfest@clearfieldcountyarcc.net](mailto:hamfest@clearfieldcountyarcc.net)

## EXAM SESSION

~~NO FEE FOR EXAM~~

Begins at 11 AM

(Reservations preferred but not required)

Contact: Mary Lewis N3UDN

E-mail: [jlms@windstream.net](mailto:jlms@windstream.net)

Sponsor: Ridgeway ARC/Laurel VEC

You will need:

- Your FRN
- Photo ID or student ID
- Email address
- Non-programable calculator (optional)
- \*\*\*If testing for General or Extra bring your  
current license card issued by the FCC\*\*\*

NOTE: Reasonable accommodations honored.  
Advance notice is appreciated.



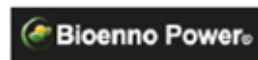
## EVENT SCHEDULE

- 6 AM Set-up Dealers & Tailgating
- 8 AM Hamfest opens
- 8 AM ARES® Meeting
- 9 AM SKYWARN Spotter Training
- 10 AM ARRL Atlantic Division Director &  
Section Manager
- 11AM VE Testing
- 11:30AM Prize Drawings
- 12 PM Close

## CONCESSIONS

Food - Drinks - Snacks

## OUR SPONSORS





## N3ZP'S CONTEST CORNER

Here is the contest calendar for July. The season is slowing down but there are VHF contests, some DX contests, and even PSK and RTTY.

### July 1-8

#### 13 Colonies Special Event

1300Z Jul 1 - 0400Z Jul 8 • All bands except 60m • All modes

Work the original 13 colonies and 3 special stations: GB13COL, TM13COL, and the Philadelphia station WM3PEN, operated by local hams. Use of VHF/UHF simplex is encouraged.

### July 4-5

#### CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest

1400Z Jul 4 - 1400Z Jul 5 • 6m and 2m • SSB, CW, FM

If you missed the June ARRL VHF Contest, here's another chance at Summer band openings on CW, SSB, or even FM (no repeaters). Look for Hilltoppers and Rovers.

#### Marconi Memorial HF Contest

1400Z Jul 4 - 1359Z Jul 5 • 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m • CW

An event to commemorate Guglielmo Marconi. Everyone can work everyone — work some CW DX.

#### PODXS 070 Club 40 Meter Firecracker Sprint

2000Z Jul 4 - 2000Z Jul 5 • 40m • PSK31

100W max. Work some PSK31 in any 6-hour period of this sprint contest.

### July 11-12

#### IARU HF World Championship

1200Z Jul 11 - 1200Z Jul 12 • 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m • CW, Phone

Improve operating skill working stations around the world, including IARU society HQ stations.

### July 18-19

#### CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest

1400Z Jul 18 - 1400Z Jul 19 • 6m and 2m • Digital

Another chance at VHF Summer propagation, this time on digital modes.

#### North American QSO Party RTTY

1800Z Jul 18 - 0559Z Jul 19 • 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m • RTTY

100W max. Stations worldwide work North America stations for this contest.

#### YOTA Contest

1000Z - 2159Z Jul 19 • 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m • CW, SSB

Support young hams 25 and under by working younger operators for this event.

### July 25-26

#### RSGB IOTA Event

1200Z Jul 25 - 1200Z Jul 26 • 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m • CW, SSB

Work island stations around the world in this Radio Society of Great Britain sponsored event.

#### Alabama QSO Party

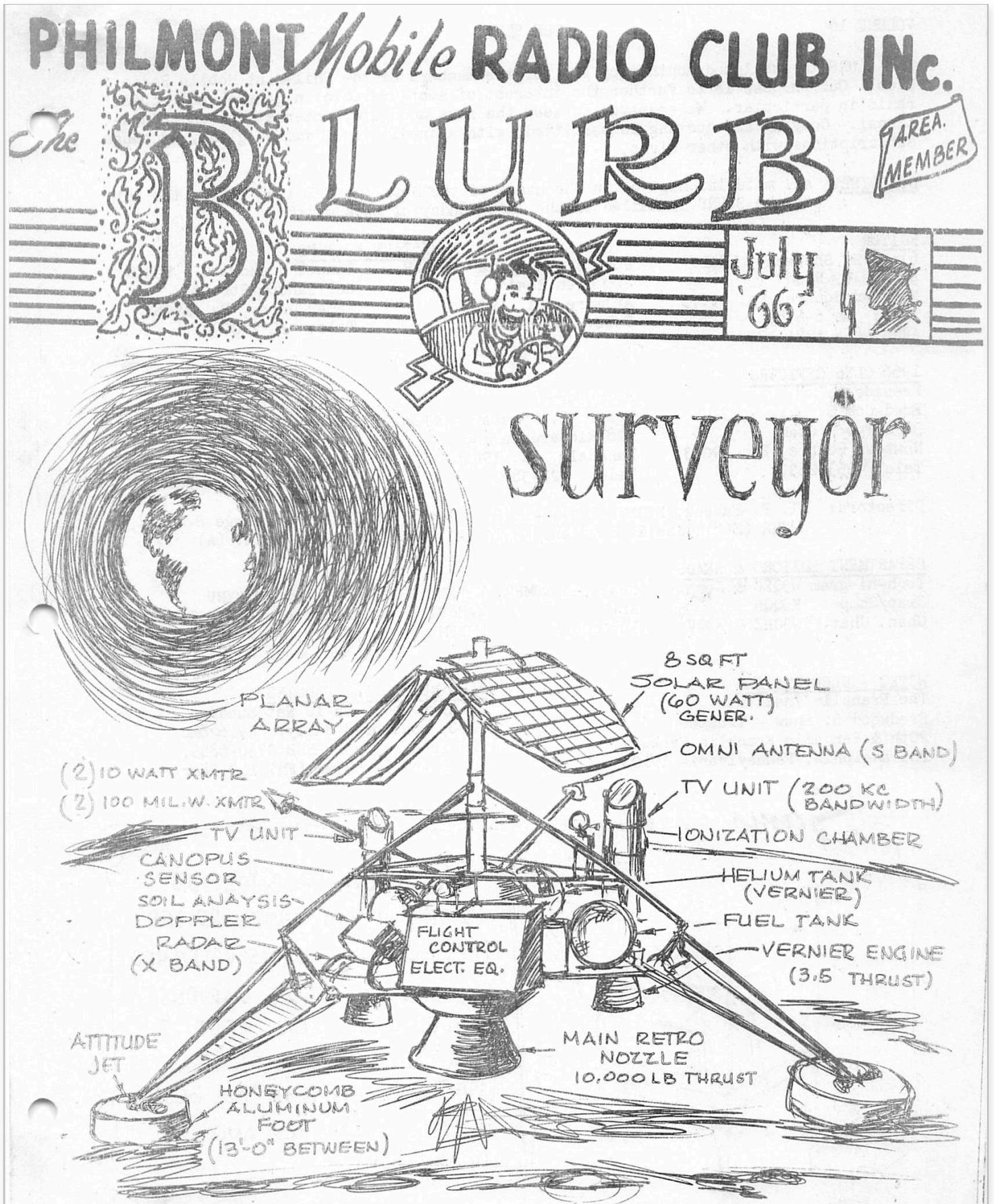
1500Z Jul 25 - 0300Z Jul 26 • 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m • CW, SSB

Work 67 Alabama counties in the only state QSO Party this month.

## FROM THE PMRC ARCHIVE...

*From the PMRC Archive — July 1966*

*Here are some highlights from this month in Blurb history, July 1966...*





**PMRC OFFICERS FOR 2026**

| Title          | Name | Callsign      |
|----------------|------|---------------|
| President      | Rich | <b>AA3RC</b>  |
| Vice President | Greg | <b>KC3SMW</b> |
| Treasurer      | Jim  | <b>NS3K</b>   |
| Secretary      | Dave | <b>K3DFG</b>  |

**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 retro receivers?  
 Something for sale?

Send your submissions to the editor!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

| Callsign      | Name    | Term |
|---------------|---------|------|
| <b>KC3GJX</b> | Jeff    | (27) |
| <b>K3NOP</b>  | Charlie | (27) |
| <b>KC3UKC</b> | Mike    | (27) |
| <b>W3AOK</b>  | Bill    | (A)  |
| <b>N3VIP</b>  | Tony    | (26) |
| <b>N3PEG</b>  | Peg     | (26) |
| <b>N3ZP</b>   | Phil    | (26) |

**BLURB EDITOR**

Richard Roth — AA3RC

Daniel Wagaman — W4GMN, SK  
*Editor Emeritus*

**CLUB WEBSITE**

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

**CLUB EMAIL LIST & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[groups.io/g/philmont](https://groups.io/g/philmont)

*Public Service Since 1949*

PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB — W3QV