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**>> GENERAL MEETING November 8, 2005 - 7:30 PM !! <<**

**including Elections & Auction**

**Elections for President, Vice President (fill term), Recording Secretary, & Directors**

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# Philadelphia Area Repeater Association

## Membership Information

PARA is an association of members that operate and support 19 Amateur Radio Repeaters and links in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. PARA was formed in 1970 and incorporated as an IRS 501c3 non-profit in 1973 through a merger of several repeater groups.

PARA repeaters serve the Amateur Radio community for normal everyday hobby communications as well as provide a system for emergency and disaster communications. PARA also promotes technical developments which ham radio has done so much of in the past.

PARA has four quadrant repeaters and one regional system on the 2-meter band as well as other repeaters on the 224 MHz and 440 MHz bands. PARA also has an Amateur TV System that relays television signals in the Philadelphia and Wilmington metropolitan areas.

Your membership dues support those repeaters listed below and help assure availability for emergency communications: 146.76 MHz, 146.82 MHz, 146.88 MHz, 146.94 MHz, 146.97 MHz, 443.90 MHz, 223.86 MHz, 224.94 MHz, 224.98 MHz, 52.41 MHz, 439.25 MHz (ATV), and all links between the remote receivers.

## Joining PARA

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DUES ..... \$ 25.00  
YEARLY RENEWAL ..... \$ 20.00  
5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP ..... \$ 85.00 (\$90.00 FOR NEW MEMBERS)  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ..... \$400.00  
SENIOR LIFE MEMBER ..... \$100.00 (AGE 65 AND OVER)  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ..... \$ 20.00 (non-hams) no voting privileges

Associate memberships, when licensed, may upgrade to full membership with no additional initiation fee.

Members also gain one free month on their membership for each new member you sponsor.

Corporate annual sponsorship memberships are also available: \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$5000, etc.

Annual sponsorships of \$500 or more will receive free advertising in PARA's newsletter.

Certificates of sponsorships are given to corporate sponsors.

Please detach & fill out (PRINT) the form below and mail with a check or money order to:

**PARA, POST OFFICE BOX 64, VALLEY FORGE, PA 19481-0064**

Membership Type: New  Renewal  Full individual Ham  5 Year  Life  Sr Life

Associate  Corporate  Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_ OK TO LIST  YES  NO

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Radio Equipment Maintenance  WRITING / PUBLISHING  PUBLIC RELATIONS  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## From The President – Gene K3DSM

Happy Birthday to PARA! PARA is now 35 years old! Wow! I remember the early days when PARA was formed. The 2 clubs that merged to form PARA may have been the first 2 repeater organizations in the Philadelphia area. PARA quickly grew to over 600 paid members. PARA covered most of the Philadelphia area, especially since there were good locations and many remote receivers.

One of the things that happened though, was that everyone wanted their own repeater, and everyone had a different idea on how to run a repeater group. Gradually, some split off from PARA and formed their own repeaters in their own areas. Initially, there were so many newcomers into 2 meter FM, that these other groups didn't hurt PARA's growth.

PARA had growing pains with lost repeater sites and repeater failures, and some of these really hurt PARA. Between PARA's Sellersville 76/ 88 machine and the Berwyn 94 machine, PARA was at its prime. Even the Penn Valley 76 site was extremely good for many years. One of the biggest blows came when the Valley Forge Tower came down. It didn't help when the Wochester Tower came down either.

Over the last 8 or 9 years, the Internet has stolen much of the ham activity, not only from PARA, but from all the ham bands. As much as I think the Internet is great though, I still like my ham radio more. There are still some pockets of big ham activities, and it appears that where the interesting programs and activities are, that's where the "hot pocket" is. "Fox Hunting" is a popular activity of one nearby group. Contesting is popular with several groups, and ham TV is popular with a small segment of PARA, thanks to Ron, K3ZKO. ICOM's Digital D-Star is the next big thing. There is a new group that formed here in the Southwest Quadrant area, unfortunately not part of PARA, that has about 20 some ICOM ID-1 D-Star units on 1244 Mhz. Chester County ARES RACES also has 2 locations (West Chester & Bucktown) with ID-1s and several of its members are operating through the Bucktown link into the County computer in West Chester. I was trying to keep that group part of PARA, even though some of its members are PARA members. Paul, N3UD is working on links with his 2 D-Star repeaters, and once this system starts doing something, others may take notice and join in on the activity. By the way, if you are interested in D-Star, see Paul first. You can't beat his price for the ID-1s.

The Northwest Quadrant is alive and well again. They started a group within the quadrant as I suggested, and they will have their own meetings and even support the PARA 88 repeater with an arrangement that should be beneficial to everyone.

Ham radio has seen widespread use for emergency communications lately, between the floods of the south, as well as Jersey and New England. How do you stand with your emergency communications preparedness? When the lights and communications go out, will your radio work?

Elections are coming. I am hoping there will be a good attendance at the coming meeting in November. I am also hoping there will be some fresh blood. I still want to be active with PARA, but hopefully not as President. I am severely wounded as I type this. Between the herniated L5 disk and sciatica, I am in a lot of pain. PT and Decompression treatments have not worked over the last 5 months and I am scheduled for cortisone treatments in early November.

"Computer Corner" (Saturdays 8-9AM) celebrated 1 year on the air October 1<sup>st</sup> on WCOJ-1420AM. Most past shows can be heard from MP3 links on the WCOJ Computer Corner past shows web page. Ham Radio gets mentioned often, especially when I did the show on BPL. **Gene's web site: <http://para.k3dsm.net>**

# **Let's Have an Auction**

**Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>  
during the annual PARA meeting**

**Bring your goodies, bring your friends, and spread the word**

**Here are the Rules:**

- **PARA receives 10% or \$10, which ever is less**
- **Ham, Ham related, or other desirable electronics equipment only**
- **Only individuals may offer equipment for auction (No Dealers)**
- **Non-members may both sell and purchase**
- **Tag each item before displaying with: name, call, minimum acceptable bid**
- **And description and condition**
- **Any unsold items must be removed by the person bringing items**
- **PARA offers no warranty –**
- **Bring your own bills and coins so you can make change or purchase items**
- **Bring cash in case the seller won't accept a check**
- **It will be the sellers responsibility to collect and also to pay the fee to PARA**

## **Meeting Agenda – Vote Early**

**630-730PM Setup and Inspection, 50-50 Ticket Sales, Refreshments**

**730PM Call Meeting to order, reports, etc**

**745PM Elections; President, Vice President (fill term), Recording Secretary, etc**

**800PM Auction Begins**

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## PARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>TERM</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CALL</u>
2004/2005	PRESIDENT:	Gene Mitchell	K3DSM
2005/2006	VICE PRESIDENT:	(Vacant)	
2005/2006	TREASURER:	Lynnette	W3GZZ
2005/2006	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Mark Sardaro	KA3VTM
2004/2005	RECORDING SECRETARY:	Larry Gasperone	W2CAM
<b><u>DIRECTORS:</u></b>			
2004/2005	NORTHEAST	Bud Batyi	N3JQB
2005/2006	NORTHEAST	John Brochon	K3ZFD
2004/2005	NORTHWEST	Vince Swistak	N3AGD
2005/2006	NORTHWEST	Stan Bentley	KB3EXB
2004/2005	SOUTHEAST	(Vacant)	
2005/2006	SOUTHEAST	Gregory Grdinich	N2NFL
2004/2005	SOUTHWEST	Al Rabenau	W3AHR
2005/2006	SOUTHWEST	Paul Tabatschkow	N3UD

***PARA-graphs* Editor: Dick Stewart, K3ITH**  
**Web Site: <http://para.buxcom.net>**

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### PARA MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED??

Do you know when your PARA membership dues are due? It's very easy to check. Just look at the mailing label on this issue of *PARA-graphs*. The first line contains your call letters and membership expiration date; the format is a 4-digit year followed by a 2-digit month. If your membership expiration date is circled in **red** then your **PARA dues are now due**. Please send a \$20.00 check payable to **PARA** to:

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Thank you for renewing promptly!! **If you viewing this issue in softcopy** you may also send e-mail requesting your membership expiration date. Please send your request to: [para76@juno.com](mailto:para76@juno.com)

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## MOVING ???

If moving, please notify **PARA** of your new address as soon as possible. The Post Office will **NOT** forward your mail after 30-days. With each issue of *PARA-graphs* several copies are returned by the Post Office marked “**RETURN TO SENDER, NO FORWARD ORDER ON FILE**”. Please forward your new address so we may keep our database up-to-date and, of course, *PARA-graphs* in your hands.

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## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new PARA members:

Trevor KC2KQU    John KC2KQV    David KC2LYX    Loring W3QA

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## ADVERTISING in *PARA-graphs*

At the November 1999 Board meeting approval was received to accept ads in *PARA-graphs* to help offset ever-raising printing and postage costs. The following per issue ad schedule was approved:

Full Page \$125.    Half Page \$75.    Quarter Page \$50.    Business Card \$25.    Non-Commercial Classified 3 lines \$10.

Repeat ad in following issue(s) will receive a 10% discount. Contact Dick K3ITH to place an ad.

**Special “Thank You” for our advertising support which permitted mailing this issue as opposed to e-mailing.**

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**This and past issues of *PARA-Graphs* may be found at:**

**<http://para.buxcom.net> or <http://para.k3dsm.net>**

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## INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR *PARA-graphs* ??

Several great articles have been submitted in past issues by your fellow **PARA** members such as Joe K3JV, Larry W2CAM, Hank W3GSC with help from Vince N3AGD, Gene W3ZXV, and Gene K3DSM. Please feel free to submit anything Amateur Radio related. Articles may be mailed to our PO Box, or e-mailed to [k3ith@arrl.net](mailto:k3ith@arrl.net)

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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The following thanks to the ARRL and THE ARRL LETTER dated October 28, 2005:

==>FLORIDA AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS ANSWER THE CALL

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) volunteers from all three Florida ARRL sections answered the call this week to provide communication support in the wake of Hurricane Wilma. Millions of residents in South Florida remained without power at week's end, and relief agencies were continuing efforts to meet basic needs of affected residents. Ham radio volunteers turned out in force to assist them, although the need for additional Amateur Radio support waned—perhaps only momentarily--toward week's end.

"Things seem to be winding down," ARRL Southern Florida Section Emergency Communications Coordinator Jeff Beals, WA4AW, said October 28. "We've put a temporary hold on new operators to assist the affected counties in the Southern Florida Section." As of week's end, Beals said, some 60 Amateur Radio volunteers from Florida plus a few from outside the state were deployed in hurricane-affected counties.

Beals has been coordinating the deployment of Amateur Radio volunteers in his section with assistance from ARRL West Central Florida SEC Neil Lauritsen, W4NHL, and ARRL Northern Florida SEC Joe Bushel, W2DWR. Since Wilma raked the Florida peninsula, Amateur Radio volunteers have been providing vital tactical communications for the Red Cross and its shelters, special care facilities, county emergency operations centers (EOCs), state logistical staging areas (LSAs), and points of distribution (PODs) for food, ice and water, Beals said

At week's end Beals was visiting EOCs in Broward and Palm Beach counties to determine their present and future needs for Amateur Radio communication support. He said things could pick up again next week. "I believe the situation is as good as it can be at the moment," Beals explained October 28, "but we believe there may be additional needs next week and the week after, as well as to replace people who have been working long hours at their posts."

Earlier in the week in Palm Beach County, ARRL Emergency Coordinator Dave Messinger, N4QPM, reported Amateur Radio volunteers were staffing three Red Cross shelters, a special care unit, the Red Cross Chapter house, the LSA at the county fairgrounds and the county EOC. Staging areas for volunteers in Southern Florida are in the Palm Beach and W Palm Beach and Broward County EOCs.

Beals said the Amateur Radio link between the Broward EOC and the Palm Beach Fairgrounds distribution point has proven invaluable as a primary communication channel because of problems with satellite telephones.

The Wellington RACES team spearheaded by RACES Radio Officer Larry Lazar, KS4NB, was handling local health-and-welfare traffic. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz also was taking Hurricane Wilma health-and-welfare traffic. HF traffic nets have been running smoothly throughout the activation.

Northern Florida State Government Liaison Ted Zateslo, W1XO, reported generators in high demand this week as widespread power outages hampered relief efforts. Southern Florida SM Sherri Brower, W4STB, still without electricity, was told it could be up to two weeks before power is restored in her area, Zateslo said. Brower does have telephone service, however.

Beals said that he and Brower "wish to express our appreciation to all the amateurs who have answered the call for assistance to our section."

==>"HAM AID" ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED TO RITA, WILMA VOLUNTEERS



Thanks to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the ARRL's "Ham Aid" program has been expanded. In addition to Hurricane Katrina Amateur Radio volunteers, Ham Aid now will cover those who are serving or have served in the wake of hurricanes Rita and Wilma. CNCS provided ARRL with \$170,000 in grant extensions to support Ham Aid. The fund offers limited reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses to ham radio volunteers who are providing or have provided emergency communication support in communities devastated by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

"To date, there is adequate funding to support the hundreds of hams who traveled to the Southeast since late August," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. She points out that the same reimbursement procedures already in place for Hurricane Katrina Amateur Radio volunteers will apply to hurricane Rita and Wilma volunteers  
<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/cnscs/>>.

In an effort to distribute funding to as many ham radio volunteers as possible, Hobart says expense reimbursements at present are limited to \$25 per day for a maximum of four days, or a total reimbursement per radio amateur of \$100. Amateur Radio volunteers are eligible for one expense reimbursement per hurricane event. For now, the program only covers per-diem reimbursements between September 1 and December 31, 2005. The period may be extended, however, based on availability of funds.

Hobart says she wants to allay fears of Amateur Radio volunteers who believe accepting the money is contrary to FCC Part 97 rules. §97.113 prohibits "Communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules." Hobart says Ham Aid reimbursements are not for providing "communications" but to help with such costs as travel, meals, lodging and other necessities.

"These out-of-pocket expenses can be a hardship for some Amateur Radio volunteers," Hobart said, noting that some hurricane volunteers have come from the ranks of the unemployed or seniors on fixed incomes. "If we can help one ham to serve where badly needed, that's what this grant is intended to do." She encouraged all who served in the field in the aftermath of Katrina, Rita or Wilma to put in for the reimbursement nonetheless--if for no other reason than to honor those who have volunteered before them throughout ham radio's history.

"These volunteers should consider applying anyway and then donate the reimbursement to their club or to another emergency communication-related project," she said. "I'd like to see this money support ARES and our emergency response capabilities in the field." Hobart says the CNCS grant is a tangible expression of the value that the federal government puts on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication asset.

"I hope people take advantage of the helping hand CNCS has extended," Hobart says. "Let's put this funding to work as CNCS intended."

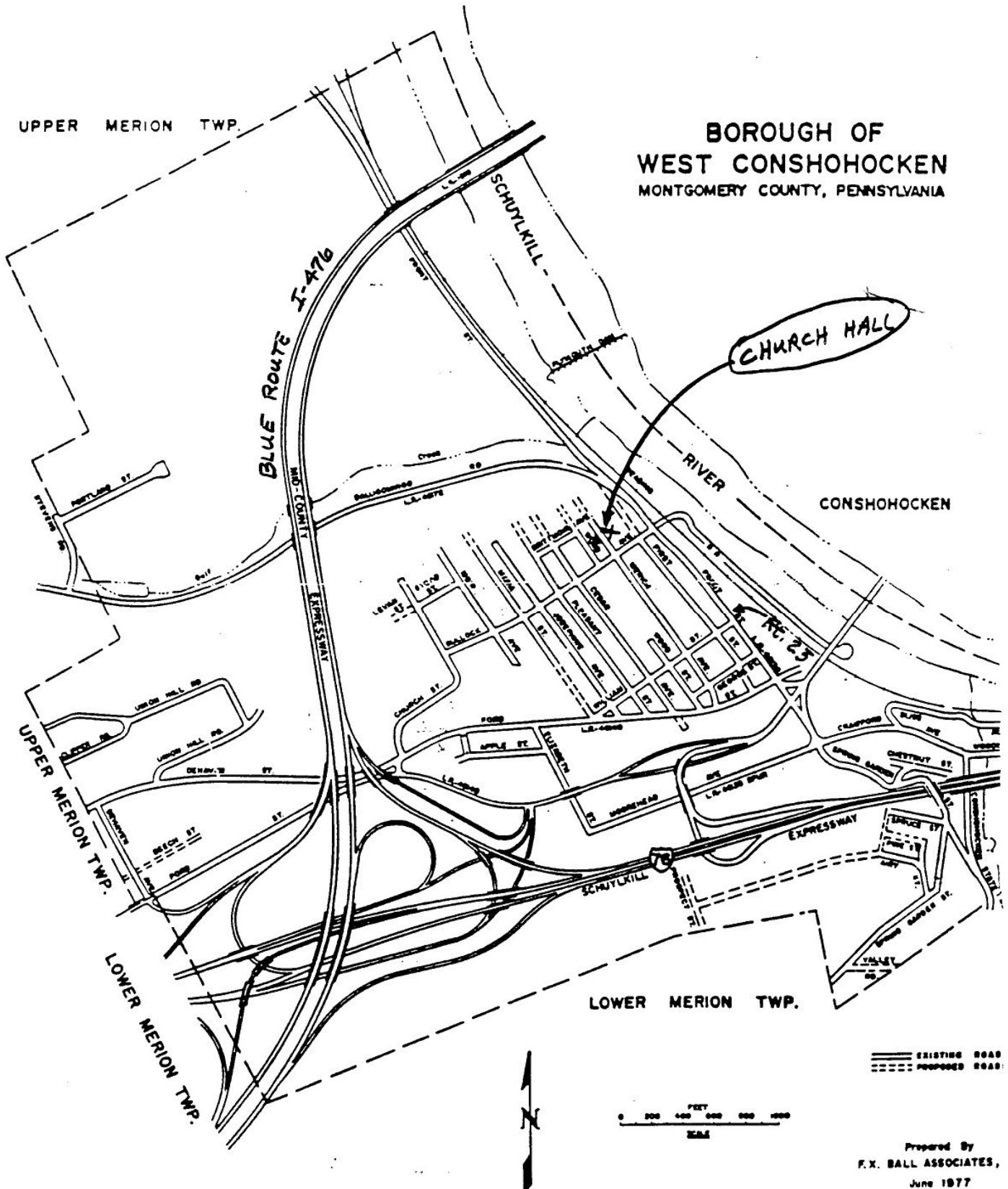
Hobart says the League will accept reimbursement request applications on a first-come, first served basis for as long as funds are available. Reimbursement checks will be mailed to the address the radio amateur provides on the form.

The CNCS grant is an extension of the ARRL's three-year Homeland Security training grant, which has provided certification in emergency communication protocols to nearly 5500 Amateur Radio volunteers over the past three years. This grant extension does not cover additional ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications training program reimbursements, however.

Cash donations from individuals are also being accepted by the ARRL to support hams in the field assisting with hurricane relief and recovery efforts. To make a donation go to the ARRL general donation form and select "Ham Aid" (this is a secure site)  
<<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/basic/>>.

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**Directions to the PARA General meeting .....**

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Take the Conshohocken Exit and follow the sign to Rt. 23 West into West Conshohocken. Bullock Avenue will be the fourth street on your left, turn left onto Bullock Avenue and go one block to Merion Avenue, use parking lot on your right. The church hall entrance is on Merion Avenue itself closest to Bullock Avenue. Talk-in will be provided on the Valley Forge 146.76 MHz Repeater.