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>> GENERAL MEETING May 8, 2007 - 7:30 PM !! <<
Special Edition: Tribute to Fred W3PHL/SK
Discussion on new procedure to elect 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.

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From the President – January 15, 2007 Gene Mitchell, K3DSM

The annual meeting (Nov 14th) of PARA had 12 members in attendance. 3 were from the SE Quadrant, 2 from the SW Quadrant, and the remaining 7 were from the “16 Quadrant”. This points out why the 5th Quadrant (or should we call it District) is proposed. Let this be notice that By-Law changes are pending.

After normal business was taken care of, there was a discussion about changes the organization must do to survive. Everyone was in agreement that change was needed. There have been several meetings with no one in attendance from the NE or NW, including directors, and it was even suggested that when that persists, maybe an alternative would be to open those positions also to the general membership. Everyone was in agreement to go ahead with ByLaw changes to have only one director from each quadrant, have a director representing 16, and have 3 directors from membership at large. It was also suggested that the position of corresponding secretary be eliminated and that would make 11 on the board. The correct wording should be worked out and advertised for the required 2 issues of PARAGraphs, and a vote taken at the May meeting.

Elections took place and John KB2ADL was re-elected for Vice President for another full term. Larry, W2CAM was re-elected as Recording Secretary. KC2KQV was re-elected to serve a full 2 year term, along with N2NFL Greg, the other director from the SE. No elections were held for the other quadrants, due to lack of participation, and it was noted that since the NW, SW, and NE have missed 2 general elections, that technically, there were no existing directors from those quadrants.

John ADL said he was willing to help with PARAGraphs and give it a try. By the way, those who missed the meeting missed a big sale, because there was equipment strung out over the entire length of the wall from the estate of K3HLN.

Here in the Southwest Quadrant, CCAR (Chester County ARES-RACES) has been testing ICOM's digital 2 meter and 440mhz repeaters with very good success. If you have seen the ads and wonder who was going to put these systems up, you now have the answer. Speaking of CCAR, members are getting certified with the emergency certification which is now required for insurance and other reasons.

PARA has Coordination problems, according to the ARCC. The coordination committee has rejected PARA's 131.8 tone because an adjacent area coordinating committee claims that this tone is also used on several of the repeaters in Western Pennsylvania. This affects 5 of our repeaters on 3 bands. We have asked for a 30 day extension to work out the problem.

I am radio-active on 76 most days, giving a call first there, before looking on 446 or 224 Mhz. I have a scanner on most of the time at the shop and at home. Can other PARA members claim to be “active” in the evening? Activity seems to be very light. I recently replaced my low band antenna and plan to get active again on HF. In fact, I have made some contacts. Ham radio is more challenging than the Internet. I multi-task with my notebook computer, ham radio, and satellite TV.

The radio show Computer Corner, is doing well still. You can hear MP3 files of past shows linked from the wcoj.com web site. I usually run a ham radio promo during the show as a “public service announcement”. For those who wonder, AM radio is alive and well, because I get many people stopping by my shop to meet me and say hello. Many customers come in with their computers also saying they listen to the show. I even get visitors from some who listen who don't even own a computer.

PARA is hanging on with some activity. It's too bad that more aren't involved. Somehow, I manage to put in time with everything I am involved with. What can you do for PARA?

Gene K3DSM

From the President April 15, 2007 Gene Mitchell, K3DSM

The January President's letter never went out, so it too is attached as part of this issue of PARAGraphs.

I was saddened to hear about the passing of Freddy, W3PHL on March 30th. PARA has a tower and equipment at his QTH on Valley Forge Mountain. Fred has been a special friend to PARA over the years. He also has been a friend to the Roosters and other hams, hosting Thursday night gatherings and other activities. I met Fred back in the early 60's with his super modulation on the HF bands and when attending school in Indiana, talked to him from there. The memorial service in Phoenixville was attended with a full very large room of his friends, showing a small portion of those his life touched.

New repeaters are popping up on 902Mhz and PARA is among them. One new system in Roxboro, sponsored by the Society of Broadcast Engineers, claims to have very good range. There are several commercial radios that can be modified for this band. With the right antenna and location, 900 Mhz does much better than cell phones. You still have the limitation of line of site.

The coordination problem is still not resolved with some of our repeaters and their tones. Although PARA has been using these frequencies and 131hz for 25 years, records were lost when the coordination committees were changed years ago. It ceases to amaze me that hard and fast rules can't be flexible with the distance and multiple mountain ranges involved.

Windows VISTA is out and in the wild and I could write a book about it. In fact, I did a radio show on it, and new things come up all the time. Besides it's incompatibilities with both software and hardware, I am finding new issues with it each time I turn the computer on that has VISTA. I chose the Ultimate Edition to set up and learn on. There are web sites that have videos that won't play after the updates are installed and I have found that when the VISTA computer sits for more than a week, it wants to reactivate. The process also flashes a message that my copy of VISTA is not legitimate (it is). Keep your Windows XP, at least till the next version with service packs are released.

Speaking of radio, I am also doing a feature called Tech Tuesday which airs 3 times on Tuesday morning during drive time. I choose a topic and get 1-2 minutes to relate an interesting topic. I record the piece while I am there over the weekend.

The countdown is on for HDTV. In less than 2 years, channel 3, 6, 10, 12, 17, 23, 29, 39, 48, 57, 65, 69, and other analog channels will shutdown and be no more. I was surprised when I mentioned this on the radio show a little over a month ago. A flurry of phone calls into the show told the story of how many didn't understand this. There appears to be a very large population that gets off air TV, and despite all the publicity that I have seen and heard, it didn't sink in that analog TV really was going away to those callers.

It appears that the digital converters to convert the HDTV signal to work with an old analog TV may be more costly than TVs are presently selling for, even with the discount coupons that will be offered. I am told that if we have DirecTV service, we will still be able to get everything out there, including the major networks converted to the present channels. I am not impressed by the wider picture or buying an expensive new TV, but I am impressed by the quality of Satellite TV service, standard edition.

I am usually listening 146.76, 224.94, and several other frequencies in the scanner all day long, weekdays, if you want to talk tech on the air. Hope to see you all at the May meeting and why not bring a friend.

Gene K3DSM

PARA GENERAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Tuesday May 8, 2007
St. Gertrude's Church Hall
209 Merion Ave
West Conshohocken, PA

Talk-in on 146.76 MHz Repeater (131.8 Hz PL)

(See map & directions elsewhere in this issue)

Bring your goodies, bring your friends, and spread the word
Free table available to buy/sell you ham radio related goodies.

Meeting Agenda

7:00-

7:30 PM

Setup and Inspection, Buy & Sell items, 50-50 Ticket Sales, Refreshments

7:30 PM

Call Meeting to order, introductions, reports, etc

7:45 PM

Discussion on new procedure for electing Directors

The following thanks to the ARRL and THE ARRL LETTER dated April 20, 2007:

* CubeSats launch successfully! Four CubeSats containing payloads operating on Amateur Radio frequencies were among several spacecraft launched successfully April 17 at 0645 UTC from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. A Dnepr rocket deployed seven CubeSats plus seven other satellites from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine into Earth orbit, and signals from at least two of the four CubeSats have been copied on Earth. Among the spacecraft was Colombia's first satellite. The CubeSats are: CalPoly's PolySats CP3 and CP4, 436.845 MHz and 437.325 MHz respectively, 1200 bps FM AFSK, AX.25, 1 W, operating under an FCC Part-5 Experimental license; University of Louisiana CAPE-1 435.245 MHz, 9600 bps FM FSK AX.25 and CW telemetry during opposing 30-second intervals, 1 W, call sign K5USL (e-mail telemetry reports jd.harrist@gmail.com); Universidad Sergio Arboleda, Colombia, Libertad-1, 437.405 MHz, 1200 bps FM AFSK AX.25, 400 mW, call sign 5K3L. CP4 will transmit a "sensor snapshot" every 2 minutes on 437.325 MHz at 1200bps FSK, AX.25. FSK will require using SSB mode for reception. A 6-second CW preamble precedes this transmission. Keplerian elements for the new ham radio birds and additional information will be posted on Cal Poly's CubeSat Web page <http://www.cubesat.org/>. CalPoly offers a CubeSat "Satellite Contact Form" to report telemetry data received from any satellite <http://cubesat.atl.calpoly.edu/pages/missions/dnepr-launch-2/data-packet-form.php>. -- AMSAT

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| <u>TERM</u> | <u>POSITION</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>CALL</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2006/2007 | PRESIDENT: | Gene Mitchell | K3DSM |
| 2007/2008 | VICE PRESIDENT: | John Goheen | KB2ADL |
| 2007/2008 | TREASURER: | (Vacant) | |
| 2007/2008 | CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: | (Vacant) | |
| 2006/2007 | RECORDING SECRETARY: | Larry Gasperone | W2CAM |
| <u>DIRECTORS:</u> | | | |
| 2006/2007 | NORTHEAST | Bud Batyi | N3JQB |
| 2007/2008 | NORTHEAST | (Vacant) | |
| 2006/2007 | NORTHWEST | Vince Swistak | N3AGD |
| 2007/2008 | NORTHWEST | (Vacant) | |
| 2006/2007 | SOUTHEAST | John E McCaughrean | KC2KQV |
| 2007/2008 | SOUTHEAST | Gregory Grdinich | N2NFL |
| 2006/2007 | SOUTHWEST | Al Rabenau | W3AHR |
| 2005/2006 | SOUTHWEST | (Vacant) | |

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

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**.

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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

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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.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new PARA members:
Andy N3GNA Dave N3KKL Bob NE3I

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.

This and past issues of *PARA-Graphs* may be found at:
<http://para.buxcom.net> or <http://para.k3dsm.net>

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

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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Host Site for <http://para.buxcom.net>

The following letter from Moe N3ZA is a tribute to his good friend, Fred W3PHL. (Reprinted with permission of Moe N3ZA)

This is a sad day for me. I lost a friend and teacher. Probably more the teacher. I tried to think what motivated me (I was pretty shy at 16) to call him and ask if I could help?? There is just so much to tell. It's hard to know where to start. Fred was one of the first signals I heard back in 1967 when I was an SWL. I wrote his call down on one of the first lists I ever made while listening. I still have it! I think it was the technical talk that drew me in to Ham Radio, and Fred was one of the best at 'tech speak'. And who could forget the voice?? I was just fascinated by talk about all things radio. That's where the teaching part comes in. I learned so much. The Thursday night meetings were really great, as we usually had someone with a problem radio, or project they needed help with. Anyway, below is a little list of things I remember best that happened while being around one of the best people I have ever known.

- Digging the hole for the big tower - it was HOT and a lot of rocks. Fred did most of it, as I was pretty scrawny at 16.
- Digging the trench from tower to house for the feedlines. Just brutal with the rocks. I remember Bobbie working the rock garden, and I was adding to it!
- Tower raising, with Fred basically on top with nothing around him to grab onto. Really brave (or a little crazy)? Still unforgettable.
- Hanging out with the guys at the meetings. W3BSG, W3BED, W3CUP, W3EBY were the regulars. Man, did I learn a lot from those guys! I was usually one of the last to leave those meetings.
- Fred was my first real boss, too (Woolworth's doesn't count) at Elco in Willow Grove. A great boss, who basically taught me TTL logic. Too bad I got drafted in June of '72. When I got back, Elco was gone.
- Helping me compose a letter to dispute a request for log submittal from A. Prose Walker, for transmitting in the Advanced portion of the band, when I was a General! Now how did that happen?
- Once, when I got there to help with the tower, Fred was cutting tree branches from an extension ladder, to make room for guy wires, when all of a sudden the branch he was cutting came clear, and fell onto his shoulder! He managed to stay on the ladder, and remove the heavy branch. Very scary moment when I was basically helpless!
- Assembling the 40 meter quad while on the tower. Fred shouting directions from above me. I can't remember details, but we did get it done in time for the CQWW SSB contest.
- Riding back from the Cincinnati hamfest. Fred was driving at night, and to help keep him going, he just about told me his whole life story. I especially recall the story of how he kept beating his post commander in 10 meter DX pileups using his homebrew beam.
- Making oil-filled capacitors in his downstairs, after being laid off from Burrough's after 12 years of service. I learned a lot about capacitors!
- Restoring the modified Heathkit DX-100 he used for the upside-down tube experiments, and giving it to me for use on the air!
- Replacing fixed loading capacitors in my Collins 32V3 (sold to me by W3BED). He did this a number of times during the Thursday meetings. I kept blowing them with my lousy antenna!

- 40 meter QSO's between Arnold Tamchin, W2HCW, and Fred.

As I said, I could go on, and these are just a few highlights. I really don't know how to properly conclude this, except to say that he was always willing to help anyone, and to offer advice. A better friend/teacher you couldn't ask for -anywhere. Very 73 Fred!

Maurice (Moe) Mosheim - WA3MKS, KD3AP, NK3U, now N3ZA April 3, 2007



Fred W3PHL circa 1970

Information about Fred W3PHL's famous 40-meter station may be found at:

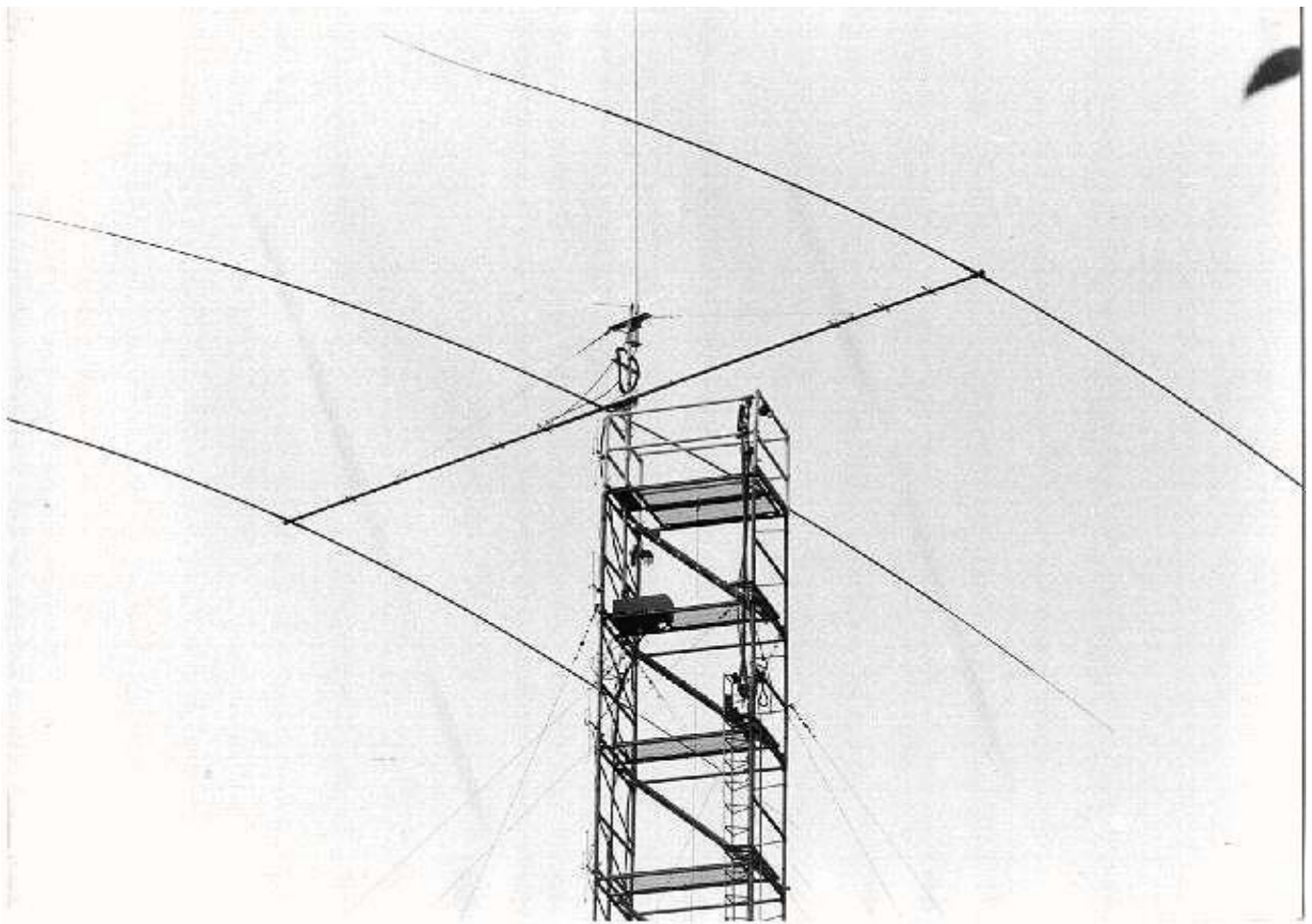
<http://home.comcast.net/~mmosh/w3phl/w3phl.html>

Thanks to Moe N3ZA for maintaining this web site tribute to Fred W3PHL.

Photos on next page:

Top: Fred's 125 foot tower with 3-element 40 meter beam (~1970)

Bottom: Fred W3PHL's Shack (early-1970)



Fred W3PHL/SK 1929 - 2007

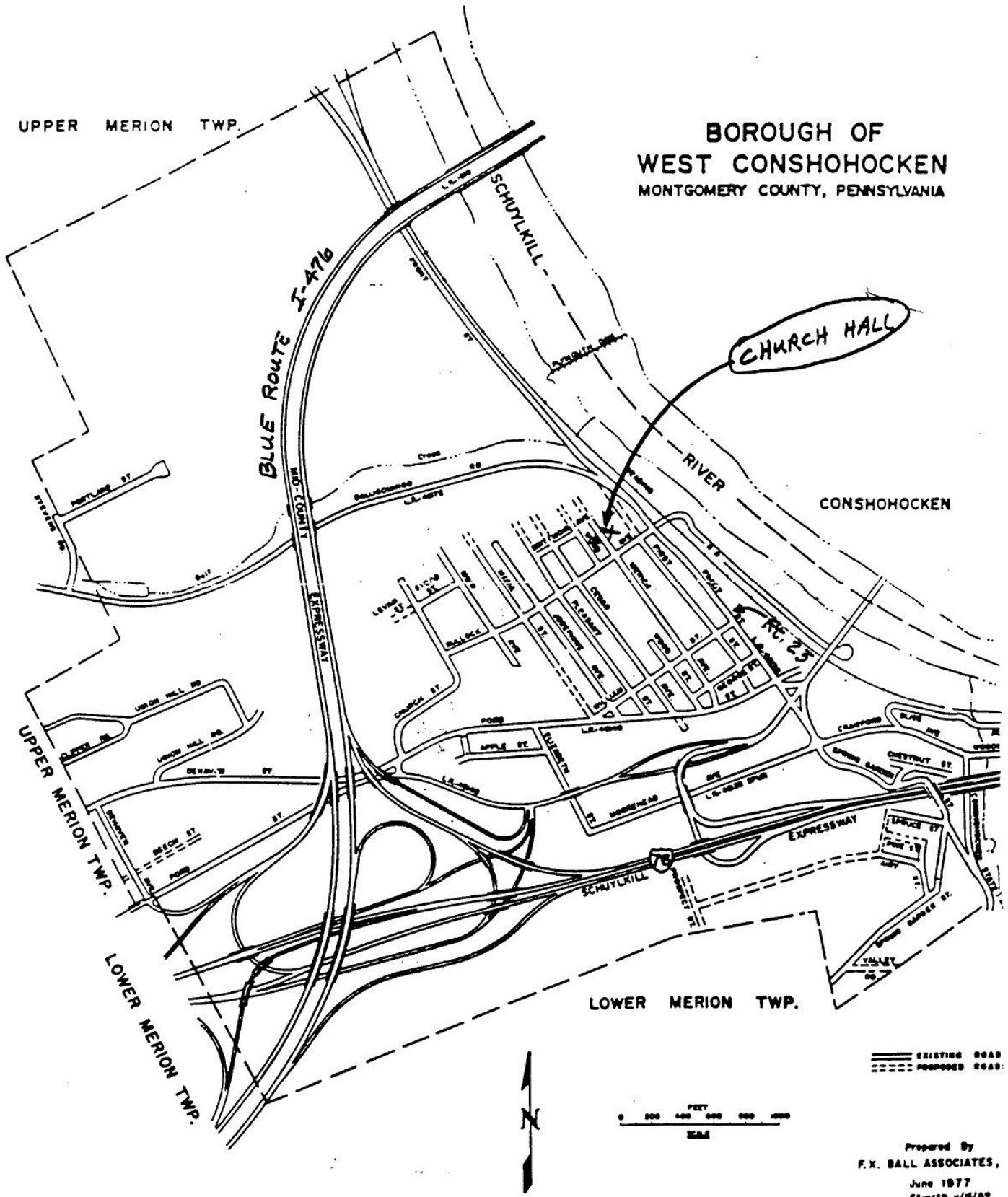
Some recent pictures of our good friend Fred W3PHL; he will be truly missed by his family and the ham radio community. Fred and his wife Bobbie are both paid *PARA* Life Members and active with Main Line Power Squadron and The Rooster Net on 3990 KHz. (Photos by Dick K3ITH)

Rooster Picnic Weekend July 2006:



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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 St. Gertrude's Church Hall door entrance is on Merion Avenue itself closest to Bullock Avenue. Talk-in will be provided on the Valley Forge 146.76 MHz Repeater.