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**P A R A**



**>> GENERAL MEETING November 11, 2009 - 7:30 PM !! <<**  
**Lower Providence Township Building**  
**Eagleville, Pennsylvania**  
**New PARA Constitution Changes being proposed – First Review**

**PARA WEB SITE: <http://para.buxcom.net>**

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# Philadelphia Area Repeater Association

## Membership Information

PARA is an association of members that operate and support 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

E-MAIL (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL MEMBER (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSORED BY \_\_\_\_\_

I CAN HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING: TOWERS  ANTENNAS  BLDG MAINTENANCE  Equipment  
Maintenance  WRITING/PUBLISHING  PUBLIC RELATIONS  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (01-02-2009)

**From the President**  
**Gene Mitchell K3DSM**  
**October 2009**

The annual membership meeting is coming and this will be a very important meeting. The board has proposed changing the Constitution and ByLaws to bring us up to date and make the organization more stream-lined. We have had trouble with participation from several of the quadrants over that last 4 or more years and it makes for very frustrating meetings trying to accomplish business. The amendments call for eliminating the quadrant directors and having board members elected from the general membership. It also reduces the board in size. The wording has been worked out and the process of amending the By-Laws starts with the notification to members in this Paragraphs. It takes, I believe 2 consecutive Paragraphs and at the second meeting, next May, the changes could become final. If you have any feelings on the matter, you should come to the meeting and discuss them.

On a lighter side, I ran across 2 new “toys” that have impressed me over the last 6 months and I thought I would share that information with you. I have been looking at the iPhone now for some time, but have resisted because of the complaints with the AT&T network. I bought the next best thing, the iPod Touch. It has everything the iPhone has except the phone. I use it every day to check the weather, the news, my email, and even more. It normally connects with the house WIFI network. While on vacation, I found another device called MIFI. Both Sprint and Verizon have it. It’s a little credit card sized package that fits in your shirt pocket that that takes the 3G data signal from the cell towers and gives you instant WIFI access any where you go. This coupled with the iPod Touch effectively gives you an iPhone. I plan on bringing both to the November meeting. Works great with any other computer as well.

The Technical end of PARA is usually always in flux and here is the latest scoop: 94 is moving to a new location in West Chester. The tower that it has been on for the last 10 or so years is coming down. The new location is on the new Justice Center in downtown. Eagleville is also under change. Antennas are being changed and a temporary link has been set up while the work is being done. The 88 repeater is down again, at least at this writing. Years ago, 88 was my favorite machine because it covered so well. The latest coverage wasn’t bad though. Hopes are to see it back soon.

Lower Providence Township has come through for the third year in a row, with a donation to help PARA. The \$500 donation is much needed. Thank you, Piero. This may be the last year that we receive this donation. There may be other avenues to pursue to get these types of donations and we will need member’s help to find them.

I should also recognize a member: Marc WA3CRM who graciously donated \$100. Marc has been a long time Life Member and supporter of PARA. Remember, donations are tax deductible. And thanks to Hank W3GSC, also a active supporter of PARA, for his gracious donation at the last General Meeting.

For those who haven’t heard, the Computer Corner Show has been back on real radio since last spring. You can find Joe N3YGW and myself Saturday mornings at 8am on WCHE 1520 out of West Chester as well as the Internet stream on 5DRadio.com. The show has appealed to not only computer enthusiasts, but also would be hams, as we discuss ham radio frequently. We know of at least 2 listeners who have become hams as a result of what we discuss.

73,

**Gene K3DSM**

# PARA semi-annual meeting Minutes for May 20, 2009

Notice given on PARA website, by email to paid members (twice), and in PARAGraphs.

In attendance: Gene Mitchell, K3DSM, Dick Stewart K3ITH, Elmer Schorle W3GSC, Milford Peterson W3SOU, Dick Swayze K3ECV, Caterina Fuhrmeister KB3POA, Tom Riethof W3CQC, ASA McCollum AB3O

Meeting was called to order by President Gene Mitchell at 7:36 PM. Members in attendance introduced themselves to those who were not familiar with them. This was followed by the pledge to the FLAG.

The secretary' report was waived.

Treasurers report was given by Treasurer Kate: \$1337.76 in checking and \$309.76 in savings. The Vanguard account info was not available. The Treasurer would make this known to President Gene as soon as possible. The report was approved.

The technical report was constructed by Technical Chairman Gene and others in attendance:

88 is off due to equipment failure. Replacement equipment is being sought.

94 is being moved to Pocopson, below West Chester.

76 Coordination for Worcester needs to be delt with

Protection was put on the Valley Forge Tower to prevent climbing.

ATV was removed from Chestnut Hill last winter before it was seized. Seems the tower person who gave permission forgot he knew Ron.

Gene added that Bob K3RF informed him that a site was available at Delaware County Memorial Hospital.

Discussion showed that we can't find an immediate need.

D-Star is being installed by ARES in the 5 County area by Jeff DePola through a grant from FEMA.

Gene mentioned that we should be looking for a new home for 224.94, 443.9, and the 6 meter machines as our site is on the market and could be sold, should the economy improve.

The report was approved.

Gene called for a measurement of PARA's health by a membership barameter of paid members. Dick, K3ITH related that there are 85 members in good standing: 61 Life and 24 paying. The figure will be compared at each meeting to these numbers. Gene also mentioned that the ARRL has a Diamond membership for \$75 a year (\$50 for Life members). That PARA might initiate something like this if funds become necessary. Some Life members in attendance thought there should be some plan to raise money from them since they reaped many years of PARA benefits. No further action was taken at this time. Gene noted that activity on 76 has always been important to PARA's growth and health. Other ideas included Field Day or other activities.

PARAGraphs was discussed. Dick is still looking for a replacement editor, maybe one who can spend more time and possibly turn out more information.

There was discussion on the need for changes to PARAs Constitution and ByLaws. Gene related that a discussion with Bob K3RF indicated that it was probably time. Members in attendance agreed with Gene's idea that the Constitution and ByLaws should not only be simplified but brought into present times of technology. Gene's idea is to have 4 board members and 3 officers and to disband the idea of quadrants over time. By reworking the constitution, the 88, 94, and 97 quadrants could be spun off and given back to the users in that quadrant. The 82 quadrant would also be spun off after some arrangement was made to secure a permanent arrangement for the 16 input in Camden that appears to be very important to 76's operation. Under the present constitution, this can not

be done. The present constitution calls for donating the equipment to a non-profit if PARA doesn't want to run the quadrant or if the association is disbanded.

It was noted that PARA started with one main repeater and that it was time to downsize and return to basics. Since 76 has always been at the center of PARA, it would be that machine, along with 443.9 and one of the 224 repeaters.

Gene recommended having all Board members elected from the membership "at large", since no one was attending to represent 88, 94, 97, or even the 82 quadrants at the last several meetings. This would be written into the revisions of the Constitution and ByLaws.

A motion was made and carried: "The President at his discretion should start the process of modernizing the Constitution and ByLaws" The motion was made by Dick K3ECV and seconded by Asa AB3O. Gene will make notes, an outline, and attempt to put it into words, then relay it to Bob K3RF for approval. It will then be presented to the membership on 2 consecutive PARAGraphs and semi-annual meetings for approval by the membership.

Gene related that there is a problem with some members in Jersey regarding adherence to the Constitution, but Gene noted that he failed to understand what that problem really was about. PARA did lose its long time meeting place at St Gertrudes Church through no fault of its own. There have been no other meeting places available except the Lower Providence Township Building and that has to be on a Wednesday evening. It should be noted that the Jersey group, including past President John and Secretary Larry, and 2 board members from Jersey dropped out and resigned. Acting President Gene K3DSM only could find the LP Township Building on Wednesdays for meetings.

President Gene stated that he needed a Board of Directors to operate the organization. There has been no interest at the November meeting to fill positions. After some discussion, Tom W3CQC, Asa AB3O, Hank W3GSC, and Dick K3ECV consented to be acting directors. Gene promised no traveling to special Board meetings, that they could be done electronically.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM      Gene Mitchell, acting Secretary.

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# **Listen to "Computer Corner"**

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**Saturday Mornings 8 – 9 AM**

**With Host Gene Mitchell K3DSM and**

**Joe Myshko N3YGW**

# PARA Constitution - New Proposed Changes for 2009 Start Here

Section 1 Article II shall read:

The officers of this association shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and 4 additional Board of Director members.

Section 3 Article III shall read:

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings and perform any other secretarial duties not otherwise delegated. He shall also assist the President to carry on designated correspondence and read communications at each meeting. He shall at the expiration of his term turn over everything in his possession belonging to the Association to his successor.

Section 4 Article III shall read:

The Membership Secretary shall keep a roll of members, receive member applications, and mail membership notices. He shall at the expiration of his term turn over everything in his possession belonging to the Association to his successor.

Section 6a Article III shall read:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers plus 4 additional members elected from the membership at large by majority vote of the general membership present.

Section 4 Article II shall read:

Vacancies on the Board of Directors occurring between elections shall be filled in the following manner:

- a. A vacancy of any director(s) shall be filled as soon as possible by appointment by the President and confirmed by majority vote of the current officers and Board members. This appointment shall be temporary until the next regularly scheduled General Membership meeting following such appointment. Members in attendance shall either confirm the appointment(s) or elect a replacement(s). If they elect a member not in attendance at that meeting, they shall first have secured written confirmation of his/her desire to serve.
- b. A vacancy of an Officer(s) other than President, wherein the Vice President shall serve shall be filled by appointment by the President and confirmed by a majority Board vote to fill the remaining term until the next regular General membership meeting.

Section 3 of the ByLaws shall be amended to read:

MEETINGS:

- a. Regular Meetings of the general membership shall be held during the second and fourth calendar quarters at such place and time as the Board of Directors shall order. The fourth quarter meeting shall be designated as the annual meeting. Notice of such meetings shall be given by the regular newsletter PARAGraphs, by announcement on the official web site, and by email. Written notice will be provided to any member having a self-addressed stamped envelope on file with the Secretary for that purpose.

Section 4 of the ByLaws shall be amended to read:

DUES: A regular yearly assessment, the amount to be fixed by the Board of Directors, is hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Constitution for the purpose of providing funds for current expenses. Members shall be considered in arrears after their membership anniversary date and lose all privileges as provided by the Constitution.

Part X C of the PARA Officers Operating Policies shall be amended to read:

C. This Membership List will appear in the official web site and updated as resources allow

The original PARA Constitution with the proposed changes incorporated may be downloaded at:  
<http://www.g-c-o.com/para/Revised.pdf>

## 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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## 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>

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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 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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**>>> PLEASE NOTE <<<**

**MEETING DAY: WEDNESDAY**

**MEETING DATE: November 11, 2009**

**Doors open at 7:15 PM, Meeting starts at 7:30 PM**

**MEETING LOCATION:**

**Lower Providence Township Building**

**100 Parklane Drive**

**Eagleview, PA 19403**

**(Some GPS units show Norristown)**

**Directions:**

- 1. From King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, take Rt. 202 South to Rt. 422 West to the Oaks Exit.**
- 2. At the exit ramp turn Right onto Egypt Road and take the second Left onto Pinetown Road.**
- 3. Go to the second stop sign and turn Left onto Eagleview Road.**
- 4. Go to the traffic light at Ridge Pike and proceed straight into the Lower Providence Township property; bare right and follow the driveway to the township building which is beyond the public library.**

**Talk-in on the PARA 146.760 MHz Repeater (PL 131.8 Hz)**