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P A R A



>> GENERAL MEETING **November 9, 2011 - 7:30 PM !! <<**
Lower Providence Township Building
Eagleville, Pennsylvania

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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

As planned, I attended the MARC Hamfest and set up a booth inside as I had done years ago before I got involved with WCOJ. The large PARA banner was hung on the wall and the PARA table was in a good position to be seen. Although no new dues were collected, many stopped by to see what PARA was doing. I also had a chance to say hello to some I hadn't seen in years. There was even a ham that hadn't been active on VHF for years that struck up a conversation with me over repeaters and the damage that tones have done. What damage I asked? He had 3 radios, all without PL capability and he wasn't about to buy new ones. There was nothing I could say to convince him he should upgrade. Another ham lit into me over PARA's "secrecy" policies. This has to do with discussing status of repeaters "on-air". I explained that the policy was a good one and the reasons we didn't discuss them on-air.

I also ran into Phil K3TUF at the Hamfest. I hadn't seen him for years. Phil is a charter member of PARA and was very involved for years. He was also well known for his position with Clegg Electronics in Lancaster. He is running for ARRL Atlantic Division Director. His platform is better communications between members and the board.

Twice in a couple of months? Yep! I ran into Phil again as he gave a program for the MARC group for their October meeting on Software Defined Radios. It was most interesting as I would like to one day have one. They have about 30 people in attendance for their meeting. If we could only get a turnout, it would be worth having him for our program.

I finally got onto 900 MHz after years of procrastinating. Dave N3KKL programmed my Kenwood radio and even put up my antenna. I had no realization that there were so many repeaters and how well they covered. Now I have another radio always on in my shop to monitor.

The 82 repeater's receiver seems to have taken a hit with lightning and has not been performing well lately. Ron K3ZKO is working to get that resolved. We may also be relocating one of the 16 input receivers in the near future.

I am amazed at the D-Star network that has been put together in the Philadelphia Area with Repeaters, links, multi-locations, etc. Chester County even has an Intranet and email server running on theirs. Several sites here in Chester County (Bucktown, Pocopson, and Charlestown) are linked on 5.8 GHz. The data network was my dream as you should recall when I put the grant proposal together years ago. It was PEMA that funded the grant for the county. I think the competition got hold of it.

October marked the 7th anniversary of the Computer Corner Radio show. It only missed one Saturday, the one right after WCOJ imploded. The show was on WCOJ for 4 years before it went all religious. I fled solo on the internet for several months before WCHE picked up the show. The show has been quite a draw to hams and potential hams. It can take credit for interesting numerous listeners into getting licensed into ham radio. The latest is KB3WID George in Parkersburg.

Frank Palladino, W3FP, Silent Key

Frank W3FP was a long time PARA member and active with DX and locally with ATV. He worked for GE Aerospace, now Lockheed Martin, in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania before his retirement in 2008.

The following from his daughter Lisa:

Francis J. Palladino passed away peacefully on Saturday AM, Oct 22, 2011, surrounded by his loving family at his residence in King of Prussia, PA, after a three-year battle with lung cancer. He is survived by his wife Rose Marie (Harrelson), children Mark and his wife Carol Freed), Christine Dylinski and her husband Mark J, Michael and his wife Marie (Homa), and Lisa Kim and her husband Bo Hyuk (Tom), and grandchildren Matthew, Dominic and Eric Dylinski, Jessica and Valerie Palladino, and Taeoh Kim.

The viewing (9:00am) and Funeral Mass (10:00am) [was] at Mother of Divine Providence Roman Catholic Church, 333 Allendale, King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, Oct 27th. Arrangements are by the Bacchi Funeral Home and Crematory, Ltd., Bridgeport, PA. Final arrangements can also be found on the Bacchi website www.bacchifuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Frank's memory to the Mother of Divine Providence Church Building Fund, 333 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406 and/or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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Vintage 1970 Amateur Radio

The following link was forward to me and provides a look at Amateur Radio in California with some famous people.

HERE'S A BLAST FROM THE PAST!
Watch this

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2011/vintage_film_the_world_of_amateur_radio.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AmateurRadioNews+%28Southgate+Amateur+Radio+News%29

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Limerick Drill Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Montgomery County ARES/RACES (MCAR) could use your help for their upcoming bi-annual Limerick Drill to fill some remaining open Emergency Operations Center (EOC) locations. This drill usually starts between 4 and 5 PM and ends around 9 PM; and dinner usually is provided. If you are interested or you have been on the fence for this event please consider volunteering now. This bi-annual event is MCAR's biggest event and responsibility. This is why we train and what prepare for. If you can assist please email Bill NW3H directly at NW3H@verizon.net. We are less than one month away. For those who have already volunteered thank you and continue to prepare. The PARA 146.76 MHz and 443.900 MHz Repeaters usually support this critical exercise for the Limerick Generation Station (LGS).

Bill Henderson
NW3H
Asst. EC/Deputy ACS Officer
Montgomery County ARES/ACS/RACES
www.AA3E.org

PARA Technical Report – by Dick K3ITH

Just thought I would update the membership with respect to the PARA Repeater Systems and document some of the hard work that goes on in the background by a few worthy dedicated members.

Dave N3KKL identified several months ago water in the hardline on PARA's 223.86 MHz (minus 1.6 MHz input & 131.8 Hz PL) Worcester Repeater which was causing very low RF output. After allowing the water to drain and hardline to dry out, Dave placed the machine back on the air. Dave is also planning a work party to replace the aged antenna and hardline to keep this repeater working for many more years. While there Dave trimmed the grass and took care of building maintenance.

Dave N3KKL has likewise been busy with our six meter 53.41 MHz (minus 1 MHz input & 131.8 Hz PL) repeater by repairing two different audio problems (occurring at two different times) associated with the voter card rack backplane connections. By the way, this repeater is used weekly by the Montgomery County ARES/RACES (MCAR) organization for their dill every Thursday night (except holidays) at 7 PM local time. Why not get on six meters and join the net this coming Thursday? The main initial net starts on two meters on the 146.835 MHz (minus 600 KHz & 88.5 Hz PL) Eagleville Repeater and then proceeds to six meters, 75 meters, 10 meters, with WinLink, D-Star, and EchoLink check-Ins.

Ron K3ZKO and Vince N3AGD visited the 146.820 MHz (minus 600 KHz input & 131.8 Hz PL) Repeater in Camden, New Jersey, and identified an antenna problem which was causing the repeater not to hear anyone. A new repeater antenna needs to be purchased and a second trip to the site will be required for installation.

Please take a few minutes the next time you hear the above PARA hard working members on the air and say thank you for their loyal service. As you can see we need more help on the technical committee to keep our aging equipment operating; if you are interested please contact Dick K3ITH via e-mail at: k3ith@arrl.net

By the way, our only source of income to buy parts for our repeater systems comes from your dues and donations; both of which are down this year. Another set of PARA membership renewal e-mail reminders will be going out soon so please help by responding as soon as possible; if you can afford it please add a little extra for the club's treasury. Thank you.

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Donation received from the estate of Norm W3VJN

PARA gives a special thank you to Hank W3GSC, Dick K3ECV, and the family of our Silent Key PARA member, Norm W3VJN. Hank and Dick gather together and sold Norm's ham radio equipment at a local Hamfest and very generously donated all the proceeds directly to PARA. These proceeds were greatly needed and appreciated. Norm W3VJN became a Silent Key last December.

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E-mail Address Changed??

Do you know any PARA members that did not receive this newsletter? Due to high postage and printing costs our newsletters are only sent electronically via e-mail. Please remember to keep PARA informed and current with your e-mail address; send updates to Dick K3ITH at the following address: k3ith@arrl.net
Thank you.

The following thanks to the ARRL and The ARRL Letter dated October 27, 2011:

+ ARRL Webinar Scheduled for November 3: *Hams, Emergencies and the News*

ARES® and emergency groups have had their hands full in the past months. Time and time again, Amateur Radio has been called upon to provide emergency communications. In some places, the hams made the news and were highly praised, while in other places, the community never knew they were there because no one worked with the news media. On November 3, The ARRL's national Public Relations Committee will present a 90 minute webinar -- *Hams, Emergencies and the News*. Read more click here:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/special-arrl-webinar-scheduled-for-november-3-em-hams-emergencies-and-the-news-em>



+ FCC, FEMA, NOAA to Conduct First Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert System

The FCC, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) at 2 PM EST (1900 UTC) Wednesday, November 9. According to FEMA, EAS participants - - broadcasters, satellite and digital radio and television providers, and cable and wireline video providers -- "provide a critical public service to the nation as the resilient backbone of alert and warning when all other means of communication are unavailable." Read more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-fema-noaa-to-conduct-first-nationwide-test-of-emergency-alert-system>



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.

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 Hank W3GSC with help from Vince N3AGD, 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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>>> PLEASE NOTE <<<

NEW MEETING DAY: WEDNESDAY

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2011

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

MEETING LOCATION:

Lower Providence Township Building

100 Parklane Drive

Eagleville, PA 19403

(Some GPS units may 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 Eagleville 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)