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**P A R A**



**>> GENERAL MEETING **May 7, 2013** - 7:30 PM !! <<**  
**Lower Providence Township Building**  
**Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

**NEW PARA WEB SITE: <http://www.w3phl.org>**

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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, 146.94 MHz, 443.90 MHz, 223.86 MHz, 224.94 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (10-23-2012)

## From the President April 2013 – Gene K3DSM

It's that time again. Another meeting is coming up and I have an idea. Each of us should bring an interesting gadget to show off and talk about it. Our kids call it "Show and Tell." I will bring a "Raspberry Pi" the \$35 computer that's making a big hit, along with a miniature projector. What can you bring? Let's see on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>. After the business meeting, we will have "Show and Tell".

We all are aware of the recent Boston Marathon bombing. It's a tragedy, but it also serves as a reminder that we have our ham radios when the cell services fail due to massive overloading or even a possible shutdown. The shutdown didn't happen this time but it was considered. Those in emergency preparedness believe it can and will happen in the Philadelphia Metro area. Is your HT battery charged or does it even work? I just went through charging all my battery operated stuff.. Between several laptops, iPads, cameras, camcorders, external battery packs, and 5 HTs, I almost need a regular scheduler to keep me up on all these.

How many of you have an old Smart-phone that's been replaced with a newer model? I do. My Droid X was replaced by a Droid Bionic over a year ago. I still keep my Droid X operating on WIFI for email for my Yahoo and Yahoo accounts. I also know some hams that can't afford a Smart-phone that would love to have one just to use on WIFI to check their email on. If you have an extra one lying around, let me know.

Big changes are coming to "Over the Air" TV. The FCC will be holding a reverse auction, trying to entice stations to give up their channels. Something else is happening too, but it doesn't seem to be catching on. ATSC-M/H or Mobile DTV is a secondary digital stream that some stations are transmitting for handheld and mobile TV's such as in cars or RVs. Here in Philadelphia, on channel 10, 12, 29, 51, 61, & 69 are transmitting it. Maybe the others are scared of the future, because the FCC wants their frequencies and if the reverse auction doesn't work, it could become mandatory in the far future to make them go dark. Those "White Spaces" between the TV channels are already being used in some areas for the so-called "Super WIFI", although it's not on the WIFI frequency bands. On the other hand, many viewers are also changing their status to "Zero TV". Those are the ones who gave up or never had cable or satellite and also gave up over the air TV. It's a very real growing number that is now being tracked.

Some people never learn their lessons. Chester County is ditching their 800 Mhz radio system for a new one. Here we go with another off brand system as well. This is where I see the bidding rules destroying better choices and quality.

PARA-Net is still running on Tuesday nights on 76 at 8PM . We are still a small group but mighty. We have fun and share info, and we are now allowing mentions of ham equipment for sale or wanted

More new technologies are coming fast. Cell service over WIFI (Republic Wireless) and very low rates like in \$20 a month. The iWatch. Smart Meters. Google Glasses. Chrome OS. Drones. HDTV-4000. Wireless screen transfer. The new First Responder Internet. The future of HD Radio and the future of AM Radio. All worth talking about. Join us on PARA-Net.

What's your take on Windows 8? Do you like the new desktop and do you believe that is the reason many are not buying computers? Or is it all the iPads and Smartphones? Or is it the higher price of the new Windows 8 and its hardware? All these are given for the worst drop in PC sales ever.

Oh, I am still doing the Computer Corner Radio Show every Saturday Morning at 8AM on WCHE 1520 as well as on 5dradio.com and wche1520.com. Ham Radio is spoken often and I can tell you the show is directly responsible for 3 new licensed hams. You can also listen on "Tune-In Radio" the app available on Android and iPhone. Yes, 5DRadio has a presence there too.

# Computer Bytes

By Gene Mitchell

iPads and Smartphones are taking over, but they still need to be backed up. You do that either with a computer or up to the Cloud (if you trust it). These devices fail and you can lose all your pictures and music. They can easily be stolen as well. Make sure your computer is still functional so you can back up.

Microsoft has come to the conclusion they have to do something with Windows 8, so a major fix is scheduled for this summer and it has a nickname: Windows Blue, also called Windows 8.1. Rumors are that the old desktop will be restored. In the meantime, you can install Classic Shell to bring it all back. In case you don't realize it, Windows 8, under the hood, is a very powerful engine and many technicians like it. I haven't accepted it yet, but 4 or 5 customers want me to buy their Windows 8 computers from them and I might do it after I sell some equipment to fund the project. My co-host on the radio show, Joe Myshko N3YGW uses it extensively and sings high praises for it. I am still trying to catch that tune.

Windows 7 is again available. It's been re-released for 6 months. Toshiba has them. Dell has them. Microcenter has them. Go get em.

I am often asked how viruses get into protected computers. Here is a quick summary: If your clock date and time are not set, the antivirus may not update. Windows must be updated with every update. Adobe Reader and Flash are back doors to infections so they must be updated. JAVA is a very weak spot and causes more infections than other means. Your antivirus program must be updated with latest Program version as well as the latest definitions. The next biggest thing that lets them in is your mouse and your finger that controls it. Between the infected Docs, PDFs, Pictures and other attachments, links in your emails to so called interesting info may show one URL while actually pointing to an infected web site totally different from what shows. When you get the popup that your computer is infected, that's the infection knocking on your hard drives door. That click gives permission to disable your antivirus and let the infection in. When you download, read the EULAs and look for the checkboxes that allow toolbars in. Toolbars are bad.

## For Sale by K3DSM

iPod Touch Generation 2 with charger and case \$50

Toshiba Thrive Tablet AT105-T1016 with case, charger, and Dock \$250

Dell 4600 Computer P4 2.8 Ghz with XP and 40GB HDD \$100

Gateway LX6200 Quad Core 2.2 Ghz AMD Computer (no hard drive) but working \$50

14 " Envision LCD Monitor \$50

HyGain CD45 II Rotator (new in the box) \$275

Yaesu FT109 handi-talkie on 220 Mhz band with drop in charger and good battery \$125

Icom IC2SRA handie talkie (lost its memory and battery is dead) \$1

Contact Gene K3DSM [genem@bee.net](mailto:genem@bee.net) 610-590-0451

# Philadelphia Area Repeater Association

## PARA



### **General Meeting - November 13, 2012 Held at Lower Providence Municipal Building Eagleville, PA**

#### **In attendance were:**

K3ITH-Dick, KB3POA-Caterina, N2ADD-Nate, K3ALV-Steve, K3ZKO- Ron, WA3FPK-Rich, W3CQC- Tom, K3QNT- Lloyd, W3IWJ-Irv, K3RF-Bob, K3DSM-Gene, AB3O-Asa, N3TOX-Mike

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Mitchell, K3DSM called the meeting to order at 1930 hours.

In accordance with his agenda, K3DSM noted the loss of life-long PARA member, Dick Swayze, K3ECV. In addition to his other major contributions to PARA, Dick K3ECV hosted the 146.34/94 repeater at his residence in Paoli for many years. Dick K3ITH mentioned his 53+ year friendship with Dick K3ECV as a great engineer, Ham and PARA pioneer. In addition to K3ITH, K3QNT related Dick's professional career in broadcast television at WTOP-TV and WCAU-TV.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

K3DSM made a motion to waive the reading of the secretary's report as minutes from both the May 2012 General Meeting and June 2012 Special Meeting were already published in PARA-graphs. Seconded by K3QNT and passed all in favor.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

KB3POA made the Treasurer's report. Motion was made to approve all in favor.

Checking:	\$1,171.42
Savings:	\$ 310.41

Vangard:     \$9,895.79  
Total:        \$11,377.62

Paid-up PARA members equals 81 which was net plus 1 from six months ago.

K3DSM mentioned during the Correspondence report that WA3CRM made a financial donation for \$150.00 for the maintenance of the 146.820 repeater in Camden, located at Northgate Two.

K3DSM mentioned the PARA table and participation at the recent MARC Hamfest in Kimberton. K3QNT reported that out of three requests for grant money, two have been rejected and one pending.

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

K3DSM reported that 146.16/76 is up and running. However, there may be a receiver sensitivity problem. K3ITH reported that the six meter repeater is also having difficulty. 146.220/820 is up and running and 146.340/940 is up and running. K3QNT reported that 146.940 is now operating from the roof of the Chester County Justice Center.  
224.940 up and running – 443.900 is up and running.

K3ITH reports that 223.860 works, “better than ever!” with the new receiver board installation thanks to Dave N3KKL.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

K3DSM mentioned that the weekly “PARA-NET” at 8:00 PM is going strong with three or four check in weekly.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There is a need for technically qualified people to maintain and inspect the various repeaters. AB3O volunteered visit the 146.760 repeater periodically during his frequent visits to Worcester.

## **ELECTIONS**

K3DSM asked for nominations for officer positions. Hearing none, Gene volunteered to continue as President. K3QNT offered to volunteer for any needed post. K3QNT moved to close nominations and moved to retain Gene, K3DSM as President, Robert, NX3S as Vice-President, Lloyd, K3QNT as Secretary and Caterina, KB3POA as Treasurer. Motion passed all in favor.

K3DSM reported that due to the death of K3ECV, a board member position is open. K3QNT nominated N3TOX as new board member. Mike declined. KB3POA nominated Asa, AB3O as board member. With Asa’s acceptance, the motion was passed all in favor. Asa will take office as of this evening’s meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

K3DSM discussed the membership’s interest in a membership card. K3ALV suggested rather than a card, he would prefer the members to have a membership badge. K3QNT affirmed this was a good idea. Everyone present agreed that would be preferable. Gene will examine the vendor options to secure badges.

K3ZKO – related his visit to the Harrisburg Airport where he saw a U.S. Army Tactical Broadcast station, contained in a C-130 aircraft, which contained AM-FM-Shortwave and TV transmitting facilities. Ron explained in detail the technical aspects of the aircraft.

K3DSM – commented that the new QST App for iPADS and other portable devices is excellent.

## **PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

Program was delivered by Bob, K3RF, a Heritage PARA member and newly elected ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania. Bob presented a detailed power point presentation explaining the sections, duties of the Section Manager and ARRL Field Organization.

During his presentation, K3RF explained the league's work in protecting VHF, UHF and SHF frequencies, which are constantly under attack by erstwhile commercial users.

Bob also spent a significant amount of time to explain the legal ramifications of PRB-1 Federal Antenna pre-emption and what can be and cannot be done with the law. He asserted that Pennsylvania, in particular has an excellent new law on the books that specifically permits towers up to 65 ft.

After some Q & A, the group agreed, Bob's presentation was one of our better programs and thanked him to taking the time to attend the PARA meeting.

With no further business, it was moved and seconded, passing all in favor to adjourn at 21:34 hours.

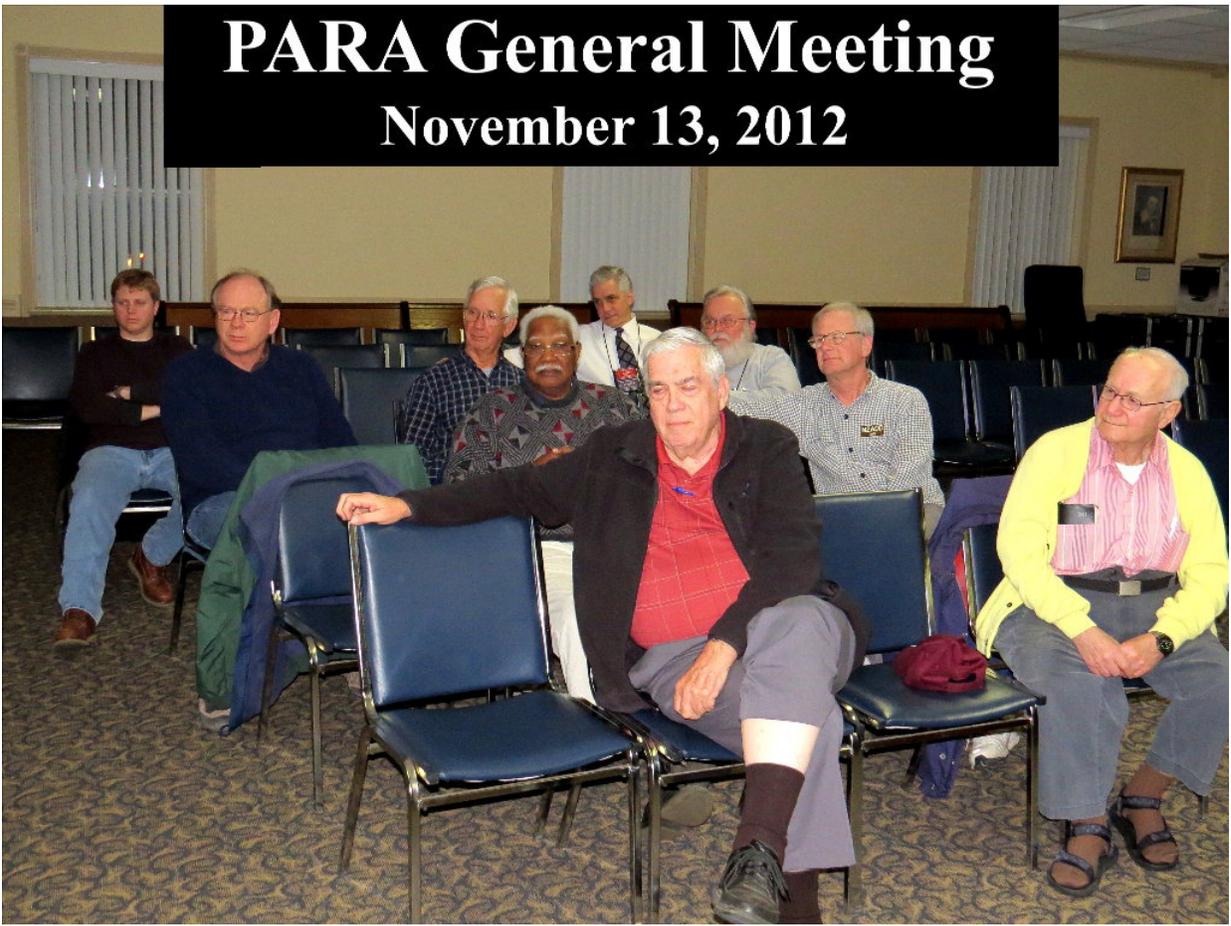
Respectfully Submitted,

Lloyd Bankson Roach, K3QNT  
Secretary



# PARA General Meeting

November 13, 2012





(photos by Dick K3ITH)

## 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. Please forward your new mailing and e-mail addresses 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 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](mailto:k3ith@arrl.net)

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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

**NEW MEETING DAY: TUESDAY**

**MEETING DATE: May 7, 2013**

**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 or Eagleville)**

**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)**