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P A R A



>> GENERAL MEETING November 10, 2015 - 7:30 PM !! <<
Lower Providence Township Building
Eagleville, Pennsylvania

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 - Gene K3DSM – Fall 2015

As I write this, I now have 2 new eyes. I just went through cataract surgery on both, 2 weeks apart. Wow, what a difference. I was scared at first, since I have sensitive eyes. Not to worry, though, my daughter had me go to Kremer Eye Center in King of Prussia, instead of where my eye doctor was going to send me. . No discomfort at all and the only real inconvenience was all the eye drops you have to get every day for 4 weeks.

OK, on to ham stuff: The Yaesu digital repeater was received at the end of August and I have programmed it for our use on 443.9 with the correct PL. I am looking for someone to help me install it at Valley Forge as I can not lift it. Its not that its all that heavy, but my hips can't take it. I am hoping this mention gets things moving. Other than getting it there, the plan is to disconnect the old machine and connect the antenna wires to the Yaesu, leaving the old repeater in place as a backup. It has its own 120 volt power supply.

A recent inspection of the 76 site found the new Henry amplifier sort of non functional, having the same output as input. Users of the net have felt it wasn't working for some time. The crew led by K3ITH pulled it, called Henry, and sent it off for repair. 76 is running barefoot till its back.

The Kenwood 2 meter repeater has also been received. It was purchased reconditioned from Jeff Depolo for 1/3 the normal cost of a new repeater. Bob K3RF paid for the programming (\$100) out of his own pocket as a donation to PARA. Thank you, Bob.

An inspection of the Valley Forge site found only ½ of a 16/76 duplexer, but there was a spare 94 duplexer there not being used. Jeff Depolo returned it at no charge to PARA onto the 16-76 frequency pair. He found the cable harness in bad shape and replaced it for \$100, his cost. We owe Jeff a big thank you for all this.

Now, this past Tuesday October 13th, we ran a test from my QTH on top of Bacton Hill using the Diamond 2 meter antenna on top of my tower. Dick dialed the main repeater down and I brought the Kenwood repeater on line from here. Everything is working and ready for service. This is where I should note that although I am at 700 foot elevation, the trees now exceed my 70 foot tower and 18 foot mast. It's fine for my purposes but sucks for repeater service. The plan is to put the Kenwood at Valley Forge as a single site, at least to see what it will do. Worcester has little transmitter coverage to the Upper Main Line, West Chester, Phoenixville, Exton, and us users in those areas.

94 is now operational from its new home in Delaware County, thanks to Bob, K3RF. It has coverage far better than it did from West Chester, making this a real good move. Why not give it a try; it really works well.

And before I forget, PARA-net is still running on 76, Tuesdays at 8 PM with many regulars. Why not join us? We only start formally and this gets good conversations going. So much for the PARA-poop.

My shack is finally really cleaned up with all radios working on frequencies covering almost DC to light. I am now spending more time than ever in the shack, exercising the radios, listening, and enjoying the hobby.. It amazes me that MARC on 06, the Newtown Square group on 195, the Pottstown group on 147.12, and the Parksburg group on 985 are so active. What happened to 76 that started repeaters back in the 60s and 70s? I am not even close to being burned out after all these years. Come on guys! Get back to the shack. I even have a scanner in the shack and another in the shop running 24-7. I even found a great group on 50.13 USB Wednesday evenings that I converse with, all while monitoring several PARA repeaters

OK. I had a recent donation of an Icom 2 meter HT from a ham who gave up when PL became mandatory. He gave his other radios away to someone else. And just yesterday, my fuel delivery man announced he was a licensed ham after seeing my tower, and he also gave up when PL cut him off. How many of these hams are out there that didn't get newer radios when PL became mandatory?

This brings up another hot topic: In my listening to discussions about the new digital repeaters, many hams are moving to quieter repeaters claiming that the digital buzzing is driving them away. I was kind of afraid of that. If you find yourself in this position, why not turn on tone squelch so you can hear only the analog stuff without the digital buzz. Most radios have that capability if you have PL at all.

Speaking of digital, I have found more than 6 digital repeaters on the 440 band and I understand some of them are using the commercial digital standard rather than the Yaesu standard. I have to admit I am not ready to splurge for a digital radio myself yet.

Just an odd topic to make things interesting: I have joined a growing group that are converting the old MAC Plus computer, the one with the 9 inch monitor built in, into a fish tank. My son worked at US Interactive back in the turn of the century where many of these fish tanks were found on the desks of the employees. You simply gut the case and insert a small glass tank inside. A recent visit to his home rekindled the interest in having our own McFish tank.

I just have to mention that the Computer Corner Radio Show is still going strong after 11 years on the air Saturday mornings. (WCHE 1520AM). I also wanted to mention that there are openings for associate producers for the show. It's a chance to get your foot in the door. Contact me for more information.

PARA Meeting Minutes May 20, 2015

Lower Providence Township Building

In attendance: DSM, ITH, GSC, RF, IF, ALV, ZKO, ABH, and GK

Officers: President Gene Mitchell, VP Robert NX3S Treas: Caterina KB3POA
Board: W3GSC, W3CQC, AB3O, K3ALV

The meeting was called to order at 739PM by President Gene. Gene led the Pledge to the Flag and since the meeting was small and everyone knew everyone, the introductions were eliminated.

Gene called for a motion to wave the reading of the secretary's report since it was published in the recent Paragraphs. Passed

The Treasurers report had been submitted and Gene Read it. As of May 19th, Checking \$2972.74 and Vanguard per 3/31 statement \$8054.86 Total 11,027.60 Members in good standing is 70 A motion passed to accept the report. Hank made a \$50 donation tonight. Members thanked him.

Gene listed correspondence as: IRS return filed on time. ITH proposed Yaesu digital repeaters, and an email blast to most active members about the Yaesu digital project was sent out.

Technical report: All repeaters up and running: 76, 94, 82, 443.9, 224.94, 223.86, 53.41 The Bacton Hill remote is still in need of attention as is ATV is testing new site possibilities. The power out of 76 is questionable as it seems to vary. Worcester is in need of weed control again.

Irv agreed to enlist Carol to do a site cleanup for the same amount as last year. A motion was made and passed to approve the expenditure and also see about continuing maintenance. That amount about \$450. A motion was made and passed to approve this expense.

Gene Mentioned Technical help is needed. Dave KKL is not always available and Ron ZKO needs test equipment. Gordon W3GK is available and lives only 1500 feet from the Worcester site. Gene DSM is to get a quote on his IFR test set.

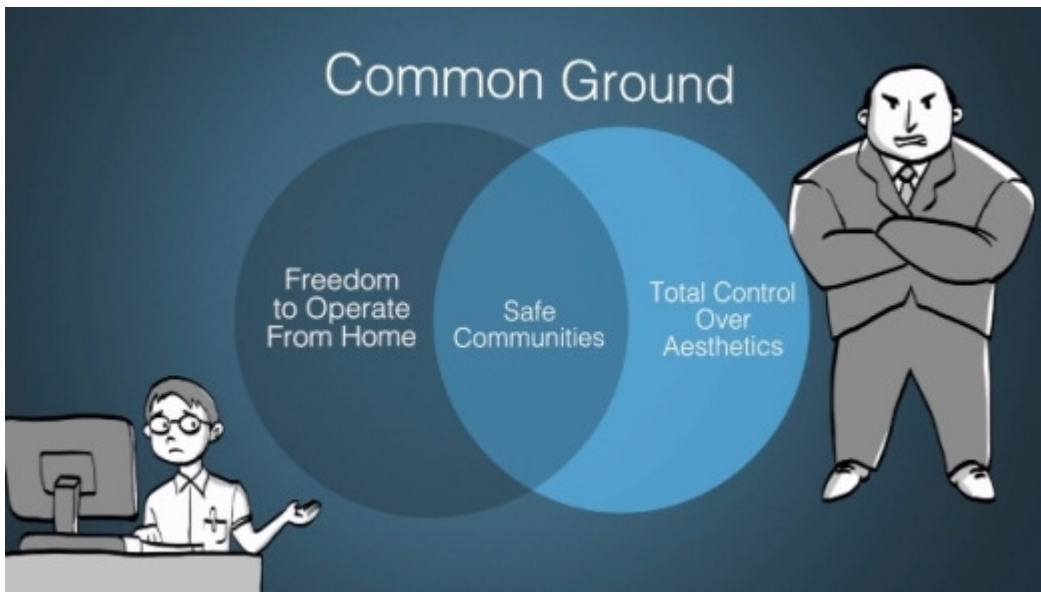
The Yaesu repeater was brought up. Gene mentioned the email blast to most active members and most returns were positive. Included was a pledge toward new equipment. Discussion included whether we would get 2, one for 443.9 and one for 146.76. Shortcomings were discussed including duty cycle, external controllers, and remote receiver interfacing. Although 443.9 was working well, it was very old and best served by being updated to Yaesu. A motion was made to apply for the Yaesu for 443.9 and also to reopen 76 replacement with a Kenwood professional repeater at the November meeting. Motion passed with one objection by ZKO. K3RF would get prices for us on the Kenwood.

A discussion about micromanagement was brought up by Irv He said that when given charge of a project, that person should take full charge without interference, but Dick said that he saved PARA \$150 by doing the ordering. Dick said he told Irv but Irv didn't remember. Gene reminded everyone that he is the Technical Chairman and that any and all work, changes, and complaints need to go through him.

Gene mentioned the need to coordinate the alternate site for 76 and the need to get an acknowledgement from our landlord at Worcester. After a short discussion, it was agreed that both should be obtained.

Ron brought up the Navy MARS being absorbed by AF MARS. Submitted by Gene K3DSM acting secretary

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 - Thanks to the ARRL and the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>



[New! Click the image to watch the ARRL "Clarity on Parity" video](#)

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R.1301 in the US House of Representative and S 1685 in the US Senate -- would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced HR 1301 on March 4 with 12 original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle -- seven Republicans and five Democrats in the US House. US Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced S 1685 on June 25, with Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the US Senate.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. **S 1685** has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, which is chaired by the bill's sponsor, Wicker.

ARRL members are urged to contact their members of both the House and the Senate, asking them to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor. Route letters for your member of Congress to:

ARRL
Attn Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign
225 Main St
Newington CT 06111

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.

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 <<<

MEETING DAY: TUESDAY

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2015

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 (Plus input, PL 131.8 Hz)