



The Blurbs



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

70 Years of Public Service, 1949-2019

Volume 70 Number 2

www.phil-mont.org

February 2019

Board Meeting on the 6th, General Meeting on the 13th

Sadly, Long time member Al Tribble W3STW passed away on January 26



Full Obituary on Page 6

Al Tribble Came to Phil-Mont during the years we all reactivated W3AA. Thanks to Jake AK2I SK we had for a while one of the Finest Stations around. But I digress. Al was Mr. Satellite. He worked more of the Birds over the years than I knew we had. He lived in Bucks County just outside of the City at that time. So impressed with the Mosley PRO 67 at the Museum he bought one for his home station. I came to find out his wife Justine and my Mother graduated Simon Gratz together. Al was the Tuesday operator at W3AA for many years until we closed the station in 2002. He was a past president, vice president, secretary and member of the board of directors. Al Founded the Club Station and ACARS at Anns Choice on Street Road in Warminster.

Farewell My friend

Stephen Hoch WU3I

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor: Rick DeVigiliis ND3B@ARRL.net</p> <p>Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>	<p>Directors: WA3DSP (20) WU3I(20) KB2ERL (20) K3RON (19) N3QV (19) KB3IV (19) NC3U (A) W3RM (EMERITUS)</p>	<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 404 Warminster, PA 18974 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>	
<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater 			
<p>Committees Blurbs folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV Field Day: KC2PMW Fusion Coord: NC3U</p>	<p>Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: KB3IV Net Control: KB3IV</p>	<p>Program: W3AOK Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: KB3IV Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW</p>

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:00 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at Giant Supermarket, 315 York Rd, Willow Grove, PA
 Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
 Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
 147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz C4FM Fusion digital
 Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R AllStar Node 41624
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

President: Greg Malone WA3GM gregmalone@yahoo.com
Vice President: Jim Fisher AJ3DI kc3bra@gmail.com
Treas: WB3DZZ GeorgeGianios@verizon.net
Secretary: W3AFV chuckfarrell@comcast.net

The Prez Sez ...



Hello and Happy winter Phil-Mont.

It is with great sadness that I have to report that long time Phil-Monter and friend Al Tribble, W3STW became a Silent Key last week. Al, Mr Satellite from back in the day, gave Phil-Mont his all with the various club stations, HF Net Control duties, serving on the Board of Directors and his unique personality. May God bless Al's family during their time of mourning. W3STW you will be missed my friend. ... -.- ..

I have finally made it to the Sunny Winter home here in Cocoa Beach, FL just in time before the temps really dropped to the single digits at home. Although not beach or pool weather here the last few days as part of that cold troth has made its way here also but not nearly as bad as home.

The Annual Phil-Mont Auction was held on January 8 and was well attended. It was nice to see some old faces that we have not seen in a while as well as some new ones which I hope we will continue to see in the months ahead. The auction was fun and a big success as the treasurer will report later. I would like to thank the following members, "Auction Team", for the GREAT JOB they did to make the evening a success. Our Auctioneer Jack Coupe, WA3BXH assisted by Ed, KB3IV. They did a great job behind the mic and keeping the evening moving and entertaining as well as Steve WU3I, Bob KB2ERL and George WB3DZZ for keeping all the paperwork and finances straight. And of course we can't forget Bill W3AOK for all

the refreshments and Jedi Jim AJ3DI for all the bread cake products. Great job by all.

As President I have the responsibility to appoint a Board Member and I have asked my past president Sal, NC3U to fill that position on the board and he has graciously accepted. Thank you Sal and we will all benefit from your knowledge and wisdom.

While I am here in FL Jim, AJ3DI will be assuming my duties while I am away. I will have some radios with me as well as my remote set up so I should be able to check into some of the nets.

Our speaker for the February meeting will be Andrew C Pavlin KA2DDO on APRS: How it Works. Please come out and give Andrew a great Phil-Mont welcome. A lot of interesting programs coming up for Phil-Mont in the months ahead so please plan to attend and of course bring a friend.

If anyone has any suggestions for a speaker or would like to speak at one of our meetings please let our VP Jim, AJ3DI know and he will place you on the schedule. Your input is vital and we welcome all suggestions.

Don't forget to sign up for the Phil-Mont Yahoo Group. This is a good way to share ideas amongst the membership. Sal NC3U is the moderator the group. For more info and to join the group contact Sal.

Everybody stay warm and we will talk to you from Florida.....

73 & Thank you for your support.

73, Greg WA3GM



*Thursday evening session is
on the 28th this month.*

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

03 Barry Feierman K3EUI
 03 James Weiler AB3OM
 04 Perry Pepper KC3JUD
 05 Michael Concordia WB3KAC
 10 Sharon Masarsky N3GLU
 12 Tracey Thomas KC3DRE
 17 James Fisher AJ3DI
 23 Stephen Victor WA2DTW
 Gene Dinardi N3XKE
 24 Larry Pollack N3VLC

This from Barry, K3EUI

Is the new FT8 Taking Over the HF Bands?

QST editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, suggests in the January 2018 QST that there is a new “killer app” taking hold of the HF digital bands. I agree with Steve Ford. I see and hear a distinct change in the dominant digital sound card based mode on the HF bands. There is an almost complete absence of RTTY signals (unless there is a RTTY contest) and there are fewer PSK31 QSO’s. MFSK, Olivia, and THOR are only heard by me during NBEMS nets passing traffic with FLMSG/FLAMP. Once in a while I hear THROB on 80 meters. The Winlink modes (Pactor, Winmor, ARDOP, VARA) are set up to pass radio email between two linked stations (often unattended) and not used for casual keyboard QSO’s. So what digital keyboard chat mode is displacing the very popular PSK31 which has been the dominant keyboard digital mode for the past two decades? The answer is FT8. FT8 qso’s can be completed in under two minutes, and operate with far less power and simple antennas than RTTY, copying stations that are far below the average noise level. Occupying the same bandwidth as BPSK31 (50 Hz) FT8 is the optimum choice to get more stations into your logbook.

(continued next page)

MEMBERSHIP STATS

110 Full paid Members
 10 Family Members
 1 Youth member
 1 Honorary Member

Contest Modes

With the advent of the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest on Jan 5/6 I wondered how many digi stations would be operating with FT8 rather than the more seasoned RTTY or PSK31 modes. The newest version of WSJT-X (V 2.0.0) modified the traditional FT8 modulation structure (now 77 bits replacing the older 75 bits) to allow use of FT8 for contesting (including Roundup and Field Day). However this means that earlier versions of FT8 are not compatible with the new version and will not work for contests.

I spent much of the ARRL Roundup this weekend comparing the numbers of RTTY, PSK, and FT8 signals on the 80m, 40m and 20m bands. To my surprise the FT8 signals were sometimes the dominant mode during the Roundup. RTTY stations tend to spread out over more than 30 kHz of each band, while the PSK31 and FT8 signals tended to clump into a smaller 3 kHz region of the digi band.

Below is an SDRplay RF spectrum (SDR Console software) of 40 meters captured around noon on the Sunday of the RTTY Roundup. I was looking at the dominant part of the 40m digital band, from 7050 to 7095 kHz. As clearly seen in the image, there were some RTTY stations (parallel tracks) around 7050 and 7065 kHz and above 7090 kHz. There were two distinct groups of FT8 stations: those above 7075 kHz who were probably exchanging non-contest QSO's, and those above 7080 kHz who were likely participating in the Roundup contest. The 7080 kHz frequency was suggested by Joe Taylor (K1JT) in the January 2019 QST. You can see that these are FT8 signals by the 2 second gap every 15 seconds in the waterfall display. I managed to make digital mode contacts on the following HF bands: 80,40,20,15,10,6 meters all with FT8 running no more than 20 watts to either a simple NVIS 80/40m center fed dipole, or simple vertical antenna. The 15 meter contacts were with stations in South America, but the 10m and 6m contacts were locals (also searching for DX).

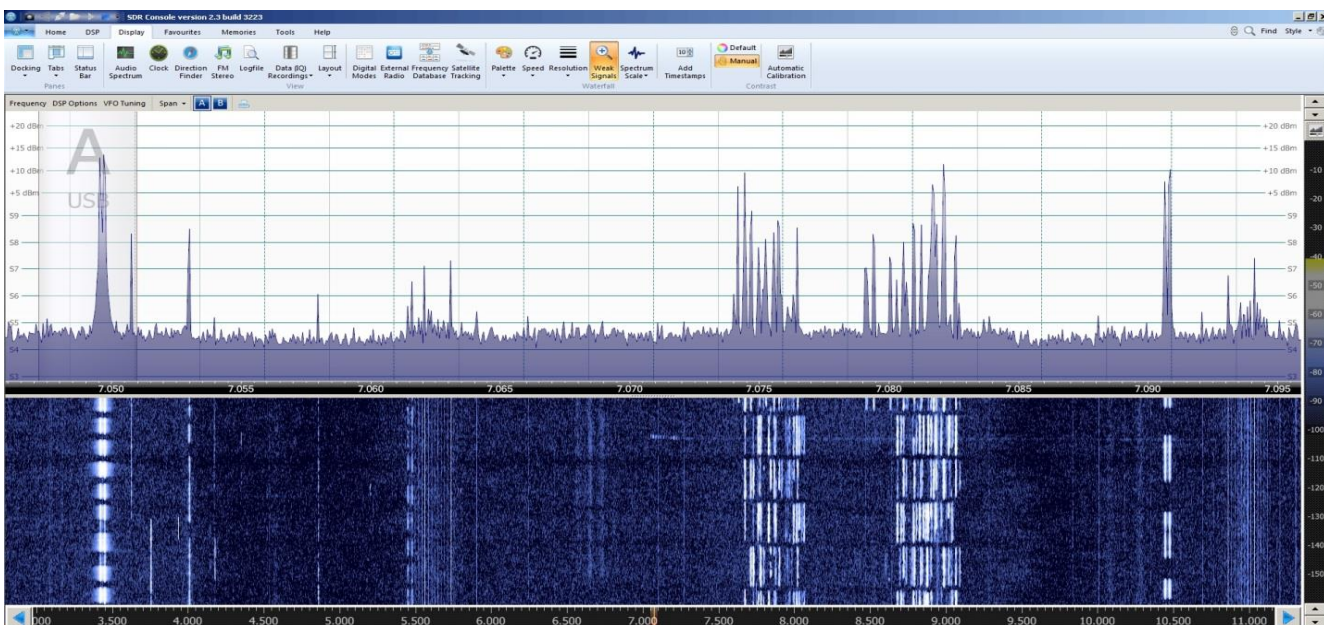


Figure 1 RF Spectrum of 40m at noon on Sunday Jan 6 during the ARRL RTTY Roundup Contest

Submitted by Barry Feierman K3EUI
K3eui – at – aol.com



In Loving Memory of Alfred Tremont Tribble

Beginning of Life	New Life Beginning
November 5, 1930	January 27, 2019

ALFRED TREMONT TRIBBLE, middle child and son of the late Odessa and Alfred Tremont Tribble, Sr., was born on November 5, 1930, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His older sister, Thelma Randolph preceded him in death. Al, as he was affectionately called, departed this life on January 27, 2019.

Al received his elementary and high school education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army serving his country with distinction from 1948-1952, and earning the rank of Corporal Tribble. Al fought valiantly during the Korean war and was injured during battle. For his heroism, Al was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal (Japan) Combat Infantry Badge Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, and Republic of Korea Presidential Citation 2, Overseas Service Bars. Al discovered his passion for Amateur Radio while serving his country and is recognized worldwide by his call sign W3STW.

Upon completing his military service, Al sought higher education at Temple University. He continued his studies at Widener University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. On November 29, 1953, Al married his sweetheart, the former Justine Mills. This union of 65 years produced three successful children.

He relocated his family from Philadelphia to Bensalem in 1967 and immediately became active in the community. Al was elected and served as President of the Concord Park Civic Association from 1970-1974, and also served as Vice President from 1996-2002. Al was a voice for the community at civic association and township meetings. He along with Justine fought to ensure that private businesses seeking to establish roots within the community would enhance neighborhood curb appeal and property values. Al was also involved in the political process. In 2001, he was elected to serve a four-year term as Judge of Elections, a position he dignified and cherished.

In 2005, upon relocating to Ann's Choice, Al immediately sought an opportunity to introduce his hobby, HAM radio, to the Ann's Choice community. He established the first amateur radio station at Ann's Choice. His love of amateur radio compelled him to share his passion with countless residents, HAM radio enthusiasts, and Phil-Mont Radio Club members. He also worked in the ACTV studio and participated in various activities to include production of promotions designed to raise money for the Benevolent Care Fund which benefitted students.

Al had a distinguished professional career working for General Electric in the electrical and nuclear power generation fields in addition to the space program.

He leaves to cherish his memory, wife of 65 years, Justine Tribble, three children, Sharon Cooper, Alfred Tremont Tribble, Jr., Jason Elliott Tribble, daughter-in-laws, Claudette and Jennifer Tribble, grand daughter, Alexis Ashley Young, grandson-in-law, Joshua Young, great grandsons, Dillon Lawrence, Joseph Cooper, great grand daughter, Olivia Frances Young, brother, Bernard Tribble, brother-in-law, Gerard Howe, niece-in-law, Bridget Mahoney, nephew-in-law, Bryan Mahoney, nieces Diane Hayes, Arlene Gwyn, nephew, Leonard Lawrence, nephew-in-law, Charles Hayes, grand nephews, Kyle and Connor Mahoney, Reuben Fagan, Sharles Gwyn, great niece, Jasmine Lawrence, sister-in-law, Florence Lawrence, a host

of other nieces, nephews, relatives, HAM radio contacts, colleagues and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather on Friday, February 8, 2019 from 10 to 11 am at the Kirk & Nice Suburban Chapel, 333 County Line Rd., Feasterville, PA 19053 (215 - 354 - 0085), where Al's life will be celebrated at 11 am.

Interment with military honors will follow in Sunset Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers , donations in Al's memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

February at Phil-Mont

Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and the Digital net on Tuesday nights.

- 3 Sun K3XS
- Wed 6 Board Meeting
- 10 Sun W3MHP
- Wed 13 General Meeting
- 14 Thur Valentine's Day
- 17 Sun KB3IV
- 18 Mon President's Day
- 24 Sun KB3SJS
- 28 Thur VE Session

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

