



# The *Blurb*



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*

*70 Years of Public Service, 1949-2019*

Volume 70 Number 9

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

September 2019

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***The Board Meeting is on the 4<sup>th</sup>, General Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>***

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## *Bryan Hoch Scholarship Winner*



Zach Martin--KC3EWK

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship! Thanks to the aid of scholarship funds, I am able to go to school to learn more about the black magic that goes into electronics. I will be the first of my family, as well as one of a few of my large extended family, to attend an institution of higher learning. Throughout my life, I have been interested in electronics, computers, woodworking, and pretty much anything I can design and make. Through connections I have made in the Amateur radio hobby and experimenting with the equipment, I have settled on something that really clicked for me, electronics, and I realized that I want to continue working with electronics as an electrical engineer. Of course, jobs in this career field almost always require the education and degree that comes with attending a university for engineering, and attending a university is no small financial endeavor. So, I am excited to attend a local campus of Penn State in pursuit of my degree as one of the class of 2023. I am forever indebted to the generous people that have aided my journey to become a better and more educated person.

Thank you!

Zachary Martin, KC3EWK

<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. <b>Copying and quoting</b> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor:  <b>Rick DeVigiliis ND3B@ARRL.net</b></p> <p><b>Subscriptions</b> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</b></p> <p><b>Submissions deadline:</b> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>	<p><b>Directors:</b>                  WA3DSP (20)                  WU3I(20)                  KB2ERL (20)                  K3RON (19)                  N3QV (19)                  KB3IV (19)                  NC3U (A)                  W3RM                  (EMERITUS)</p>	<p><b>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 404 Warminster, PA 18974</b>  <a href="http://www.phil-mont.org">http://www.phil-mont.org</a>                  Website: Eric N3QV &amp; Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p><b>For club information:</b> 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><b>Committees</b></p> <p>Blurb folding: KB3IV &amp; N3GLU                  Directory: KB3IV                  Field Day: KC2PMW                  Fusion Coord: NC3U</p>		<p>Internet: N3QV &amp; 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>

**Sunday Morning Net Schedules**

- **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

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:gregmalone@yahoo.com)  
**Vice President: Jim Fisher AJ3DI** [kc3bra@gmail.com](mailto:kc3bra@gmail.com)  
**Treas: WB3DZZ** [GeorgeGianios@verizon.net](mailto:GeorgeGianios@verizon.net)  
**Secretary: W3AFV** [chuckfarrell@comcast.net](mailto:chuckfarrell@comcast.net)

**The Prez Sez ...**

Hello Phil-Mont

Summer is coming to an end and Labor Day is just around the corner,

I am finally back to feeling almost 100% from all the surgery and assorted infections that the hospital gave me free of charge HI HI. Thanks for all your well wishes I certainly do appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Our next meeting is right around the corner on Wednesday September 11th at the Giant Food Store in Willow Grove. Bring your summer adventures and a friend. There will also be a Board Meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> at the usual location and are open to all members.

I would like to thank Sal NC3U for organizing the Lighthouse Weekend at Turtle Rock on boat house row. We had a great time operating W3EM and we made over 200 Q's. Thanks also to Jim AJ3DI for his assistance with antennas and LUNCH ...

The September meeting will consist of :

1. Field Day Recap
2. Lighthouse Recap and QSL cards
3. MS150 Overview
4. Club activities... ARES SET, Limerick drill, etc ...

If anyone has any suggestions for a speaker or would like to speak at one of our meetings please let

**The Blurbs**

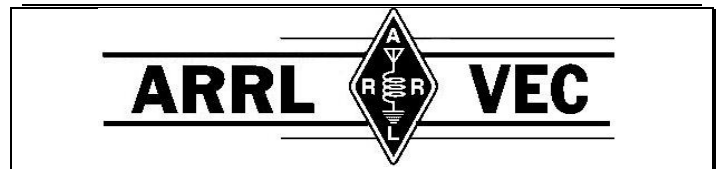
September 2019

any of the club officers or board members know. Your input is vital and we welcome all suggestions.

Don't forget to sign up for the Phil-Mont Yahoo Group. We currently have 40+ members. This is a good way to share ideas amongst the membership. Sal NC3U is the moderator of the group. For more info and to join the group contact Sal.

Everybody have a good Labor Day and we'll see you on the 11<sup>th</sup> at our next meeting.

73, Greg WA3GM



***The Thursday evening session is  
On the 26<sup>th</sup> this month and Saturday  
session is on the 14<sup>th</sup> ..***

***As always, many thanks to our VE team!***

***Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes*****SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 01 Sol Volen - N3UBY
- 02 Gregory Malone - WA3GM
- 03 Emily Marano (XYL N3QV)
- 06 Linda Witmer (XYL W3RW)
- 13 Marge Concordia (XYL WB3KAC)
- 15 Bob Freer - W3YLT
- 16 Robert Siegrist - KB3ZKN
- 17 Vikye Swanson (XYL N3GLH)
- 20 Michael Taraborrelli - N3MT
- 21 Susan Bogash - KB1ZNK
- 23 Eileen Kerrigan (XYL ND3B)
- John Simon - KB3SJS
- Patricia Day (XYL WA3QED)
- 24 Virginia Buono (XYL WA3ADI)
- Richard Freeman - N3FV

## MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. has:  
 114 FULL PAID MEMBERS  
 10 FAMILY MEMBERS  
 1 YOUTH MEMBERS  
 1 HONORARY MEMBERS  
 1 PENDING

*Pending New Member*

William Kennedy  
 K3WRK  
 Havertown, Pa.

**DXpedition to use FT8 robot?**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It's inevitable. At some point, machines are going to render humans irrelevant. It's been a recurring theme in science fiction since before I was born (1955), and there are numerous predictions of the Singularity, the point in time when machines will be smarter than human, occurring between 2030 and 2045.

It may happen in amateur radio sooner than we think. A couple of days ago, one of my readers, sent me a link to a blog post by John, AE5X: [Automated FT8 "FoxBot" in upcoming DXpedition – confirmed](#). He wrote:

“A [DXpedition to Tokelau](#) will take place from 1 to 11 October and it will be your chance to work an FT8 robot operating in Fox/Hound mode.

“Stathis SV5DKL has been working on a “FoxBot” for some time now, is listed as a partner to this DXpedition and has confirmed that the DXpedition will be using his FoxBot.”

John has since updated this post, noting “The SV5DKL logo has now been removed and the DX

team will be in ‘full compliance’ with the mode.” Full compliance meaning following the rules set up by the ARRL DXCC rules.

The ARRL is, of course, against the use of robots. A recent *ARRL Letter* noted:

“ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as well as DXCC.

“A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to 'growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed' for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote.”

As AE5X says, however, the use of FT8 robots in the future is a certainty. Sooner or later, some DXpedition is going to use an FT8 robot without saying anything about it. How is the ARRL going to know that a DXpedition is using robots if the DXpedition operators don't tell them?

I'm wondering when some DXpedition is going to give up on SSB and CW altogether. Why bother with those modes when you can make hundreds or thousands more contacts by just operating FT8?

Another thought just occurred to me. If the ARRL gets its way and Techs are awarded HF digital privileges, how long will it take for some enterprising Tech to make the DXCC Honor Roll using FT8 exclusively. Oh, the horror of it all!

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog ([KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides ([KB6NU.Com/study-guides/](http://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/)), and often appears on the ICQPodcast ([icqpodcast.com](http://icqpodcast.com)). When he's not wondering when robots are going to take over the world, he likes to (manually) operate CW on the HF bands

***September at Phil-Mont***

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

- 1 Sun WA3GTL
- 2 Mon Labor Day
- 8 Sun W3AFV
- 15 Sun KB3IV
- 22 Sun K3XS
- 23 Mon Autumn Begins
- 29 Sun N3QV
- 30 Mon Rosh Hashanah

**For Sale**

***1/8" (290#) & 3/16" (380#) Dark Olive Drab Braided Cord · 100% Polyester/Dacron Knit Braided. Nice stuff! Tough and long lasting · UV Resistant and Low Stretch Proudly Made in the U.S.A.! Contact Steve WU3I at wu3i@arrl.net or 215-605-6074***

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***First Class Mail***

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc  
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