



The *Blurb*



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

68 Years of Public Service, 1949-2017

Volume 68 Number 12

www.phil-mont.org

December 2017

General Meeting on the 13th

Brrr! December is Here!

Club Elections at the General Meeting
Hanukkah, Christmas and lastly, the Winter Solstice
Absentee Ballot and Auction Fest Form Inside
Barry asks a Great Question on Page 5



I understand the turnout was good for Old Timer's Night. Unfortunately I couldn't attend. Many thanks to Doug WA3DSP for the pictures.

<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 DeVirgiliis 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:</p> <p>AJ3DI (18) WA3DSP (18) KB2ERL (18) N3QV (17) W3RM (17) K3HWG (17) W3AOK (A)</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</p> <p>Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV Field Day: KC2PMW Fusion Coord: NC3U</p>	<p>Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: K3HWG Net Control: KB3IV</p>	<p>Program: W3AOK Publicity: W3RM Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: W3RM 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
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3OV

The Officers

President: NC3U Sal Marandola nc3u@verizon.net
Vice President: WA3GM Greg Malone wa3gm@yahoo.com
Treas: KB3IV Ed Masarsky kb3iv@comcast.net
Secretary: WU3I Steve Hoch wu3i@arrl.net

The Prez Sez ...

Hello Phil-Mont Members,

Happy Holidays to everyone in eye shot of this Blurb!! Thanksgiving has passed and now its time to get set for the big event coming up that's right you guessed it "AUCTION FEST". This year it will be at the Roxborough Memorial Hospital on Thursday January 23rd. Gather all your "stuff" and meet us there.

December 13th is the next Phil-Mont meeting. I hope everyone will be there to meet and greet. We will have food and drink there as well. Club elections are that night so please come out and vote as well.

In January we will have another breakfast at Andys in Spring House so if you're able to come please do. Date will follow later in the month.

I would like to thank everyone who helps make Phil-Mont the club that it is, from the officers to the people who update web sites and face book and our all important repeater gurus and system operators. Every thing helps us be the best Radio Club in the area.

Hopefully please listen to the nets and read the emails from the Philmontmobileradio newsgroup. If anyone has an idea please send me an email at NC3U@verizon.net

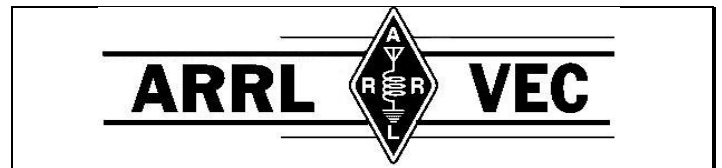
Don't forget that Phil-Mont has a Yahoo mailing list. This is one of the best ways to get some up to date news on things going on at the club. Look up philmontmobileradioclub in the Yahoo list and you will find us.

I hope to see everyone at a meeting and have the opportunity to shake your hand.

Remember we are not a club without YOU

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

73, Sal NC3U



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

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Eric Marano - N3QV
- 02 Patricia Katz - (XYL N3OWM)
Carolyn Errigo - (XYL WB3EQW)
- 08 Jules Stein - KB3AFH
- 09 Barbara Bennett - (XYL NJ3Z)
- 16 James Day - WA3QED
- 19 Larry Stevenson - K3HWE
- 20 Harvey Kolodner - WA3GTL
- 21 Rick Spencer - N3FD
- 24 Richard DeVirgiliis - ND3B
- 25 Jim McCloskey - NS3K
- 30 Adam Huffnagle - K3JCP

MEMBERSHIP STATS

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

From the Secretary**Board of Directors meeting 11/1/2017**

NC3U opened the meeting at 7:07 PM
 In attendance were WA3GM, W3AOK, KB3IV,
 AJ3DI, KB2ERL, WA3KIO and WU3I.
 A3AOK reported that the repeater needs new siding
 installed. To be done soon.
 KB3IV reported the treasury is doing well for 2
 months left in the year.
 Also reported we need a Membership chairperson.
 There were 2 new members to vote on, they are
 AC3BJ and KC3JUD. WU3I made the motion to
 accept the applicants AJ3DI seconded motion
 carried.
 Email sent to Roxborough Hospital to schedule the
 Auction. More to follow.
 WA3GM announced the slate for the December
 election.

NC3U President
 WA3GM Vice President
 WU3I Secretary
 KB3IV & NS3K Treasurer

Board of Directors
 K3RON N3QV WB3DZZ

A Position of Director Emeritus was instituted for
 W3RM.

NEW BUSINESS

AJ3DI proposed PMRC to be involved with the
 Security BSIDES Convention he is involved
 with. WU3I made the Motion W3AOK Seconded
 motion carried.
 Motion to donate to WRDV fundraising campaign
 AJ3DI seconded WA3GM Motion Carried

Motion to close meeting AJ3DI
 Seconded WA3GM

General Meeting 11/8/2017

NC3U opened the meeting at 7:07. There were 38
 Guests and 6 visitors.

NC3U reported on the Repeater that siding needs to
 be installed and all else is operating OK.

KB3IV reported that all was good with the
 treasury. Next month via USPS you will be
 receiving your dues invoice with a self-addressed
 envelope. Please check personal info and correct if
 necessary.

New members KA3BPU, KC3JPI, KC3JUD &
 AC3BJ. Welcome to our new members
 WU3I recognized all the Veterans attending and got
 them a round of applause. Nest recognized the
 longest Licensed Members Navy made the final cut
 with K3CHR Jack and W3GBA the last pair
 standing with over 60 years Licensed.

WA3GM announced the slate and called for any
 final nominations from the floor after which WU3I
 made the motion to close nominations K3HWG
 Seconded. The Slate is as Follows:

NC3U President
 WA3GM Vice President
 WU3I Secretary
 KB3IV & NS3K Treasurer
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 K3RON, N3QV and WB3DZZ

The 5050 was won by N3FD and donated back to
 the Scholarship Fund. The Hallicrafters was won
 by WU3I.

A Multitude of short talks on Vintage gear were
 given by an assortment of members and guests.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve WU3I

Is CW A Digital Mode?

de Barry, K3EUI

Recently I was in a CW qso with another ham on 20 meters and I asked him at about 20 wpm “do you operate any of the other digital modes”. He responded with “I don’t operate digital modes”. I then came back with “but CW is a digital mode, and in fact, right now I am sending CW to you at 20 wpm with a computer program FLDIGI and a keyboard, not with a hand-key or keyer. My rig is in upper sideband mode, not in CW mode, but I can assure you, I am in QSO with you right now in true CW. Are you copying me OK?”

We then got into an interesting discussion (in CW mode) whether (or not) CW is a true “digital mode”. So what do PMRC folks say? **Is CW a true digital mode?** Many think of CW, when copied by ear, and sent by a hand key or keyer, as not one of the digital modes... after all, if you can copy and send CW without the aid of a computer, what makes CW digital? That sounds like a logical argument. Let’s take a closer look at this question.

The mode we call CW is represented by either the **absence** of sound (let’s call that a 0) or the **presence** of sound (let’s call that a 1). So CW characters (letters, numbers, and punctuation) are combinations of either a 0 or a 1, a binary situation. If I want a computer to do the sending, then I can represent the letter “E” as a single short sound (dit) and give it a binary designation (1). Let’s say I want to send the letter “I” as dit-dit but of course, there has to be a moment of silence between the two dit’s, so I can represent the letter “I” as sound/silence/sound or 101 in binary. The letter T is a long sound (dah) so for the letter T we can say three dits in a row, without any silence between the dits, or (111) in binary. Now we are starting to see that each character in Morse can be represented by a series of sounds (1) or silence (0).

How do we tell when one character ends and the next character begins when listening to CW by ear? Of course, there is some longer silence between each letter or number, so between characters we can designate three periods of silence (000). What happens at the end of a word in CW? Usually the CW operator gives a bit more silence between words (but sometimes not) so we could give the

silence between words a longer period, such as five 0’s (00000).

Thus, by making combinations of sound (1) and silence (0) one can produce very well sent CW by a computer control of the keying circuit. Or, more likely today, having a “sound card”, the computer program can send a sound wave, at a convenient pitch, to represent a 1, and interrupt the sound wave with periods of silence to represent the 0’s. So by making sound waves of constant pitch go on/off in rapid succession, one can really mimic what an operator does by sending CW with a hand key. These sounds go from a “sound card” output port (speaker jack) into the MIC or DATA jack of a radio with the radio in USB (or LSB) and what comes out of the radio’s RF antenna jack is “pure CW” as long as the rig is not overdriven by too much audio to distortion. But that is true on voice (phone) as well. Watch the ALC and keep it to zero level. When CW is sent by this method, as a SSB signal, it is indistinguishable from CW sent by a keyer circuit with rig in CW mode. You have the advantage of sending and listening to CW at any pitch you want (on a waterfall) with the proper software, like FLDIGI.

Thus, if a machine can send and copy CW by “listening” to the sounds via a sound card, the sounds can be converted in a “sound card” back to a digital form (1) and the silence between sounds can be converted back to a 0. The 0’s and 1’s can be interpreted by an application such as FLDIGI as Morse, and print the text on your monitor’s screen. Sounds simple!

So now we have an argument that CW is a true “digital mode” since it can be represented as a series of 0’s and 1’s. One might then argue that if my brain could convert the diddle high-low sounds of RTTY back to letters and numbers without the aid of a computer, that RTTY was also not a digital mode just because my brain can make the conversion of sound to letters. Same argument works with PSK, Olivia, etc.

So my QSO with this fellow on CW ended well with him agreeing with me that CW “could” be considered a digital mode, but only if it involved a computer somewhere in the sending or receiving station.

He preferred to believe that if he did not use a computer, that CW was not in any way for him a “digital” mode (as if the word digital was not honorable). But we ended the QSO with a familiar “TNX, 73, and GOOD DX”.

Over the weekend of Nov 18th I happened to tune across the CW part of 20 meters and heard many more CW stations than I am accustomed to hearing. Then as I listened for a few minutes, I heard it was a contest (ops signed CQ TEST) not bothering to spell out the word CONTEST.

So it looks like CW is well and alive on 20 meters, especially during DX openings and contests. Every once in a while the PMRC DEN will feature a CW net where folks get to check into the DEN using MCW (modulated CW the same way the repeater ID’s as W3QV in Morse). So get out your old code practice oscillators and oil up your hand key and join us on the next CW DEN. Or, download the free program FLDIGI and enjoy CW with your computer and keyboard. Whether you consider CW to be digital or not, you can still have fun with that mode.

Barry K3EUI

November 18th, 2017



Yeah, I’m looking at you!



It’s The Dinosaurah Menorah!



PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.

22nd ANNUAL HAM RADIO "AUCTION-FEST"

Tuesday, JANUARY 23, 2018

7PM

AT WOLCOFF AUDITORIUM

ROXBOROUGH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

5800 RIDGE AVE. (Ridge Ave & Jamestown St.)

PHILADELPHIA PA 19128

TALK IN: 147.030 (91.5PL)

For More Information Contact:

PHIL-MONT

P.O. BOX 404 - WARMINSTER, PA 18974

OR E-MAIL

info@phil-mont.org

(See Reverse Side For Auction Details)



ABSENTEE BALLOT 2018 OFFICERS

Phil-Mont will hold election of officers at the December 13, 2017 meeting. If you are not able to attend, you may use this Absentee Ballot to cast your vote.

There is only one office with two candidates running for office.

TREASURER

Vote for one: Jim McCloskey NS3K

Ed Masarsky KB3IV

You may email your vote to: info@phil-mont.org

Mail your ballot to: PMRC

PO Box 404

Warminster, Pa. 18974

Ballots must be received by Monday December 11th.

December at Phil-Mont

- 3- Sun W3AFV
- 7 Thur Pearl Harbor Day
- 10 Sun K3XS
- 12 Tue Hanukkah Begins
- 13 Wed General Meeting & Election
- 17 Sun KB3IV
- 21 Thur Winter Begins
- 24 Sun WU3I
- 25 Mon Christmas
- 28 Thur VE Session
- 31Sun N3QV
New Year's Eve

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

DAIWA CS 201 Two position SO239 Coax Switch
\$25.00 each. I have 5.
Bill K3HWG K3HWG@arrl.net

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

First Class Mail

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

