



The Blurbs



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

72 Years of Public Service, 1949-2021

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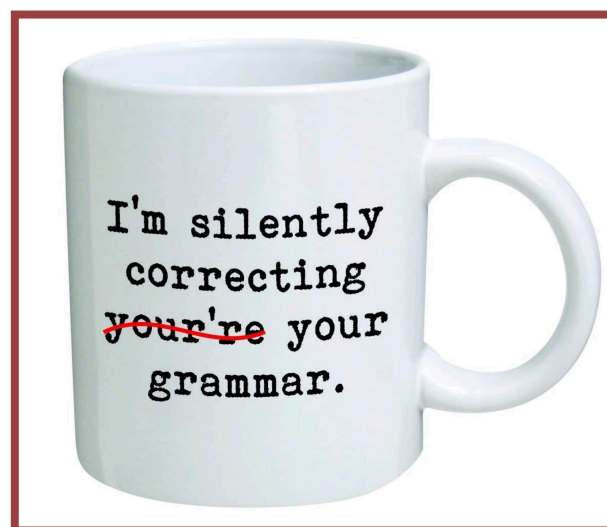
www.phil-mont.org

March 2021

No Meetings or VE Tests Due to Coronavirus ... Again



***National Grammar Day
March 4***



HAPPY

π

DAY

3.14

Vernal Equinox – March 20



The Blurb 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. Requests should be sent to the Editor:

Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B@ARRL.net

Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.

Labels and mailing: KB3IV

Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.

Directors:
 KB2ERL (22)
 WA3DSP (22)
 W3UP (22)
 WA2UAR (22)
 N3QV (21)
 K3RON (21)
 KC3GJX (A)
 W3RM
 (EMERITUS)

**Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 404
 Warminster, PA 18974**

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

Website: Eric N3QV &
 Andrew KC2PMW

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

Sunday Morning Net Schedules:

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net** at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** at 1030L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 Meter Net** at 1000L 3.993 MHz LSB
- **ARES** at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

Committees:

Blurb folding: KB3IV &
 N3GLU

Internet: N3QV &
 KC2PMW

Refreshments: W3AOK

VE Program:

Directory: KB3IV

Membership: KB3IV

Repeater: W3AOK

NS3K

Field Day: KC2PMW

Net Control: KB3IV

Scholarship:

Welcome:

Fusion Coord: NC3U

Program: W3AOK

KB3IV

N3UBY

Sunshine: N3GLU

Youth: KC2PMW

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 each month on the **fourth non-holiday Thursday** 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.

The Officers

President: Jim Fisher AJ3DI
kc3bra@gmail.com

Vice President: Richard Roth K2RSJ
k2rsj@arrl.net

Treasurer: KB3IV Ed Masarsky
kb3iv@comcast.net

Secretary: W3AFV Chuck Farrell
chuckfarrell@comcast.net

Club Stations

W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System,
 Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA

Trustee: N3QV

147.030 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 1 Hz C4FM

Fusion Digital

Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R AllStar Node 47970

W3AA Trustee: N3QV

W3EM: Field Day/special event station

Trustee: N3QV

The Prez Sez ...



Hello, Phil-Mont!

DRIVE.

TIME.

NET.

What an addition to the Club's arsenal! Monday

through Friday, 5 p.m. local time on the 2 meter repeater: 147.030 (+offset 91.5 PL), Bucks County and North PL 88.5 (147.030), ALLSTAR NODE 47970 and Echolink W3QV-R.

INCREASED activity on the repeater *all* throughout the day.

NEW members coming at an amazing pace. (NO coincidence!)

MORE time for folks to ask questions, give answers, get Amateur Radio info and just chat.

PLEASE, if you have a chance; listen, participate, and if you want to be a Net Control, one-shot, or more, please contact W3UP or K2RSJ.

The beauty of this Net is each Net Control can bring their own flavor. It's the Baskin Robbins of Amateur Radio. Bring your pistachio ...

How about that General Meeting?

The February meeting was held on February 10, 7 p.m. local time on ZOOM, [2M repeater](#) (147.030), ALLSTAR NODE [47970](#) and Echolink W3QV-R. K3EUI Barry delivered a presentation on "Nano VNA: A Stethoscope for your Antenna System." We had over 30 participants on both ZOOM and listening on the repeater and following along with the presentation file.

No worries if you missed it: the video, presentation, and a quiz are all available on our website at <http://phil-mont.org/>. The presentation and all the media will be there, along with many other presentations, which can be found at: <http://phil-mont.org/presos/presos.html>.

I think Barry enjoyed being back "home" as much as we enjoyed having him. That makes it even better for me personally. I hope to have more content from Barry as the year progresses.

Barry has also provided more quizzes to be passed along. Watch the GROUPS.IO for the files.

Winter Field Day was *WINTER* Field Day indeed! Hope you played a little (warmly). Can't wait to see the results. Stop smiling, Snowbirds ... you know who you are!

Jay WA2UAR: Board Member, EPA Section Public Information Coordinator ... and now acting Philadelphia ARES EC. Please check out what Jay and the group are doing on the Sunday Night Net and their GROUPS.IO page at: <https://groups.io/g/PhiladelphiaARES>. Calendar announcements are sent out from the Phil-Mont GROUPS.IO (please join!) at <https://philmontmobileradioclub.groups.io/g/main>. The Phila. ARES Net is held Sunday evenings on 147.030 MHz (or ZOOM) at 9 p.m. local time.

From what I understand, there is a push for Phila. ARES and other local agencies to utilize digital-based RF communications in the event of any situation. If any of this interests you, please get involved with the group. Winlink, VARA, fldigi modes, both FM and HF, will be taught/trained/used. Sounds both fun and useful!

I want to thank EVERYONE for all that is going on. It sure beats white noise. DO NOT HESITATE to bring YOUR interests to the repeater, the GROUPS.IO, and/or the General Meetings. I know I am interested, and I am sure others will be, too.

For the folks who have been here longer, do not hesitate to bring back things that were tried in the past. We are fortunate to have your experience, and welcome it.

New folks, if there is an area of the hobby that you are interested in, but don't hear folks talking about, BRING

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IT UP. I bet there are folks lurking with similar interests ... or, you'll cultivate the interest — EVEN BETTER! They may already be doing it, and we just don't know!

The March General Meeting will be held on March 10, 7 p.m., on ZOOM and the 2M repeater 147.030. The meeting will feature a presentation by W2JAZ Richard on "EME: Taking Phil-Mont to the MOON (and back)."

EVERY DAY, remember, this is YOUR Club, YOUR repeaters. USE them. MONITOR them. BE A REPEATER GREETER. Answer calls when you can. Let's try to leave "**NO CALL UNANSWERED.**"

*Play*Break*Learn*

Jim Fisher, AJ3DI

www.aj3di.com

HamshackHotline ext: 14423

"Do, or do not. There is no 'try.'"

— Jedi Master Yoda

Directory Update

Your 2021 Dues Invoice/Directory Information Sheet was sent to you in a separate mailing.

Please verify the information and return it with your dues and optional PMRC Scholarship Fund donation to:

PMRC

PO Box 404

Warminster, PA 18974

Your early reply will save the Club additional expenses and will speed up the publishing of the 2021 P.M.R.C. Directory.



**The VE session is canceled this month.
As always, many thanks to our VE team!**

Ham Radio "Outside the Box"

One thing I always aim to do is to think "outside the box," and in this case, the box could be your HT or that sweet all-band rig sitting on your desk. "Playing radio" (as AJ3DI calls it) doesn't always involve an actual radio, especially when it comes to online platforms like Allstar, Echolink, and even the newer Web-SDRs. They're great for listening and talking on a repeater if you're out of range, but not so great if the speaker on your cell phone or tablet leaves much to be desired.

That said, one overlooked feature of most cell phones and tablets is that they can wirelessly connect to external speakers, whether it be through Bluetooth or, if you have Apple devices, a feature called Airplay. Both can be used to stream the audio from your mobile device into a better speaker, with many economical devices supporting Bluetooth as well as other "premium" or "smart" devices like an Apple Homepod or Sonos speaker, or in some cases even the Amazon Echo or Google Home Mini.

I recently got a new Ikea "Symfonisk" speaker (\$99) for my kitchen that is essentially a "smart speaker." Although it's an Ikea-branded product, it's actually made by Sonos. It connects to your home network via wifi OR wired. Generally, the way it works is that, using your phone or computer, you can tell it to stream music or an online radio station (most Philly radio stations are

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also available online, even KYW). Being a small speaker (4" wide x 12" tall), it actually has some relatively decent sound — hence the price tag. All



Sonos products including these Ikea speakers can also be grouped together, so if you have more than one, you can group speakers all over your house.

So how does this play with ham

radio? Well, this speaker is also airplay compatible, and I found it actually works great for listening to Echolink from my phone in the morning while eating my breakfast. If I had more speakers elsewhere in the house, I could stream to them all at once if I wanted to, so I can be listening in my office and not miss a thing when running to the kitchen.

Likewise, home-theater streaming devices like an Apple TV or Google Chromecast can also be used to stream audio to your TV or home stereo; even some TVs themselves have these features built in. If you want to keep things cheap and you're up for some tinkering, you can also DIY a streaming device using a Raspberry Pi and software like "Kodi"; with ready-made Pi images, it's fairly easy to do! (Pis aren't just for Allstar nodes, ya know!).

So the moral of the story here is that if you like the convenience of using your cell phone for listening to ham radio, but have trouble with the audio, there are a lot of options for streaming that audio wirelessly to something better now, with something for just about any budget.

Jeff Golas, KC3GJX

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 01 John Furlong – KC2TUT
Peter Lamb – KC3CLO
- 06 Tina Furlong (XYL KC2TUT)
Bryan Kobe – KB3WHR
- 08 Bill Hewitt – W3FRB
- 12 Lamonte Cuff – AB3LC
Linda Gianios – (XYL WB3DZZ)
Tricia King – (XYL WB3BPI)
- 13 Rosemary Canuso (XYL N2ATB)
Ben Johns – K3JQH
- 17 James Smith – AC3BJ
- 21 Frank Meo – KB2AYS
- 23 Jane Hewitt – KC3FSR (XYL W3FRB)
- 28 Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)
Tony Canuso – N2ATB
- 29 James Walston, Jr. – KC3NVS
- 30 Robert H. Rose – N3TWO

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. has:

- 110 Full Paid Members
- 10 Family Members
- 2 Youth MemberS
- 2 Honorary Members
Elaine Spencer
Richard Moll – W3RM

New members pending:

- James Foster, W3JNF - General
- James Goldman, W3JG - Extra
- Daniel Wagaman, KC3QZE - General
- Chris McBaine, KC3PWD - Technician
- Bobbie Phengvath, KC3OZH - Technician
- James Prumachuk, KZ4JIM - General

From the Secretary ...

**Phil-Mont February General Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021**

Opened by Rich, K2RSJ at 7 p.m.

Listing of Officers and Board Members

29 Attendees via ZOOM, 4 via the repeater

Secretary’s Report – W3AFV

Drive Time Net – K2RSJ

- Averaging 20 check-ins/night
- Looking for additional net control operators

“What Hams Do” – WA2UAR

- The next “What Hams Do” TV show premieres at 8 p.m., Sunday, February 28 on YouTube (SearchYouTube for EPA-ARRL). The subject is “Amateur Radio Operators as Citizen Scientists Working with HAMsci.org.”

Phila ARES – WA2UAR

- Working with ARC to establish a partnership
- Many of the Phila ARES members are signing up as ARC volunteers

Membership – K2RSJ

- Four members pending, to be voted on at March Board Meeting

Repeater Update – W3AOK

- Testing at the repeater site

Business Meeting Adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Presentation – K3EUI

- Antenna Tuners and SWR

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck W3AFV

For Sale

For Sale: 100 watt K3s transceiver (160 to 2 meters) plus P3 panadapter and SP3 external speaker. Price is very negotiable. Don't want it to gather dust on the shelf. Contact Patrick Taylor, W3HVG.

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.

Antennas for sale:

- Hustler 4BTV vertical antenna with a 75m super resonator on top.
 - 3 element Beam with extra traps; I believe it's a Mosley.
 - Diamond Dual band vhf uhf base antenna.
- I have the paperwork for the Hustler and Mosley Asking \$50.00 each, but no reasonable offer will be refused. Contact Carmen KE3QB at my3gumbas@gmail.com.



March at Phil-Mont

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

2M/EchoLink/AllStar Net Control Schedule:

- 7 KB3SJS
- 14 K3XS
- 21 W3AFV
- 28 W3UP

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