



# The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club  
Public Service Since 1949

Volume 72 Number 7

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

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## Having A Field Day!



Article on Page 8...



# Get The Net!



**There's no ham radio without YOU!**  
**Get on the air and share! Operate, cooperate, & celebrate ham radio!**

## Sunday Morning Nets

**0930:**

- 2m, [Echolink W3QV-R](#)
- [ALLSTAR](#) 47970
- 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL)
- Bucks County and North PL 88.5 (147.030)

**1000:**

- 75 meter Net (3.993 MHz LSB +/- QRM)

**1030:**

- 10 meter Net (28.393 MHz USB +/-QRM)

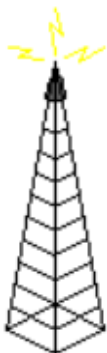
## Drive Time Net

**When:** Monday - Friday 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. EST

**Where:**

- 2m, [Echolink W3QV-R](#)
- [ALLSTAR](#) 47970
- 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL)
- Bucks County and North PL 88.5 (147.030)

## July Net Control Schedule



*Net Control Stations:*

- 7/04 NC3U
- 7/11 W3MHP
- 7/18 KB3IV
- 7/25 K2RSJ

# CQ! CQ! CQ!



## Calling CQ for New Net Control Operators!

[Click Here and Sign Up Today!](#)  
[It's a Fun Way to Meet Our Members!](#)

# Club Business

## NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING:

# SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

*Next meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup> at a time and location to be determined. Stay tuned! Check out the club website and here in the Blurb for more info.*

## MEMBERSHIP STATS

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

- 113 Full paid members
- 10 Family members
- 1 Youth members

### Honorary Members:

- Elaine Spencer
- Richard Moll - W3RM

### New Members Pending:

- Margaret (Peg) Daly - N3PEG – General
- Phillip Zminda – N3ZP - Extra

## REPEATERS

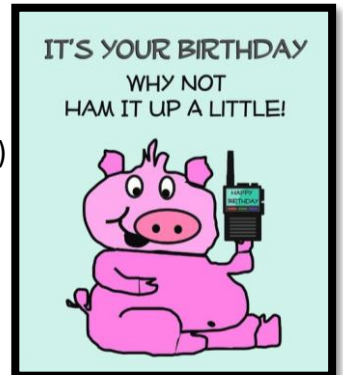
VHF: 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL)  
[ECHOLINK W3QV-R](#) & [ALLSTAR 47970](#)  
Bucks County and North PL 88.5 (147.030)

UHF: 444.80 MHz Yaesu System Fusion  
WiresX

[EMAIL REPEATER COMMITTEE](#)

## JULY BIRTHDAYS!

- 03 Nicole Bohlander (XYL of WA3KLR)
- 05 John Christopher KI3J
- 10 Natalie Gordon WB3KOH
- 14 Austin Seraphin KA3TTT
- 15 Hiroko Gilbert (XYL K3DFG)
- 16 Michael Davis KB1JEY
- 22 James Foster W3JNF
- 23 Arthur Weiner WX3PHI
- 25 Virginia Haring W3IIN
- 26 Mai-Lin Simmons (XYL N3BKR)
- 29 James Larkin KA2FFP
- 31 Steve Hoch WU3I



*I said, "Do you want fries with that?"!*

## June General Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Farrell – W3AFV

- **Called to order** by K2RSJ at 7:00 PM
- **Secretary's report** in the Blurb
- **Repeater Report** - K2RSJ
  - New Duplexers are being shipped
  - Switching to hardline internet
- **Treasurer's Report** - KB3IV
  - Looking Good
- **Membership Report** - KB3IV
  - New members listed in the April & May Blurbs
- **Announcements** - K2RSJ
  - Bucks County input to Repeater down until at least Sunday
- **Field Day**
  - Band Captain KB2ERL
  - See the website for current info
- **Presentation** – Soundcard Modes – K3EUI
  - 20 on Zoom
  - 4 check-ins on Repeater
  - 0 on Allstar / EchoLink
- **Club Business Session closed** by AJ3DI at 7:13

## Philadelphia ARES Training Updates

Our own Cliff Hotchkiss, KC3PGT, is the Philadelphia County ARES Coordinator. Check in on Sunday nights to learn how to use your radio skills to serve our community during times of great need.

Philadelphia County



ARES

### [Philadelphia ARES](#)

**Amateur Radio Emergency Services**  
**Every Sunday evening at 2100 (9:00 PM)**  
**147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL)**

# The Prez Sez...

## ***Hello Phil-Mont,***

Field Day is now behind us. More about that next month as this is written BEFORE the event.

A great month on the repeater. Answering calls from people visiting the area, and have them say that this is one of the most active repeaters in the area. That's a great honor.

Another great email thread started by Jeff, KC3GJX.

<https://philmontmobileradioclub.groups.io/g/main/message/864>

It is not the first time he has addressed these kinds of issues. As a master-of-fact, the Holmesburg Elmer Net grew out of this the first time Jeff suggested it.

<http://www.harcnet.org/>

All the replies were GREAT! BUT...

## **I CALL SHENANIGANS.**

At Phil-Mont we go out of our way to encourage all Amateur Radio Operations.

Newcomer and Old-Timers as well.

As mentioned in that thread, the Phil-Mont VE Team gives every test taker an information handout and ARRL material when they leave the test session.

[http://phil-mont.org/exams/VE\\_Handout.pdf](http://phil-mont.org/exams/VE_Handout.pdf)

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uD6yZ7VjzZTEubB97>

As a Club we provide many places, starting with the website for folks to gather information on all aspects of the HOBBY.

Yep. HOBBY. It's a hobby for all of us.

Some work is required. We are here for all the hams. But, you have to do a little work too.

For example, on our website, are many of our PAST PRESENTATIONS.

One that jumps out is:

## **January 2021 Ham Radio Bootcamp**

(Listen HERE: <http://phil-mont.org/presos/pmrcJan2021.mp3>)

A recap from the February *Blurb*:

January 2021 Ham Radio Bootcamp: "Got your license, now what?!?!," our KILO YEARS of experienced hams provided valuable information for new hams, such as:

- 1) HT may not be the best communication tool for every situation.
- 2) The OEM antennas are rarely any good.
- 3) An external antenna for mobile or home use will help.
- 4) Mobile radio will yield even better results.
- 5) Listen but key up early, get over that mic fright.
- 6) KEY UP!
- 7) Signal/Audio reports are given to HELP and CONGRATULATE you. DO NOT be intimidated by them.

- 8) Join a club.  
 9) Ask questions. Take ACTION.  
 10) YouTube, mailing lists, Facebook, Twitter — all sources of information.  
 11) Join the ARRL.

As printed in:

<http://phil-mont.org/blurb/Feb21.pdf>

KNOW that we are HERE for YOU. We provide many resources.

**IT IS UP TO YOU TO USE THEM.**

I will now share my last (UNSENT) email reply to that thread.

(Like therapy and the unsent letter):

*"PARTICIPATE.*

*You don't have to key up. Listen.*

*KEY UP when you are ready. We're all different. MOST hams are welcoming. We /need/ folks to play with.*

*The toolbags are everywhere. Ignore them and move on.*

*DO.*

*Don't overthink and look for the perfect solution. In the RF world....there are \*none\*.*

*Some of the best contacts are made on antennas that won't work.*

*DO.*

*PLAY\*BREAK\*LEARN*

*PARTICIPATE.*

*Use all the resources...today there are many...almost too many.*

*DO.*

*The answers will reveal themselves.*

*Talk it up on the air. If you're not a vocal person, USE THE LIST.*

*Use our IRC channel.*

*Some of our best stuff, when in person meetings have happened, and will happen again, is BEFORE the meeting and IN THE PARKING LOT after the meeting.*

*Come EARLY. Stay LATE.*

*IRL. IN REAL LIFE. PLAY\*BREAK\*LEARN*

*You have an amazing license from your government. It gives you the right to look at something and EXPERIMENT.*

*Jeff (Bags). All good points throughout the years from you. This is an old one too! We did attempt it. But now it seems we need to have a specific set of GOTA folks/setup at VE sessions. We tried to do both and it just didn't work for the reasons I gave earlier.*

*The Holmesburg Elmer Net came from your first and/or coupled with this original suggestion. I can't remember.*

*For me, I am not a fan of single point learning. ie, watching a video only. This is why Elmering is sooo important.*

*IT'S FULL DUPLEX. The Elmer learns from the experience. We all bring different things to the table. The sharing is where both or many grow.*

*I need YOU to grow in my hobby. I know what I know, from the perspective I see it from. I'm interested in YOUR view, to expand mine.*

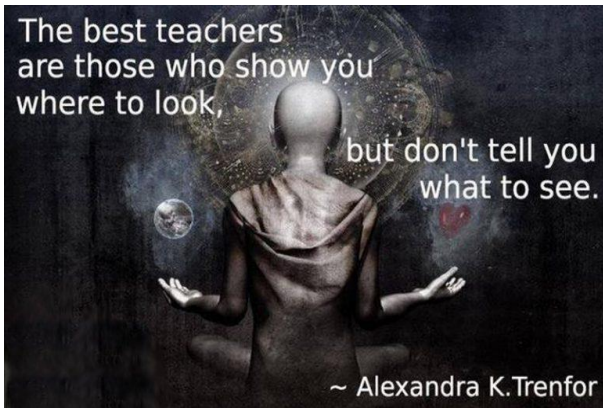
*If you see smoke, you're on the right path.....*

*It's ok NOT to instantly be able to do everything. The fun is in the journey of the achievement.*

*I've included 2 images that I include in most of my presentations.*

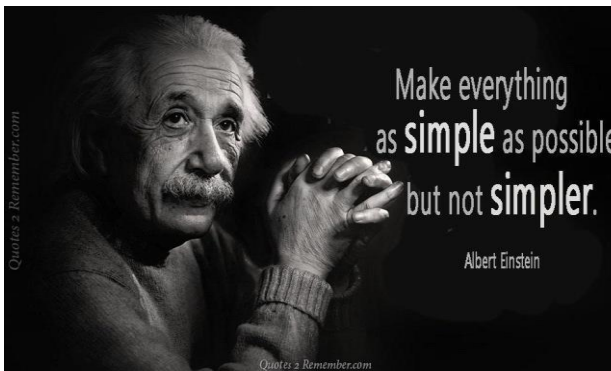
*Come to Field Day. See it IN ACTION.*

*</sk> <--hmmm"*



Phil-Mont will always be here for you.

You just need to do a little too!



A "Do-ocracy" is a system of management or government in which those who do, decide what gets done.

If other people don't like it maybe the next time something needs to get done and they want it to get done their way, then they'll just go do it.

**We fully support any and all doing.**

[LISTEN to Yoda](#)

EVERY SINGLE MINUTE 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](http://www.aj3di.com)

HamshackHotline ext: 14423

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

-- Jedi Master Yoda

# Having A Field Day!

**Field Day 2021.** After the long, confusing and isolating debacle that was 2020 it was spectacular to finally get together and celebrate ham radio eyeball QSO style again. From set-up to tear down we were energized and ready to put our best foot forward representing Phil-Mont in person and on the air.

For a few of us, myself included, this was our first Field Day. Like so many other new hams of the past year the hobby has been a completely virtual experience. From studying to testing, to operating up until a few months ago doing any of these in person was rarely an option.

But our long winter (and summer, and another winter) of discontent is over. In the sunny days of June 2021 operators new and veteran spent one fine weekend together setting up our stations in Washington State Park and joining amateur operators around the world in celebrating Field Day. In Person. And what a great day it was.

For those uninitiated in the calendar of ham radio Field Day is a major annual event. All around the country clubs set up portable stations outdoors for a 24 hr semi-contest on all bands to practice getting on air outdoors in the event that emergency comms are called for. But it's much more than that. It's also an



Day shift and night shift working the 40 meter station. Photos: W4GMN



Steve (K3FZT), Jay (WA2UAR), and Cliff (KC3PGT) smiling for the camera. Photo: K2RSJ

opportunity for clubs nationwide to create a physical presence in their community. Passersby are welcomed to ask questions about amateur radio and can even get on the air with the help of a licensed operator.

Amateur radio is by nature an abstract endeavor. Our radio waves cross distances great and small allowing us to communicate remotely. Operators are invisible to each other and recognizable more by our calls and voices than our faces and names. Field Day is one of the special few times of the year that we get the chance to put faces to those call signs and share stories and ask questions face to face.





How do all those antennas get up in the air? Do they just get thrown over the highest branch you can reach? Nope, there's a lot more to it than that! All Friday afternoon and Saturday morning you can hear the hollow thumps of homebrew tennis ball launchers and the whir of fishing reels across the campground. To the right you can see Steve (WU3I) and Greg (WA3GM) hoisting antennas over branches 40 or 50 feet in the air.

After all that work setting up an antenna for every band comes the fun. From 2pm EST Saturday to 2pm Sunday is when the fun starts. While Field fun runs from Friday afternoon to Sunday the main event is that 24 hour window where every club starts collecting those valuable contacts. This year 20, 40 and 80 meters were the powerhouses with contacts coming in from Italy, Ireland and all over the continental US.

It's also a lot of fun! Lots of cooking out and sleeping in, and plenty of radio action. The main event of Field Day is the contest-not-a-contest Field Day contest. Every club competes for bragging rights by making the most contacts across all bands in the 24 hour window, showing off their ability to operate and challenging each other through some friendly rivalry. To the left Peg (N3PEG) and another operator working together to score HF contacts and get them logged in the computer. It's fast and furious, and something you really have to experience to appreciate. Much like rally racers with a driver and navigator we work in teams to work the mic and log those contacts.



At the end of all that fun, the late nights and early mornings, the handshakes and mentoring, the cooking, joking and laughing, and hours spent pulling out those call signs from the noise the most important contacts we made were with each other.

There is no better chance to share the fun, challenge and excitement of ham radio with the friends, neighbors, and with each other than Field Day. And this one was a special one. I'm already looking forward to next year! -W4GMN



Left to right we have Andrew (KC2PMW), Bill (W3AOK), and Frank (W3MHP) taking a break from their QSO to pose for the camera. - Photo credits: K2RSJ

[Click here to see all the Field Day photos!](#)

# Our Past is Our Future



*A peek into Phil-Mont of yore, Club elections 1993. Photo courtesy of Ed Masarsky, KB3IV.*

One of the joys of being a member of Phil-Mont is that we are not just a part of the present moment. Instead we are links in the long chain of operators in our hobby and culture. Today's newly minted technicians will, with their own effort and encouragement from veteran operators, grow into tomorrow's experienced mentors for the next generation of radio enthusiasts. We are more than any snapshot in time; We are bridges to our club's past and an open hand to the future.

This photo shared by Ed (KB3IV) was taken over 27 years ago at our annual elections back in 1993. I was 16 then and preoccupied with the unsophisticated interests of a misspent youth. All the while our club carried on and continued in its tradition of serving each other and our community through the hobby and science of radio. Here in 2021 I've had the pleasure of meeting several of these gentlemen and a few I now consider friends.

Right now there are dozens of people of all ages just on the brink of discovering ham radio, just as Bill, Brad, Steve, Jake, Ed and Rob once were. And like them we can all grow in the hobby, enjoy the camaraderie and the support of a group of like-minded people - and one day hand off that shared passion, experience and commitment to serve our community as every one of our past and present members have. – Dan W4GMN

# Notes from the Club



## *The Blurb* wants to hear from YOU!

Got a hot lead on antenna design? Soldering up a special circuit? Digging some new DSP? Reminiscing about some retro receivers? Click the big blue envelope and [tell us your tale!](#)

## Put a Smile on Everyone's Face!

It's easy: Every purchase you make through our club's Amazon Smile page donates part of that purchase to the club and helps us fund our scholarship, activities, and more. Click the Amazon link and help us help each other!



## [Club Email List](#)

## **PMRC Officers for 2021**

### [EMAIL THE BOARD](#)

**President:** AJ3DI Jim  
**Vice President:** K2RSJ Rich  
**Treasurer:** KB3IV Ed  
**Secretary:** W3AFV Chuck

**Board of Directors:**  
 N3QV Eric(21)  
 K3RON Ron(21)  
 WA2UAR Jay(21)  
 KB2ERL Bobby(22)  
 NC3U Sal(22)  
 W3UP Dick(22)  
 KC3GJX Jeff(A)

