



The *Blurb*



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

Volume 72 Number 11

www.phil-mont.org

Making 'DO'



**Phil-Mont is making radio happen
on the air and on the ground!**

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Get the Net!

There's no ham radio without YOU!

Get on the air and share! Operate, cooperate, & celebrate ham radio!

Phil-Mont's Drive Time Net

*Join us on the air every
Monday to Friday 1700
to 1800 EDT on:*

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

November Net Control Schedule

11/07 WA3GM
11/14 KB3SJS
11/21 K3XS
11/28 W3AFV

CLUB REPEATERS

VHF: 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL)
Bucks County and North PL 88.5
(147.030)

UHF: 444.80 MHz Yaesu System
Fusion WiresX

[ECHOLINK W3QV-R](#) & [ALLSTAR
47970](#)

[EMAIL REPEATER COMMITTEE](#)

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!](#)

Sunday Morning Nets

*Three Nets on three
bands, all in a Row! Tune
in on any or all for a
Sunday morning 'Hello!'*

0930 EDT:

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

1000 EDT:

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

1030 EDT:

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

Club Business

NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING:

Wednesday, November 10th

At the [Willow Grove Super Giant, 315 Old York Rd
in Willow Grove PA 19090](#)

Room Occupancy 30 or less
Vaccination preferred
Masks *required* for non-vaccinated

Nominations for 2022 Now OPEN

Nomination Committee Chair: NC3U Sal

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

Officer Positions

President: AJ3DI Jim
Vice President: K2RSJ Rich
Treasurer: NS3K Jim
Secretary:

3 Board Positions

Expiring are: N3QV-K3RON-WA2UAR

Nominations:

N3QV Eric
K3RON Ron
WA3GM Greg
K3YO Jim
KC3GJX Jeff

[Rules of Election](#)

Nominations will close at our November General Meeting

Election will be held during our December General Meeting

[Description of Duties](#) are in [Bylaws](#)

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Gage Malone – N3FSC
03 John Egoville – KA3BBU
05 Charles Wright – KD3HAM
06 Chris Norton – W2PDN
07 Denise Getson (XYL K2SPG)
14 Peg Daly – N3PEG
15 Edythe Victor (XYL WA2DTW)
19 Brad Swanson – N3GLH
22 Bill Popovic – W3AOK
24 Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)
26 Janice Winston -KC3ORH
27 Ron Wenig – NY3J
29 Bob Nicotera – KB3ERL
Lyn Crompton (XYL WA3DSP)



Phil-Mont Launches New Coders Corner

Like to code? Sure you do! Join up with fellow hams who like to bite into the bits. Come early to the monthly meeting and talk shop with the group. Check out the [repositories on GitHub](#). Let's get geeky!

MEMBERSHIP STATS

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

116 Full paid members

10 Family members

1 Youth members

Honorary Members:

Elaine Spencer

Richard Moll - W3RM

New Members Pending:

Arthur Clemons – N8BLK – Extra

Abraham Shaw - KC3QPB - Technician

Public Service Opportunities

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club has been serving our community in times of need great and small since 1949. In times of crisis and times of joy and celebration we are there sharing our time, skills and energy to help make our communities safe and well connected. There are many ways you can volunteer as a licensed operator that make an impact. Anyone with a license and the desire to assist is needed in arenas from emergency service to event communication teams. And we're not alone. Other area clubs have the same goal and welcome our members to assist as we welcome them to join us as amateur operators serving our community. Read on to find out how you can make a difference!

M.A.R.C. Seeks Volunteers

[MARC \(Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club\)](#) has one more public service event scheduled this fall:

- November 6 - Vietnam Vets 5K run, Norristown Farm Park

If you have questions or would like to sign up for any these public service events, contact Bob N3JIZ on the [MARC nets](#) or call him at 610 420-1535.

Philadelphia



ARES

An ARES update from Cliff Hotchkiss:

On Saturday October 23 Philadelphia ARES, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, performed a S.E.T. (*Situational Emergency Test*). These are held every October by ARES groups to help us develop emergency plans.

In our test we identified 5 key locations of importance to the ARC. We stationed mobile operators at each location and ran a net on a series of repeaters. The idea was to test which repeaters have the best coverage in an emergency. It was a resounding success with 49 participants across the 5 county area and much information gathered. Thanks to all who checked in, everyone who assisted, and all the repeater owners for helping make this S.E.T. a success!

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service are trained licensed amateur radio operators providing radio communications as a public service in disaster situations. All licensed operators are welcome to join. To get started fill out this [ARES Registration form](#) and [submit it to Cliff Hotchkiss](#) (KC3PGT), the Philadelphia Emergency Coordinator.

Join the A.R.E.S. Training Net

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

Meet a 2021 Scholarship Winner

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club offers three scholarships to any student pursuing a bachelor or graduate degree: the Claude H. Haring, Jr. W3IIM Memorial Scholarship, the Bryan Hoch N3JVE Memorial Scholarship, and the Richard Moll W3RM Scholarship. This year two of the chosen applicants wanted to express their gratitude and share a little about themselves with the club. We'll be featuring one of the winners in the November and December editions of The Blurb.

Dear Ed Masarsky and Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club,

My name is Holden Correia-Fisher and I would like to sincerely thank you for funding the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Scholarship. I am so appreciative of receiving this scholarship as it will help me fund my college education. I promise you that I will continue to work hard in school and continue to be an active member of the amateur radio community.

Again, I am honored and humbled to be awarded this scholarship. Thank you very, very much for believing in me and more importantly for funding these scholarships for other students to make their educational goals a reality.

Sincerely and 73,

Holden Correia-Fisher
KD2JPV
Rowan University 2024
Radio, TV and Film



(The following are Holden's words taken from his scholarship application)

I am a second-year student attending Rowan University. I grew up in Collingswood, NJ and have lived there my entire life.

When I was very young, I used to play with whatever wires I could find around my house. I started getting into audio equipment at I believe 5 years old. When I got into elementary school, I got interested in radio communications and received my first handheld scanner. Until middle school, I hadn't heard of Amateur Radio, as I was the only person in my family interested in radio. In middle school, I got very involved in the student technical crew which provided lighting and sound for auditorium events. The teacher in charge of it saw my interest in radio and introduced me to Amateur Radio. I got licensed in 2015 at 14 years old and got very interested in the hobby. I upgraded to General in 2016. Currently working on my Extra.

After I was licensed, I joined the local club in my area, the South Jersey Radio Association. I quickly realized the average age of the club were many decades above me. However, I also realized that there were other people who found radio fun. I gained

great friends, regardless of age and started to enjoy the various aspects of ham radio. A couple of my favorite ham radio activities are experimenting with commercial equipment/ digital modes (DMR, P25, Yaesu System Fusion), HF and VHF contesting, HF operating, satellites, net control operations, SDR and repeaters.

Another club I'm a member of, the South Jersey Mountain Toppers, and I setup on top of a 2,000ft. mountain and operate 3-4 stations covering 6M to 10GHz. It's an amazing experience every year and a fun excuse to camp on top of a mountain.

A couple of my favorite activities within Amateur Radio would include participating in the September VHF contest. I also enjoy Field Day with the SJRA and occasional contesting.



Lessons from the Park



Are you interested in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program? Looking for information on how to start? Have you activated some parks and want to learn more about the program? Do you want to start hunting (chasing) parks? The Education Alliance for Amateur radio is hosting an introduction course to the POTA program.

When: December 19, 2021 9:00 Am till Noon

Where: The Upper Pottsgrove Twp Building (basement level) 1409 Farmington Ave, Pottstown, Pa 19464

Cost: This course is FREE!

Light refreshments will be provided!

Class size is limited to 25

Topics covered: Activating or Hunting, Rules and FAQs, Activation preparation, Using the POTA website and tools, Equipment selection, and a Show and Tell of local activator's equipment

Sponsored By the Education Alliance for Amateur Radio

Register here <https://tinyurl.com/Parks-on-the-air>

Besides Amateur Radio, I collect Motorola commercial equipment and enjoy DMR and P25. Going back to club activities, in the SJRA, I am the youngest elected board member, being elected at 18 years old. I am currently in my second term. I am very involved in my club's website, which I rebuilt last year, and now in our technical meeting committee, which provides sound and video for our meetings.

Currently, I am a member of the following organizations: ARRL, SJRA, South Jersey Mountain Toppers and Gloucester County ARC.

Currently, I am in my second year of college at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. I am currently studying Radio, TV and Film with a concentration in audio and broadcast engineering. Last semester, I got elected as engineer of my college's TV network and club. So far, that position has led me to providing engineering and technical support for my college's commencement ceremonies, among other events. Being involved with the TV network has really enabled me to make new friends and enjoy the social aspect of college while learning important technical and business skills. ●

Phil-Mont's DBJ-1 (or 2!) Antenna Build at Ridley Creek State Park

Phil-Mont'ers got 'Old School' and came together for an in-person build event and had a great time playing radio and learning from each other.

It was a cool, cloudy Sunday morning this October 10th. The air was still and humid signaling Fall was here in southeast Pennsylvania. Braving the chill air members of the Phil-Mont mobile radio club met at Pavilion 14 at Ridley Creek State Park to have an in-person, old-school ham radio build session. Some came to learn, some came to teach, and everyone came out

to have some hands-on fun building a base station or roll-up dual band antenna.



Pavilion #14 at Ridley Creek State Park waiting to be occupied

The design is the popular and effective Ed Fong variation on the traditional j-pole. The benefit of Ed's design is it is equally effective on both bands instead of favoring one or the other. This makes a very useful antenna for everyday home use or in your emergency bag for extending the reach of your HT or mobile rig. Plus, it's relatively easy to build with a few feet of ladder and some bits of coax and connectors. Nothing to it!

The event was hosted by Dan Wagaman – W4GMN, who kicked off the build with an overview of how a j-pole works and how that understanding

makes the build process easier to adjust. Everyone was given a kit of parts for the antenna that they wanted to build, the base station or portable version, and formed small groups of new and experienced builders to start the job.

Many of our club's new hams were in attendance. The first goal of many newly licensed operators is getting an effective 2m/70cm station up at the QTH making this project a natural first build. And for nearly every seasoned ham it's a project long since finished, making for a natural



Peg Daly - N3PEG and AJ3DI stop chatting for a moment and smile for the camera.

partnership between those looking for answers and Elmers with experience to share.

Jeff Golas – KC3GJX and Jim Fisher – AJ3DI went the extra mile to get the power flowing for this fun day. Thanks to their help we had power and work lights hung in the pavilion ready to power a half dozen soldering irons and give everyone a better view of their work on a cloudy Fall Day. Without their help there wouldn't have been much soldering being done at Pavilion #14.



James Walston- KC3NVS, Jim McCusker - K3YO , and Steve Davidson – K3FZT happily talking shop before starting their antennas.

At around 10:00 AM the build got rolling, everyone's heads down studying the layout. Frequent calls for tools or advice on where to make a cut were heard going out from table to table. The antenna is a deceptively simple design: Attach the coax feedlines 1 ¼" from the shorted base of the antenna. Cut a notch a little over 12" from the negative feed connection and cut the remaining leg about 2.5' up from there. But that only gets you the 2m version. The builder then needs to add a shorted cos jumper inline to create a choke for 70cm signals.

The reality of it is a little more challenging. Twin lead is not the easiest stuff to work with. Small notches in the insulation must be made near the base without damaging the twisted copper leads. Not so simple. You also need to check the tune of the



The build is on! Phil Zminda – N3ZP, Peg Daly – N3PEG, and Chris Jewell – KC3RNE consider the next move on this DBJ-1.



KC3QFB and Chuck Slotter, KC3SJK working on getting the feed line connected to the antenna body.

antenna as each component is added, which means frequent stops in the work to hang the whole assembly up in the air and check the SWR curve with a NanoVNA. These initial hurdles kept most builders busy for the bulk of the event.

There were groans of frustration, eyes squinted in concentration, and lots of laughs and smiles from the group. There is no better way to learn how something works than to try and build it. Win, lose or draw everybody came away with more experience about ham radio, both the students and the instructors!

Not everyone finished their

antenna before regular life called them back. Two studious operators finished their antennas, and one industrious individual got their antenna up and on the air. Rich, K2RSJ (photo- right) grins from ear to ear after working a repeater full quieting on his brand new DBJ-2 roll-up antenna. He blazed a trail by stripping the entire base of the twin-lead, damning the torpedoes and blazing full speed ahead with his build. By locking in the twin lines back to parallel and taping it up he was able to move quickly to the tuning phase and get on the air. He was so thrilled with his antenna and had so much fun making it he wants to come back and be an instructor for the next session.

And there it is, the virtuous circle of ham radio. We are all the students, and we are all the teachers. Every one of us has a license to learn, and even after decades in the hobby there is always something more to learn. Get together, share ideas and play radio. That's what it's all about. – Dan W4GMN

Rich Roth – K2RSJ has a big smile on his face after finishing his DBJ-2 roll-up



The Prez Sez...

Hello Phil-Mont,

Do-ocracy:

Be accountable

Don't be afraid to step on people's toes

Use little-c consensus

Don't use an either/or approach

Be compassionate

Don't be a dick

Do-er's Decide, Non-Do-er's Stand Aside

If you're not willing or able to put in the time or effort to hack, don't stand in the way of the people who are. If you have opinions, be willing to hack. Offering advice is fine, but it's usually good to ask if it's wanted; and if not, don't give it. (From: <https://www.noisebridge.net/wiki/Do-ocracy>)

ANTENNA BUILD PROJECT by Dan W4GMN.

DO-NE.

[Antenna Build details](#)

[Photos of Antenna Build Project](#)

What a great example of do-ocracy. Thank you Dan and all that came out and had a BLAST.

IN PERSON: MEETINGS - VE SESSIONS

Our first in person meeting in a long while took place in October. It was great seeing everyone!

Our upcoming meeting in November will again be in person.

November is Old Timers Month.

Hope to see even more folks at the November meeting and some of the equipment (with stories) from when they got started in the hobby.

W3AA (ARRL VEC) In-Person Test Session

Date: Nov 08, 2021 (Mon)

Time: 6:30pm EST

Duration: 2 hours

Contact: N1LC

Test fee: \$15.00

Location: 315 York Rd., Willow Grove, PA 19090, USA
[view map](#)

VEC: American Radio Relay League (ARRL-VEC)

[MORE INFO AND to REGISTER for EXAM](#)

More Do-ocracy. During the pandemic REMOTE VE Sessions allowed new folks to continue to get into the hobby. Ham Study already had a system in place and during this time refined it and allowed VECs to utilize it. Many VECs now use it as the platform for administering exams.

Many folks in the area got involved with the GLAARG VEC <https://glaarg.org/> with the assistance of Lamonte N1LC and Art N8BLK. As the system got refined, the ARRL VEC too adopted the Ham Study platform as their session platform.

Now Phil-Mont and our VE Lead Jim NS3K will be utilizing this platform for our test sessions. Lamonte and Art will be training our team on the use of this platform.

THANK YOU LAMONTE AND ART!

VEs, come out, and we'll get you onboarded as well!

(Continued on page 9)

Wait, there's more!

How about the Phila ARES/American Red Cross SET! Great job Cliff and all of the Phila ARES folks who participated in that event.

12 area repeaters and simplex stations. All tested to see how they can be utilized in the event of an emergency. Other counties in the area offering their repeaters and joining in. 12 area repeaters and simplex stations.

All tested to see how they can be utilized in the event of an emergency. Other counties in the area offering their repeaters and joining in. Outside of the Limerick Nuclear Power Plant drill, I can't remember an event where the AREA came together for an exercise like this. Find out more about this and Phila ARES and all the neighboring counties at the Philadelphia ARES website: <http://phlares.org/>

OTHER COUNTY INFO

Club Loan Program INFO

When **YOU** are ready to **DO** something, **LET US KNOW**, and we will do everything we can to support your **EVENT/WORKSHOP/ANYTHING**.

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

HamshackHotline ext: 14423

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

-- Jedi Master Yoda



FOR SALE

"FOR SALE: An Icom 746 (non-pro) fully functioning with no known difficulties. Includes an Icom desk mic, power cable, a SignalLink sound card with Icom cable, a Bencher paddle for the internal keyer, and original manual. It requires a 12 volt power supply and I do not have the original box or hand mic. This radio model had Icom-typical screen issues originally, but the screen was factory replaced by Icom with an upgraded screen during the original warranty period. Asking \$600.00. Contact KB3RN, Ed, egtiii@comcast.net."

Have some gear you'd like to see someone else enjoy? List it here! Write a full description of your gear and your asking price, we'll do the rest. [Email 'The Blurb'](#) and free up some space in your shack.



The Last Page



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? Maybe you have some goodies for sale. 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 smile link and help us help each other!](#)



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)



[Club Email List](#)