



The *Blurb*



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

Volume 73 Number 03

www.phil-mont.org

Y.A.R.C. Heats Up Winter Field Day

Phil-Mont Played a Little Too

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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:

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

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](#)

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:

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

1000 EDT:

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

1030 EDT:

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

CQ! CQ! CQ!



**Calling CQ for New
Net Control
Operators!**

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

March Net

Control Schedule

3/6 KB3SJS

3/13 K3XS

3/20 W3AFV

3/27 W3UP

Club Business

Club Directory Update

Your 2022 Dues Invoice/Directory Information Sheet was sent to you in a separate mailing. **Please verify the information and return it with your dues & optional P.M.R.C. SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION to: PMRC PO Box 404 Warminster, Pa 18974 OR submit using PayPal.** Your early reply will save the club additional expenses and will speed-up the publishing of the 2022 P.M.R.C. Directory.

MEMBERSHIP STATS

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

121 Fully Paid Members

10 Family Members

1 Youth Member

Honorary Members:

Elaine Spencer

Richard Moll - W3RM

New Members Pending:

** This Space Intentionally Left Blank**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01 John Furlong – KC2TUT

Peter Lamb -

KC3CLO

06 Tina Furlong (XYL

KC2TUT)

Bryan Kobe -

KB3WHR

08 Bill Hewitt -

W3FRB

09 Steven Davidson - K3FZT

12 Lamonte Cuff - N1LC

Linda Gianios - (XYL WB3DZZ)

Tricia King - (XYL WBEBPI)

13 Rosemary Canuso (XYL N2ATB)

Ben Johns - K3JQH

17 James Smith - AC3BJ

21 Frank Meo - KB2AYS

23 Jane Hewitt - KC3FSR (XYL

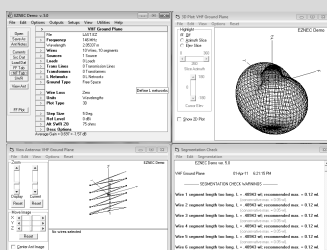
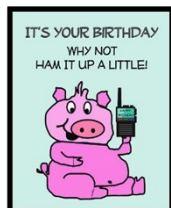
W3FRB)

28 Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)

Tony Canuso – N2ATB

29 James Walston, Jr - KC3NVS

30 Robert H. Rose – N3TWO



NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING:

Wednesday, March 9th

IN PERSON *ONLY*

At the [Giant Supermarket 315 York Rd.](#)

[Willow Grove, PA 19090](#)

7PM Start - (6PM Yack & Snack)

This Month's Presentation: Jim K3YO will be giving a demonstration on

[EZNEC Antenna Software by W7EL](#)

February Board Meeting Minutes

Call to order by AJ3DI at 7:05 PM

Repeater Update:

Repeater is working as well as it can. No current issues. Nothing new to report. Still hoping to get on Jeff and Rick's schedule to complete the work we started a year ago.

DTN: Officially passed 1 Year Anniversary! By my calendar, it started week of 1/11/21 and has continued M-F without fail. Great job all.

We have added Phil N3ZP and Dave K3DFG to the drive time net team, kudos to them for stepping up along with the other dependable net controls. So the team is now: Dick-W3UP, Rich-AA3RC, Cliff-KC3PGT, Charlie-K3NOP, Frank-W3MHP, Phil-N3ZP and Dave-K3DFG. Always looking for more who want to try DTN net control. -Rich, AA3RC

Membership

3 new members approved:
NW3T Jerome Winbush Extra
WB3JAC John Cunnion General
KC3TIQ Jack Harding General

Visitors: recognized

VE INFO/EVENTS: Announced

OLD Business

Booked field day site is done
We now have a contest team - N3ZP to chair team.

WINTERHEAT: A strong showing for Phil-Mont with 17 members scoring 104 pts with 131 contacts.

10-10 QSO PARTY

CLUB PLAY SKEDS - Currently SSTV - WATCH GROUPS.io and listen to the repeater

AUCTIONFEST!!!

\$1294 in Total Sales
\$265 in Sales of Donations
42 Attendees

NEW Business:

HAMCATION

Phila Digital Radio Association

Now meeting 1st Monday - RIGHT HERE

Want to learn about Digital Voice

COME OUT

March D-Star/13 Colonies Event planning

April DMR/13 Colonies

May Fusion/WiresX/13 Colonies

June APRS/13 Colonies

July Hotspots

August fldigi modes/setup

<https://www.k3pdr.org/>

<https://groups.io/g/k3pdr>

SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLY for 2022 Scholarship(s)

Deadline for Responses: April 30, 2022

Mailing List/Facebook/Website

Introduce March speaker: K C 3 S M W

The Prez Sez...

Hello Phil-Mont,

WINTER Field Day. Well, they put the WINTER in the Field Day this year. SNOW. BRUTAL TEMPERATURES.

But, that couldn't damper the spirit or the fun involved in social RF events.

Our own Bill W3AOK and Rich AA3RC played and used the Club callsign for the event.

I know other members played. I hope that everyone who played SUBMITTED their logs and added: Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club as their team. That information will be posted once it is all compiled by the folks running the event.

I DEFECTED and chose to SUPPORT one of my other Clubs, the Young Amateur Radio Club (YARC) with their Nockamixon State Park WFD adventure.

(Welcome to YARC! Your member number is #358) ←PROOF

I HAD A BLAST. THEY HAD A BLAST. RADIO. FOOD. HACKATHON. VE SESSION.(Our own net participant KC3SAI Sean upgraded to EXTRA!)

They came from Michigan, Boston, Florida, Northeastern PA, Philadelphia and Southampton PA to participate!

Read more about their event: <https://w1pac.pacmansion.net/2022/01/winter-field-day-2022.html>

Big thanks to Lamonte N1LC and Dan W4GMN for coming out Sunday! While Sean was testing Dan and I took down and DAN ROLLED the dipoles. He haz skilz. You know, the G5RVs that *don't work*, but just gather Qs.

They are already planning for their operations for next year, and may have planted seeds for a Phil-Mont activation as well.

Activity yields more activity. Thanks for getting the ball rolling gang. I was honored to be a part of YOUR event!

More YARC INFO: <https://yarc.world/>

Well, as COLD as Winter Field Day was, Phil-Mont February was HOT.

H(ands) O(n) T(raining) HOT.

Our February WORKSHOP on Arduino by KC3SMW Greg had folks DOING. Folks CODING. Folks BUILDING CIRCUITS. LEDS blinking! Semicolons missed. Parameters b0rked. Debugged. Spare curly brackets removed. What's a curly bracket and where the hell are they on the keyboard? OMG, if I change **this**, that **happens**. Stupid comm port tricks. (continued on pg 9...)



The Arduino Workshop - A Blinking Good Time



Blinking Lights! Com Port Errors!

Semi-Colons!

These surely are the stuff of ham radio dreams!

Well, not really. They are however all part of the experience when you set out to program an Arduino. Greg - KC3SMW prepared an extraordinarily thoughtful presentation on the basics of programming an Arduino for his workshop at our February General Meeting. The goal of the evening: To make an LED blink using the Arduino microcontroller, breadboard and basic electronic components, and a computer.

By any ham's definition, massive overkill to accomplish such a simple goal. It is however the ideal place to start when learning to make your own circuits with an Arduino. What Greg offered Phil-Mont members at the February General meeting was a guided tour through the fundamentals of using microcontrollers. With some practice these basic parts can be used to make all kinds of useful things, from a DIY weather station to smart home utilities and much, much more.

Most importantly the night's presentation showcased once again how generous Phil-Mont members are with their time and energy, and how quick we are to help guide each other through new challenges.

Oh, and I'm pretty sure we all had some fun too.

-W4GMN



Philadelphia



ARES

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)**

Y.A.R.C. Heats Up Winter Field Day

And Phil-Mont Played a Little Too

Way up at Lake Nockamixon State Park at Cabin 2 the radio activity was red hot on one of the coldest days of 2022. Winter Field Day, the other annual test of our ability as hams to effectively operate in less than ideal conditions was in full swing and the Young Amateur Radio Club (Y.A.R.C.) came to play.

Y.A.R.C. is, by some measures, a truly massive international radio club with 1000s of members all over the world staying in touch via a Discord server. Here in the States a few intrepid members braved the recent snow storm and travelled to the Philly area from across the country to make a strong showing as the first official Y.A.R.C. contest team for Winter Field Day 2022.

All five official operators: Charlie - K3NOP, Ameila - WX0A, Jonathon, N3JEC, Patrick - W1PAC and Sean - KC3SAI worked the bands right up to the very last minute. In Sean's case the last second as he may have had the last official transmission before time ran out.

I travelled up to report on the first official Y.A.R.C. entry into



TOP: The troops looking bleary after more than 24hrs at comms. ABOVE: KC3SAI and WX0A push to the last possible second as AJ3DI consults. LEFT: The final tally is discussed and reviewed at length before submission .



the WFD not-a-contest-contest. Among the other Phil-Mont members that came to support the testers were Lamonte - N1LC, Jim - AJ3DI and Charlie - K3CL.

It was truly exciting to see the passion and energy Y.A.R.C. brought to the contest. With no less than 4 antennas strung up through the snow covered trees they worked as a team throughout the night, taking shifts in the bunk beds and the mics to keep the contacts rolling in. A real team effort.

After the last call was answered it was time to tally some points and refuel. Contesting is hungry work and the team planned ahead. K3NOP came loaded for bear. He brought enough food for 20 people for the entire weekend, literally, just in case extra people came out to play. At left burgers are being prepared while the team giddily adds up their bonuses and multipliers. At last count their claimed score was 4,020, a very fine showing.

Not only did Y.A.R.C. put up some points they hosted a V.E. Session to any qualified candidate right there in the contest cabin. After the dust settled Sean - KC3SAI, age 14, sat down and took his first try at the Extra exam. Not only did he pass, he did it in what is by my measure a very impressive time. I had just started rolling up the second arm of the GR5V when he strode out and said he got his Extra. Quite the quick study. Oh, and Phil-Mont played too! I received the pic to the left just as the contest wrapped up. Bill - W3AOK and Rich - AA3RC teamed up to put some 1,666 points on the board for the home team. Look at those smiles. That's what ham radio is all about. Keep playing radio everyone! -W4GMN

The Troposphere & You: Making the Most of RF Turbo Tubes

Driving home from the club's General Meeting it's common to hear a lot of traffic on the repeater. People catching up that might not have seen each other in some time or asking some follow up questions from the night's presentation. Usually just a short rag chew to pass the time on the way home.



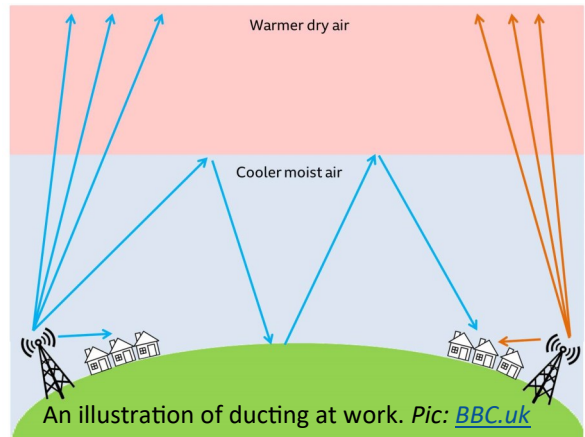
A picture of the Baofeng UV-5R like the one used to make the 62 mile trip by rf.

After the February Meeting, though, something quite remarkable happened. John - KB3JAC jumped into a QSO with Dan - W4GMN and Sal - NC3U. But John wasn't at the meeting. John wasn't even in PA. John was at the Jersey shore making the Roxborough repeater full quieting with his Baofeng over 62 miles away! The conversation made a sharp left turn when that fact came to light. What antenna are you using? Are you on the roof? Is it the salty ocean soil boosting the signal?

As ham radio operators no matter how we meticulously tune our antenna and spend, spend, spend on the latest transceiver or, for the truly bold, a large rf amplifier to get our signal out we are all ultimately at the mercy of the Sun and the air above us.

Sometimes we use it to our advantage as we do with day and night bands. Other times, like a lull in the solar cycle, we fire up all the aforementioned gear and still only get heard the next state over on HF.

But sometimes we just catch a break we weren't expecting and can make the most of it. Tropospheric Ducting is one of those conditions and is great for VHF and up. When cooler moist air is trapped beneath warmer dryer air our signals bounce like HF off the ionosphere and operators can work longer distances on bands that are normally unable to make the trip.



John - KB3JAC wasn't surprised by this. In fact he expected it.

His beach house has no cable TV service, just an antenna that usually gets two stations. In the mornings and some evenings he can pick up a few dozen stations via Tropospheric ducting. Knowing this he tried to work the local repeater with a simple HT. He did have an ABREE roll-up antenna mounted which will help a bit, but the Troposphere deserves the credit.

The QSO went on for nearly twenty minutes before the ducting started to fade just as W4GMN got to his QTH. By then it was nearly 22:30, everyone else had gone quiet and it was the right time to call it a night.

If you want to try this out here's a site with ducting forecasts: dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html. So go forth and make the most of these RF Turbo Tubes, a phrase coined by your humble Blurb Editor. While you're urged to use the term in conversation don't expect the other operator to know what you're talking about. At least not right away. But it is fun to say. Give it a try....Turbo Tubes! See, it really is fun. - W4GMN

(PREZ SEZ cont'd from pg. 4...)

Folks realizing that they have done similar in the past. Lightbulbs turning on.

Things that may seem impossible to grasp and understand from the sidelines are

CONQUERED when done in the field of PLAY.

GET OFF THE SIDELINES! Don't ACCEPT what other folks tell you YOU can't do. **YOU CAN.** Anyone can. WE HAVE PROOF.

Our March WORKSHOP will build upon this. YES. WORKSHOP. BRING YOUR LAPTOPS.

Our own Secretary, K3YO Jim will be guiding us through the use of...

[EZNEC Antenna Software by W7EL](#)

WHAT?!?!?

[EZNEC](#) is a popular antenna modelling program created by W7EL which is based on the "Numerical Electromagnetics Code" or NEC. With a NEC based antenna modelling program it is possible to design antennas by modelling their geometry and connections, and then simulating parameters like radiation pattern gain and VSWR. You can also determine the effects of height, roof angles, nearby objects and more.

RTTY. glorious RTTY and the railroad tracks. DID YOU PLAY? Our Contest Team Chair Phil N3ZP played. I played. Ben WD8RYV played. Dan W4GMN played. Greg KC3SMW played. If you played, I hope you logged and added Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club as your TEAM in the logs! If you play a thing...talk about it on the repeater. More folks will play if they know others are playing too!

Stay in touch with our website and groups.io to find out where and when the games will be played. SSTV. POTA. WORKSHOPS. ZOOM classes. CONTESTS.

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!

IF YOU DON'T KNOW. SHAME ON YOU! The info is there. All YOU have to do is READ IT. There is no requirement (other than an Amateur Radio License) to participate.

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

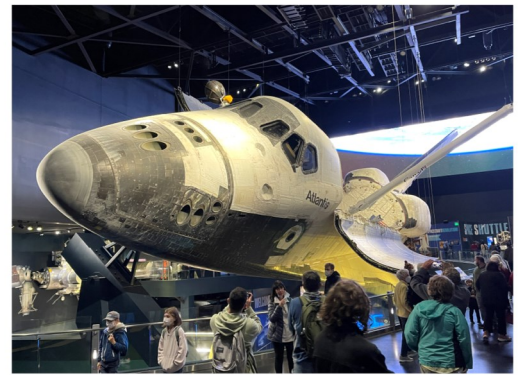
HamshackHotline ext: 14423

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

Rich and Bill's HamCation Adventure

If a picture is worth 1000 words then Rich (AA3RC) has published the Great American Ham novel with this sampling of pics from his and Bill's (W3AOK) adventure to HamCation in Orlando, FL. Enjoy the ride!







From the PMRC Archive...

Here are some highlights from this month in Blurb history, March 1982:

What are the four (4) major emerging telecommunications technologies for the 80's? Everyone seems to agree that High Definition TV which may require from 10MHz to 30 MHz of spectrum; Direct Broadcast Satellites even though aggressively opposed by the broadcast industry; Video/Teletext , "Electronic Information" delivered via cable or telephone line; and Automobile "Cellular" (computer-controlled) telephones has a long waiting list.

page 6

March 82

Sams CORNER

IN THE SPRING THE YOUNG MANS (AND THE OTHERS)
FANCY TURNS TO ANTENNA RAISING, FIXINS
AND ALL THAT KIND OF STUFF

"DAVE SHAKESPEAR ANDERSON"

3-82

The so-called "codeless" amateur radio license still has not been forgotten, even though proposed nearly 8 years ago. The Commission intends to continue to explore the possibility of its issuance. It appears that the amateur radio hobby of today might bear little resemblance to that of tomorrow. (de W5YI Report)

(ED- In case you have trouble reading the above, the most important thing of the minutes is -

UPON RECEIVING THIS ISSUE OF THE "BLURB", DUES ARE PAST DUE!)

page 4

MARCH '82

Editor's note: If you don't believe some things never change you obviously missed the more gently worded reminder on page 3 under the heading "Club Directory Update". Our members are as late with dues as they were 40 years ago. Time to pay up people! That repeater ain't maintaining itself!

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 2022

EMAIL THE BOARD

Officers

President: AJ3DI Jim

Vice President: AA3RC Rich

Treasurer: Jim NS3K

Secretary: Jim K3YO

Board of Directors

KB2ERL(SK) Bobby(22) K3RON Ron(23)

NC3U Sal(22) N3QV Eric(23)

W3UP Dick(22) WA3GM Greg(A)

KC3GJX Jeff(23)

Blurb Editor: *Daniel Wagaman - W4GMN*



[Club Email List](#)