



The

Blurb



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

Volume 74 Number 09

www.phil-mont.org



James Fisher 1965-2023

AJ3DI (SK)

“Do or Do Not. There is no Try.”

The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE... They never knowingly operate in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... They offer loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in their country, through which Amateur Radio in their country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... They keep their station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. Their operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY... They operate slowly and patiently when requested; offer friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... Their station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

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 every Monday-Friday 1700 to 1800 ET on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

DENn-Digital Education Net for newbies

Every Tuesday 2000-2130 on our VHF repeater with Zoom back channel for video only. Watch our Groups.io for posts tagged #DENn for details.

Tinker Net

3rd Saturdays 0900-1030 ET in non-Radio-Labs Months on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

DeVal OMIK Net

Saturdays 1100-1200 ET on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

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](#)

Phil-Mont Simplex Frequency
147.510MHz pL91.5 TSQ

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 ET:

VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

1000 ET:

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

1020 EDT:

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

September Sunday Net

Control Schedule

09/03/23 KB3IV

09/10/23 N3QV

09/17/23 W3AFV

09/24/23 W3MHP

Club Business

NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING:

Wednesday, September 13
IN PERSON *ONLY*

Giant Supermarket 315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090

7PM Presentation - 6:30PM Start -
5:30PM Yack & Snack)

This month's Prezo:

MS150 - About Event and
HOW TO Participate
BY Andrew KC2PMW

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept 4 Phil Zminda N3ZP

Sept 8 Jack V Harding Jr KC3TIQ

Sept 12 Lori Eger KC3WHO

Sept 23 John R Simon KB3SJS

*Want your Birthday read on
the Net? Update your info at*

hamclubonline.com

New Club Members

KB3YAP Martin Weiland, General

KC3WHK David Devanzo, Technician

KM4WSK Erin Farmer, General



welcomes you!

Phil-Mont Membership Stats Sept 2023

Member Types Statistics: (Active Members)

REGULAR Membership	151
Honorary	2
Additional Family Member (EACH	7
Student Membership	3
Total	163

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



Jim will be a lasting memory in the minds of everyone of us, as he regularly set the tone we all work out of. "Play Radio!!" he taught. Jim was known to be the first to loan out anything imaginable to get someone to try something new, Hell, I've still got one of his MFJ keyers he gave me to practice CW with. -Charlie K3NOP



Jim was the most enthusiastic Ham ever. He routinely kept me company while commuting to work in the morning. I think he replied sometimes just to let me know I wasn't the only person working that day. Just an all-around good guy. -Bob N3JQD

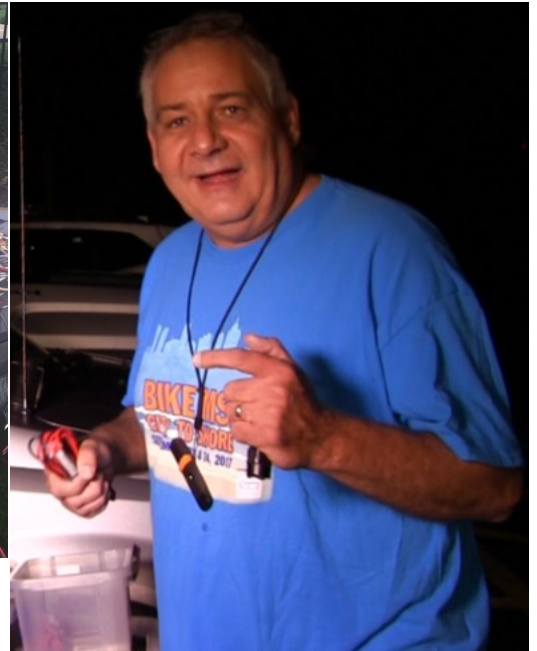


FAiL=First Attempt in Learning

-Jedi Jim AJ3DI(SK)



When I passed my technician test Jim walked into the room and saw me beaming—he called me out, pointing and saying loudly in Jim fashion—“Look at that smile!” His encouragement and energy were exactly what I needed in that moment and I will miss that sorely. Drew KC3UKF



He was a very special person, full of life and joy. What a great loss for Phil-Mont, and for amateur radio in general. In one of the What Hams Do... TV shows I produced, someone I interviewed, called Jim "...everybody's favorite ham." As I shot the scenes for the last What Hams Do... TV show, the one about public service and the City to Shore bike ride for MS, there was Jim, at 5 in the morning setting up 2 meter APRS location gear on a school bus that would be used to transport riders. His constant, upbeat promotion of amateur radio to hams and non-hams was a huge bonus for our community and that, along with his outsized personality and zest for life will be missed by all of us.

Jay Silber EA7KWG (WA2UAR)



**Do or Do Not.
There is No Try.**

Photos by Rich AA3RC, Dan W4GMN, Jim K3YO, Phil N3ZZP, Jay WA2UAR (EAKWG)

The Prez Sez...

Hello Phil-Mont,

The trouble is, you think you have time. -Buddha

We all thought we had more time with our friend, mentor, Elmer and cheerleader, Jim AJ3DI. Unfortunately, we didn't. But what we did have is the opportunity to be around such a magnanimous, gregarious person that affected each of us in a unique way. He was a one in a million personality that we got to know. Jim seemed to know everyone and everything having to do with computers and ham radio. I don't think there was a question I ever asked him that he didn't know the answer to or where to go to get it. I know that this is a difficult time for all of us, as we are still grieving the loss of our beloved former president. He was a great leader and friend to us all, and his passing is a huge loss to our club.



So, while we all miss Jim, I want to assure you that I am committed to continuing his legacy and keeping our club strong. I know that he would want us to carry on his work and continue to promote the hobby of amateur radio. I also know through the words you have all written and spoken in response to the announcement of Jim's loss, that you are committed to continuing Jim's legacy as well.

When Jim and I became the leaders of Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club we wanted to honor the heritage of the club and all those who came before us and at the same time evolve the group into what it has become today. We are a **do**-ocracy, a community of "do-ers" (163 at last count) that has grown incredibly over the last few years. The list of what we have accomplished and continue to do is impressive: Epic Field Days, the DENn, PMRC Labs, the Tinker Net, the Drive Time Net, Lighthouse Weekend, OKTPOTA-fest, Winter Field Day, Winter Heat, Auction Fest, and the list goes on. There are other things we are doing, other projects in which the do-ers are participating like the MS-150, ARES, mesh, APRS, hackathons. Again, the list goes on and on. The members of this club do a lot and we should all endeavor to keep it that way.

This is the best hobby ever with unlimited possibilities. It is always there whether you play daily, weekly or monthly. We're all busy but the club keeps us together through radio. So don't stress it and keep having fun playing radio. We play radio, that's what we do.

Play, Break, Learn.

See you at the meeting.
Rich, AA3RC

This is YOUR HOBBY, YOUR Club, YOUR repeaters. USE them. MONITOR them. BE A REPEATER GREETER. Answer calls when you can. Let's leave NO CALL UNANSWERED.

FAIL = First Attempt in Learning

August Doldrums? Nah!

Lamonte N1LC, Ed KB3IV and Dil KC3SSG activate W3EM at the Turtle Rock Lighthouse in Philadelphia on the Schuylkill River Sunday, August 20 for [International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend - ILLW](#)



Thank you for taking the time to hunt me Saturday morning during the K2AA Parks on the Air activation. I went "back pack portable" on the beach to activate the Cape May Lighthouse for ILLW. A special thanks to Alan K3WWT for helping with spotting me during the activation. **73 Scott AA2SD**

Upcoming Club Events

Radio Labs

September 16th 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Community Room, Giant Supermarket, 315 York Rd, Willow Grove, PA 19090

10:00 AM: Yack, Snack, and Setup

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM: Lab Session

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM: Cleanup

Join us for an exciting session of PMRC Radio Labs where we delve into the world of electronics and Morse code mastery. This event will feature hands-on assembly of the [Ultra Pico Keyer Kit from Ham Gadgets](#), a compact yet versatile Morse code memory keyer and practice oscillator.

The Ultra PicoKeyer kit provides everything you need to construct a stand-alone keyer and practice oscillator with adjustable speed controls. This kit is not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing, with a pre-drilled plastic enclosure included. Whether you're integrating it into a homebrew project, enhancing your existing setup, or just learning Morse code, this kit offers immense versatility.

Compact and versatile design (2" x 2") to fit tight spaces

Features pushbuttons, speed control, RIG, KEY, and PHONES jacks

Equipped with an onboard speaker and headphone jack for practice sessions

Suitable for single or dual lever paddles, straight keys, and "squeeze" keyers

Explore "bug mode" for simulating a semi-automatic key

Connect over VHF for potential CW practice nets (with the right custom wiring)

Enhance with additional audio amplification for group sessions

For those seeking to enhance their CW skills, the Ultra PicoKeyer Kit presents an excellent opportunity. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned Morse code enthusiast, this kit is designed to accommodate all skill levels.

What to Bring:

[Ultra PicoKeyer Kit \(Available for purchase at: <http://www.hamgadgets.com/ULTRA-PICOKEYER>\)](http://www.hamgadgets.com/ULTRA-PICOKEYER)

Soldering Iron and Mat

Solder and Wire Nippers

Safety Gear (Goggles, etc.)

Don't miss this chance to delve into the world of Morse code, electronics, and skill development. Mark your calendars and secure your spot today!

Thanks to Greg KC3SMW for this event and the quarterly #RadioLabs

***The Blurb* is seeking an editorial team!**

Experience with Microsoft Publisher is desirable, but not essential if you have experience with Microsoft Word and are willing to learn how to use MS Publisher. This needs a team, while Jedi Jim could and did do this by himself, Dan Wagaman and I have found that the two of us barely gets it done. Don't worry about too many people, we have lots of tasks for lots of folks.

From this work will come the next iteration of just as newspapers have been morphing onto live text, web-linked publications so too will THE BLURB! If you have the skills to make it happen in a team with experienced editors and with the support of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Board.

Join us. **Dan Wagaman W4GMN, Editor**
 Steve Davidson K3FZT, Staffer
 Jim McCusker K3YO, MS Publisher Driver
And you!

Won't You Join Us...

in *The DENn!*

Phil-Mont's *Digital Education Net for newbies!*

Tuesday Evenings @8:00pm

W3QV Repeater: 147.030 MHz + 91.5
Allstar Node: 47970

Don't let the name fool you!

All are welcomed to join us and play. It doesn't matter if you are new to Ham Radio, new to digital modes, or are an already experienced ham and digital operator.

We are here to play, learn, and test our equipment.

With the digital modes if you can do it on the repeater you can do it pretty much everywhere, *including HF.*

*So come on out, test your setup, and **HAVE SOME FUN!***

NET CONTROLS KC3SMW Greg NY3J Ron

Unlocking the World of Ham Radio: Your Technician Class Adventure Begins

by KC3SMW

Congratulations on achieving your Technician class ham radio license! With this milestone, you've opened the door to an exciting realm of communication, exploration, and community engagement. As a newly licensed Technician operator, you're entering a vibrant world that offers a multitude of activities to discover and enjoy. Let's embark on a journey through the possibilities that await you on the airwaves.

Local Conversations and Connecting with Nets

Your Technician license grants you access to VHF and UHF bands, which means you can engage in local conversations with fellow hams in your area. Use your handheld transceiver to chat with friends, make new acquaintances, and stay in touch during community events. But ham radio is more than just individual conversations – it's a chance to join a community. Participating in scheduled nets, where hams gather on the airwaves, allows you to discuss specific topics, share information, and even practice emergency communication procedures. Joining local nets connects you with experienced operators who can offer guidance and insights, enhancing your ham radio experience.

Exploring the Digital Frontier

As a newly licensed operator, you have the exciting opportunity to experiment with digital modes. DMR (Digital Mobile Radio), D-STAR, Fusion, and WiresX, are just a few examples of the digital technologies at your disposal. These modes enable you to Voice QSO, transmit data, and messages using innovative digital technology. By embracing these modes, you can extend your communication capabilities beyond traditional voice communication and explore new ways to connect with others.

Emergency Preparedness and Public Service

Ham radio operators play a vital role in emergency communications. With your skills, you can be a lifeline during disasters or emergencies when traditional communication systems are compromised. As a newly licensed operator, you can assist in disaster situations by providing reliable communication that helps first responders and communities coordinate their efforts. Additionally, many ham radio clubs support public service events such as marathons and parades, where communication support is essential. Volunteering for these events not only offers practical experience but also allows you to contribute your skills to your community.

Extending Your Reach: Repeaters and Satellite Adventures

Utilizing repeaters, stations that receive and retransmit signals, enables you to extend your communication range significantly. This technology acts as a relay, allowing you to communicate across larger distances and overcome geographical obstacles. But why limit yourself to Earth? Amateur radio satellites orbiting our planet provide an incredible opportunity to connect with hams worldwide. Engaging in satellite communications using relatively simple equipment offers a unique and exhilarating experience that adds a global dimension to your ham radio journey.

Hands-On Experience: Building and Learning

Ham radio operators often enjoy building and modifying their equipment, and as a new Technician operator, you can delve into these projects as well. From constructing antennas to kit-building projects provide a hands-on opportunity to enhance your skills and customize gear to suit your preferences. These projects not only deepen your technical knowledge but also provide a sense of accomplishment as you bring your creations to life.

Digital Communication Beyond Voice: Packet Radio, Vara FM, BBS, APRS, and Winlink

The digital landscape of ham radio offers more than just voice communication. Technologies like Packet Radio, Vara FM, BBS, APRS and Winlink allow you to send location data, text messages, emails, and data over the airwaves using computers and specialized software. These tools expand your communication capabilities and play a significant role in emergency preparedness. With these digital modes, you're equipped to handle communication challenges in various scenarios, further contributing to your community's resilience.

The Journey Continues: Learning, Upgrading, and Technical Exploration Your ham radio journey is a continuous one. While your Technician license marks a significant achievement, consider the possibility of upgrading to higher licenses like General or Extra. These upgrades grant you access to more bands and operating privileges, enabling you to explore further and communicate across a broader range. Alongside upgrading, diving into the technical aspects of ham radio can be immensely rewarding. Learning about antennas, propagation, radio wave behavior, and more empowers you to optimize setups, improve communication capabilities, and engage in more complex projects.

Community Engagement: Building Connections

Ham radio operators often form tight-knit communities, united by a shared passion for communication and exploration. Engaging with local ham radio clubs, attending meetings, and participating in field days and special events create opportunities to connect, learn, and share experiences with like-minded individuals. These interactions foster connections and friendships that go beyond the airwaves, creating a supportive network that enriches your ham radio journey.

As a newly licensed Technician operator, you're stepping into a world of possibilities. From local conversations to global connections, digital modes to emergency preparedness, technical exploration to community engagement, there's something for every curiosity and interest. Embrace the adventure, challenge yourself to explore, and remember that ham radio is not just a hobby – it's a gateway to learning, connecting, and making a positive impact on your community. So, gear up, tune in, and let's set off on a journey that promises excitement, growth, and camaraderie. Welcome to the dynamic world of ham radio!

Join my community of "Chengmanians" in Discord where I discuss woodworking, arduino, ham radio and other things at <https://discord.gg/xMNHeU6Be9>

--- Greg - KC3SMW



Bike MS: City to Shore Ride

September 30 - October 1, 2023

Bike MS: City to Shore is an event sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Delaware Valley Chapter designed to raise money for MS research and treatment programs for those affected within the chapter. This event is the chapter's largest and generally brings in over \$5 million every year.

Amateur Radio operators are needed to provide communications along the route at designated intersections, rest stops, and in certain support and staff vehicles. And as of this date MS150 needs another 40-50 hams and ham support personnel.

New this year: Bike MS: Bike to the Bay October 7, 2023

Your Radio Equipment:

Mobile Radio with its power cable, microphone, and external speaker if needed, the antenna that you will use (Minimum Half Wave Mobile if possible), spare fuses just in case, your operator's or programming manual or cheat sheet, any spare radio if it makes you feel comfortable.

An HT is requested for when you need to be out of your vehicle at your assignment or for talk around purposes. Please remember to have an extra fully charged battery for any HT that you have with you.

How to Volunteer

So you decided that this looks like a worthy cause and would like to help out?

That's wonderful news!

[Bike MS Registration and Info](#)

Upcoming Club Events

OCT-POTA-FEST

Saturday and Sunday October 21-22

Dawn to Dusk at Fort Washington State Park

(same as Field Day site)

The WHOLE weekend To PLAY POTA GAMES As a GROUP / As Individuals

HOWEVER YOU DESIRE

Try YOUR: Antenna launching, Setup Battery with or without Solar, Operate your rig in any legal mode



Hamfests and . . .

September 10- [ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Convention and Hamfest](#)

Mullica Hill, NJ sponsored by Gloucester County ARC

Website: <http://w2mmd.org>

October 7- [Red Rose Repeater Association Hamfest](#)

New Holland, PA sponsored by Red Rose Repeater Association

Website: <http://w3rrr.org>

October 22- [RF Hill Hamfest 2.0](#)

Perkasie, PA sponsored by RF Hill Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.rfhillarc.club>

From the PMRC Archive...

Here are some highlights from this month in Blurb history, September 1963...

CONELRAD IS DEAD!!! LONG LIVE EBS!!!

Conelrad faded into broadcast history at midnight, August 4, an untried child of the nuclear age. In its place comes the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) on which is pinned the hope for a more efficient means of transmitting official information and directions to the public in the event of a civil defense emergency. This change will mean Conelrad radio stations will no longer switch to 640 or 1240 kcs, but continue to broadcast on normal frequencies at normal power. FM, TV and AM stations which are not part of the EBS would go off the air as at present. EBS stations would identify their locations, but not their call letters.

Further details on the new EBS are available from the Federal Communication Commission, Washington 25, D.C., 20554 in the following publications:

- Interim Plan for the Emergency Broadcast System (#63-313)
- Amendment of Part 3 of the Commission's Rules (#63-616)
- Public Notice B (Corrected) of July 3, 1963, (#37901)

SPACE NOTES

The discovery that microwaves can be generated by passing an electric current through a small block of gallium arsenide at room temperature has been reported by IBM.

Crystals of the semiconductor material shorter than 0.02 cm have been made to generate frequencies from 0.5 to 6.5 (kmc) with a peak power of $\frac{1}{2}$ watt at 1 gc.

Only pulsed operation has been obtained so far. CW operation at room temperature should be possible according to the T. J. Watson Research Center.

A VLF whip antenna system for operation from 10 kc to 30 kc is now available from Develco.

The Model 1006A antenna system has a 20-foot vertical mast consisting of 4-5 foot sections. A preamp and filter assembly are integral parts of the system and the unit is provided with a jack for field strength calibration.

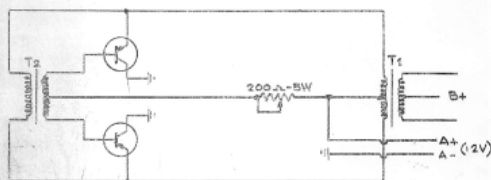
General specifications are: 4 db maximum gain 10 kc to 30 kc; sensitivity, 1 microvolt or better; effective height, 1 meter; power requirements, 15 volts at 4 ma.

THE BLURB
AECIA MEMBER
September 1963
PHILMONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.

175 THE MAJIC NUMBER FOR SEPT. 29

PHILMONT WILL FIND A WAY OR CONJUR UP ONE, TO REACH 175 ON THE 10-ON-10 ROUND-UP!

PHILMONT TEK-NI-GRAM SEPTEMBER 1963 CONTRIBUTED BY W3KDO CONVERTING VIBRATOR SUPPLIES TO TRANSISTORS



NOTES

- 1- T₁ ORIGINAL VIBRATOR TRANSFORMER.
- 2- T₂ CENTER-TAPPED INTERSTAGE TRANSFORMER, WITH A RATIO OF 1 TO 2 UP TO 1 TO 3.5.
- 3- IF T₂ HAS ENOUGH RESISTANCE TO LIMIT THE CURRENT TO A SAFE VALUE, THEN THE 200 OHM POT. CAN BE OMITTED.
- 4- IF THE TRANSISTORS ARE CLOSELY MATCHED OR HARD STARTING, CONNECT A 220 K OHM RESISTOR FROM BASE TO GROUND ON ONE OF THEM.
- 5- TRANSISTORS ARE CHOSEN ACCORDING TO LOAD.

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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!](#)

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EMAIL THE BOARD

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[Club Email List](#)

The Blurb