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P A R A



>> GENERAL MEETING November 10, 2010 - 7:30 PM !! <<
Lower Providence Township Building
Eagleville, Pennsylvania

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Philadelphia Area Repeater Association

Membership Information

PARA is an association of members that operate and support Amateur Radio Repeaters and links in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. PARA was formed in 1970 and incorporated as an IRS 501c3 non-profit in 1973 through a merger of several repeater groups.

PARA repeaters serve the Amateur Radio community for normal everyday hobby communications as well as provide a system for emergency and disaster communications. PARA also promotes technical developments which ham radio has done so much of in the past.

PARA has four quadrant repeaters and one regional system on the 2-meter band as well as other repeaters on the 224 MHz and 440 MHz bands. PARA also has an Amateur TV System that relays television signals in the Philadelphia and Wilmington metropolitan areas.

Your membership dues support those repeaters listed below and help assure availability for emergency communications: 146.76 MHz, 146.82 MHz, 146.88 MHz, 146.94 MHz, 146.97 MHz, 443.90 MHz, 223.86 MHz, 224.94 MHz, 224.98 MHz, 52.41 MHz, 439.25 MHz (ATV), and all links between the remote receivers.

Joining PARA

NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DUES \$ 25.00
YEARLY RENEWAL \$ 20.00
5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$ 85.00 (\$90.00 FOR NEW MEMBERS)
LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$400.00
SENIOR LIFE MEMBER \$100.00 (AGE 65 AND OVER)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$ 20.00 (non-hams) no voting privileges

Associate memberships, when licensed, may upgrade to full membership with no additional initiation fee.

Members also gain one free month on their membership for each new member you sponsor.

Corporate annual sponsorship memberships are also available: \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$5000, etc.

Annual sponsorships of \$500 or more will receive free advertising in PARA's newsletter.

Certificates of sponsorships are given to corporate sponsors.

Please detach & fill out (PRINT) the form below and mail with a check or money order to:

PARA, POST OFFICE BOX 64, VALLEY FORGE, PA 19481-0064

Membership Type: New Renewal Full individual Ham 5 Year Life Sr Life

Associate Corporate Amount \$ _____

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (REQUIRED) _____ OK TO LIST YES NO

E-MAIL (REQUIRED) _____

ARRL MEMBER (Y/N) _____ SPONSORED BY _____

I CAN HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING: TOWERS ANTENNAS BLDG MAINTENANCE

Equipment Maintenance WRITING/PUBLISHING PUBLIC RELATIONS Other _____ (01-02-2009)

From the President - Fall 2010

By President Gene Mitchell

Most things with PARA are relatively quiet. Most of the repeaters are running but with little activity. We kinda lost contact with the 88 group and their repeater has been off. Thanks to the central core of PARA, the maintenance items always get taken care of. That core is Dave N3KKL, Dick K3ITH, and Mark KA3VTM. I certainly hope I haven't missed anybody.

Activity is way down and this is not good. I have not been active due to health reasons, but I am hoping this will change soon. I am shortly headed to be rebuilt as the bionic man, or whatever you call it. Both hips need replacing and that will happen this November. Yes, both at the same time. I have been in a great deal of pain, making life very miserable. I am hoping to hit the HT as I recuperate.

The PARA mailbox found a letter inviting me to attend the meeting of the Lower Providence Township supervisors the first week of November. I am planning on attending. Piero, in his last years on the board, started something, and we should be forever grateful. The Township has again granted us a gift for operational expenses.

Most of you seem to like when I talk about technology, so here is another chapter. I recently changed my cell phone again, this time to the Droid X. It is my best experience yet with a smartphone. I always enjoyed the iPod Touch, but the Droid has all that and more. That means that it's got the iPhone beat. The built in MIFI or access point can replace the separate MIFI device, which the wife took from me anyway. One of the other neat apps is the scanner radio, and yes, most of the police departments in this area can be received on the Droid, including Chester County and even Philadelphia.

I also elected to upgrade my Directv with the whole house feature that allows any of the TVs to stream the DVR recorded programs to any of the other TVs. Any TV can also initiate a new recording. Directv even extends to my shop. To do this, they create a "network" over the coax cable. The coupler coming from the dish combines the RF and Ethernet, sending both signals to each TV.

I am still working on computers, although I haven't been getting around well lately. I have to comment on one I was just working on. It has Windows 7 and Office 2010. Outlook has fonts in the "compose" and "reply to" email that are as small as a pin head and can't be read. A search on the internet found that numerous people are having the same problem and all the suggested fixes don't seem to work for anyone. A call to Microsoft, after trying everything they suggested over 4 calls and 6 hours, wanted me to reformat the hard drive and reload everything. Oh, and Office was reloaded and that didn't solve the problem. I am still wondering whether they will charge my credit card since they couldn't solve the problem. One more reason why I don't like either of the products.

Computer Corner, my radio program, is still on Saturday mornings. Joe Myshko and I do talk about ham radio frequently, and several of the listeners have told us that they have gone on to get ham licenses because of the show. Take a listen Saturdays at 8am or listen to the podcasts. On the radio, tune to 1520am and on the computer, go to 5DRadio.com or even WCHE1520.com. There is an extra half hour that doesn't get broadcast but can be heard on 5DRadio or the podcasts.

Most of you know and remember I used to own a roller rink. A production was made and a DVD available called "Just Rolling Along". It features many rinks in the area including some shots from Kimberton. I am told the DVD is sold out, so if any of you are interested in seeing it, I can lend my DVD.

PARA May 2010 Meeting Minutes

The semi-annual meeting for the PARA general membership was held May, 19, 2010 at 730PM at the Lower Providence Township building.

In attendance were K3DSM, K3ITH, K3ECV, W3SOU, W3FYC, KB3POA and KB3GYK.

After the pledge to the Flag, the reading of minutes from the previous meeting were waived since they were published in PARAGraphs. The minutes were approved as published.

The Treasurer's report was given: \$1551.94 checking, \$310.06 savings and \$7963.61 in Vanguard. The membership barometer is 77 total paid members with 16 paying and 61 life. There are 13 that have not renewed in the last 6 months. The report was approved.

President Gene mentioned correspondence from: K3RF, K3ZKO, Norm Williams, N3KKL, and KB2ADL.

The Technical report: 76 and 94 up and running, 88 is down. 97 up and running, The 224 and 443 MHz repeaters are up and running. The 52 MHz repeater is also running fine and is being used by Montgomery County RACES/ARES. ATV is still looking for a new home. Remote inputs for 76 are working from Eagleville, Camden, Valley Forge, and Sellersville.

Old business: Bylaws – Discussion of the proposed changes was followed by the final vote which passed as published.

Vacancies for Vice President and Secretary remain unfilled.

President Gene mentioned that awareness of PARA is important with on air mention and visibility at the Kimberton Fair.

New Business: Its PARA's 40th anniversary. A short discussion about a special party or dinner led to further investigating and members should talk it up to see if there is interest.

Gene K3DSM acting Secretary, 5-24-2010

Listen to “Computer Corner”

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www.5DRadio.com

Saturday Mornings 8 – 9 AM

With Host Gene Mitchell K3DSM and

Joe Myshko N3YGW

MOVING ???

If moving, please notify **PARA** of your new address as soon as possible. The Post Office will **NOT** forward your mail after 30-days. With each issue of *PARA-graphs* several copies are returned by the Post Office marked “**RETURN TO SENDER, NO FORWARD ORDER ON FILE**”. Please forward your new address so we may keep our database up-to-date and, of course, *PARA-graphs* in your hands.

ADVERTISING in *PARA-graphs*

At the November 1999 Board meeting approval was received to accept ads in *PARA-graphs* to help offset ever-raising printing and postage costs. The following per issue ad schedule was approved:

Full Page \$125. Half Page \$75. Quarter Page \$50. Business Card \$25. Non-Commercial Classified 3 lines \$10.

Repeat ad in following issue(s) will receive a 10% discount. Contact Dick K3ITH to place an ad.

This and past issues of *PARA-Graphs* may be found at:

<http://para.buxcom.net> or <http://para.k3dsm.net>

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR *PARA-graphs* ??

Several great articles have been submitted in past issues by your fellow **PARA** members such as Larry W2CAM, Hank W3GSC with help from Vince N3AGD, Gene W3ZXV, and Gene K3DSM. Please feel free to submit anything Amateur Radio related. Articles may be mailed to our PO Box, or e-mailed to k3ith@arrl.net
Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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>>> PLEASE NOTE <<<

MEETING DAY: WEDNESDAY

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2010

Doors open at 7:15 PM, Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION:

Lower Providence Township Building

100 Parklane Drive

Eagleville, PA 19403

(Some GPS units will show Norristown or Eagleville)

Directions:

- 1. From King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, take Rt. 202 South to Rt. 422 West to the Oaks Exit.**
- 2. At the exit ramp turn Right onto Egypt Road and take the second Left onto Pinetown Road.**
- 3. Go to the second stop sign and turn Left onto Eagleville Road.**
- 4. Go to the traffic light at Ridge Pike and proceed straight into the Lower Providence Township property; bare right and follow the driveway to the township building which is beyond the public library.**

Talk-in on the PARA 146.760 MHz Repeater (PL 131.8 Hz)