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P A R A



>> GENERAL MEETING **May 20, 2015 - 7:30 PM !! <<**
Lower Providence Township Building
Eagleville, Pennsylvania

PARA WEB SITE: <http://www.w3phl.org>

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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, 146.94 MHz, 443.90 MHz, 223.86 MHz, 224.94 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) _____

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I CAN HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING: TOWERS ANTENNAS BLDG MAINTENANCE Equipment Maintenance WRITING/PUBLISHING PUBLIC RELATIONS Other _____ (10-23-2012)

From the President –Spring 2015 Gene Mitchell K3DSM

Something big could be in the works. Yaesu has an offer to radio groups to obtain one of their new digital repeaters for \$500 or about 1/3 the normal cost. There is a 2 meter model and a 440mhz model. The repeater is dual function, handling both analog or digital voice. PARA has considered this because our equipment is more than 20 years old and for the most part, being held together by Band-Aids. We could get one for 76 and another for 443 mhz. A good part of PARAs active membership was polled a few weeks ago and almost every comment was favorable. In fact, at least one member has pledged a substantial donation toward new equipment which will probably include a new controller. Our plan calls for leaving all old equipment in place as a backup. One comment said we should use commercial grade repeaters, but that comes with a cost of about \$1600.00 each.

Several of the other clubs in the area have already put the Yaesu repeaters on the air. At least 1 group had trouble but it was resolved according to reports. RF Hill, Newtown Square, and Philmont are just a few of those groups.

A good discussion of digital will take place at the upcoming meeting on the 20th. How it works, what to expect, advantages, and non compatibility to D-Star. Operation with Yaesu's system should be plug and play with no programming required for user radios as does D-Star require.

PARA's problem though is lack of technical ability. Few have pitched in to solve recent problems. The Bacton Hill site still can not be heard at the voter.

Although most of the installation for the new Yaesu repeaters should be simple, especially with the 443 mhz repeater, the 2 meter repeater has to work single site or loose the digital capability. Any attempt to modify the Yeasu would violate the terms of the agreement and we would be billed the difference from the special price to the full retail price. The means that the 2 meter duplexer needs to be tuned, fixed, or replaced.

What holds a group together? Usually, activities and something of interest! Here we go, just what the doctor ordered.

We also need to do a major site cleanup again at Worcester. It's about now that the weeds start to take over and if we jump now, we just might stay ahead. If we do it now, we can save the treasury hundreds.

You should know that I am fast running out of energy. The bi-lateral hip replacement (both at the same time) that I went through 4 ½ years ago is failing. It doesn't help that they used cobalt as one of the metals in both hips and that 1 of the 8 parts used has been recalled. I am constantly in a lot of pain and I do not feel I could go through 2 more surgeries to correct the problem, at least at this time. Cobalt destroys tissue.

I am hoping others will come forth at the meeting and step forward. Like secretary and President.

Some more thoughts to share: do you know what lifetime warranty means? Many of us found out with computer equipment, especially modems. It means the life cycle of the product or the life of the manufacturer. The life cycle of the product can be just 2 years before it is discontinued and that ends the lifetime warranty.

Do you know that DIGITAL NBEMS is starting to pick up lots of steam. That's what is replacing packet. Several groups including CCAR and Philmont are heavily using it. There is even unattended digital messaging. I would like to be able to type on my iPad and have it operate one of my radios while also watching TV with Maria.

Looks like we will have some new ham bands: 135.7 khz or 2200 meters 472-479 khz or 630 meters.

Have you seen the latest in new vehicles? My daughter can start her car with her smart phone, check the oil, track its location, and even lock the doors anywhere she can access the internet. Hope it is not easily hacked.

“Internet of Things” will come under a hacking test at a conference soon to be held. Already, a system has been hacked through its WIFI connection from an appliance.

How happy are you that the FCC is cutting back on monitoring, engineers, field offices, and other staff. Several articles have already been written including one by a retired FCC engineer as to what to expect, and that is much more interference, including that to aviation and navigation. Washington has really gone mad.

Radio Shack is soon to disappear, including the battery club and lifetime warranty of their tubes. Guess most of us expected this when they stopped selling components that we needed to build our projects.

Did you know that the Internet can read what browser you are using, also giving a digital footprint of who you are? Stopping cookies doesn't make your identity go away. A recent survey shows that more than half the activity on the internet comes from smartphones and tablets as opposed to desktops and laptops. Several of my customers have told me they are sick and tired of all the updates for Windows and the rebooting while they are doing things. Also complaints of Malware, Spyware, and Ransomware. Oh, some have brought their tablets in for me to rid them of Malware, and that's done with the reset commands or buttons.

I also want to invite anyone that has a new electronic toy to bring it and show it off at the meeting. Show and Tell has been a well received addition to our meetings.

Join us on PARA-Net Tuesday at 8PM on 76 and help keep those repeater relays clicking.

Enough of this rambling for now. See you at the meeting. Gene K3DSM

For Sale: 2- 14 inch LCD Monitors \$15 each or best offer. Also have a Yaesu 220 Mhz HT FT109 only in need of a new battery. \$50 will take it with cradle charger. Also have a brand new CDR rotator \$275. Gene K3DSM 610-644-3633 or genem@bee.net

PARA Minutes – Meeting November 11, 2014 Eagleville, Pa

In attendance: Gene K3DSM, Rob NX3S, Dick K3ITH, Ron K3ZKO, Steve K3ALV, Tom W3EX, Asa AB3O, Bob K3RF, W3ZQN, K2QNI, WA3GTL, AB3GH, KA3OPI, N3DJH, K0BAK, and Gordon W3GK

Prior to the regular meeting, Dick showed slides of the recent Phila Airport emergency drill. Bob (k3rf) also participated in it.

The meeting was called to order at 735PM by President Gene. The meeting started with the salute to the Flag and introductions of officers and members present.

A motion was made and approved to waive the reading of the Secretary's report since they were published in the recent Paragraphs. The report was submitted by Gene, acting secretary.

Dick ITH read the Treasurers report; \$2878.86 in checking, and \$ 7,778.48 in Vanguard. \$2500 was removed from Vanguard for the Worcester cleanup and amplifier project approved at the May meeting. Also of note, the Bank of America accounts were closed Oct 21 because of the new service charges implemented. Dick also reported that 2 members paid up their dues at the meeting. There was also 10 expired members that didn't renew. There are 73 paid members in good standing. Expenditures for Worcester included \$440 for professional cleanup, \$570 for the new amplifier, and \$200 for 2 new matching power supplies.

The Tech report was made by Gene K3DSM:

76 up and running less the remote Bacton Hill receiver and some problems at Camden.

94 up and running, however it is due to be moved soon to a new and higher location at Fair Acres and hosted by Delaware County ARES-RACES. K3RF will do the new installation.

82 up and running

224.94 and 224.86 both up and running 443.9 up and running 53.41 up and running

Links for 76 at Sellersville and Eagleville were working, however Camden was in need of service.

Irv W3IWJ oversaw the cleanup and amplifier work. President Gene Commended Irv for his work.

Correspondence: Gene reported 3 pieces of correspondence –

- Confirmation of renewal for 3 years of the W3PHL.org URL**
- the Worcester report by Irv in great detail (made available for inspection)**
- partial contact with Mark Ludlow about the 88 equipment. Mark acknowledges he has the GE mobile package but said his antenna and line and power supply as well as our Duplexer disappeared from a locked cabinet at the tower site owned by Service Electric Cable TV.**

Old Business: Gene reported that the net was still going with varying checkins averaging 2 to 4 but also helping to keep the repeater active. Gene also reported that Ron (ZKO) did put our banner and display board up at the MARC hamfest. No new members resulted although we did have exposure.

New Business: Elections: The membership voted to keep present officers. Gene noted that we still need a secretary and a board member.

Bob K3RF presented a very detailed report about the correct way to apply for a tower permit as well as discuss the ongoing application and documents by Jeff Depola in his quest for a tower permit

Respectfully submitted by acting secretary Gene K3DSM

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. Please forward your new mailing and e-mail addresses 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 Hank W3GSC with help from Vince N3AGD, 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: May 20, 2015

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 may 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.**