

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**PARA -**  
serving the  
Delaware Valley  
for over 42 years!

**P A R A**



**>> GENERAL MEETING May 22, 2012 - 7:30 PM !! <<**  
**Lower Providence Township Building**  
**Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

**PARA WEB SITE: <http://para.buxcom.net>**

***Please support our advertisers !***

# 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, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (03-19-2012)

## From the President February 2012

### Gene Mitchell K3DSM

After a week in Aruba the week before Christmas, I came home to my very sick pup (Mokka). Long story short, we knew before we left that something was very wrong. I lost her January 2. She was my companion in the shop every day for years. I wanted to take ham equipment with me to Aruba, but the process was too complicated, so I didn't. Oh well...

At our last general meeting in November, the group suggested having a net on 76 to increase activity on the repeater. Tuesday at 8PM was approved and the net has been held every week with varying results. Most weeks, we have about 8 stations but on 2 occasions there were only 3. It definitely is a good idea and many have found it helpful as we talk about technology, computers, and new ham gear. Besides the gear that was brought to the November meeting, the Alinco DJ-G29T 902 Mhz and 222 Mhz HT surprised several. In fact, I got one for my birthday a few days ago. What I also found out is that most dealers including HRO have had trouble keeping them in stock because of the demand. If you missed previous mentions, 900 Mhz is quite a busy ham band now.

If you are one who has buried their ham gear and can't find it under all the junk, uncover it. Ham activity is on the rise as is the number of licensed hams. I just got my HF long wire back up after a storm, several months ago, re-engineered it into something unrecognizable. I found 160 meters is more active than I ever remember it.



Speaking about HF, I picked up a copy of Monitoring Times on the news stand after a front cover article on NVIS caught my eye. I wasn't sure that I knew exactly what NVIS was all about till I read the article. Then I found the rest of the magazine filled with more interesting articles. So much so that I picked up next months Monitoring Times and found it also containing many more good articles. Now I am definitely going to subscribe. There is an electronic version at a much lower price than print.

For those of you who remember that I had the Droid X phone, I got very frustrated with it after Verizon downloaded the Gingerbread update to it. The phone slowed down into a very frustrating slow computer. After months of complaints, and several replacements, Verizon offered me a "Very Early Upgrade" to the Droid Bionic, over 8 months before contracts end. What a difference! Now I can enjoy all the benefits of the Droid again. It helped to have the track record of complaints on file. Speaking of Droid, I also got a Toshiba Thrive in addition to my iPad and I love them both and use them now equally.

One of the additions that I added to my shop this past fall was a Swann digital video recorder system with cameras both outside and in. I had been looking at the system for years and when I finally found the right price, jumped on it. This system is something I recommend to every retail or service operation just in case. In fact, I documented a prowler one day after I left. My wife was still at home. I got his mug and vehicle on the hard drive.

We lost our annual donation from Lower Providence Township. It was helping us cover necessary expenses for the last 3 years. If you have any ideas of another organization that we might apply to for a grant, I am and we are all ears.

Don't forget the radio show Saturday mornings at 8am on WCHE 1520 out of West Chester as well as the Internet stream on 5DRadio.com. The show has appealed to not only computer enthusiasts, but also hams and would be hams, as we discuss the hobby frequently. Also, don't forget the net on Tuesday nights.

73,

Gene K3DSM

# PARA Meeting Minutes – Nov. 9, 2011

Officers: President/Sec: Gene K3DSM, VP: Robert NX3S, Treasurer: Caterina KB3POA  
Board: W3CQC Tom, K3QNT Lloyd, W3GSC Hank, K3ECV Dick  
Members: K3ITH Dick, Ron K3ZKO, Al KA3ODI, Steve K3ALV

The meeting was called to order at 7:31PM by President Gene K3DSM. After the welcome and salute to the flag, introductions of officers was made by Gene. Members were then asked to introduce themselves.

The Secretary Report was given by President Gene, acting secretary after the date was corrected.

The Treasurer Report was given by Caterina KB3POA: Checking \$2,252.73, Savings \$310.31, Vanguard \$8,983.44, for a total of \$11,546.48 She noted 71 paid members.

Correspondence from ARCC was mentioned by Gene K3DSM.

The Technical Report was read from Paragraphs as one member said he didn't see it. Discussions on the 88 and 82 repeaters as well as recent work and new antenna on the 223.86 machine. It was noted that 6 meters was very active. Also Camden needed an antenna. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to purchase an antenna for the site if Vince didn't have a better solution. Ron mentioned that correspondence was found that showed PARA had a relation with the tenant at the ATV site and that there would be no further claim for electricity. He is still looking for a place to put the ATV repeater. The controller for the 88 machine was questioned. It was also decided that new inventories for all sites would be made as well as digital pictures taken. Gene will contact ARCC about the call sign change for 82 to W3PHL.

Old Business: none

New Business: Gene mentioned the National Test of EAS held today and members discussed what they heard. There was also a discussion of iVisit, Skype, and EchoLink for holding meetings. Something would be set up to try.

Elections: A vote was taken to approve all existing officers for another term. An opening for director was filled by Lloyd K3QNT to replace Asa AB3O.



President Gene said the awareness of PARA on 76 was important and a discussion was held. It was decided to hold a net on 76 on Tuesday nights at 8PM after the coming Limerick drills starting November 22nd. Lloyd K3QNT and Gene K3DSM would run the net and start interesting technical discussions. It was hoped that this activity would capture interest and others would listen and join in.

73,  
Gene K3DSM

---

## 902 Mhz or Bust

Hams have been occupying the 902 Mhz ham band for some time with modified commercial radios found at hamfests, but now we have Alinco, manufacturing a HT with both 902 Mhz as well as 222 Mhz capabilities. In fact, the Alinco HT has been in such demand that there is a waiting list at most suppliers.

900 Mhz Repeaters are on the air in Boyertown, Eagleville, Hilltown, West Rockhill, Lancaster, Rawlinsville, Wind Gap, the Poconos, Allentown, and NE Phila. In Jersey, find them in Depford, Cape May Court House, and in Maryland, Baltimore, Owens Mills, Whiteford, and Ashton. Most are quite usable from my QTH in Malvern. There is even a simplex frequency on 927.5 Mhz. There is actually more activity on 902MHz than what I am hearing on 2 meters. I have my Kenwood monitoring and scanning from the shop every day.

73,  
Gene K3DSM

# Why Doesn't Your AntiVirus Work?

By Gene K3DSM

Have you wondered why so many people get Viruses and Trojans when they have a good antivirus? This was one of the topics we discussed on the Tuesday night net a while back. This also comes up frequently when I give a computer back to a customer that was infected. In fact, we also talk about it on the radio show Saturday mornings.

Most of us realize Windows was broken the day we got it on our new computer. These updates should be called fixes because that's what they really are. Every time an exploit or vulnerability is discovered, that is a back door into Windows. These back doors are also back doors behind the antivirus. In other words, your antivirus can't protect your computer when the Malware sneaks in behind the antivirus.

Windows isn't the only weakness. Flash, Java, Active X, and other browser add-ons as well as most Adobe products also open back doors for Malware, so these products must also be kept up to date. Many customers that I deal with tell me they don't have time to deal with the updates. In some rare cases, there are other reasons why Windows wasn't updated.

I happened to be with one such customer at a Rotary meeting right after she picked up her computer. At the end of the meeting, she did a forced shutdown, interrupting the automatic configuration after the download. When I told her the computer might not come on and boot properly, we turned it on and guess what? It didn't boot without an error message. I was able to recover the computer with the last known good configuration. Then she asked if she had to put up with this all the time, can't she just turn the updates off?

I also have a few customers who won't update from SP2 and IE6 because of special software on their computers. In fact, there are thousands of corporate customers that have the same problem. One such home program is MusicMatch. I experienced the failure of the program when I did the Windows updates several years ago and didn't realize what happened at first.

The updates are so important. You can't go without them if you put the computer on the Internet. I do have some customers who have some of these special programs, but they have learned to keep them off the Internet so they don't update Windows.

The bad guys are very busy, trying to find these back doors and they are very good at it. In fact, they work at it every day, all day and that's all they do. They do it because they know they can infect a certain percentage of computers and either get information or steal your logon information.

If every computer owner would update their Windows and the other software that allowed the back doors to function and if they stopped clicking on the links that led to infected web sites, the bad guys would starve and stop doing this. There are a lot of naive people out there.

Speaking of infections and the like, it is estimated that millions of computers are still infected with the DNSChanger virus, according to DigitalTrends.com. The infected computers will show their problems on March 8<sup>th</sup> when the FBI shuts down their replacement DNS servers. The FBI installed DNS servers in an effort to stop the spread of the virus last year, but a court order that set up these replacement servers expires on this date. Last November, 6 men in Estonia were arrested for creating and spreading the virus.

The virus may have slipped in before your antivirus was updated. Unless you run a manual and deep scan, you may have it and not know it. I find many people have their computers configured not to scan or simply do a quick scan.

# PARA-Net

## Tuesday Nights

### 8PM

### 146.76

**PARA has been running a new net on 76 on Tuesday evenings at 8PM. Join the discussions on computers, ham equipment and more.**

---

### Skywarn Training

I have been working with NWS and Lower Providence Township to schedule Skywarn training.

The training is scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2012 started at 10AM. We plan to do both Basic and Advanced sessions. These sessions will be presented by Greg Heavener from the Mount Holly NWS office.

Remember, training is needed every two years or so to remain as a trained spotter.

As the date gets closer, I will probably be asking for folks to let me know who is coming.

See you there.

Also, I have started a Facebook page for Montgomery County Skywarn. The address for the page is long, but, if we get a few more people to "like" the page, we can simplify that. The current address is [www.facebook.com/pages/Skywarn-Montgomery-County-PA/323936654320084](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Skywarn-Montgomery-County-PA/323936654320084) . If you are on Facebook, please go to that address and click the "like" button.

Thanks,

Lou WX3I

## ARRL's New EPA Section Manager

Congratulations to our own long term PARA member **Bob K3RF** on his being recently elected to the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section position of Section Manager (SM). Bob brings a wealth of experience including ham radio, emergency communications, emergency response, ARRL Volunteer Council, just to mention a few items. Bob K3RF will officially take office on Sunday, April 1, 2012 (and no, this is not an April Fool's article). The following e-mail reprinted with Bob K3RF's permission.

**From:** Robert B. Famiglio, Esq. [[RBFamiglio@AOL.com](mailto:RBFamiglio@AOL.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 5:34 PM

**Subject:** ARRL Election - My thanks to you for your help

Dear Endorser & Friend:

By now I'm sure you have learned that my bid to become the next section manager for the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania section was successful. Now that the excitement and realizations of the election results has settled a bit, my thoughts turn to those responsible. I would like to thank each and all of you who made my election possible. Naturally, my campaign manager, Bob Wiseman, WB3W, is the most significant "blame" for my victory. Bob provided counsel and advice going forward as many of you did. He was my spokesperson *par excellence*. Bob also managed my WEB site – no small technical project as it turned out. Bill Edgar, our division director also provided sage advice and counsel in my campaign. Thank you Bob & Bill!



Each of the rest of you who have taken the time to endorse my candidacy also share a role in my success. Many of you also recommended my candidacy to your friends, radio clubs and the like. The election results were close as you may have seen. We suspected that the voting would be close and that turnout would be high compared to turnout for similar elections historically. You helped generate the excitement that made that happen. Thinking about it, each of your endorsements clearly played a role in obtaining votes for me. My opponents are well-respected, well known and popular radio amateurs. One also has significant call sign recognition for very good and deserved reasons. My compliments to them both for running a good race – that is what amateur radio needs to stay vibrant. I appreciate their calls to me with their well wishes. I recognize that without your endorsement, many voting league members may not have been comfortable selecting me being someone they were not necessarily as familiar with. Your endorsement clearly made them more comfortable in deciding to vote for me.

I wanted to take the time to thank you again for your encouragement, your support, and your good wishes in the election. When I see you next I will be thanking you in person. If I missed anyone who should be on this list, I'll find you anyway. I hope I can call upon you for additional support by asking for your recommendations and ideas as to how we all, together, can move the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania section forward. Don't hesitate to call me anytime, including at my office during daytime hours. I will be available. Now you will have my support in that regard. I intend to keep my pledges, with your help. I take office April 1, 2012 (April Fool's day?!), so now the work begins. Thanks again to you all!

My fraternal 73;

Bob Famiglio, K3RF  
610-359-7300  
215-467-7300



## 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](mailto:k3ith@arrl.net)

Thank you and 73, Dick K3ITH

---

**BuxCom.Net, Inc**

**PO Box 1, Croydon, PA 19021-0001**

Phone: 215.788.0050

E-Mail [webmaster@buxcom.net](mailto:webmaster@buxcom.net)

*Internet Solutions for:*

WEB PAGE HOSTING, WEB PAGE DESIGN

E-MAIL ACCOUNTS, FTP SERVICE

INDIVIDUAL ACCESS ACCOUNTS

*For more information connect to the web site*

<http://www.buxcom.net>

Host Site for <http://para.buxcom.net>



**>>> PLEASE NOTE <<<**

**NEW MEETING DAY: TUESDAY**

**(Tuesday following Dayton Hamvention)**

**MEETING DATE: May 22, 2012**

**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.**

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