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53.410 MHZ VALLEY FORGE (2-inputs)	223.860 MHZ WORCESTER
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146.820 MHZ CAMDEN, NJ	224.980 MHZ FEASTERVILLE
146.880 MHZ HILLTOWN	443.900 MHZ VALLEY FORGE
146.940 MHZ WEST CHESTER	147.435 MHZ ATV DIRECT INTERCOM
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## From the President – Gene Mitchell – K3DSM – July 2003

The PARA technical committee is hard at work upgrading parts of the repeater system. Although it may seem slow, the committee is usually doing something every week. Remember, we are all volunteers, and we have a very complex system. The Eagleville input has been upgraded to new and better equipment and it should be in operation by the time you read this. We are multiplexing with another antenna and have a much better antenna height. The Eagleville site, by the way, should outperform most of all the other receivers combined with the new system. Worcester is the center of the system with the voter there. The wiring is a disaster. One patch wire after another has been placed over the last years and no documentation was made. As soon as Eagleville is fully on line, the voter at Worcester will be pulled for major surgery. The new controller will be wired into the controller at the same time. We not only have to maintain radios, but we have a site that requires fence work and weed control. In addition, we have had major power problems from PECO where we lost the ground and that has caused more problems, including blown up power supplies.

The technical committee can always use help, so if you can help, please make yourself know. There are a lot of sites, equipment, and problems.

The grants that PARA has applied for, have been applied for on 2 fronts. Since our needs are large, I will try others as I find the sources. There has been no reply as of yet.

I have a very interesting story to relate, but I have to tell you first what I have been doing this spring. Read on. As some of you may have heard, I am also working for WCOJ, 1420 AM on weekends. Broadcast is something that I considered after graduation because of my involvement in the campus station WVTI at Valpo Tech. I am having a ball. Lloyd, W3QT, was looking for help at the control board for some of the Phillies games, and as it turns out, there was an opening Sunday morning to handle all the various religious programs. I like this part the best. No more “cart” machines. It’s all wav files. I have 8 shows to deal with. Four are prerecorded on cassettes, 2 come in live on remote channels, 1 is live in the studio, and the last segment is me, filling in about 45 minutes with contemporary Christian music from CDs up to either 1PM or when the Phillies start. Each program has an opening and closing announcement on wav files and they have to be clicked at the exact precise time. I also have to see that a “legal ID” happens on the hour. I also read an ad around 1215-1225PM (now recorded in my voice).

I also record the weather announcements used for the balance of the day and early Monday morning. They are 10 second announcements that might say “Partly sunny today with highs near 80. Tonight, rain possible with lows near 58. This is Gene Mitchell and you are listening to 1420, WCOJ”. Using the wav editor, spaces are removed so that the announcement is no longer than 10 seconds. What has happened here is that people who knew me from the 15 years with the skating rink are calling or stopping by the store to say hi or “wondered what you were doing”. WCOJ has excellent local news and programming, and Lloyd knows how to promote and build up a station. He is also a very appreciative boss.

I average about 2 or 3 Phillies games a month, which is just right. For that, you have to be alert to the end of the innings to insert the local advertising at the precise times as well as the station IDs. This averages about 4 ½ hours with the pre and post game shows. Each ad or promo is a wav file and it’s easy enough to click the mouse, but you have to get the right ad at the right time. There is little time for any thing but attention.

I recently started doing Remote Broadcasts as well. I set up the transmitter, point the antenna, hook up the sound and microphones, and test the system. I also coordinate timing back to the studio and arrange for the various guests to be interviewed. I have now done remotes with most of WCOJ’s personalities and I get to talk on the microphone with them occasionally.

The most interesting part of Broadcast is the station log. A traffic manager writes the log with the ads, promos, and music, and the computer automatically follows the log during “off hours” when no host or game is scheduled. When a host is scheduled, they simply click on the ads or promos at the time called for. I came up

with the idea of wav files for music in skating rinks after I closed my rink where a wav player played the music in cue. I put some music into wav files and did a presentation in Atlantic City to the rink operators back in 1991. I should have carried my idea further because the log sells to stations for \$1500.

If any of you think AM is dead, you are wrong. I hear better music and programming on WCOJ than I do on any of the FM stations that I have found. I listen at the store during the day and when in the car. To me, the content is more valuable than the quality. By the way, WCOJ's QSL manager is Chuck, KE3RJ. Check their web site: [www.wcoj.com](http://www.wcoj.com)

A group of the 94 users are also experimenting with wireless Internet in the West Chester area. This group is probably one of the most active in PARA. The 94 group, which I will refer to as mostly CCAR (Chester County ARES RACES), had Field Day at the EOC in Westtown in a very big way, and I mean big! This was CCARs first attempt at Field Day, so a lot of planning went into it. The county made available their COM 1, the big RV styled communications vehicle with all kinds of radios from DC to light. Then, Lloyd, W3QT, got another RV in case the county had to pull out for an emergency. There were towers and antenna arrays that sprang up all over the parking lot, including 7 foot satellite dishes. There were several generators too. We did good.

Now, let me tell you the best part. A week and a half before Field Day, an email came in to me about the governor's proclamation. I'm sure most everybody heard about that. Well, I forwarded the email to Lloyd at the station. I didn't think any more about the proclamation till I went into work Sunday when I saw a note on the news desk for Phil, the news director to call me on the phone Monday to get a recording from me on ham radio and Field Day.

Well, I am not good at fast talking and coming up with something to say quickly, so I sat down and wrote up some information. I recorded it, listened, didn't like it, and rewrote it and recorded it about 3 times till I liked it. I left a note with Lloyd's that I already recorded something for him. Actually, I left 2 recordings with different information. Monday morning, when I turned on the radio, there it was already running. The first was about ham radio and the governor's proclamation and the second was about field day. On Wednesday, they ran the Field Day story all day. I happened to stop in one evening and Lloyd said he liked what I did and could I do a follow up. I did and that ran Friday. They all ran about 12 or more times each day.

On Friday, Lloyd told me he had another plan. He was going to do a live remote broadcast from the Field Day site Sunday while I was working. I came on and gave an introduction and turned it over to Lloyd. It was great! Lloyd interviewed not only county leaders, but George, WA3MWR, who related how much he liked CW and why. The county now has a remote broadcast remote to WCOJ, set up there full time for any possible emergency. On Monday, the WCOJ news ran the story about the remote and included excerpts from WA3MWR's comments about CW.

That's it for now. 73 Gene

News Radio Copy: 1420 WCOJ, Coatesville – West Chester (week of June 23 to 28, 2003)

#1

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell recently signed a "Governor's Proclamation" making June 2003 "Amateur Radio Month".

Ham Radio Operators are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and allowed to communicate with each other on assigned bands of frequencies throughout the radio spectrum.

The FCC allows ham radio to exist for 2 reasons: First, it has made numerous technical discoveries for communications, and second, hams are always available to provide emergency communications in times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods and even during 9-11 and the shuttle parts recovery. This is Gene Mitchell reporting for 1420 WCOJ News.

#2

Every year during the end of June, Amateur Radio Operators have an organized emergency exercise called “Field Day”, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League.

Portable station facilities are set up, many using emergency power, and operate for 24 hours continuously, making contacts with other participating stations.

This year, Field Day starts Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> at 2PM.

The Chester County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service group will set up at the Government Services building parking lot in Westtown.

This is Gene Mitchell reporting for 1420 WCOJ.

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#3

Kiersten (news assistant):

June is Amateur Radio Month, proclaimed by Pennsylvania’s Governor Ed Rendell and this Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> is “Field Day” where hams set up portable communications stations and test their emergency capabilities. Here is WCOJ’s Gene Mitchell to tell you more about Ham Radio:

Gene:

Ham Radio Operators must pass a test of technical ability and regulation to obtain a ham license. Ham radio is open to anyone and it is fairly easy to learn what is needed through books and training classes. Hams have been licensed as young as 6 years of age and also at 96 years.

Hams communicate with Morse code, voice, and even data and television signals. They use short wave to communicate long distances around the world, and VHF and UHF for local communications, either direct or through repeater stations. They talk from home, their cars and boats, and even from work.

You can learn more about getting a ham license at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) or [www.k3dsm.net](http://www.k3dsm.net)

This is Gene Mitchell reporting for 1420, WCOJ News

Introduction by Gene on Sunday to remote:

This is Gene Mitchell in the WCOJ news room with a special report: June was proclaimed Amateur Radio month by Pennsylvania’s Governor Ed Rendell and Field Day operations are winding up in the next few hours. Ham operators are testing their operating skills and emergency preparedness over a 24 hour period this weekend. Organized groups across the country are communicating with each other, passing information, and checking their portable 2 way radios and emergency power facilities. Points will be tallied and operations critiqued for any possible emergency. Ham radio operators have always been available for natural disasters and national emergencies from earthquakes, floods, and forest fires to the 9-11 disaster and space shuttle parts recovery. The Chester County EOC is now equipped with a special direct link to our studios and we now have a live exclusive report from Lloyd Roach at the Government Services Building and Field Day site in Westtown. Come in Lloyd:

Lloyd proceeds to give a description of the facilities there and interviews county leaders and George WA3MWR.

**QST**

Most of the above has been submitted to QST for a possible article in one of the future issues.

# PARA Swapfest 2003

## And Main Meeting with Elections

Up for election: President and Secretary as well as one 1 director from each quadrant

**Tuesday November 11, 2003 730PM**

**Save this date now**

**St. Gertrudes Church Hall, 209 Merion Ave, West Conshohocken, Pa**  
**Easy to find and plenty of parking**  
**Talk in 146.76 Mhz**

First of all, we want you to come out and join us at the meeting. We have a good program, you can have a great time talking “eyeball” with fellow hams and guests, and you might unload or find something neat. Second, we want you to invite non-members and others from surrounding clubs. Make a copy of this page and spread it around to surrounding clubs. As we have done in the last few years, we are going to have our indoor flea market as well as tailgating in the parking lot. (no admission and no fees). Bring your unused equipment to sell, swap, and trade. There are tables available on a first come basis. *(Please don't bring junk to leave behind and please use care when placing equipment on the tables)*. There will be refreshments available and a 50-50. There will also be some incentives to join or rejoin PARA. We only have 2 meetings a year and it's about time you came out for a change. Take a break from the Internet and TV. We have started the meeting earlier and we end between 9 and 930PM so now what's your excuse?

The technical committee has been busy upgrading sites and a detailed prepared report will be given. The 76 repeater should be in full operation and better than ever. A status report on the grant will be made.

The 94 repeater is more alive than ever with EchoLink and our alliance with Chester County ARES RACES is better than ever.

### PARA's "ROLL"

PARA membership is holding. That's a good sign because it was downhill before. There is better activity on 82, 94, and 76 both during the day and evening. Meetings have been better attended. The Board is working hard for its members with fewer meetings and better contact by email.

**Look to <http://para.buxcom.net> and <http://para.k3dsm.net>**

**PARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEMBERS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

<u>TERM</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CALL</u>
2002/2003	PRESIDENT:	Gene Mitchell	K3DSM
2003/2004	VICE PRESIDENT:	Pete Butler	WB2B
2003/2004	TREASURER:	(vacant)	
2003/2004	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Mark Sardaro	KA3VTM
2002/2003	RECORDING SECRETARY:	Larry Gasperone	W2CAM

**DIRECTORS:**

2002/2003	NORTHEAST	Bud Batyi	N3JQB
2003/2004	NORTHEAST	John Brochon	K3ZFD
2002/2003	NORTHWEST	Mel Richman	K3KHU
2003/2004	NORTHWEST	Stan Bentley	KB3EXB
2002/2003	SOUTHEAST	Joe Ruder	N2SXH
2003/2004	SOUTHEAST	John Goheen	KB2ADL
2002/2003	SOUTHWEST	Joe Myshko	N3YGW
2003/2004	SOUTHWEST	Joe Vilaro	K3JV

*PARA-graphs* Editor & Publisher      Dick Stewart      K3ITH

**E-mail:** [para@buxcom.net](mailto:para@buxcom.net)      **Web Site:** <http://para.buxcom.net>

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**PARA MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED??**

Do you know when your PARA membership dues are due? It's real easy to check. Just look at the mailing label on this issue of *PARA-graphs*. The first line contains your call letters and membership expiration date; the format is a 4-digit year followed by a 2-digit month. If your membership expiration date is circled in **red** then your **PARA dues are now due**. Please send a \$20.00 check payable to **PARA** to:

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VALLEY FORGE, PA 19481-0064

Thank you for renewing promptly!! **If you viewing this issue in softcopy** you may also send e-mail requesting your membership expiration date. Please send your request to: [para@buxcom.net](mailto:para@buxcom.net)

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**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.

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**WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

Please welcome the following new PARA members:

Henry W3HGF      Jim KB3IFO

The following thanks to the **ARRL** and *THE ARRL LETTER* dated August 8, 2003:

**==>BPL IS "SPECTRUM POLLUTION," ARRL PRESIDENT SAYS**

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says Broadband over Power Line (BPL)—if widely deployed--would represent "spectrum pollution" on a level that is "difficult to imagine." Haynie reacted after seeing videotape and early data from recent ARRL field studies in four states where BPL is undergoing testing.

"BPL is the most crucial issue facing Amateur Radio and the one that has the most devastating potential," Haynie said. In terms of interference potential on HF and low-VHF frequencies, "nothing is on the same scale as BPL."

A form of power line carrier (PLC) technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses. Because it uses frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz, BPL could affect HF and low-VHF amateur allocations wherever it's deployed. BPL proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets, and one reportedly is already offering the service. FCC rules already allow BPL, although industry proponents want the FCC to relax radiation limits. It's feared such a change could exacerbate BPL's interference potential.

During the ARRL forum at the West Gulf Division Convention (Austin Summerfest 2003) August 1-2 in Austin, Texas, Haynie previewed a short video highlighting a recent tour of BPL field trial sites by ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. In late July, Hare traveled to BPL trial communities in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York to take measurements over significant parts of the HF spectrum and initial readings at low-VHF. Driving a specially equipped vehicle loaded with radio gear and measurement devices, Hare said he didn't need to look long to find BPL interference. "The signals were all over," he said. "The interference found ranged from moderate to extremely strong."

The video shows the S meter of an HF transceiver holding steady in excess of S9 as the speaker emits a crackling din, which one observer described as sounding like a Geiger counter. Only the very strongest amateur signals broke through on 20 and 15 meters. Hare noted, however, that the field strengths of the various systems all were within FCC Part 15 limits for power line carrier (PLC) devices.

Each BPL system exhibited a unique sound depending upon the modulation scheme it used. While in most cases it sounded like static or pulse noise, in one city warbling "birdies" blanketed the bands at closely spaced intervals.

The ARRL already has filed a 120-page package of text and technical exhibits in response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry in late May. The League plans to file reply comments--responses to comments already filed--by the recently extended August 20 FCC deadline.

Haynie has been doing a bit of traveling of his own, including more than two weeks in Washington so far this year dealing with the FCC and with members of Congress on BPL and other Amateur Radio-related issues.

Countering critics who suggest that the League is only using BPL as a fund-raising ploy, Haynie said the League would not be putting as much effort into attempting to quantify the BPL threat and to put a face on it if it weren't real.

"The BPL industry and their associations have told the FCC and the world that there is no interference potential from BPL systems," Haynie said. "Anyone seeing these BPL signals for megahertz after megahertz for miles along a power line should be convinced that BPL--even operating at the present FCC limits--poses a serious threat to all HF and low-VHF communications."

More information is available on the ARRL Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/07/08/1/>>. Additional information and video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>.



Check out the Amateur Television Quarterly Spring 2003 issue for a full cover photo and inside article on our very own PARA member Ron K3ZKO, Captain Video! The cover photo (next page) shows Ron operating from his home QTH using ATV (Amateur Television). Congratulations Ron, K3ZKO.

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### **Humor – The best medicine**

1. A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.
  2. What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.
  3. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
  4. A backward poet writes inverse.
  5. In democracy it's your vote that counts; In feudalism it's your count that votes.
  6. She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.
  7. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
  8. If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.
  9. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
  10. Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A – flat minor.
- 

“I haven't failed. I've found 10,000 ways that won't work.” – Benjamin Franklin

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

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### **INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR *PARA-GRAPHS* ??**

Several great articles were submitted in past issues by your follow PARA members such as Joe K3JV, 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@buxcom.net](mailto:k3ith@buxcom.net)

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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# Amateur Television Quarterly



K3ZKO

Ron Cohen - K3ZKÓ  
A.T.N.A. President enjoying his ATV

Want to launch a balloon?  
Here is how Jim Meehan, W6XE did it

Amateur TV Contest

Explore Directional Antennas  
by Mike Collis, WA6SVT

Airborne ATV For A Regional Fire Agency  
by Ray Grimes, W6RYS

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Governor's Office

### PROCLAMATION

#### AMATEUR RADIO MONTH June 2003

*WHEREAS, Thousands of our Commonwealth's citizens have been licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as Amateur Radio operators. These dedicated volunteers, also known as Hams, have been providing vital supplemental communications to their communities during times of natural disasters, in local emergencies and at public events since the earliest days of wireless radio; and*

*WHEREAS, these Hams work without compensation in the best interests of our Commonwealth as well as the world; and*

*WHEREAS, Hams are on the alert for any local or global emergency and are committed to being a critical resource in our Homeland Security efforts; and*

*WHEREAS, Amateur Radio promotes international goodwill, encourages young people to pursue an education and careers in scientific, engineering or liberal arts fields and expands the state of the art in communications and electronics through experimentation.*

*THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim June 2003, as AMATEUR RADIO MONTH in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens of the Commonwealth to support the efforts of local Amateur Radio operators and recognize their vital importance in a comprehensive communications system.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-second day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and three, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-seventh.*



*Edward G. Rendell*  
EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

