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>> GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2003 - 7:30 PM !! <<

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PHILADELPHIA AREA REPEATER ASSOCIATION POST OFFICE BOX 64 VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA 19481-0064

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Associate memberships are available to non-amateurs, with no voting privileges, for \$20.00 per year. When licensed the associate may upgrade to full membership with no additional fees. You also gain <u>**TWO**</u> free months (limited time offer) on your membership for each **new** member you sponsor. Corporate Sponsorships are available.

PARTIAL LIST OF PARA REPEATERS:

53.410 MHz	VALLEY FORGE	(2-inputs)	223.860	MHz	WORCESTER
146.760 MHz	VALLEY FORGE	(6-inputs)	224.940	MHz	VALLEY FORGE
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
146.970 MHz	FEASTERVILLE		421.250	MHz	ATV CHESTNUT HILL
			923.250	MHz	ATV CHESTNUT HILL

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(04-26-03)			

From the President – Gene – K3DSM

Hopefully, everybody reads the electronic issues of PARAGraphs during July and January that are not mailed. I still have some back issues posted on my web site at <u>http://para.k3dsm.net</u>, which by the way, is the alternate PARA site that I actively maintain. There is good information that you shouldn't miss.

As I write this, my second 2 year term is almost up. Elections are in November and I am available to serve again if the members want me. I need member attendance for the program and elections. Aside from the office of President and the Recording Secretary being up for re-elections, 1 director from each quadrant is also up. The director's job is not hard. We are now at only 2 regular meetings a year and business is mostly conducted over the Internet. We desperately need a Treasurer – I have been doing it this past year. It is a vote on the Board and it's really easy.

I feel that I have accomplished a few good things over the last years: PARA is quite visible at the MARC Hamfest; the 94/CCAR group participated in Field Day at the Government Services Building, providing great visibility for Ham Radio in general; radio promo's were written and aired on WCOJ about ham radio; 94 was very active during Isabel and the storm before it; I have provided leadership over the Board and Technical Committee; I had to mend relations with Chester County ARES-RACES and they are better than ever; I have written a Grant and submitted it to Homeland Security and PEMA; 94 has "EchoLink" and has brought needed activity; 76 has a new modern controller and it is on line; Eagleville has been rebuilt completely from the link package to the antenna up; Camden has an input to 76 that serves Philadelphia very well; the 82 quadrant has a new reliable package; and 76 seems to work better than ever. Now, if it weren't for several key people, this all wouldn't have come together: Vince N3AGD, Mark KA3VTM, Ron K3ZKO, Dick K3ECV, and Dick K3ITH. My biggest regret is that I have not found a way to entice many more members to join PARA to support this great system of 19 repeaters and links. It is also to get more of PARA's members out to the only 2 meetings a year. We still hover at about 200 members and 35 to 40 in attendance at meetings.

I attend the Newtown Square Ham meetings occasionally and have close contact with MARC. PARA's dues for 19 repeaters are the same \$20 as the other organizations that have only 2 repeaters each. I know that many members of those groups are also members of PARA. What amazes me the most are the hams that no longer belong to any of the organizations, yet they still enjoy the use of all the repeaters on the ham bands.

By the way, I have had some feedback on one of the Grant applications. Homeland Security expressed great concern that repeaters were located on private property as opposed to a public site such as a hospital or township building. This is actually something that I have pushed for, for along time and it didn't surprise me too much. If we had a 100 year legal lease on the tower and property, this would qualify.

There are new Technologies for Internet service popping up. The big buzz word is "Hot Spots". Starbucks, Holiday Inns, and McDonalds are installing them. Verizon has activated some and there are more to come. For only \$30 a month, you get unlimited surfing at high speed if you are in range, but you must have a Verizon cell account to bill to. Verizon has also made another major breakthrough: I mentioned CDMA2000 1XRTT about a year and a half ago. That was the first phase in preparing for 3G (3rd generation). 1X RTT is considered "2.5G". I actually used this service for several months and it was much better than dialup with a 70K and faster connection. The new service is CDMA 1X EV-DO (they better come up with a fancy name because this is a mouthful). This service is 2.4Ghz transfer over the cell channels (faster than Cable and T1) and many of their phones are capable of being the modem between the cell tower and your computer through the USB port. You can also use the PCMCIA card to accomplish the same. The unlimited service is \$80 a month and you are not tied to just your house or business. You can use it on the road or at your neighbor's house. It's a bit more expensive than the \$42 a month for residential Cable or DSL, but business pays \$100 a month for Cable and 2.4 Ghz access and more for DSL. This may just break Cable's back. This 1X EV-DO service is now on in Washington DC and San Diego, and is expected to be on in all major markets shortly. 1X pretty much blankets the country now. Verizon uses IP (Internet Protocol) for their cell service and 1X blends right in. Verizon will lead over Nextel, AT&T, Sprint, and T Mobile

I also have this "hair brain" idea that I can produce a video about PARA and have already written a script and have a list of video shots to be made. It could be a great selling tool and could be put on an MPEG file on CD or VHS.

Local Number Portability and "Vonage", by Gene K3DSM

Most of you know that we have been paying surcharges on our phone bills to cover "LNP" for a couple of years now. This surcharge is paying for programming the phone company's computers so we can keep our numbers when we switch providers. Does it work? Well let's see.

I applied to Vonage for service and my home phone number was supposed to be "ported" over to them. (Vonage is a relatively new carrier being sold by radio shack and others, including over the Internet) After waiting for over a month from Sept 10, Verizon still didn't act on the request. I contacted Vonage last Thursday Oct 9, and they were going to have the request expedited.

On Saturday morning, I found my home phone disconnected with a recording that it was disconnected and no further information was available. Dick Stewart, K3ITH, was the first to tell me, with my son and daughter close behind. Even my wife's boss was surprised this morning when she couldn't reach her. Our home phone was working Friday night with incoming and outgoing calls.

After placing several calls with Verizon on Saturday, someone stated that a disconnect order was received from another carrier, but nothing about "porting" my number to the new carrier. No one was able to turn my number back on. The repair technician said that a disconnected number could be from non-payment and the business office is the only entity that could straighten it out. Of course, this is a holiday weekend with all Verizon employees going down to meet Columbus as he comes in to port. Did I say that port word again?

On Monday, I placed several calls to Vonage and they assured me that my number was to be ported over and that Verizon screwed up. After calling Verizon about a dozen times on Tuesday, they gave me several stories. What was consistant was that another carrier ordered the disconnect. I was given 3 different carrier's names, non of which was Vonage. Verizon stated that only a disconnect order was received and no porting order came with it. They also told me that my number can no longer be ported over to the new carrier because only active numbers can be ported. "Porting" is supposed to be seamless with no interruption in service. So much for that theory!

Vonage is a very interesting phone provider. It is only for those who have a high speed Internet connection, because it uses "IP". The features and cost are incredibility decent. Look up Vonage at www.vonage.com. For only \$25, you get unlimited local and regional calling and 500 long distance minutes as well as caller ID, forwarding, voice mail, call waiting, and anything else you can imagine, including call transfer. For only \$35, you get totally unlimited domestic long distance included. You can even get additional numbers in other area codes that attach to it. There is one little anomaly associated with Vonage. You always have to dial the 1 plus 10 digits, even on local calls. That one extra digit is no big deal, because sometime in the future, the total numbering structure is under review, and we may be dialing region codes as well as additional numbers for local calls since they are running out of area codes as well as local numbers.

Local Number Portability is an interesting topic. Many think it works by call forwarding. There is detailed information on the Internet. You may want to search it out. Traditionally, calls have been routed by area codes and central office codes to physical destinations. "Porting" has been ordered by the FCC and now, phone companies are required to have a new system to make it work. Internal switching between central offices is done by computers over dedicated data lines using something called "System 7". "Porting" is simply writing a program to take a ported number and reroute it before it ever reaches the telephone central office that the number was once attached to. All someone has to do is go into the computer and type that a number is "ported" and to where, and now it works to the new carrier.

In November, the FCC's order has dictated that cell phone carriers will also have to "port" numbers. Included with this, is porting home phone numbers to cell phones. Already, many have disconnected their home phone and they live off their cell phone. This new dimension will create another round of disconnections from the landline. Could this be the end of landlines? By the way, a call and complaint to the PUC on Wednesday morning resulted in my home number working by 3PM that day to Vonage.

RACES & ARES COMMUNICATIONS

Written by Dick K3ITH

PARA is pleased to have Bob W3ZQN, Montgomery County RACES Radio Officer and Montgomery County ARES Emergency Coordinator, as our guest speaker to discuss "Public Service Amateur Radio Communications". Bob will cover RACES, ARES, their differences, Montgomery County RACES and ARES organizations, and their interactions with the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Bob has held an amateur radio licensed for 49 years now. He graduated from then Drexel Institute of Technology and has since retired after a long career as an Engineering Manager with the Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO).

Bob will also cover the upcoming Limerick Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Exercise planned for Tuesday, November 18, late afternoon and early evening. This every other year NRC mandatory exercise will be evaluated by many Government organizations including the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition to Montgomery County emergency, police, fire, and ambulance services, plus every township and boro within 10 miles of Limerick participating, Amateur Radio will play a major roll in that we will be the primary communications system used by agencies during the drill. Our own PARA Valley Forge 146.760 MHz (PL 131.8 Hz) Repeater System provides backup communications services to the primary Montgomery County RACES 146.835 MHz (PL 88.5 Hz) Repeater System. Additionally, the primary Chester County RACES Repeater is our very own PARA 146.940 MHz (PL 131.8 Hz) System. Chester and Berks Counties will also participate in this exercise.

This is a great opportunity to learn about RACES, ARES, and how amateur radio participates. So come on out to the PARA General Meeting on Tuesday, November 11, and bring a friend!

FREE MAGAZINES Written by Dick K3ITH

FREE to good home: ... QST, 73, and CQ magazines all the way back to the 1930's and 1940's. Anyone know a personal or public library looking for ham radio magazines? Please contact Fred W3PHL at 610-933-6918 in the evenings. Must pickup.

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.

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@arrl.net

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

PARA Swapfest 2003 And Main Meeting with Elections

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

Tuesday November 11, 2003 7:30 PM

Save this date now

St. Gertrudes Church Hall, 209 Merion Ave, West Conshohocken, PA Easy to find and plenty of free 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 9:30 PM, 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 <u>http://para.buxcom.net</u> and <u>http://para.k3dsm.net</u>

PARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS AND ASSIGNMENTS

TERM 2002/2003 2003/2004 2003/2004	<u>POSITION</u> PRESIDENT: VICE PRESIDENT: TREASURER:	NAME Gene Mitchell Pete Butler (vacant)	CALL K3DSM WB2B
2003/2004 2002/2003	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: RECORDING SECRETARY:	Mark Sardaro Larry Gasperone	KA3VTM W2CAM
2002/2003 2003/2004 2002/2003 2003/2004 2002/2003 2003/2004 2002/2003	NORTHEAST NORTHEAST NORTHWEST NORTHWEST SOUTHEAST SOUTHEAST SOUTHWEST	DIRECTORS: Bud Batyi John Brochon Mel Richman Stan Bentley Joe Ruder John Goheen Joe Myshko	N3JQB K3ZFD K3KHU KB3EXB N2SXH KB2ADL N3YGW
2003/2004 <i>PARA-graphs</i> Ec	SOUTHWEST litor & Publisher	Joe Vilardo Dick Stewart	кзуv кзітн

E-mail: para76@juno.com

Web Site: http://para.buxcom.net

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:

PARA POST OFFICE BOX 64 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: para76@juno.com

MOVING ???

If moving, please notify **PARA** of your new address as soon as possible. The Post Office will <u>NOT</u> 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.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new PARA members: Henry W3HGF Jim KB3IFO

Al W3AHR

The following thanks to the ARRL and THE ARRL LETTER dated October 10, 2003:

==>73 MAGAZINE SAYS "73 AND QRT"

After completing 43 years of publication, 73 Amateur Radio Today magazine is calling it quits. Plans to publish a joint October/November issue fell through this week, and the September 2003 issue was the magazine's last. According to self-proclaimed "El Supremo and Founder" Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD, it was a simple matter of economics.

"After failing a last minute effort to collect on some larger accounts receivable we decided yesterday to throw in the towel--that the September issue will have to be the last," Green told ARRL October 9. "SK after 43 years of publishing."

The first issue of 73 was published in October 1960 from what Green—a former editor of CQ--once described as "a small, dingy apartment" in Brooklyn, New York. Since the summer of 1962, 73 has been based in Peterborough, New Hampshire--Green's home state. The magazine was a pioneer promoter of SSB, FM, solid-state, easy construction projects and the marriage of personal computing and Amateur Radio. His interest in microcomputing led Green in 1975 to found Byte, a magazine devoted to the then-nascent and largely do-it-yourself computer hobby.

At the peak of its popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, individual issues of 73 totaled more than 300 pages of ads, articles and commentary. Heading each issue was Green's inimitable "Never Say Die"--some would say neverending--editorial, in which he rarely missed an opportunity to tweak the ARRL and his magazine competitors for their perceived shortcomings.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says 73 published his first article in the 1970s. "I was saddened to hear that 73 has ceased publishing," Ford said. "Wayne's excitement about the growing amateur FM repeater phenomenon at the time was infectious."

Green's 73 editorials and regular round of personal appearances originally concentrated on Amateur Radio and his ideas to improve, advance and grow it. In recent years, however, they've veered into conspiracy theories, cures for cancer, AIDS and other ailments and Green's proliferation of book titles on those topics.

Green says he'll continue his essays on his Web site

"for those subscribers who mainly bought the magazine for them." He told ARRL that no definite arrangements have been made yet about how to handle outstanding 73 subscriptions."

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said he takes no joy from the passing of 73. "The loss of any publication serving Amateur Radio leaves all of us a bit poorer," he said. "Thank you, Wayne, for 43 entertaining, informative, sometimes infuriating, and always interesting years of 73. We'll genuinely miss it."

<u>PARA Editor's Note:</u> Some of our senior members may remember a **PARA** General Meeting sometime during the mid-to-late 1970's when our guest speaker was Wayne Green, W2NSD. However, you may not have know that Wayne was flown to and from Philadelphia by our long time supporter Fred W3PHL in Fred's private airplane. By the way, Fred W3PHL has 10's of years worth of 73, QST, and CQ magazines FREE to good home. See announcement elsewhere in this issue of **PARA-graphs**.

The following thanks to the ARRL and THE ARRL LETTER dated October 17, 2003:

==>HAYNIE: LETTERS=VOTERS=SUPPORT ON AMATEUR RADIO LEGISLATION

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says the good news is that the number of House cosponsors for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713, has topped 50. The Senate version of the legislation, S 537, now has eight cosponsors. The downside, Haynie says, is that the Spectrum Protection Bill as well as the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, will need many more cosponsors if either is to succeed.

"I'm frustrated," Haynie said this week. "Neither one of these bills is ever going to see the light of day unless we get more cosponsors." While thanking those who already have done so, Haynie again encouraged ARRL members to not only urge their senators and representatives to cosponsor the bills but to write and ask them to actively support them.

"It's going to take 10,000 letters, it's going to take 50,000 letters or contacts," Haynie said. "To me, this is a no-brainer. This is something that's important to the future of Amateur Radio."

Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

The latest House members to sign aboard HR 713 include representatives Jo Bonner (R-AL); John Peterson (R-PA); Albert Wynn (D-MD); George Nethercutt (R-WA); Jim Ramstad (R-MN); Barney Frank (D-MA); Todd Tiahrt (R-KS); and Fortney "Pete" Stark (D-CA). The latest Senate members to sign aboard S537 are Carl Levin (D-MI) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT).

HR 713 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. In June, Haynie testified before that panel, telling lawmakers that that hams have lost more than 100 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum over the past 15 years and that another nearly 360 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum "has been substantially compromised." S 537 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478—known informally as "the CC&R bill"--would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities. Introduced by Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), the bill has been referred to the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet and now has 29 cosponsors.

Among the latest to get onboard HR 1478 are JD Hayworth (R-AZ); David Price (D-NC); Rep Mike McIntyre (NC); Anna G. Eshoo (CA-14); and Mark Udall (D-CO). No equivalent bill yet exists in the Senate.

Haynie says that if ARRL members value Amateur Radio and want these proposals to succeed, they'll make the time to write letters or send e-mails pushing for support of the three measures. "Peoples' own words and their own expressions are what's going to count, not some canned letter from Newington," Haynie said, while conceding that a form letter "is better than nothing." Haynie said a personally crafted letter or e-mail "adds a lot of weight."

Sample letters on the ARRL Web site for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html#sample> and for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/sample-letter.html> cite Amateur Radio's role in public safety and emergency communication.

"We'll do our part to get more organizations to support these bills," Haynie said. The League has been contacting other organizations involved in public safety that have firsthand knowledge of the value of ham radio to the public and advocating their support. But, Haynie said, letters from individual voters get the most attention.

Cosponsorship is important while a bill is in committee, and Haynie suggests that a representative or senator who gets 40 or 50 letters from on a topic is going want to sign on to that bill.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of that contact to the member of Congress from the constituents out there in the district," Haynie concluded, "because that's the ticket."

For guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/0304046.pdf or in the April 2003 issue of QST (p 46). Additional information--including the bills' texts and information on how to write your congressperson or senators--is on the ARRL's "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html and on the "HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003" Web page http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html and on the "HR 1478, These writing their lawmakers on behalf of either bill are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail: Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713/S 637 <specbill03@arrl.org> or Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478 <ccr-bill@arrl.org>.

