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**>> GENERAL MEETING November 9, 2004 - 7:30 PM !! <<**

**including FREE Swapfest starting at 7:00 PM**

**Guest Topic/Speaker: Skywarn with Lou WX3I**

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# Philadelphia Area Repeater Association

## Membership Information

PARA is an association of members that operate and support 19 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  
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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:

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Membership Type: New  Renewal  Full individual Ham  5 Year  Life  Sr Life   
Associate  Corporate  Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_ OK TO LIST  YES  NO

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I CAN HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING: TOWERS  ANTENNAS  BLDG MAINTENANCE   
Radio Equipment Maintenance  WRITING / PUBLISHING  PUBLIC RELATIONS  Other \_\_\_\_\_

(01-25-2004)

## From the President (October 2004)

Gene Mitchell, K3DSM

Summer is well over and its time to dust off your radios. Actually, I am quite concerned about PARA activity. I monitor 76 and 94 during the day most of the time, and activity seems to be at an all time low. 94 comes to life on Thursday evenings when linked to the CCAR 446.525 repeater for the weekly net, but other than that, Allentown comes through still on 94. The group that was on 94 has all migrated to 446 because of Allentown. CCAR is very much alive, not only with large check-in response, but with activities. I can't report first hand on 88, but 82 has a fairly active group and 97 has some users. 76 seems very close to dead. I call on 76 before going to any other repeater and haven't gotten a response for quite some time. That's not good.

CCAR is operating with packet again, since emergency organizations seem to like "printed" communications for accuracy and speed. They too have plans for the ICOM D-Star system.



I had only one response to the questionnaire in July *PARA-graphs*. I am trying to find what members like and want. A copy of several years of *PARA-graphs* is available at <http://para.k3dsm.net> by the way. The board needs to know what members think and want. There are openings for directors in the North West Quadrant and elections are coming up in November for PARA directors and officers. You can be part of PARA and have a say if you get involved. There are only 4 Board meetings a year now.

I now have my own radio show now. The show started October 6<sup>th</sup>. I host "Computer Corner" on 1420, WCOJ on Wednesday evenings from 7-8PM. It is a call in show where listeners can call in with computer questions and problems. I start with some computer news and introduce a topic for the evening, usually with a guest. Call-ins generate interesting conversations about the evening's topic. There is even a new web site for the program: [www.1420computercorner.com](http://www.1420computercorner.com).

WCOJ is 5000 watts omni during daylight, and directional from Coatesville aiming South East from sunset to sunrise. During daytime, the station covers well into the Boyertown area north, well down into the Main Line and Conshohocken East, Delaware County South, and well into Lancaster County West. I know the nighttime pattern covers down to Phila International Airport as I have listened to it from there. Yes, AM radio is alive and well.

I have seen more viruses, malware, and spyware in the last year than I care to count. All this now accounts for about 90% of my business. And hams are just as bad as my other customers when it comes to taking care of essentials like anti-virus and spyware. No one is exempt. It seems like most don't believe in backups either. With digital cameras so popular, I can't believe most people don't copy their pictures to CD ROM.

Pete Butler, PARA's Vice President, has recently been hospitalized for emergency surgery. Hope you are feeling better Pete. I like you serving by my side. (*Editor's note: Pete WB2B recently became a silent key, see notice elsewhere in this issue.*)

For those who may be curious, the next move is in my court concerning the Grant, but I have been up to my ears. I could sure use some help. I am also concerned that there will be users to any new equipment.

Gene

**PARA General Meeting Guest Topic/Speaker:  
Skywarn with Lou WX3I**

# PARA Questionnaire

What PARA Repeaters do you use? (List all)

What other non-PARA repeaters do you use? List:

Do you operate Base?      Mobile?      Both?

Do you monitor Ham Radio while Computing?

Do you attend PARA meetings?

If not, why not?

Do you believe PARA officers and Board are doing a good job?

Do you have any gripes with PARA?

Explain, if yes.

Is there anything I, or any of the officers could do to make PARA more lively and interesting?

Where do you see Ham Radio in the next 5-10-15 years?

Where do you see PARA in the next 5-10-15 years?

Do you believe PARA has too many repeaters?

Do you find *PARA-graphs* interesting?

Should *PARA-graphs* have more news and information?

Have you been to any Hamfests over the last 8 months?

List:

Thank you. Please email back to [genem@k3dsm.net](mailto:genem@k3dsm.net) or mail to PARA or bring to the meeting or Fax 610-590-0454

## Not Another New Club ???

Some hams have recently discussed forming a new radio club. The PARA board of Directors discussed an opportunity that would be an option for many of these hams that may not have been thought of. The idea would solve problems for both PARA as well as the hams that would want to become more active with activities. It would also benefit PARA with renewed interest and make use of repeaters that were already in place, as well as eliminating the need for additional dues and other redundancies.

Groups in any quadrant of PARA would form an active group that could hold meetings, have programs, participate in activities, and otherwise do anything a club would want to do. This concept has been called "user groups" with in computer organizations, where the main body splits of to the Windows, Linux, Programming, and Beginners group. In reality, the ATVers already have used this concept. There could even be a promotional group that might help beginners while another concentrated on digital voice.

There are major advantages. First, they would be part of the non-profit 501C3 organization that could use that designation for meeting locations as well as fund raising for projects within their own quadrant. They would also have liability insurance which is now required for most activities and meeting locations.

The quadrant group would not have to answer to PARA officers as to when they hold meetings or what the programs are. They could also name their group as long as they understand they are part of PARA as well.

If the quadrant group wanted to raise funds for a special item such as a digital repeater, for instance, they could let the PARA board know and a budget line would be added to the main budget and funds raised and received would be designated for the budgeted item. The quadrant could hold a raffle, a gigantic yard sale, or other activity to raise those funds.

By having an active quadrant group, PARA would also benefit by having increased membership and awareness, and this could be the answer to dwindling membership.

The Southeast quadrant (Jersey) was well represented at the board meeting and expressed interest, and Gene said that this idea might prove very interesting for the Northwest quadrant as well.

The concept was approved by attending board members and the other board members absent would be poled for their vote.

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## PARA ELECTIONS

The following Officer positions are up for election at the November 9, 2004, **PARA** General Meeting. The recommendation is as follows:

Vice President	John KB2ADL
Treasurer	(none proposed by press time)
Corresponding Secretary	Mark KA3VTM

Nominations will be accepted from the floor just prior to the elections. However, if you plan to nominate someone you **MUST** obtain their permission before you make the nomination.

In addition, one Director from each quadrant will be elected by those **PARA** Members present from that Quadrant. Should you decide to nominate someone not present you must first obtain written permission from that person before the meeting.

# PARA Swapfest 2004

## And Main Meeting

Tuesday November 9, 2004 7:30 PM

St. Gertrude's Church Hall, 209 Merion Ave, West Conshohocken, PA  
Easy to find and plenty of free parking  
Talk in 146.76 MHz

First, 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 do not 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 two 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.

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>
2004/2005	PRESIDENT:	Gene Mitchell	K3DSM
2003/2004	VICE PRESIDENT:	(vacant)	
2003/2004	TREASURER:	Paul Tabatschkow	N3UD
2003/2004	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Mark Sardaro	KA3VTM
2004/2005	RECORDING SECRETARY:	Larry Gasperone	W2CAM

**DIRECTORS:**

2004/2005	NORTHEAST	Bud Batyi	N3JQB
2003/2004	NORTHEAST	John Brochon	K3ZFD
2004/2005	NORTHWEST	Vince Swistak	N3AGD
2003/2004	NORTHWEST	Stan Bentley	KB3EXB
2004/2005	SOUTHEAST	Joe Ruder	N2SXH
2003/2004	SOUTHEAST	John Goheen	KB2ADL
2004/2005	SOUTHWEST	Al Rabenau	W3AHR
2003/2004	SOUTHWEST	Joe Vilardo	K3JV

***PARA-graphs* Editor & Publisher**

**Dick Stewart**

**K3ITH**

**E-mail: [para76@juno.com](mailto:para76@juno.com)**

**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 very 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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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](mailto:para76@juno.com)

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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:

Greg N2NFL

## PARA Vice President Pete WB2B – Silent Key

PARA members and Board of Directors extend their deepest sympathy to Pete WB2B's family and friends. Please read the following messages:

It is with deepest regret and sorrow that I must inform you that on Saturday 10/16/04 Peter N Butler WB2B became a Silent Key. I have the following information for his funeral service:

Thursday October 21, 2004

Viewing is 9:00am -11:00am

Service following at 11:00 am

Living Faith Church located at the former Expo Center across from the Pennsauken Mart on Haddonfield Road in Pennsauken, NJ

If anyone wants to make a contribution they may make it to:

The Peter N Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund

Deptford Twp. HS

205 Fairview Ave

Somerdale, NJ 08083

73,

Larry W2CAM"

=====

From Dick K3ITH, the following appeared in the Gloucester County Times on 10-19-2004:

Peter N. Butler

On Saturday October 16, 2004, Peter N. Butler of Sicklerville, went home to be with the Lord. Peter was the son of the late James E. and Karis E. Butler of Lawnside, NJ. Peter graduated from Haddon Heights High School and Glassboro State College (Rowan University). He was a Staff Sgt. in the Army during WWII.

Peter was a member of the Deptford Rotary Club, the Thursday Night Spike Pounders and the S.J. Friday Night Operators and he was also a Ham Radio operator. He was a member of Rotary International, past president of the Deptford Rotary Club, past District Governor of District 7640 in 1994-95. He was employed in Deptford Twp. for 39 years as a teacher, a teaching Principal, a Principal and the Elementary Curriculum Director.

Peter was a member of the Living Faith Christian Center in Pennsauken.

Peter leaves to cherish his memory: a brother Joseph Butler, sister Colantha Davis, brother in law Alber Davis, Sr., a host of nieces, nephews, many other relatives and many many friends.

Relatives and friends may call 9-11am on Thursday Oct. 21, at Living Faith Christian Center, 2323 State Hwy 73, Pennsauken, NJ. Funeral services will be at 11am. Interment Sunset Memorial, Union Ave., Pennsauken. Contributions may be made, for a scholarship memorial fund at Deptford Twp. High School, to the Peter N. Butler Memorial Fund, 205 Fairview Ave., Somerdale, NJ 08083. Arrangements by the BUDD FUNERAL HOME, Woodbury, NJ.

Published in the Gloucester County Times on 10/19/2004.





The following thanks to the ARRL and THE ARRL LETTER dated October 15, 2004:

## **FCC ADOPTS NEW BPL RULES,** **ACKNOWLEDGES ITS INTERFERENCE POTENTIAL**

As expected, the FCC this week adopted revised Part 15 (unlicensed services) rules to specifically regulate broadband over power line (BPL) systems. Meeting October 14 in open session, the Commission adopted a Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37. In comments before voting, three members of the Commission, including Chairman Michael Powell, specifically cited the concerns of Amateur Radio operators and expressed either assurances or hope that the new BPL rules will adequately address interference to licensed services. Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin mentioned Amateur Radio's and broadcasters' interference concerns in a written statement. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was encouraged to see the Commission acknowledge interference to amateurs as a genuine issue in the proceeding.

"What the League has done in the last year and a half on this issue showed in the Commission's public meeting today," Haynie said Thursday. He cited the FCC's approval of three major points that the League had been pushing for: Certification of BPL equipment instead of verification, a requirement for a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want—and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. Haynie conceded, however, that the devil is in the details of the R&O, which likely will not be made public for at least a few weeks.

Anh Wride of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), acknowledged that Access BPL devices "pose a somewhat higher potential for interference to licensed radio services than typical Part 15 devices." But, Wride continued, "we believe the specific benefits of BPL warrant acceptance of a small degree of additional risk, and that this interference potential can be satisfactorily managed."

Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat, said he remains concerned about interference to Amateur Radio users. "I take the concerns of this community very seriously and believe that the FCC has an obligation to work hard to monitor, investigate and take quick action, where appropriate, to resolve harmful interference."

Copps said if interference occurs, "we must have a system in place to resolve it immediately," and he expressed the hope that the new rules would include such "rapid turnaround" provisions. Copps, who dissented in part with the R&O, raised the question of whether utility ratepayers should have to "subsidize an electric power company's foray into broadband."

The Commission's other Democrat, Jonathan Adelstein, said the interference question made the proceeding a challenging one because it had to accommodate concerns raised by Public Safety licensees, federal government users and Amateur Radio operators. "These are important services that we need to protect from harmful interference," Adelstein said.

Adelstein also said that while it's clear that some BPL systems can co-exist with existing licensees, others "haven't fared so well." He said those systems shouldn't be deployed commercially until it's assured that they won't cause harmful interference.

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy, a Republican, said the FCC had to "make some hard compromises" to deal with questions about interference. But she expressed confidence in "technical solutions."

Chairman Powell called it "a banner day" for communications in the US because, he said, BPL promises "ubiquitous service to all Americans at affordable rates." The chairman, a Republican, conceded that BPL will affect some spectrum users--including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there." Powell said the FCC has taken Amateur Radio interference concerns seriously from the start and has put protections in place "to

allow that service to continue." At the same time, Powell implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

Powell said BPL's potential for the US economy "is too great, too enormous, too potentially groundbreaking to sit idly by and allow any claim or any possible speculative fear" keep the Commission from promoting adoption of BPL technology.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, suggested that Powell was overstating the necessity of yet another broadband pipeline. "It's astonishing to me that the chairman of the FCC can talk about needing a 'third way' to provide broadband to consumers when multiple technologies already are available, including wireless broadband," he said.

The United Power Line Council (UPLC) applauded the FCC's action, saying the new rules should encourage BPL deployment while protecting licensed services from harmful interference. "We didn't get everything we wanted," said UPLC President and CEO William R. Moroney, who called the R&O "the result of close cooperation and compromise" with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to address its concerns about potential interference.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>.

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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 have been submitted in past issues by your fellow **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](mailto:k3ith@arrl.net)

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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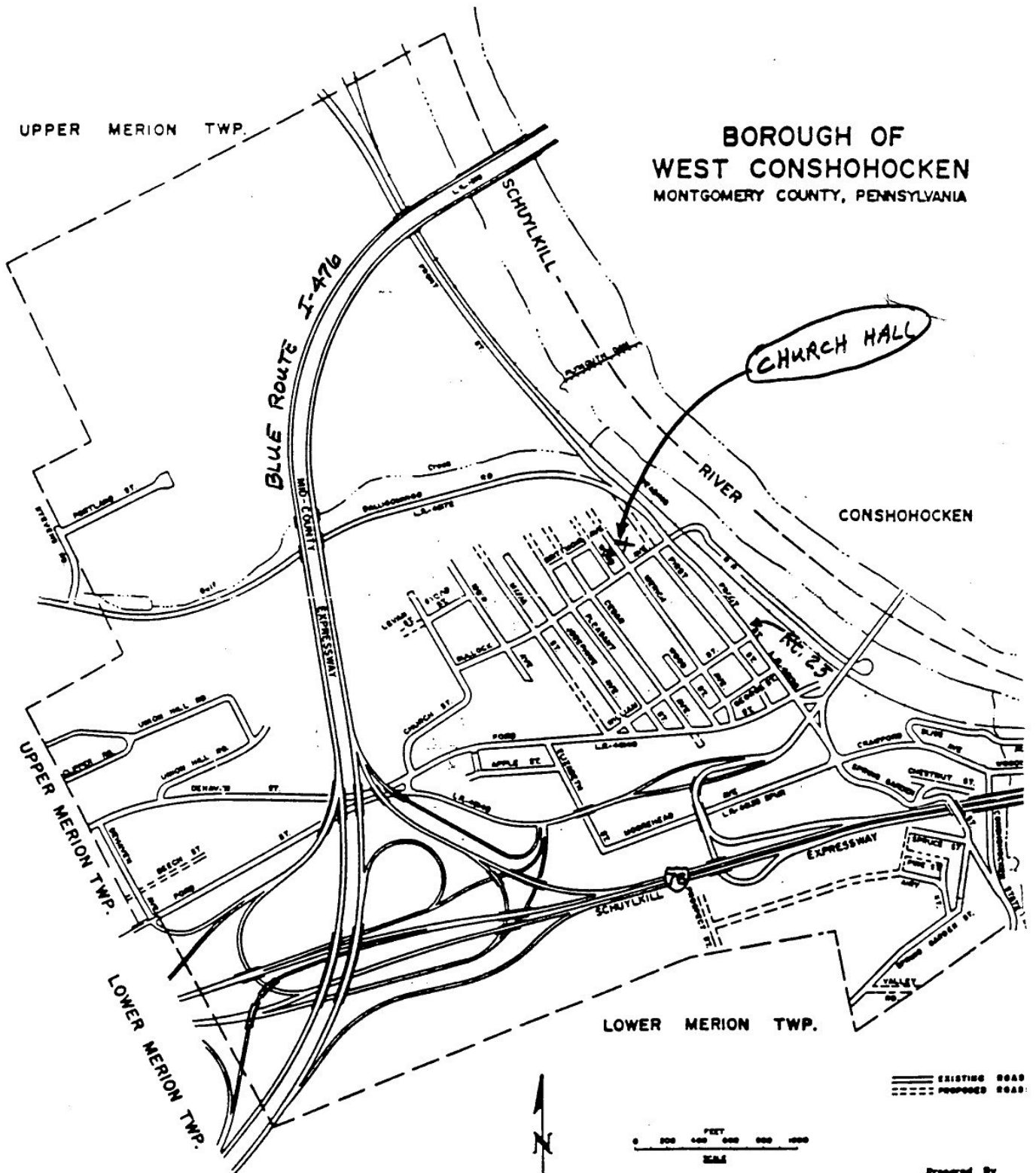
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Take the Conshohocken Exit and follow the sign to Rt. 23 West into West Conshohocken. Bullock Avenue will be the fourth street on your left, turn left onto Bullock Avenue and go one block to Merion Avenue, use parking lot on your right. The church hall door entrance is on Merion Avenue itself closest to Bullock Avenue. Talk-in will be provided on the Valley Forge 146.76 MHz Repeater.

Prepared By  
F. X. BALL ASSOCIATES,  
June 1977  
Revised 11/4/89