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Philadelphia Area Repeater Association (PARA)
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PARA-graphs



>> GENERAL MEETING May 10, 2005 - 7:30 PM !! <<

ζ including FREE Swapfest starting at 7:00 PM Σ

Guest Topic/Speaker: ICOM D-Star System with Paul N3UD

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

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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
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 _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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 ☐

From The President

Gene Mitchell, K3DSM



Photo by Richard, K3ITH

My 6th year as PARA President is going fast. As I look back, I see some accomplishments and many failures. I feel I am in a very challenging time. PARA hasn't lost a great percentage of members, but activity has been down. That concerns me. There are plenty of radio clubs out there that are still very active and even growing. Those are the ones that are doing activities. Remember, PARA is a collection of clubs that merged into the system we have today. If we lose a member to another club, they have something that we should have. I was recently told that there is only so much money for club dues and he went to another club to be involved in their activities.

PARA was founded as a repeater support organization rather than a club. PARA is doing what it was founded to do. I believe it could do more in a very interesting way.

The board agreed that my proposal is not contrary to any of PARA's organization and I have mentioned it before. The concept is not new either. Computer Clubs have branched branch out with user groups since their beginning. My idea is to have active quadrant groups that do whatever they want with meetings and activities. This would fill the void. Rather than reinvent the wheel and start a new organization with new bylaws, insurance, and everything an organization needs, use PARA's umbrella and make PARA feel alive with activity. Activity should also attract new members too. The SE Jersey Quadrant is planning to take this idea and try to make it happen. I think I have a small group within PARA's SW (94) Quadrant that just may take off with this. My energy is running thin, though. Most of the SW Quadrant has lots of activity, but moved to 446.525mhz because of the Allentown Interference. The ICOM D-Star system has half a dozen users here, and this will be the basis of the group.

Fox Hunting also seems to be popular around here, but it is not PARA doing it. Why not have our own. The ATV group is a perfect example of this type of group. It is a very active group and a very important part of PARA, thanks to Ron, K3ZKO.

Speaking of Quadrants, those in attendance at the last main meeting found out something interesting. There was a large number of attendees that didn't know what Quadrant they were part of. When asked what repeater they used, the answer was 76, and they did not have anything to do with any of PARA's other repeaters. Maybe there should have been the 76 "quadrant" or core group that also had directors on the board. There have been 2 different descriptions of quadrant boundaries that I have seen over the years and the only one I have is on my web site <http://para.k3dsm.net> This defines them as Turnpike and Blue Route lines. Actually, PARA has a provision to allow any member to choose their quadrant if they were assigned the one that they lived in and they wanted to be in another. All you have to do is let the membership chair, presently Dick Stewart, know and get reassigned. Since no one presently seems active in the NW, all you guys should make sure you are in the NW and send up 2 directors to the board and have a couple of votes.

I am disappointed that only 2 people took the time to answer the questioner from the last two PARAgaphs. This means that everything is perfectly OK, really terrible, or you don't have time. At least the two reflected that everything seems OK.

PARA's repeaters are all functioning fairly well. That is always good. As far as the Grant is concerned, I ran out of energy when I hit the roadblock of tons of more paper work. I did recently submitted another grant, for just the D-Star system at \$10,000, but haven't heard back. Paul, N3UD just announced he would help me, which means more submissions. It is tough doing it alone. I believe that the ICOM D-Star Digital project is the most important part and that might be the trigger to rejuvenate interest in PARA.

Most of you know I have a radio show by now called Computer Corner, on WCOJ-1420AM. It has become very popular and it was recently moved to a better day and time: Saturdays 8-9AM. Yes, I do mention ham radio occasionally.

73's, Gene, K3DSM

Editor's Marks

John Goheen, KB2ADL

There has been a transition, so to speak in the production of the PARA newsletter fondly known as PARAGRAPHS. Though distribution of the first issue of the new year has been a bit delayed while the new Editor gets his act together; it's looks like I may have a handle on it and here we go! In order to share the publishing effort, I have agreed to take the task of composing and editing the newsletter. I certainly hope that Dick, K3ITH will remain as Publisher and that John, K3ZFD will continue to create the PDF® file for posting to the Web site.

THE CAMDEN REPEATER, 146.820Mhz, W2CAM



(Photo by Larry, W2CAM)

View of the Philadelphia skyline across the Ben Franklin Bridge from atop Northgate II, the location of the Camden Repeater.

PARA ELECTIONS

Elections for office will be conducted in November for 2006/2007 period of service. The following offices need to be filled: President and Recording Secretary and one Director for each Quadrant. However, a special election for Treasurer and empty board positions shall be conducted at the May 10 meeting to fill the remaining terms.

PARA Swapfest 2005

Main Meeting, Special Election followed by
Special Program:

ICOM D-Star System presented by Paul, N3UD

Tuesday May 10, 2005

Swapfest – 7:00PM Meeting – 7:30PM

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? (Photo by Richard, K3ITH)

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
2005/2006	VICE PRESIDENT:	John Goheen	KB2ADL*
2005/2006	TREASURER:	Lynette	W3GZZ**
2005/2006	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		
2004/2005	SOUTHWEST	Al Rabenau	W3AHR
2003/2004	SOUTHWEST	Joe Vilardo	K3JV

*Appointed to fill unexpired term of SK Peter N. Butler, WB2B.

** Appointed to fill vacant office.

***PARA-graphs* Publisher: Dick Stewart, K3ITH**
Editor: John Goheen, KB2ADL

E-mail: kb2adl@comcast.net

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

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**

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.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new PARA members:
Lynnette, W3GZZ and Al, W3GD

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 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

Thank you. Dick K3ITH

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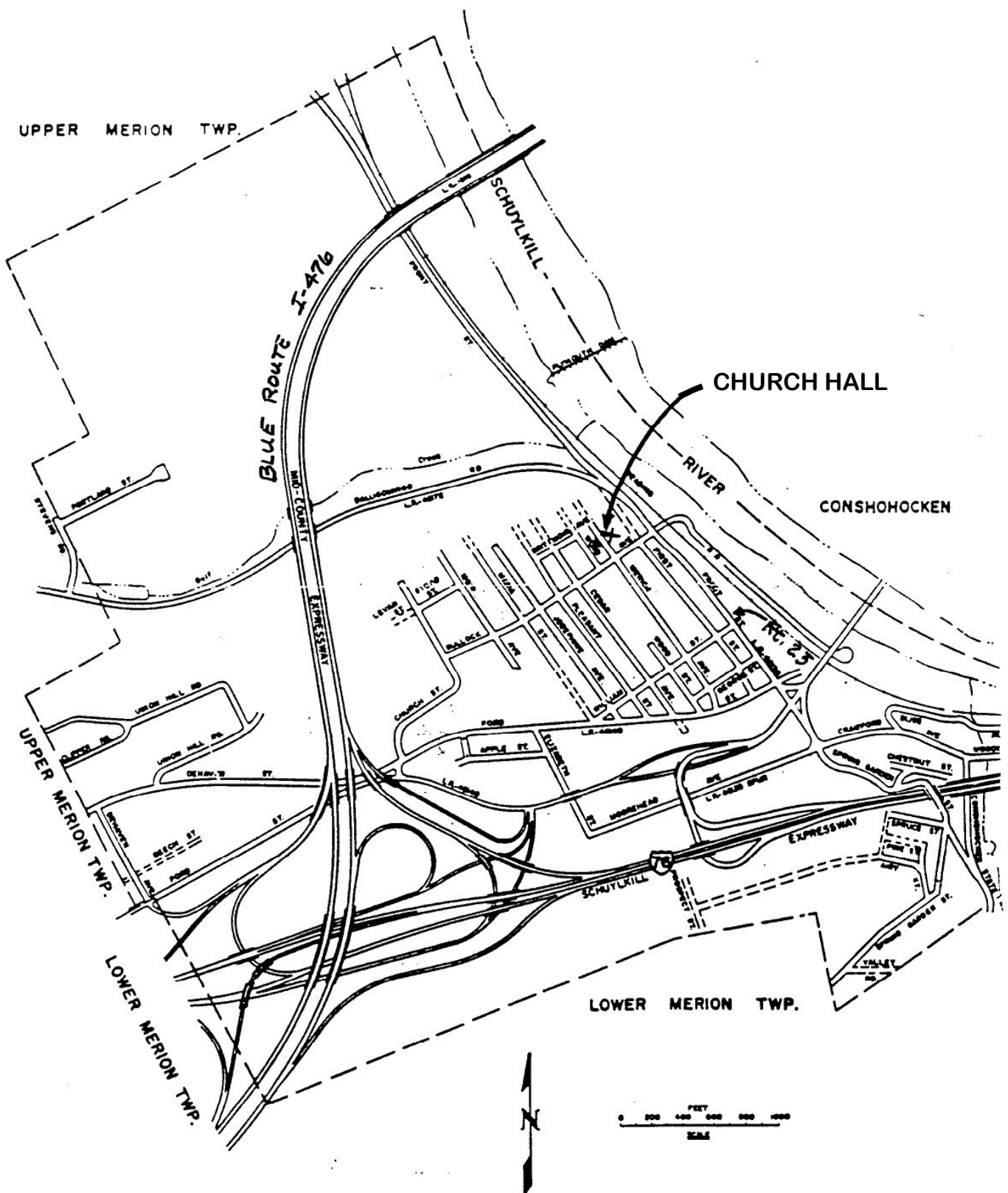
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Directions to the PARA General meeting

FROM THE SCHUYLKILL EXPRESSWAY (I-76 EAST OR WEST) or THE BLUE ROUTE (I-476):

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.