

## Rich KB3QKR Named PARA Ham of the Year



Congratulations to Rich Brnik Jr., KB3QKR, for being named the PARA 2014 Ham of the Year. Three separate nominations for Rich were received this year. The support for Rich was overwhelming and it was well deserved.

The 2014 Ham of the Year award was presented to Rich by Jim N3ONE. Jim was one of the three PARA members who nominated Rich for this honor. Rich, who resides in Grassflat, has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 2006. Rich got his start with the PARA VE Testing Team under the direction of Dave Runk AA3EJ as Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. Rich was nominated because of his consistent support and contributions to the amateur radio community, including: his

encouragement of Boy Scouts seeking their Radio Merit Badges and might consider becoming amateur radio operators; his participation in public service events, providing communications assistance at events like the Black Moshannon YMCA Mountain Bike Race; his participation and involvement with amateur radio repeater projects including the new home-brewed D-STAR repeater projects and a battery back-up system for The Big 43 Repeater. Rich is active in ARES and RACES and enjoys instructing others about amateur radio's latest innovations. Congratulations Rich!

## From the Office of the President Filip AB3HK

A few words of wisdom,

Don't smoke, don't drink (to excess), stay away from women, and give a dog a home. That reminds me of a story. The test of true love. Lock your wife and your dog in the trunk of your car. Go have a beer, and after a while come back and let them out. Which one of the two will be happy to see you? OK, that is a trick question. I would never lock my dog in the trunk of my car.

It has been a long winter, and cabin fever is setting in. Some of us lucky few will get to spend some quality time in the wilderness, but for the most of us, we will just have to grin and bear it. Spring is approaching, and with it, many yard projects. Come to think of it, winter may not be too bad after all. It is, after all, a good excuse to escape to the shack, and huddle with the dog around a

well heated stove. Aim your beam towards the tropics, and with a little luck, a little sunshine will brighten up your life. No complaints there.

All in all, so far, so good. A few projects have been completed, and a few more are in the works. The D-STAR repeaters are ready for installation, and all we are waiting for is decent weather. The BIG 43now has emergency back up power (thank you Rich), and the next step would be a remote receiver so that we do not need to QSY every time we drive past the Philipsburg radio station.

Above all, stay well, don't get hurt, and as always, safe travels out there. 73 everybody,  
Filip AB3HK

## Events

**PARA Net** - Every Saturday 9 PM on the 146.430 (+1 MHz, PL 173.9 Hz) repeater.

**PARA Business Meeting** -- 2nd Saturday of Each Month (excluding July, August and December) at 3 PM. Holt Memorial Library, 17 N Front St., lower level Community Room - Use the rear entrance.

## PARA Sponsored Repeaters

**146.430 +1 MHz**, PL 173.8 Hz. W3PHB "The Big .43 Repeater", Rattlesnake Mountain, Rush Township.

**164.640** -, PL 173.8 Hz. W3PHB Chester Hill Boro.

**444.750+**, D-STAR KC3BMB B Decatur Township.

**147.255-**, D-STAR W3PHB C Kylertown.

**443.775+**, D-STAR KB3KWD B Blue Knob Mountain, Bedford Co. (Joint PARA - BKRA project)

**144.390** APRS Digi-peater. W3PHB-1 Decatur Township.

*PARA Connections* (ISSN 2163-9825) is published quarterly as the official journal of the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association, Philipsburg Pennsylvania. The title *PARA Connections* is registered at the United States of America Library of Congress, ISSN Publisher Liaison Section, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington DC 205404824.

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*PARA Connections* includes the *PARA News* (est. 1992) newsletter.

Membership in PARA includes a subscription to *PARA Connections*. Licensed amateur radio operators and unlicensed individuals are eligible for membership. Membership is free, but an annual donation of \$15 is suggested. Membership information is available at [www.philipsburg-ara.org](http://www.philipsburg-ara.org). *PARA Connections* is Edited by John Szwarc N3SPW. PO Box 207, Kylertown PA 16847

# 2013 PARA Christmas Banquet

The 2013 PARA Christmas Banquet was held at the Philipsburg Elks Lode & Country Club on the evening of Friday December 20th at 7 PM. It has been scheduled for the previous Saturday but was postponed to the 20th due to a snowstorm. We were

very fortunate that the Philipsburg Elks Lode & Country Club could accommodate a change in date on such short notice. The staff was very understanding and PARA truly appreciates their hospitality.



Here's a view of the 2013 PARA Christmas Banquet.

the banquet. After a few words of introduction by John N3SPW, Jim presented the PARA Ham of the Year award to Rich KB3QKR. For more details on the Ham of the Year Award please see the article titled "Rich KB3QKR Named PARA Ham of the

Year". It was a very enjoyable dinner and everyone enjoyed themselves. One notable absence this year was Filip AB3HK. Due to the change in date, Filip was unable to attend. It is believed this is the first PARA Christmas Banquet that Filip has missed. Filip is

Before dinner was served, Jim N3ONE stood and offered Grace for

currently the PARA President and his presence was truly missed.

## 2014 PARA Membership Roster

Call	Name	Address	Telephone	E-Mail
AB3HK	Filip Cerny	284 Coplin Rd., Philipsburg PA 16866	342-0975	fcerny@verizon.net
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K3EDD	Ed Hinkle	108 Chapel Hill Circle, Pleasant Gap PA 16823	577-3679	ejh2@atlanticbb.net
K3JN	Joe Norris	1011 Powell Ave., Cresson PA 16630	886-5298	norbros@hotmail.com
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KB3QKR	Rich Brink	830 Cooper Ave., Grassflat PA 16839	571-5866	kb3qkr@gmail.com
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N3SPW	John Szwarc	417 2nd St., PO Box 207, Kylertown PA 16847	345-6727	jsszwarc@yahoo.com
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Not on the list? This means we did not receive a 2014 Membership form with updated contact info from you. You can fix this by visiting the PARA web site at [www.philipsburg-ara.org](http://www.philipsburg-ara.org) and filling out the membership form. Or ask for a form at the next meeting.