

Holland Amateur Radio Club

“Ham of the Year”

About this time of the year, TV folks get all excited about whether Punxsutawney Phil is going to see his shadow. Well, the HARC has a better Phil to talk about.

In a continuing tradition, Dave, WA8RSA and Jim, KC8KE ask members of the club for nominations for “Ham of the Year”. At the December 2011 meeting, Dave and Jim joyfully made the proclamation that this year’s “Ham of the Year” is Phil Van Huis, K8PVH.



Phil has been a lifelong resident of Holland. After graduating from Holland High in 1960, he spent four years in the U.S. Air Force. While he has not attended college full time, he has taken many evening classes over the years.

After the Air Force, Phil went to work for Buss Machine Work in Holland for about 20 years. By then the company became known as Ex-Cell-O Micromatic. Over those years, Phil had worked to become a designer of electrical and hydraulic systems for their die casting machine line. After that he spent 15 years self employed as a rebuilder of die casting machines. Phil has now been retired since 2003.

Phil started out in ham radio when he got his Tech license in March, 2001. He then upgraded to his General in December, 2004, and his Extra class license in December, 2006.

As ham radio operators, we all like to buy and accumulate our idea of good equipment, and Phil has done well. He uses a Yaesu FT-847 transceiver that works on HF plus 6 meters, 2 meters and 70 cm. For antennas, he uses a 80 meter horizontal loop for HF work, a PAR Electronics loop for 6 meters, and a dual band J-pole for 2 meters and 70 centimeters. According to Phil, this might seem to be very simple and basic, but he does have fun with it.

Phil's favorite part of ham radio? When pressed, Phil says he really doesn't know what he would call his favorite part. When he was first licensed, he really enjoyed working 6 meters. He enjoys playing around with antennas a little. One of his favorite aspects is Field Day, where he has led the teamwork for the Holland ARC for several years.

I asked Phil, “What have been some of the most interesting moments in ham radio for you?” He replied, “A couple of years ago, I was working Tulip Time with a Red Cross first aid person. We were at the end of the parade route and the temperature had been going up. Some members of

the marching bands were dropping like flies because of heat exhaustion. Needless to say it was interesting, scary and very busy.”

If you have not met Phil in person or on the air, you should make an effort to meet him. He exemplifies the spirit of ham radio, and is most deserving of the club’s “Ham of the Year” award.



Submitted by Tom Bosscher, K8TB February 3, 2012