



# REMARKS

P.O. Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399



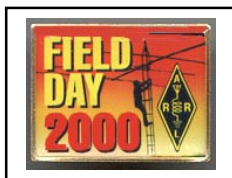
## FIELD DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

June 24 - 25 is Field Day Weekend

This is not our usual Field Day story, where you read about the fun of Field Day. This year, we have a little bit of a problem: No one has stepped forward offering to be Field Day captain.

**Bob W3SA** has arranged use of the field in Audubon, PA, along with the power source, so that job is completed. **Kay WT3P** is ordering the Field Day participation pins. Here are the jobs that remain. Can you do one of them? Accepting a job does NOT mean you must be at Field Day from start to finish!

- ◆ Food. Get volunteers to bring food, ice, coolers, charcoal grill, etc., and cook.
- ◆ Operations. Get people to bring tents, rigs, etc. Decide how stations will be set up. Coordinate with **Bob W3SA** and Bell Atlantic rep to select antenna locations. This job can be shared by several people.
- ◆ Log and report preparation. Photocopy and distribute log sheets (with pens, pencils) for those who log on paper. Collect any computer logs. Afterwards, dupe the logs, prepare and submit the report to ARRL by the deadline.
- ◆ Prepare equipment for storage after Field Day. The chemical potty has to be cleaned at someone's home before it's stored away.



Volunteers are also needed to do set-up and clean-up. And we need operators for both phone and CW. Assuming the club still wants to have Field Day, we are going to rent a storage locker to keep the gear in, rather than at someone's home. Other club equipment that is not being used can also be stored there. We will need some people and their cars or trucks to transport the equipment to the storage locker after Field Day.

**Carter N3AO** will consult with this year's volunteer leaders, but he is not going to do the job again. It's time for others to take on the responsibilities. If nobody wants to do the planning and leadership work, then either we won't have Field Day, or we will have whatever and whoever shows up at the last minute.

Set-up will begin about 10 AM on Saturday, June 24. A map to the site is the back cover of the newsletter.

So how about it? Are we having Field Day? If you can accept some of the responsibility, please contact President **Steve N3ORH** (smaslin@fast.net, 610-313-8080) now.

## AMATEUR & ADVANCED TO BE AT MARC HAMFEST JULY 16

Amateur & Advanced Communications of Wilmington, Delaware, will be the new-equipment vendor at the MARC hamfest on July 16 in Kimberton.

Many commercial dealers will not go to small / medium hamfests like ours any more, because it simply is not profitable. MARC appreciates the cooperation of A&A in making sure our hamfest patrons have a source of new

equipment and accessories. The club knows we must do our part to make it worthwhile for a commercial vendor to come to a hamfest that isn't Baltimore or Dayton. Consequently, our door prizes are being purchased from A&A this year, and our flyer carries an advertisement for the store.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of pre-ordering an item from A & A to be delivered at the hamfest, please telephone **Giselle Walls K3WAJ** at (302) 478-2757.

## PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

May 7	MS Walk	Downingtown	AM
May 29	Memorial Day Parade	Wayne	8 AM
June 10	Tel Hai 5 Mile Run	Honey Brook	7:30 AM

Operators are needed for these events. All the events are finished by mid-day. Public service is a basic responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service. Also, the events are interesting to do and bring you together with other active club members.

You do not need previous experience ... this is VHF FM, not deactivating land mines. If you can flex your thumb on the push-to-talk, you're pretty much there. To sign up or get more information, please phone **Bob N3JIZ** at (610) 687-4587.

**MAY / JUNE 2000**

## ABOUT MARC

**wb3joe@marc-radio.org**  
**http://www.marc-radio.org**

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 8 PM, Memorial  
 Library of Radnor Township,  
 Wayne. Guests welcome. Smoke-  
 free. Handicapped-accessible.**

## BOARD MEETINGS

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 7:30 PM, Paoli  
 Hospital. Members may attend  
 as observers.**

## SYSTEMS

**145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R  
 WB3JOE packet BBS 145.090  
 Packet sysop and Webmaster:  
 Steve N3ORH (610-313-8080,  
 smaslin@fast.net)**

## NETS

**Club Net, Sundays, 8:30 PM  
 Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM  
 All nets on 147.06  
 Net Manager: Carter N3AO  
 (610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net)**

## DUES

**\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)  
 \$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)  
 Family rate \$5 per ham after first  
 member pays full dues.**

## NEWSLETTER

**REMARCS is published in the odd  
 months, edited by Kay WT3P  
 (610-993-9623, wt3p@arrl.net)**

**BRING A FRIEND  
 TO A MARC MEETING!**

## FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

*If you think nobody knows you're alive, try transmitting on the wrong VFO!*

I want it on the record that there were no incompetents on HF before license restructuring. The early spring DXpeditions proved it. I must have been dropping acid to think I heard some Extras redefining the term "lid." I only imagined those blithering idiots on the phone bands. I purely hallucinated the ops whose code speed and IQ both hover somewhere about 35. Sure I did. And I have this bridge in Brooklyn available for a sweet price, too. Call me?

Let's talk about something else.

Why do sports announcers say, "The Fightin' Ferrets have pulled within three points of the lead, with only minutes remaining." Or "It's the bottom of the ninth, the Rhinos are within one run of the Purple Sox, and the crowd is going wild."

What is this "within" thing? In sports where scores are integers, how can a team be "within" one run, goal, point, or whatever? If this score is "within" three points of that one ... then doesn't that make the margin either 2 points or one? And if so, why not say so?

*"Imagination is more important than knowledge." — Albert Einstein*  
*"Don't hire Albert Einstein to prepare your income tax" — Kay Craigie*

Of course, perspective is everything. Here I am complaining about puppy-nips of linguistic irritation, while people in other eras had to look forward to smallpox epidemics, Viking invasions, and traveling by ox-cart with a brother-in-law whose breath is so bad you can't let him real near the ox.

Keeping things in perspective is equally important in our ham radio hobby. Ham radio should not be an outlet for bitterness, bruised ego, middle-aged angst, reactionary nostalgia, or just plain cussedness. It should bring us knowledge, friendship, enjoyment, and ways to help others. It should be as much fun as anything you can discuss in front of little children.

The spring of 2000 is bringing a chance to do more, learn more, and grow more in Amateur Radio, not just for those who upgrade but for every one of us. **Carter N3AO** and I are setting up to work PSK31. What's coming up in your ham radio garden? Enjoy the season! — **73 de Kay WT3P**

## VOX

Welcome new members **Wayne N3AXQ** and **Susan KB3EPQ**. **Jan KB3ERR** received her Novice ticket. **Lee KB3BUO** saw the monster antennas at Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and he's graduating from high school this spring. **Jenny KA3WVD** graduates from college. **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW** have a new grandchild. **Carter N3AO** and **Kay WT3P** gazed enviously upon the antenna farm at one of the contest super-stations in Aruba. A big thank-you to **Foster K3FXS**, **Harry W3FM**, and **Josy WQ3E** who distributed hamfest flyers at

Timonium and to **Colin AA3LM** who posts the event on the DX PacketCluster. **Rick N3AGS** volunteered to take flyers to the Warminster ARC 'fest. **Dennis K3DS** made a presentation at the ARRL Atlantic Division meeting in Wilkes-Barre. **David KB3CRY** enjoyed visiting California but says L.A. is not his kind of town. **Dan NM3S** reports Marple-Newtown ARC served a lot of upgrade candidates on April 15; read about MARC's same-day session on a later page.

## DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

We thought it would be fun to take a before-and-after view of MARC's license class line-up, so the effects of restructuring on our club can be seen. The chart shows how we were before April 15. Stand by for upgrade updates.

Several Tech Plus members qualified for the no-test upgrade to General, because they passed the old Tech-General theory test given until March 21, 1987. As a membership service, letters were sent to Tech Plus members who might qualify, advising them how to find out and what to do if the news was good.

<b>Novice</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Technician</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Tech Plus</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Advanced</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Extra</b>	<b>46</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the March 23 meeting, the Board discussed program topics for future months. The auction earned over \$100 for the treasury and was so successful that a second auction may be scheduled later in the year. Many Board members feel the auction should be held in March rather than January, for best attendance and least chance of weather problems. Membership renewals were noted. The test move of 145.13 to Paoli Hospital was discussed, along with the need to inventory the club's equipment for the insurance policy. The Radnor library will accept a donated VCR, so a motion was passed to authorize purchasing an inexpensive VCR for this purpose. A hamfest report was received and discussed. Public service events were listed. The club will accept Penn-Del ARC's offer of a free table at their April 30 hamfest in New Castle. The Board passed a motion authorizing \$50 for a full-page ad in the Harmonville Volunteer Fire Company's banquet booklet, to publicize Amateur Radio and the club. Members may wish to bring similar opportunities for low-cost PR to the attention of the Board. The treasury balance was \$8,810.61.

At the April 27 meeting, the Board noted that hamfest door prizes have been purchased, along with a VCR for donation to the library. The equipment insurance bill was paid. Membership renewals and dues were discussed. Lack of Field Day leadership volunteers was noted with concern. A motion was approved to purchase 20 Field Day pins at \$5 each, to be sold at cost at the event. Public services events were listed. Frequent users of the repeaters who are not MARC members will be sent invitations to join, if members will provide the callsigns to the Board. Recent events on MARC nets were discussed. Because it has been 10 years since the last review of the club By-Laws, a review committee was appointed to study the document and report to the Board in June. Members of the committee are **AI N3EA**, **David KB3CRY**, and **Kay WT3P**. One possible change that will be studied is shifting Board elections from January to September, so new officers will come in after membership renewals and the hamfest tasks are completed for the year and fewer election meetings will be cancelled by inclement weather. The treasury balance was \$8,591.41.

*Any club member may attend Board meetings as an observer. If you have an issue that you want the Board to consider, please send the information to one of the Members-at-Large. Their principal responsibility is to bring members' views to the Board.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000

### PRESIDENT

**Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-313-8080**  
smaslin@fast.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Bart Feroe K4BF 610-367-4288**  
k4bf@arrl.net

### SECRETARY

**Bob Haase W3SA 610-293-1919**  
rhaase@bellatlantic.net

### TREASURER

**David DePizzo KB3CRY 610-630-0129**  
del131@msn.com

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

**Kay Craigie WT3P 610-993-9623**  
wt3p@arrl.net

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Bill Owen W3KRB 610-325-3995**  
gem@op.net

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587**

### TECHNICAL

**Dennis Silage K3DS 610-353-4829**  
silage@vm.temple.edu

### PROGRAMS

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

**2000-2001: AI Maslin N3EA 610-446-4936**  
amaslin@earthlink.net  
**1999-2000: Janet Vann KA3VTQ**  
610-384-3163, jvann@ccis.net

### CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

**WB3JOE: AI Maslin N3EA 610-446-4936**, amaslin@earthlink.net  
**W3NWA: Kay Craigie WT3P 610-993-9623**, wt3p@arrl.net

## FCC TO GENERALS: ADVANCED SUB-BANDS ARE OFF LIMITS

The FCC says a lot of newly-upgraded General class licensees have begun asking if they may operate in the current Advanced class sub-bands now that the new Amateur rules are in place. "The answer is: Absolutely not," said **Bill Cross W3TN** of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. "No privileges changed for any license class."

Cross pointed out that the Advanced class license did not cease to exist under restructuring, which went into effect April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. He said current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, at which point they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges.

The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the

old rules. Generals are not entitled to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs under the new rules.

Cross cautioned newly-upgraded licensees to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. "Now that they've gotten the license, it's time to look at the real rules," he said.

Amateurs further are reminded that in order to apply for upgraded Volunteer Examiner privileges or for a vanity call sign reflecting a new license status, a licensee first must have been issued an upgraded license grant by the FCC. Interim privileges conveyed by a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) are insufficient for these purposes. [tnx ARRL LETTER]

## HAMFEST PLANNING ... YOU CAN HELP!

Chairman **Mike KF3CD** hosted a hamfest planning meeting at his home on Sunday, April 16. Things are coming together, but we still need more members to volunteer for some jobs ... some of the jobs are finished before the hamfest. Look at the box and see which ones you could do. Then contact **Mike KF3CD** (610-935-4429, mpilotti@anro.com) to sign up.

Do you belong to other ham clubs? Model railroad clubs? Radio-control model clubs? REACT chapters? Computer hobby clubs? Short-wave listening clubs? Amateur astronomy clubs? These organizations need to receive flyers, and they should be encouraged to buy a hamfest table to promote their high-tech hobbies. There has never been a better time to talk up ham radio and our hamfest to these fellow hobbyists. Do your part now!

Do you own or work for a business that sells merchandise or services of interest to the general public? You can arrange to donate an item or a "gift certificate" as a MARC hamfest door prize that will benefit our event and advertise your business.

Do you know vendors who sell tools, hardware, or military surplus gear (no weapons, please!) at flea markets? Send them a flyer about our hamfest now.

Participants at the planning meeting were **Bill W3KRB**, **Kay WT3P**, **Carter N3AO**, **Bob W3SA**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Steve N3ORH**, and friend-of -the-club **Dieter WA3JWU**.

- ☐ **Sell additional tickets for door prizes**
- ☐ **Vendor management, night before event**
- ☐ **Vendor management 5 - 7 AM, day of event**
- ☐ **Take flyers to hamfest in Wilkes-Barre, July 2**
- ☐ **Take flyers to other high-tech hobby club meetings**
- ☐ **Work set-up, Saturday, July 15, 1 PM**
- ☐ **Donate "gift certificates" for your business's merchandise or service**
- ☐ **TALK UP THE HAMFEST ON THE AIR!**
- ☐ **Post-event clean-up**
- ☐ **Ticket sellers at gate**

## 1999 PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY RESULTS

As predicted, MARC members won two counties in the 1999 PA QSO Party and finished second in another county. With only 4 entries, MARC finished 18<sup>th</sup> out of 33 club entries, with 188,763 points. Last year, we were 17<sup>th</sup> out of 31, with over 284,000 points.

<b>Kay WT3P</b>	<b>Chester</b>	<b>109,225</b>
<b>Ron WA2SJW</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>55,360</b>
<b>Carter N3AO</b>	<b>Delaware</b>	<b>13,690</b>
<b>David KB3CRY</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>10,488</b>

Wilkes-Barre's Murgas ARC won the club trophy by less than 100,000 points over Delaware-Lehigh ARC from the Allentown/Nazareth area. Murgas had 1.61 million points to DLARC's 1.51 million. DLARC won by a hair's breadth last year over Murgas. ARRL Atlantic Division Director **Bernie Fuller N3EFN** won Crawford County.

**Ron WA2SJW** finished second in Montgomery County and was 5<sup>th</sup> among the top 15 first-time entrants. **David KB3CRY**

was 5<sup>th</sup> in MontCo with a respectable score for a first-time tester ... much better than my first PAQP effort back in the 1980's! **Carter N3AO** won Delaware County and was in the top 20 among portable entries. He set up on the grounds of Cabrini College in Radnor. Not a bad score for one day of operation! **Kay WT3P** won Chester County and the MARC club top score, and finished 9<sup>th</sup> among the top 20 medium-power entries in Eastern PA Section.

And there's always next time. Next time will be October 14-15, 2000. Here's hoping the hams who will be on HF by then decide to join the party. Band conditions should still be good ... put it on your ham radio calendar now!

## UPDATE ON NICK UX0ZZ

**Nick UX0ZZ** is a Ukrainian ham whose friend and QSL manager is **Mike KF3CD**. Several years ago, Nick's health problems that could not be diagnosed, let alone treated, in Ukraine caused Mike to persevere through incredible bureaucratic sand-bagging to bring Nick to the USA for medical evaluation. MARC receives donations for Nick's medical needs. Here's the latest from Mike about Nick:

"I maintain a loose sked with Nick at 1130 to 1200 UTC on 28.466 (when I am mobile going to work), Mon. - Fri. Our other informal sked is at 0230 UTC on 14.250 and he is often 59. He is very active on HF and QSLs for him arrive daily in my mailbox. He is using a TS-530 that was donated by a ham in Maryland and his antenna is a homebrew quad. He also uses

an MFJ antenna tuner donated by **Steve K3KFD**, along with a homebrew amp. A used Mosley TA-33 JR (that I assembled from 2 damaged antennas that were donated to me) is currently in transit to him and will be his first non-homebrew antenna! He would love to QSO with any MARC members and recently commented that **Steve K3KFD**, **David KB3CRY** and I are the only MARC members (he knows of) that he has had QSO's with. Although he has not had any grand mal seizures since he has been taking the anti-seizure medication since 1996, he has had some recent problems with ringing in the ears and really should be seen for a follow up and blood test."

If you work Nick, be sure to say you are a Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club member.

## ARE YOU AN FCC RULE BREAKER?

*(Don't Say "No" Too Fast!)*

Most of us say "rule breaker" and think "malicious interference" or "obscenity" or "exam cheating." That's the sort of thing we have been hearing about from **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**'s office.

However, a bunch of Riley's kick-butt letters came back to him with bad addresses, requiring some research to discover a current mailing address.

When that happens, Riley adds language to the letter reprimanding the ham for violating 97.23(b). Quoted in the box, this paragraph in the FCC's Rules requires us to keep a valid mailing address on file. The penalties are no joke. Even if we don't expect mail from Riley, we need to observe this rule.

97.23(b) When there is a change in the mailing address for a person who has been granted an amateur operator/primary station license, the person must file a timely application for a modification of the license. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the person failed to provide the correct mailing address.

If the address on your license is no longer valid, file a change of address using Form 605 or the FCC's dial-up service. Filing Form 605 with your Social Security Number on it automatically registers you in the Universal Licensing System, another FCC requirement. Form 610 is no longer accepted, and we can't use a post office change of address form.

If you need help making sure that your mailing address is correct in the FCC's database, please contact Membership Services chair **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623,

wt3p@arrrl.net). For information on the Universal Licensing System, check out ARRL's Web site at <http://www.arrrl.org/fcc/uls-qa.html>.

## DAY ONE TEST SESSION DRAWS A CROWD

*June 17 is Next Test Session*

The first day of the new license structure brought 41 applicants to the MARC test session in Bryn Mawr on April 15. Most candidates sought upgrades using credits earned in the past, but several took exams, too.

Candidates taking exams were sent to one room with a team of VE's, while paperwork people went to another room and waited patiently in line for two teams of VE's to call them forward. Except for one person who did not bring his license document as required, all went home with an upgrade.

There were 19 new Generals, 17 of them paperwork upgrades. There were 21 new Extras, 16 of them paperwork upgrades. In the exam room, 14 test elements were given and 8 were passed — including one 5 wpm code test. Fifteen club members took advantage of the free test session MARC offers as a membership benefit. There were no new Tech licenses earned.

Special thanks go to **Tom K3YPO**, who handled logistics and hospitality. Our biggest test session went off without a hitch in that department. Also hats should be tipped to **Ned WQ3Z**

for bringing his fax machine to use as a copier ... some people didn't bring copies of their original documents ... and to his son **Justin Smith** who operated the copier. Finally, **Walt WA3PPW** saved one gent's upgrade by bringing along a 1983 callbook. When the applicant could not present satisfactory proof of having been a Technician before 3/21/1987, Walt's callbook provided the documentation. No, we didn't stuff the callbook through the fax machine. The ever-resourceful **Tom K3YPO** found a regular copy machine somewhere. **Jeff WA3RIZ** also made a couple of runs down to the copy machine.

Ten VE's served the session: **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob W3SA**, **Paul NX3Q**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Ned WQ3Z**, **Kay WT3P**, **Hugh N3HT**, **Dick K3ITH**, **Walt WA3PPW**, and **Bill W3KRB**. **Bob W3ZQN** reports that quality control was excellent, considering the volume of candidates and the fact that all the forms have changed.

It has been over 10 years since I served as a VE, and many things have changed during the decade. Something that didn't change is the profes-

sional but friendly demeanor of MARC's VE's. **Bob W3ZQN** does an outstanding job of organizing the paperwork beforehand and gets the results back to ARRL/VEC very fast. Despite an unusually high number of applicants and a maze of unusually-complex paperwork, this session stayed under control. The MARC VE team is a service to the ham community that we can be proud of.

The April session replaced MARC's usual tests in May. Ordinarily, our next tests would be in August, but that's a long interval. So our next tests will be June 17, 9:15 AM at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, [rjlees@aol.com](mailto:rjlees@aol.com)).

If you plant to attend any test session, be sure to ask the contact person what documents you must bring, and what photocopies are required. It's your responsibility to ensure that all necessary paperwork is in hand, and many test sessions do not have a copy machine. The examiners CANNOT bend the rules for you, even if they are your best friends.

## AREA LICENSE TEST SESSIONS

May 4, June 1 - 6 PM, Philadelphia - Dusty Rhoads (215) 482-0386, evenings.  
May 15, June 19 - 6:30 PM, Telford - Joe Burgess (215) 723-6697.

May 25, June 29 - 7 PM, Levittown - Cully Phillips (215) 269-3953.  
May 20 - 9 AM, Wilmington - Chet Thayer (302) 478-3203.  
June 17 - 9:15 AM, Wilmington - Gisele Walls (302) 478-2757, days.

## EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY PHONE TRAFFIC NET

You learned to handle formal message traffic on the MARC VHF Traffic Net, and now you've upgraded to General. There are lots of interesting things to do on HF, one of which is to use those traffic-handling skills.

The Eastern PA Emergency Phone Traffic Net (EPAEPTN) meets 7 days a week, 365 days a year, on or about 3917 kHz, at 6 PM local time. It's the Section-level net of the ARRL National Traffic System for Eastern PA. The net manager is **Paul N3YSI**, whom you know from the MARC nets.

The routine is much the same as on the MARC traffic nets. The Net Control Station calls for stations with emergency / priority traffic, then stations with traffic, and finally stations with or

without traffic. At the appropriate point, you say your callsign: "WT3P, no traffic," or "N3AO, with traffic." Then wait to be recognized by the NCS. Use phonetics for your callsign the first few times, until the NCS's get to know you.

Of course in many homes, 6 PM is not the greatest time to be on the air for half an hour or 45 minutes. There are no night-time phone nets in the NTS ... all the later nets are CW. But if your family schedule doesn't conflict with EPAEPTN, check in sometime and meet a group of friendly people.

Grab a current **ARRL Net Directory** for information on other HF traffic nets.

## OPERATING FUN: DXCC MILLENNIUM AWARD

### *Nice Certificate, No QSLs Required*



DXCC award, which does require QSL cards.

You can download the application form from the Web at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>. The award costs just \$10 for printing, postage, and handling. If you aren't on the Web, **Kay WT3P** can send you the form for an SASE.

This would be a very nice first DX award to earn ... something to decorate the shack wall while you wait for the QSLs to arrive

for regular DXCC. Several MARC members have already done it. You can, too!

### *DX tips*

You can work a lot of DX stations in a contest. Don't try to engage a contesting station in a rag chew ("Name here is ... favorite pair of socks here is ..."). Give the required exchange quickly and shuddup. Listen to how other ops are doing it, and you'll catch on to the routine.

Some DX ops act as though they had to pay ten dollars every time they say their callsigns. However, you should never send "Who's the DX? What's his callsign?" etc., on the DX's frequency. The answers you'll get from other DXers will be nasty and short. Listen, listen, listen, use the DX Packet Cluster, Work First Worry Later, call 1-800-PSYCHIC, but do not ever QRM the DX. That's strictly for Lids.

## MAIN LINE VOLUNTEER FORCE SPRING SERVICE EVENT

Workers from the Main Line Volunteer Force will gather at the Melmark Home (2600 Wayland Road, Berwyn) from 9 AM to 4 PM on Thursday, May 18, to prepare the swimming pool area for use this summer. Melmark is a home for physically and mentally challenged children and adults. The pool is used for therapy sessions.

The work will include raking, flower planting, furniture painting, and locker-room clean-up. The event will go on rain or shine, since there is indoor work to do.

Lunch is provided by Melmark, but you can work a half day if that's all the time you have. Wear work clothes and bring work gloves. If you would like to participate, please call or e-mail **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623, [wt3p@arrl.net](mailto:wt3p@arrl.net)) or **Mike KF3CD** (610-935-4429, [mpilotti@anro.com](mailto:mpilotti@anro.com)) not later than May 12.

MARC is a participating organization in the Main Line Volunteer Force, which includes some of the best-known businesses in the area. We are the only non-profit corporation in the group. For-profit companies will be giving employees time off to attend this project ... can we help out?

## ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION'S 2000 AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The ARRL Atlantic Division's "Amateur of the Year" award will go to **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**, of Gettysburg, PA. If he needs introducing, where have YOU been? The "Grand Ole Ham" lifetime service award winner is **Bill Thompson W2MTA**, from Newark Valley, NY, past ARRL SM in Western NY and still an active leader in the National Traffic System.

The "Technical Achievement" award honoree is **Frank Bauer KA3HDO** from Silver Spring, MD. As AMSAT VP for Human Space Flight Operations, Frank has been deeply involved in preparation for ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), and he has also worked in the testing phases of AMSAT's Phase III-D satellite. The awards will be conferred at the Division Convention in Rochester, NY, in June.

## HAM RADIO SAVES BOY'S LIFE ... TWICE!

### ARRL President Spearheads Rescue Follow-Up

In a dramatic situation off the coast of Central America, Amateur Radio operators on the 20-meter Maritime Mobile Service Net helped get a wounded boy to safety after he was shot by bad guys characterized as pirates. Days later, ham radio saved his life again when more sophisticated medical treatment was imperative.

The nightmare began the afternoon of March 28 for the family of **Jacco van Tuijl KH2TD**, as he and his 13-year-old son **Willem** were in an inflatable dinghy, not far from their 44-foot sailing sloop. Wife and mother **Jannie van Tuijl KH2TE**, remained aboard the sailboat. The van Tuijls, from the Netherlands, have been cruising the world since 1995.

van Tuijl said the family was anchored behind a reef with other sailboats off the coast of Honduras. The father and son were visiting acquaintances aboard another sailboat when Jacco saw men in an open wooden boat come alongside his vessel and board.

*"Without Amateur Radio, this would be a story about a boy who died in a Honduran Hospital."*

van Tuijl and his son headed back toward their boat, but when they were about 20 yards away, one of the intruders brandished and then fired an automatic weapon. Willem was wounded in the abdomen. The dinghy was damaged and flipped over, dumping the pair into the water. When they realized they had shot someone, the marauders fled.

Still in the water, Willem was bleeding badly and unable to feel his legs. Jacco managed to swim back to the sailboat, pulling the boy along. Once back on board, he turned on his ham radio to seek help, breaking into a QSO involving **Phil Fiol WB2BMC** in Florida.

Fiol moved Jacco down to the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 14.300 MHz while the other station called the US Coast Guard. Other Amateurs in the US — alerted to the incident by the Maritime Net activity — also contacted the US Coast Guard, which, in turn got in touch with Honduran authorities. A Honduran Navy station came on frequency several hours later to help coordinate the rescue effort with van Tuijl. **Ed Petzolt K1LNC** coordinated on the USA side. Spanish-speaking hams in the USA, including **Fred Moore W3ZU** from the Philly area, assisted the multi-national rescue communications.

**Dr. Jim Hirschman K4TCV** stayed on the air all night advising Jacco and Jannie as they sailed to a spot where Willem could be picked up and transported to a Honduran hospital.

Doctors in Honduras recommended that Willem should be taken to the US for further treatment of his potentially life-threatening injuries. Doctors told the family that if Willem did not get proper medical follow-up within a day or two, it could lead to irreversible complications.

Willem's condition deteriorated March 31, increasing the urgency of getting him to a hospital where he could receive advanced medical treatment. The situation was complicated by the fact that the youngster is a foreign national. Questions of payment and insurance coverage threatened to finish what the pirates had started.

Amateur Radio came to Willem's rescue again.

The office of **ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP** arranged for Willem to be transported to Children's Medical Center of Dallas, Texas. CMC agreed to accept Willem without prior guarantee of payment. The arrangement with Children's followed contacts by Haynie's office with the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital — which, recommended Children's — and with **Texas Congressman Pete Sessions**. Haynie's office also arranged for the airport in Honduras to remain open past its usual 9 PM closing time to accommodate the flight from the US.

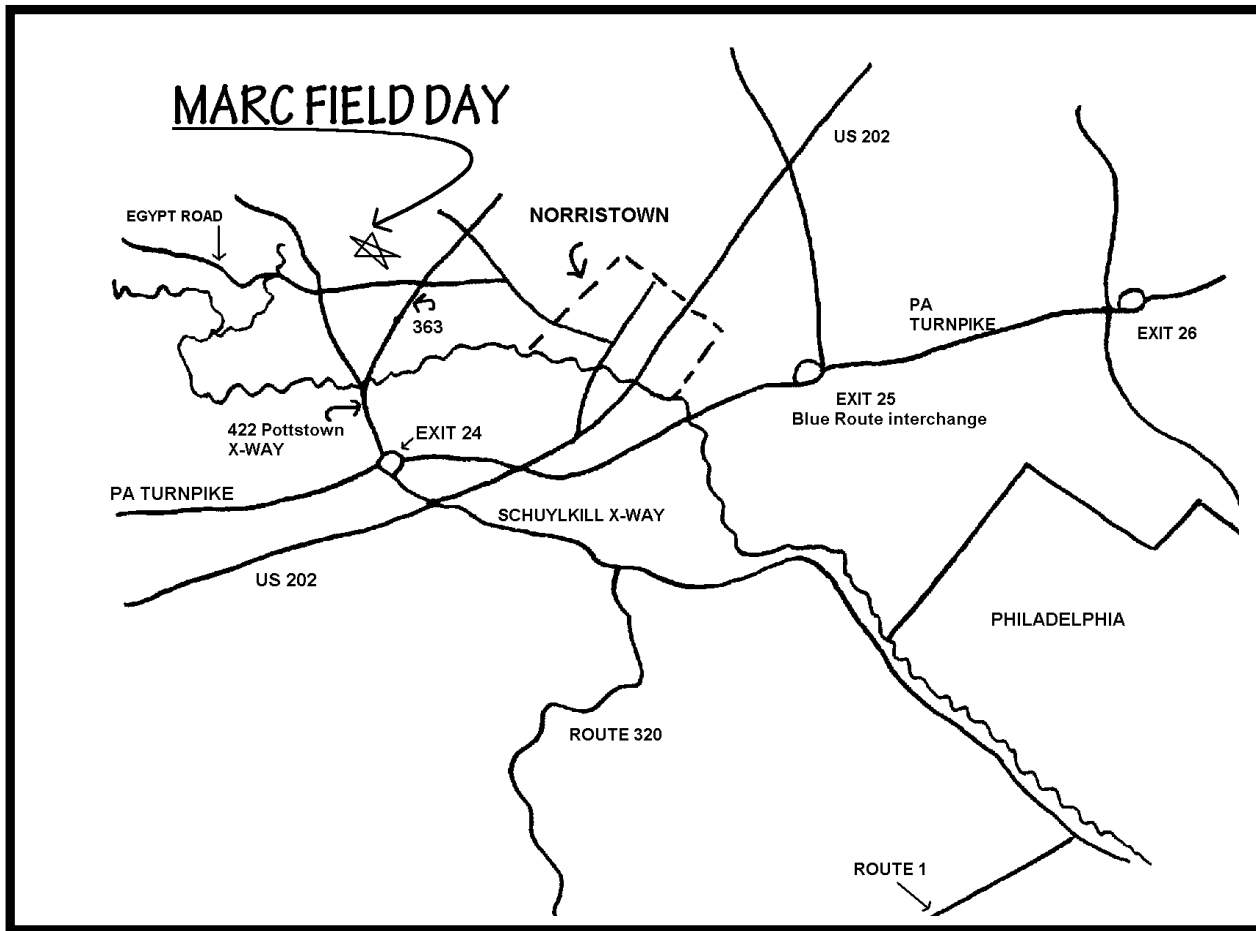
A last-minute wrinkle was overcome thanks to the generosity of the Amateur Radio community in Honduras. The hospital in Honduras reportedly would not release the boy until it had been paid. Local Amateurs there said they'd cover the bill. An SBAir Lifeguard aircraft with a medical team from CMC was dispatched from Dallas, and the van Tuijls arrived in the USA.

Haynie's office organized a fund at a Dallas bank to receive donations to defray Willem's medical bills in the USA. Those expenses quickly ran sky-high. Willem's injuries are grave, and he needs extensive rehab therapy ... he will be paralyzed from the waist down for the rest of his life. If you are interested in making a donation, the address is **Willem Fund, c/o South-west Bank, 1603 LBJ Freeway, Suite 100, Dallas TX 75234**.

"Without Amateur Radio, this would be a story about a boy who died in a Honduran Hospital," said Haynie in an interview with the Dallas Morning News. In public statements, both parents expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Amateur Radio community for assistance and support. Though they don't like the media spotlight, they have done TV and magazine interviews because they want the public to know how Amateur Radio operators saved their son's life.

Jacco van Tuijl said he and his wife decided to get their Amateur Radio tickets during an extended stay in Guam, because they sometimes sail in remote regions. Both hold General class licenses. The van Tuijls now know that the decision to become hams turned out to be a life-saver. [info tnx ARRL LETTER, CMC hospital web page, ARRL President's office, ABC TV]

If someone you know sees the movie "Frequency" and wants to know about this ham radio stuff, what would you say? The wrong answer is "Ummmm?" Right answers include inviting the person to a MARC meeting, giving the ARRL's Web address (<http://www.arrl.org>), and giving the ARRL's new ham inquiry routes: [newham@arrl.org](mailto:newham@arrl.org) and 1-800-326-3942.



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