



MAY / JUNE 2002



[www.marc-radio.org](http://www.marc-radio.org)

## FIELD DAY JUNE 22 -23

By Dieter Hauer WB3JWU

Field Day 2002 is fast approaching and it is ARRL's most popular operating event in North America. Field Day is an emergency preparedness exercise in which many stations operate in a temporary environment – usually generating their own power source as well.

MARC participates in this Field Day event each year. Your Field Day captains for 2002 are **Susan K3SUE** and **Dieter WB3JWU**. **Bob W3SA** has once again obtained permission for our club to setup a Field Day site at the Verizon training field in Audubon, PA. Thank you Bob!

Our club participates in Field Day primarily to have fun and further hone operating skills. Whether you're an experienced contest operator or a beginner, there will be opportunity for you to operate with full privileges (with Extra class control operators) using the club's call, W3NWA.

For 2002, we will have three HF stations (one for phone, the other for digital modes), and a low power HF station. There will also be two VHF stations. The club has recently purchased two high-gain beam antennas to augment performance of the VHF

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**MAY MEETING DATE CHANGE:**  
**MARC will meet on May 28 (4th Tuesday)**  
**Because of Election Day activity at the**  
**Township Building on our regular date.**  
**June meeting date is NOT changed.**

## PROGRAMS: HOMEBREW SHOW & TELL, ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

In May, by popular request, we'll have another edition of Homebrew Show & Tell. For the newcomers, homebrewing in Amateur Radio has nothing to do with what *Jeopardy* calls "Potent Potables." Rather, it's the construction of your own stuff, and it's a great part of ham radio tradition.

Homebrew show & tell is your chance to bring in ham radio stuff you have made and to tell us about it. This could be stuff you invented out of your own head, stuff you made from plans in a book or magazine, or stuff you assembled from a kit. It could be a rig, an antenna, an accessory, or a gizmo that defies categorization. If the item is immobile or too large to bring, you could snap some photographs to pass around the room. Projects can be serious or funny. It's not a competition . . . just an enjoyable

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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

Radnor May 27, Honey Brook June 8

The Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade is an important public service event for MARC. Not only does it honor Americans who defended our country, but it also takes place in the township where we are allowed to hold MARC meetings in a public building free of charge. On both accounts, we owe 'em one. More than one.

The 2002 parade is on May 27. Communicators should meet at the Micro Center parking lot on Lancaster Avenue (near the intersection with Radnor-Chester Road) at 8 AM. Talk-in will be on 147.06/R. Bring rain gear, if necessary. Bring an earphone, because parades are noisy, and you'll be in the thick of things.

The Tel Hai 5 Mile Run is in Honey Brook, Chester County on June 8. Communicators should be there at 7:30 AM. Yeah, I know, but this also means you'll be done well before lunch time. This is also a rain-or-shine event. Talk-in will be on 147.06/R.

For more information about what's involved in communicating at these events (*Hint: they aren't brain surgery or tight-rope walking!*) or to sign up, contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-610-687-4587).

On April 21, MARC some members were among the hams who

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## MARC PLACES 7TH IN PA QSO PARTY OUR BEST-EVER RESULTS

Though we're nobody's idea of a contest club, MARC provided the winners of three counties in the 2001 Pennsylvania QSO Party: Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery. The club finished 7th in the statewide club competition, our best placing ever. We had more entries, stronger entries, and a larger total score than any other year in which MARC has participated as a club. Our 613,304 points are twice what we did last year.

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## POSTAGE COSTS TO RISE . . . YOU CAN HELP

First class postage will rise to 37 cents on June 30. This means that postage for the stuff MARC sends to us by paper mail will eat a larger bite of our treasury. Printing costs never go down, either, of course. This all adds up to money the club can't spend on other services and activities, or save for a rainy day.

REMARCS is a major expense. Other documents distributed every year include election ballots, membership rosters, and updates of the autopatch codes. The more we can distribute these materials as PDF files via the Internet, the more effectively we can control printing and postage expenses.

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## ABOUT MARC

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

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 8 PM, Radnor Township Building, St. Davids. 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

141.13 CTCSS 131.8 Hz

Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-313-8080, smaslin@marc-radio.org)

## NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM 147.06

Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM 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!

## LICENSE TESTS MAY 4

MARC will sponsor Amateur Radio license tests on Saturday, May 4, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive by 9:15 AM to do the paperwork.

Two forms of positive ID are required, along with the \$10 test fee. MARC members may participate in one club-sponsored test session per year free of charge as a membership benefit.

Candidates are urged to pre-register, because if no one pre-registers, the session is cancelled to avoid wasting the examiners' time. For directions and pre-registration, contact **Bob Lees W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032).

MARC's series of quarterly license tests honors the memory of **Tom Powell K3YPO** (SK), who made it possible for us to use the church's facilities and whose dedication to Amateur Radio set the standard we should all wish to attain.

**MARC HAMFEST JULY 14  
KIMBERTON, PA**

## VOX

**Jeff K3UV** is the former **KB3HFI** and **WB3KNB**. **Kay WT3P** will speak at the Medical Amateur Radio Council's banquet at Dayton. **Paul WE3NUD** upgraded to Extra. Please welcome new member **Jim W3BG** and returning member **Jerry WA2TTI**. **Josy WQ3E** earned the ARRL's QRP DXCC certificate. **Steve K3KFD** can check ARRL Worked All States applications. Though he doesn't recommend putting your MARC badge through the clothes washer, **Carter N3AO** reports no damage done. You probably want to skip the dryer, however. **Dieter WB3JWU** deserves applause for bringing the projector for our program speakers. **Ted K3MKD** wins the prize for detecting the annoying typo in our last issue. The correct URL for the GeoClock program is home.att.net/~geoclock. **Ray N3BPJ** says hello from his retirement home at Dunwoody and passes along his current phone number, 610-359-4488.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*The March board meeting was cancelled because several members' were out of town and several were observing a religious holiday on that date.*

On April 25, the board voted to look into caps for public service volunteers, adopted a policy on loaning club equipment to individual members, approved up to \$250 for posts to support hamfest direction signs, approved purchasing a telescoping mast from **Dieter WB3JWU** for Field Day antennas, voted to present a certificate of thanks to **Bob Wasserman WB3CND** for his ongoing assistance with the **Nick UX0ZZ** project, and voted to discontinue the equipment insurance policy for the present time. New Field Day signs and magnetic car-door signs for public service events were received. Hamfest publicity has begun with flyers and press releases. A shipment of medications has been sent to **Nick UX0ZZ**. The board discussed the date conflict for the May club meeting and decided to hold the meeting one week later than the usual date. It was decided that no useful purpose is served by preparing a formal net worth statement for the club. The treasury balance was \$10,871.51.

## NET CONTROLS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAYS, 3RD SUNDAYS

The Wednesday traffic net and the club net on the third Sunday of the month do not have a regular Net Control Station at the present time. Both nets meet at 8:30 PM on the 147.06 repeater. Volunteers are needed to fill the spots.

Being Net Control is not difficult. Net Manager **Carter N3AO** will give you a sheet showing what to do and what to say. If you'd like to fill one or both of the vacancies, either permanently or on a try-now-decide-later basis, please contact **Carter N3AO** (610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net).

## KERCHUNK-KILLER IS ON '06

Kerchunks, in repeater lingo, are unidentified key-ups of a repeater. Bad operators may kerchunk to see if they're making the machine or just to be bozos. Intentional kerchunks are illegal, because they are unidentified transmissions. To find out if you're getting into the repeater, do so with an identified transmission, such as "This is WT3P testing."

Repeaters can also be keyed up by accident, when blips of random RF garbage come along on the repeater's input frequency. Unlike 145.13, the 147.06 repeater does not have a CTCSS access tone that would block these blips from keying up the repeater and driving people nuts.

A 3-second kerchunk-killer is now on the 147.06 repeater to prevent these key-ups. When the repeater has not been in use for a while, we must key down for 3 seconds before beginning to speak. Then, as long as the repeater is in use for a conversation, with one transmission following another at the normal pace, we just operate as usual. When the QSO is over and the repeater has been quiet for a short time, the machine puts itself back into kerchunk-killer mode.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

*If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?*

Here is another question to think about. When the Philadelphia *Inquirer* moved to their new publishing plant, they said new technology would make "Inky" just a nickname instead of a fact. So how come my fingers were clean after I read the St. Petersburg, Florida, paper but after a flip through the *Inquirer* I still look like I just came off shift at the shoe-shine parlor?

We were in Florida to watch the Phillies in the Grapefruit League. Most of the local people who sang the national anthem before the ball games were quite talented. There was just the one guy who looked half-stoned, couldn't pick up the tune let alone carry it, and didn't have a good grip on the words, either. I wonder who owes him money, that he got to sing?

Carter took a QRP station to Florida, so he could play ham radio at a nearby public beach park in the mornings before it got too hot. If you'd like to know how he packed the ham gear so as to avoid trouble at the airport security checkpoint, he'd be happy to tell you.

A recent informal poll on the ARRL web page asked why people got into ham radio. "To communicate with others by radio" (*gosh, could we have found a closer verbal equivalent to Cream of Wheat?*) was the option coming closest to the hook I bit on. When I found out about DXing, that was something I just really needed to do. After nearly 20 years, it's still what I enjoy the most, whether on HF or 6 meters.

What attracted you into ham radio? This has been suggested as a meeting program topic for a panel discussion plus audience participation, and it might be interesting and fun to do. Whatcha think? – **73 de Kay WT3P**

## MEETING PROGRAMS FOR MAY AND JUNE

(Continued from page 1)

evening of sharing workbench experiences, whether they were a grand success or a howling flop.

How do electromagnetic field affect human health? **Chuck Boeggeman**, a senior Engineer from PECO Energy, will address this controversial topic at our June club meeting. The talk will focus on 60 Hertz fields rather than RF fields, touching on the potential problem, what studies have shown, and what studies are under way. Chuck will also talk about the levels of EMF in our environment and show how they are measured.

MARC members are invited to the Marple Newtown ARC's May 2 meeting at 7 PM in the Gauntlett Center on West Chester Pike. The speaker will be Chester County ARES Emergency Coordinator **Vern Nelson KC3XL**. MNARC hopes this program will encourage more DelCo hams to join DelCo ARES/RACES. For more info on DelCo ARES/RACES, contact **Dan Amoroso W3DI** (nm3s@prodigy.net, 610-566-2187)

## MEDISHARE INTERNATIONAL'S ZAMBIA RADIO PROJECT

MediShare International, a humanitarian group associated with the Medical Amateur Radio Council, Ltd. (MARCO), is seeking funding for a radio project in Zambia that will permit a hospital to communicate with its 10 rural health clinics. There are no roads, no phone service. Linking the hospital and clinics by radio (not on the ham bands!) would save lives. To find out how to make a donation and what's in it for you besides the tax deduction, contact MediShare Executive Director **Gene N3HG** (610-353-3281, ehoenig@pol.net). **Kay WT3P** also has the information. The donation deadline is May 15, so don't delay.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2002

## PRESIDENT

**Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-313-8080**  
smaslin@marc-radio.org

## VICE PRESIDENT

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

## SECRETARY

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

## TREASURER

**Carter Craigie N3AO 610-993-9623**  
n3ao@arri.net

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Bob Weiss KB3FSQ 215-477-6475**  
kb3fsq@netcarrier.com

## PUBLIC SERVICE

**Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587**  
rjpelectric@worldlynx.net

## TECHNICAL

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

## PROGRAMS

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2002: **Al Maslin N3EA**  
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net  
To 9/30/2003: **Gene Hoenig N3HG**  
610-353-3281, ehoenig@pol.net

## CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

## HAMFEST PLANS IRLP DEMO, MORE

**Vic Tenaglia N3IO** will demonstrate the Internet Radio Linking Project from the MARC hamfest. IRLP is a method of linking ham radio repeaters via the Internet. It's interesting and controversial. MARC invited Vic to present the demo at our hamfest so more hams could see how the system works and decide what they think.

Also at the MARC hamfest will be ARRL, CQ magazine, a badge engraver, the ARRL 3rd Call Area QSL Bureau, MARS, and several area ARES/RACES units.

We're going to have a new, improved food service.

If you belong to other ham clubs, SWL clubs, computer user groups, other high-tech non-ham hobby clubs, etc., please encourage them to get a table at the MARC hamfest and promote their activities. Get some hamfest flyers from **Mike KF3CD** (610-935-4429, mpilotti@anro.com) and take them to meetings. This helps other clubs and helps MARC, too.

## YOU CAN HELP MARC CONTROL COSTS

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Let's look at some numbers: In 2001, a typical copy of *RE-MARCS* cost about 70 cents to print and 34 cents to mail. That's \$1.04 per copy. We print six issues per year, adding up to \$6.24 per member annually . . . more than 1/3 of a member's \$15 dues. Assuming printing costs stay the same, the postage increase will raise the cost of the paper newsletter to \$6.42 per member in 2002.

For every member who can accept the newsletter electronically, the effect is to add more than \$6 to the treasury.

Almost 2/3 of MARC members get club documents via e-mail, but some who are on e-mail are still receiving things on paper. Of course, not everyone who is on e-mail can accept club publications electronically. For these members, and for members who choose not to be on the Internet at all, we will continue to publish paper documents as long as necessary.

There may be some lack of information about what's involved in receiving the newsletter electronically.

**Is the electronic edition a plain text file without the paper edition's formatting?** No, the electronic edition is in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). It looks exactly like the paper edition . . . except that the electronic edition sometimes has bits of color here and there.

**Do I have to read it on the computer screen?** If you choose to read it on the screen, you can zoom to a larger print size to make things easier on the eyes. You can also print it on paper

for reading, filing away, or swatting gnats. You can save the electronic edition on a disk, if you like to keep the back issues.

**Is the Adobe Acrobat software expensive?** Acrobat is a free download from the Adobe web site ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)). Many people already have it on their computers because a lot of software packages now use it for instruction manuals. If you don't know how to download a program from the Internet, MARC will give you the Acrobat Reader free on a CD-ROM, with instructions for how to install it on a Windows computer. It's legal.

**Is Acrobat hard to use?** On a Windows computer, you just double-click on the *REMARCS* file attachment icon to start Acrobat and begin reading the newsletter. We've heard that it may be slightly more complicated if you use AOL, but MARC has members who are skilled AOL users. They'll be happy to advise about reading files attached to AOL e-mail.

**Does the newsletter take a long time to download?** It is kept under 300k so it can be received in a reasonable length of time by those of us who have dial-up Internet connections. Some clubs send out newsletters that are over a megabyte. MARC does not and will not do that!

If you have e-mail but have been receiving the newsletter on paper, please consider trying the electronic edition. You need the Acrobat Reader software (version 3 or later), which you can download from the web or get from MARC if you don't already have it. You need an Internet provider that allows file attachments. Then ask for a sample issue of the newsletter, so you can see what it looks like and how long it takes to download.

## REMEMBER QSL BUREAU POSTAGE!

If you use the 3rd call area incoming QSL bureau, please send them enough 3-cent stamps to upgrade any envelopes you have on file there. If you use another district QSL bureau, this would be a good time to find out how they are handling the impending postage increase. The ARRL incoming bureaus are staffed entirely by volunteers. Please don't expect them to make up the difference between old and new postage rates.

We expect a representative from the 3rd call area bureau to have a table at the MARC hamfest.

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

communicated for the MS Walk in Downingtown. They included **Bob N3JIZ**, **Carter N3AO**, **Janet KA3VTQ**, **Rob W13S**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, and **Owen KB3GVY**, plus friends of the club **Leland KB3HWY** and **Red W3RED**.

On April 28, **Floyd KA3OXA** led a group of MARC communicators serving a March of Dimes 5-mile walk in Haverford. They were **Rick N3AGS**, **Jeff WA3RIZ**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Steve KD0VA** (and his dog), **Ned WQ3Z**, and **Rich KC2EFA**. Rainy weather reduced the group of walkers to only about 35 or 40 people, but the hams showed up and did the job.

## ARRL HF DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS COURSE

The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) Program has introduced its fifth on-line course, HF Digital Communications (EC-005). Students will become familiar with the scope of HF digital Amateur Radio communication modes available and learn how to use all of them. The curriculum was developed by QST Editor and digital enthusiast **Steve Ford WB8IMY**, the author of ARRL's *HF Digital Handbook*.

The course covers many of the topics contained in Steve's book as well as some new ones. Students will learn how to configure a station for HF digital work, then learn about such topics as chasing digital DX and HF digital contesting. Students will become acquainted with RTTY, PSK31, MFSK, Hellschreiber, PACTOR, PACTOR II, WinLink 2000, Clover and HF packet. The course does not require any previous experience with digital modes.

Tuition for this course is \$60 for ARRL members and \$90 for nonmembers. Watch the ARRL web page for announcement of future sessions of this and other on-line courses.

**See Doug Priest W3CF's photos of operating in Antigua at [www.w3cf.com](http://www.w3cf.com). Click on the "DXpedition on V2" link.**

## MARC IN PA QSO PARTY

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**Steve K3KFD** had the top MARC score, with 976 QSO's, 66 counties, and 75 ARRL/RAC Sections. He outscored **Kay WT3P** (913 QSO's, 67 counties, 55 Sections) by just 355 points. Steve was 8th and Kay was 9th on the Eastern PA Section high power top ten list. **Ron W3ZV** was 5th on the EPA medium power top ten list. **Tim N8LXR** won the first-time entrant division for the whole state. He also placed third among mobile entries. **Carter N3AO** (420 QSO's, 64 counties, 41 Sections) won Delaware County, operating QRP portable in a tent and placed 8th in the QRP division. Our individual scores appear in the upper box at right.

Murgas ARC of Wilkes-Barre won the club competition with just over 2 million points. Our average individual score was more than twice theirs . . . but they had 41 entries to our 6. In contests with club competitions, everyone's score is important! The top ten club scores are shown in the lower box at right. Fifty-five clubs participated this year.

The 2002 PA QSO Party will take place October 12-13. It's a great way to sample competitive operating and find out what your station can do. If you would like more information about the contest, ask any of the people in the score box, and also check out the contest web site at [www.qsl.net/narc/paqso.html](http://www.qsl.net/narc/paqso.html).

## SELECTING A SSB OPERATING FREQUENCY

If you have HF privileges, at some point you had to learn about the typical bandwidth of single sideband signals and the characteristics of upper and lower sideband. Unfortunately, some of us let this knowledge go as soon as the examiner said, "You passed!" So what? Read on.

One Extra-class ham got an FCC knuckle-whacking for malicious interference. His station was QRMing others in a way that appeared to be deliberate. Turns out, he just didn't know a SSB signal is about 2.5 kHz wide. FCC enforcement notices are in the public record. You don't want to experience the embarrassment this man went through.

Other hams have been cited for out-of-band transmissions for working too close to the upper band edge on USB or too close to the lower phone band edge on LSB. Our signals must be entirely within the bands where they are legal emissions.

The ARRL General manual puts it this way: "Know how much bandwidth each mode occupies and act accordingly. A good rule of thumb is to leave approximately 3 kHz between the suppressed carriers of single-sideband signals" (page 2.8). Chapter 8 of the edition published in 2000 covers signals and emissions, in case a quick review is in order.

## ARRL'S NEW CONTEST NEWSLETTER

"Contest Rate Sheet" is a bi-weekly e-mail newsletter that's available free to ARRL members. It's full of tips, reminders, contest announcements, news items, URLs, and all sorts of information about contesting.

The newsletter has both stuff that isn't in *QST* and stuff that was in *QST* but we read it a month ago and probably forgot about it already. The newsletter is a text file requiring no special software to read.

Find out more about the newsletter, including how to subscribe, by going to [www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/). A sample issue and back issues are available on this page, too. You must be an ARRL member and registered to use the members-only section of the web site in order to subscribe. If you aren't registered, go to [www.arrl.org/members](http://www.arrl.org/members), and follow the directions.

MEMBER	SCORE	Placing
Steve K3KFD	139,192	1st MontCo
Kay WT3P	138,837	1st ChesCo
Carter N3AO	112,655	1st DelCo
Ron W3ZV	103,896	3rd MontCo
Tim N8LXR/M	103,152	3rd Mobile
Dieter WB3JWU *	33,640	4th MontCo
David KB3CRY	15,572	7th MontCo
Total score for MARC	613,304	5th in state
*Score credited to another club		

CLUB	SCORE	Entries
Murgas ARC	2,047,326	41
Delaware-Lehigh ARC	1,348,676	38
Frankford RC	1,113,748	7
Radio Association of Erie	776,344	12
Epic DX Association	640,787	12
Weekend Warriors	630,122	4
Mid-Atlantic ARC	613,304	6
Reading RC	608,505	12
Eastern PA QRP Club	363,947	3
Carbon ARC	359,760	5

## FCC REVAMPS ARS WEB PAGE

The FCC has created a new home page for the Amateur Radio Service that seems better organized, and less intimidating than before.

Many functions, such as address changes, license renewals, and vanity callsign applications, can now be done on line. We must be registered in the Universal Licensing System in order to do anything else regarding our licenses. The new FCC URL is <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/>.

## ARRL DOES FCC PAPERWORK FREE

ARRL members daunted by the FCC's Universal Licensing System can ask ARRL Headquarters to file their license renewal or change-of-address applications free of charge.

ARRL members wishing to take advantage of this service should download Form NCVEC 605 (that's the form used by volunteer exam coordinators) from the ARRL Web site, print it, fill it in and mail it to ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.

The ARRL VEC staff now can process any member's FCC license application request, except for a vanity call sign application. **Remember:** Renewal applications may only be filed within 90 days of your license expiration date.

If you are not on the Internet or don't know how to download files, you can get the correct version of FCC Form 605 from **Kay WT3P** to take advantage of this benefit of ARRL membership.

## FIELD DAY JUNE 22 - 23

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stations. A 3 element, tri-band Yagi and some wire antennas will be used for the HF stations.

Field Day goes on rain or shine and lasts for 24 hours. We meet on site to begin setup on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM and will need assistance from club members. We also need members to bring food, drinks (non-alcoholic beverages), rigs, tents / campers / RV and other items.

Since this event is 24 hours, we need day AND night operators. As **Kay WT3P** has stated on the MARC web site ([www.marc-radio.org/fieldday.html](http://www.marc-radio.org/fieldday.html)), guests, families, and kids are very welcome, but plan to supervise children for their safety. A porta potty will also be available. Hats, rain gear, lawn chairs and

sunscreen may be good to bring. Verizon maintains the field we'll be using, but, there may be some poison ivy in some areas so please wear appropriate footwear.

We look forward to your participation and also expect increased public awareness and interest in this event since MARC's Public Relations chairman **Bob KB3FSQ** will have radio ads about this event posted on KYW. There will also be increased road signage nearby, alerting the public of our operations.

### FIELD DAY PINS HAVE ARRIVED!!

For MARC Field Day participants who are interested, an official ARRL Field Day pin commemorating this event will be available at cost for \$5. The Field Day 2002 pin has been redesigned and looks very sharp.

### WHAT IF I CAN'T GO TO FIELD DAY?

For various reasons, some people can't go to Field Day . . . maybe they have a health condition or must keep an eye on family members who need care at home. If that's your situation, you are not excluded from Field Day. You can play from your home station, and the outdoor stations will welcome your contacts on HF, VHF, phone, CW, or digital modes.

Your category is Class 1D (single operator, home station, commercial power). Follow that information with your ARRL Section. Most MARC members live in Eastern PA Section, so your exchange on CW and digital modes would be "1D EPA." On voice, you would say, "One Delta Eastern Pennsylvania" or "One Delta Echo Papa Alpha." You can't work other category D's but you can work everyone else. Enjoy!

### WHAT'S FIELD DAY ALL ABOUT?

See these web pages

[home.earthlink.net/~wt3p/FIELDDAY.HTML](http://home.earthlink.net/~wt3p/FIELDDAY.HTML)  
[www.marc-radio.org/fieldday.html](http://www.marc-radio.org/fieldday.html)

To order a Field Day T-Shirt, go to  
[www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=no-8716](http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=no-8716)

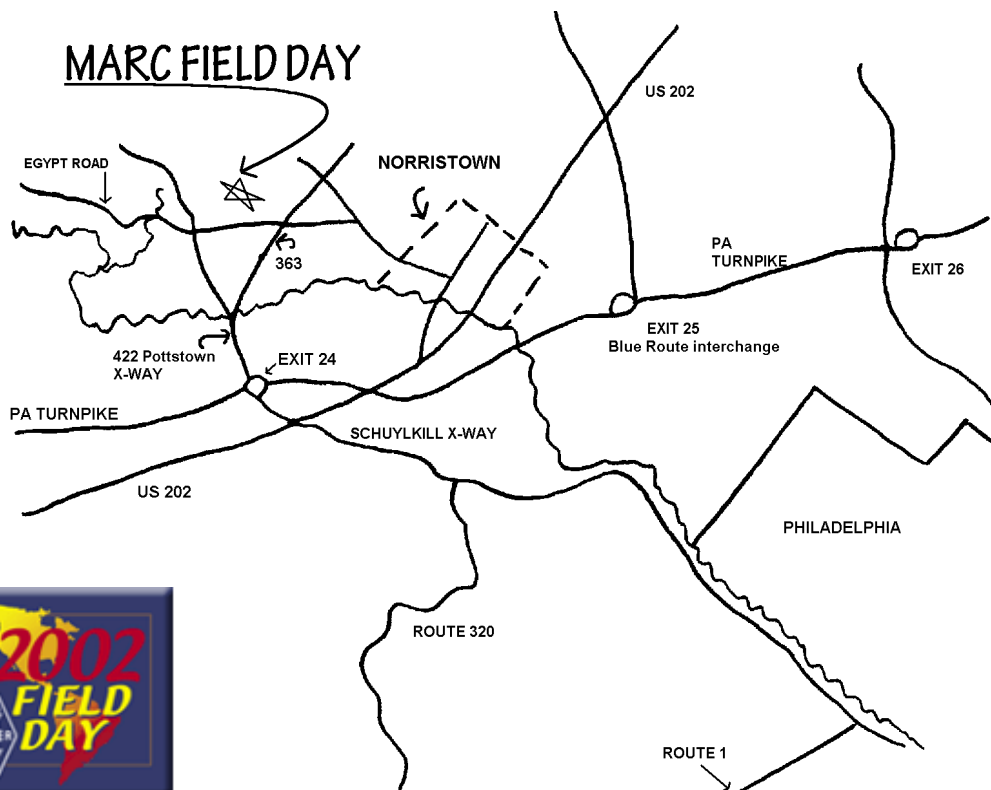
Field Day pins will be sold at MARC Field Day. See the example inset below.

MARC Field Day is held in a field on the north side of Egypt Road in Audubon, PA, between routes 363 and 422. Across the road is a strip shopping center.

Set-up begins on Saturday around 10 AM, with around-the-clock operation starting at 2 PM and ending at 2 PM on Sunday. Set-up and take-down crews should bring appropriate work clothes and safety gear.

Field Day goes on rain or shine. Bring rain gear, sun screen lotion, bug repellent, and a hat. Wear closed shoes, NOT sandals. Children are very welcome but you must supervise them at all times for their safety. Drive slowly on the Field Day property. We want ZERO ACCIDENTS at MARC Field Day!

### MARC FIELD DAY



## KEEPING IT FUN IN THE DX PILE-UPS

By Kay Craigie WT3P

The only thing more frustrating than not working the rare DX because he can't hear me is not working the rare DX because he can't hear me because idiots are causing chaos.

How many idiots does it take to cause chaos? Not very many. This is because ugly operating is contagious. I know. I've felt tempted to lash out at those who are wrecking my fun . . . thereby becoming a fun-wrecker, myself.

Having the loudest signal in the solar system is no good, if you don't listen intelligently before you transmit. Though I don't claim to be a big DX-kahuna, I have over 300 countries confirmed for Mixed DXCC (never using more than 200 watts), so I didn't just get off the bus. Here are some things I've learned about good operating practices for DXers:

1. **Study the advice of the DXperts.** Start with the April and May 2002 QST "How's DX?" columns.
2. **Pay attention to the DX's directions.** Skilled DXpeditioners will control the pile-up. If the pile-up refuses to be controlled, then we won't have any fun today.
3. **If the DX isn't coming back to your callsign, kindly shut up.** I will not work the DX any faster by continuing to yell "Whiskey Tango Three Papa" while the DX is trying to work "the November Five." I know from experience that my call is often mis-heard as "Queen Papa" instead of "Three Papa." So if the DX asks for "Queen Papa?," I'll bellow my callsign again, hoping he means me. Still, any way you slice it, I'm not "the November Five," am I?
4. **Do not ask questions on the DX's frequency,** such as "Who's the DX?" "What country is that?" or the equivalent CW. Don't ask what's the split or what's the QSL route. The answers you'll get could be rather coarse. Snarling a

vulgarity at a fool doesn't cure the fool and makes the trash-mouth look pretty stupid, himself. But as I said, ugly operating is contagious.

5. **Do not call until you're sure whether the DX is working split or transceive.** Split means the DX is transmitting on one frequency but listening on one or more other frequencies, usually above his transmit frequency. Transceive (also called "simplex") means the DX is transmitting and listening on the same frequency. If you hear can both sides of the QSO's, the DX is working transceive. If you don't hear the stations whom the DX is working, it could mean he's working split or it could mean you just can't hear the other stations because of skip. Take the time to figure out which is true. Generally, big-deal DX will work split.
6. **When the DX is working split, don't just pick a transmit frequency without listening to see if the frequency is in use.** Wanting to work the DX does not give us *carte blanche* to clobber existing QSO's.
7. **When someone is operating stupidly, resist the urge to tell him so.** Many incompetent operators apparently have corks in their ears (as well as a vacuum between them) and won't follow your advice even if it does not involve doing something physically impossible.

All that being said, some DXpeditioners who ought to know better are not doing what's needed to minimize pile-up nonsense.

For example, when the DX does not send his callsign frequently, we get "who's the DX?" QRM. When the DX does not frequently say he is operating split, the non-mind-readers among us are more likely to call on the wrong frequency. When the DX does not echo back my full callsign to assure me that I'm in the log, I'm tempted to make "insurance contacts" that take up time and make the DX mad.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT WWV

Have you checked out the National Institute of Standards and Technology Time and Frequency Division web page? It explains all about radio station WWV, which broadcasts important information for hams. The URL is [www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/stations/www.html](http://www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/stations/www.html).

Hams use WWV's time signals to ensure that our station clocks are accurately set to UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). We also use WWV's geophysical alerts to gauge radio propagation.

Greatly boiled-down versions of the WWV alerts are posted every 3 hours on the Frankford Radio Club's DX PacketCluster. To get the information while connected to the cluster, type SHOW/WWV. But what does the resulting gibberish mean?

Quick & dirty: We want a high solar flux index (SFI) and low A and K indices for good conditions on HF bands. For more fun on the air, however, take the time to understand what the geophysical alerts are saying about the sun and the geomagnetic field. The format of the WWV geophysical alerts has changed, so even experienced hams can profit from a visit to [www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/stations/iform.html](http://www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/stations/iform.html). This part of NIST's web site explains the terminology in the geophysical alerts and gives helpful examples.

Everybody makes mistakes. If you have never transmitted on the wrong VFO, stepped on somebody else's QSO, snapped at someone who's being a jackass, or heard something dumb coming out of your own mouth, then you are very new to DXing. When we make these mistakes, we should give ourselves a good mental kick in the pants and resolve to do better.

The more we learn to listen intelligently, improve our operating know-how, and exercise self-discipline, the more we will enjoy the tremendous fun of chasing and catching DX.

## TRACKING THE SPACE STATION

Some of us remember staring at the night sky trying to see Sputnik. Today, we can see the International Space Station, when the sky is clear and the maximum elevation is high enough. Mike KF3CD says he's seen it lots of times. It looks like a fast-moving star or plane with no flashers.

To get pass times for our area, Mike recommends <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/SSapplications/Post/SightingData/Philadelphia.html>. There is also a Java Applet at <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/tracking/> that shows in real time the passes and footprint of the International Space Station.

Live communications between the ISS, Johnson Space Center and Goddard Space Center are retransmitted on 449.075 MHz.