



REMARKS

P.O. Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399



MEETINGS MOVE TO RADNOR TOWNSHIP BUILDING AND 3RD TUESDAYS, STARTING IN JANUARY, 2001 NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS REMAIN AT LIBRARY

Starting in January, 2001, the meetings of MARC will be held at the Radnor Township building in the St. Davids area. We were kindly invited to meet there by the township commissioners, when they learned that we could no longer use the Winsor Room in Wayne. The meetings will be held on a new night ... the third Tuesday of the month ... still at 8 PM.

Despite the best efforts by club officials and by members who reside in Radnor Township, the board of the Memorial Library of Radnor Township refused to make an exception to their new rule requiring that groups using the Winsor Room must have 50% Radnor Township residents. MARC has 6.25%. Our request for grandfathering was denied at the library board's September meeting. There's no evidence our cause was advocated by anyone, as we had been led to think it would. For more on the Winsor Room story, please turn to page 5.

Our November and December meetings will be at the Winsor Room on the third Thursdays as usual. The move to the township building will come in January, 2001.

HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 21 Fun starts at 7:30 PM

The annual MARC holiday party, our last meeting at the Winsor Room, will take place on Thursday, December 21, starting at 7:30 PM. There will be no business meeting or technical program. It's a social evening, and family members are cordially invited. We'll have special refreshments. Members are invited to bring their artworks and craft items to display.

Also housing the township police department, the Radnor Township building is located on Iven Avenue. The nearest major intersection is Lancaster Avenue and Radnor-Chester Road, just west of the Lancaster Avenue (US 30) exit of the Blue Route, I-476. It's a little off the beaten path on a residential street. We suggest that if you can do so, go find it during the daylight hours.

Maps will be available at the November and December meetings and will be published in this and the next newsletter. There will be talk-in to the first few meetings at the new location. If you know the area and would like to volunteer for talk-in on either 147.06/R or 145.13/R, please contact President **Steve N3ORH**.

There is ample free parking, and of course it's safe after dark because the police station is there. The building is smoke-free and handicapped-accessible.

MEETING LOCATION SUMMARY

November 16 - Winsor Room, 8 PM
December 21 - Winsor Room, 7:30 PM
(Holiday party)
January 16 - Radnor Twp Building, 8 PM

HELP SANTA'S BRIGADE CHASE THE GRINCH AWAY!

For the second year, MARC members have a chance to brighten the holidays for neighbors less fortunate than ourselves. As a participating organization in the Main Line Volunteer Force, MARC joins in the "Santa's Brigade" project that provides modest gifts to needy people in our area. They include kids, senior citizens, disabled people, and families. Our club's gifts are routed to a family shelter in the Phoenixville area. Without Santa's Brigade, their Christmas will be zero. That's not nice to think about, especially for the little kids.

It doesn't involve spending a lot of money ... gifts are to be in the \$15 to \$25 price range. You'll be given information about your recipient and suggestions for appropriate gifts.

Participation is entirely voluntary, and no club funds are spent on the project.

Our gifts should be brought to the MARC holiday party for collection. If that doesn't work for you, other arrangements can be made.

Last year, MLVF provided gifts for 850 individuals in the Philadelphia area. This year, we're aiming for 1000 gifts. MARC has promised that our members will donate 10 gifts. To find out more about the Santa's Brigade project or sign up to be a gift donor, contact **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623, wt3p@arrl.net).

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

— 3rd Thursdays of November (8 PM) & December (7:30 PM), Memorial Library of Radnor Township, Wayne.
 — 3rd Tuesdays in January, 2001 and thereafter, Radnor Township Bldg, St. Davids, 8 PM.
 Guests welcome. Smoke-free. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Thursdays, 7:30 PM, Paoli Hospital. Members may attend as observers.

SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R
 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!**

EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

As Turkey Day approaches, I thought about taking aim at the Turkeys who don't have feathers, such as hams who rant about "dumbing down" the license requirements in e-mails whose English is not even good enough to qualify as illiterate. When you're standing in a pool of gasoline, doofus, don't blow flame.

But that's the wrong mood for the season. Instead, I want to salute the Anti-Turkeys, such as ...

... People whom life has treated so unfairly that they have ample justification for howling like a dog ... but don't. I'm not talking about people zoned-out on some chemical or ideological Prozac who would smile if a brick wall fell on them. I mean people who are fully in touch with reality, but instead of whining, they pull up their socks and soldier on.

... People who can tell you what you did wrong in such a way that you can apologize without feeling like you've knuckled under to a bully.

... People whose response to you is genuinely about you, disconnected from how their own digestion is doing today or how much they want you to like them. You can trust their praise, so you better listen to their criticism. It is difficult to find such a person, and even more difficult to be one. When someone who has influence on your life is able to unplug his ego from your successes and failures, you have a friend. Hang on with both hands.

... People who introduced us to Amateur Radio and brought us along in the hobby. Although we may want to wring their necks about one thing or another, what they brought into our lives through Amateur Radio balances off a lot of other cr ... um, nonsense. Whatever life may have done to us that is not nice, it has also given us the people who gave us Amateur Radio. — *Happy Holidays and 73 de Kay WT3P*

NOVEMBER 16 MEETING: MEDICAL AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL (MARCO)

Gene WB3FTJ will present the program at our November 16 meeting at the Winsor Room. His topic will be the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO), an international humanitarian organization of hams in the medical professions. This would be a great meeting to bring friends and neighbors who're medical professionals and introduce them to Amateur Radio.

LICENSE TEST SESSION SET FOR NOVEMBER 4

MARC's next test session is Saturday, November 4, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive about 9:15 AM to check in and begin paperwork. Candidates should pre-register with VE team leader **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com), because if nobody pre-registers, the session is cancelled. Also, Bob explains what documentation and fees are needed, so you don't show up without something essential.

Some club members who qualify for the "instant upgrade" to General have not taken advantage of the opportunity yet. If you

earned a Technician class license on or before March 21, 1987, you can upgrade to General with no additional exams ... that's no 13 wpm Morse code, no theory exam. The upgrade is not automatic, however. You have to go to a VE test session, fill out an FCC form, and pay a license test session fee.

Why do it now, if you don't plan to go on HF soon? The test session fees never decrease. Now, it's \$6.65. In 2001 it will be more. Waiting will cost you money. Contact **Bob W3ZQN** about the MARC test session, and do your upgrade before the end of the year.

REVISED BY-LAWS APPROVED

The revised By-Laws presented to the membership for a vote in September were approved. Thirty-one members voted to approve the new document, and one ballot was invalid. There were no votes against adoption. Consequently, the new By-Laws took effect in September, and present board members' terms were extended to fit the new election schedule.

VOX

Sue K3SUE upgraded to Extra. Ned WQ3Z reports that his wife Carole KA3UUQ, a past MARC member, upgraded to General. Brian WD0HBG and Jan KB3ERR e-mailed from their new home in California that they have gotten married. Congratulations! Carter N3AO received the Eastern PA QRP Club's Appalachian Trail Award, basic version ... just the fourth person to do it ... and operated QRP portable from the trail in Maryland and West Virginia in August. David KA3HBK qualified for his pilot's license and took Bart K4BF up for a ride. Mitch W2MBH reports he really enjoys PSK31, and Gene WB3FTJ is on that mode now, too. Charlie N3NQX is now on all HF bands, 80 through 10, and (oops!) he should have been named on the list of MARC hamfest volunteers. After long-time-no-hear, it was great to have Ray N3BPJ back on some MARC nets this fall.

PUBLIC SERVICE

MARC members communicated for the Wyeth-Ayerst 5 mile run benefiting the American Lung Association. The event took place on October 29 in Radnor Township. Our volunteers were Bob W3SA, Roger N3VBZ, Carter N3AO, Floyd KA3OXA, Bart K4BF, Gene WB3FTJ, and net control Bob N3JIZ. There were no accidents or emergencies.

MARC needs chairmen for Field Day 2001. One person shouldn't have to run the whole thing. Start thinking about this now. If you enjoy Field Day, how about accepting part of the leadership responsibility?

Although at \$4 a copy the *ARRL NET DIRECTORY* is sold below cost, some people gripe about the price anyhow. Well, cheer up. An interactive version of the net directory database is now on the ARRL Web site. To find it from the opening screen, click on Public Service, then on Net Directory. Net information can also be updated on-line, which allowed us to fix a typographical error in the MARC club net listing.

MARC encourages members to register and be active in ARES/RACES. Bob W3ZQN (rjlees@aol.com) is the top ARES/RACES official for Montgomery County. Dan NM3S (nm3s@prodigy.net) is his counterpart in Delaware County. Vern Nelson KC3XL (kc3xl@arrrl.net) is the official for Chester County. If you live elsewhere and would like to sign up for ARES/RACES, contact your ARRL Section Manager (page 12 of every QST) and ask who's in charge in your county. We earn the privilege of having fun on the ham bands by preparing to serve the community in times of crisis. Do your part! Don't be a free-loader!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000 - 2001

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Bart Feroe K4BF 610-367-4288
k4bf@arrrl.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@arrrl.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

(vacant) - How about you?

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2002: Al Maslin N3EA 610-446-4936
amaslin@earthlink.net
To 9/30/2001: Janet Vann KA3VTQ
610-384-3163, jvann@ccis.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the September meeting, the board noted that the By-Laws revision was approved by the membership. Public service events and the 2001 hamfest were discussed. Programs for meetings in October and November have been decided; plans for a holiday party are not firm. Work remains to be done on the club's repeaters. The board decided not to continue the listing on *Worldradio* magazine's club page; the listing is not free of charge. At the October meeting, the board will consider placing an advertisement in a banquet booklet of the Plymouth Community Ambulance Association. The treasury balance was \$9,683.06.

At the October meeting, the board devoted most of the time to discussion of a new meeting site. After reviewing membership residence statistics and information about available meeting

sites, the board voted to accept the offer of the Radnor Township commissioners to meet at the township building. Township officials recommended meeting on a Tuesday night, because that is when the space is not already in use, so the board voted to hold club meetings on third Tuesdays. Board meetings will remain on fourth Thursdays for the time being. The board also discussed holiday party plans and will seek member input on possible changes in this event for 2001. The hamfest committee was authorized to hold a 50-50 drawing at the hamfest, if they want to. Coordination for the 145.13 repeater at Paoli is expected soon from the ARCC coordinators. The Plymouth Community Ambulance Association will probably not print a banquet booklet, so the issue of placing an ad was not considered. The annual liability insurance bill has been paid. The treasury balance was \$8,849.12.

BEST HOLIDAY WISHES AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DX AND DX CONTEST FUN

Steve K3KFD scored well in the ARRL DX phone contest last spring, according to November *QST*. **Ron W3ZV** enjoyed the Worked All Europe DX contest and also made a decent score in a RTTY DX contest. RTTY contesting, in my experience, is harder than phone or CW competition, because you're 100% dependent on your hardware/software to dig out the information through QRM that can be brutal. Good brains and keen ears don't help. I worked a PSK31 contest sponsored by a club in western New York for some new states and countries on that mode.

Sue K3SUE has been bitten by the DX bug and has logged a bunch of countries, including Djibouti (J2). She asked a good question about HF award-hunting: Do Alaska and Hawaii count as states of the USA or as DX countries? The answer is "yes." For the Worked All States award, Alaska and Hawaii count as states. But they count as entities separate from the USA for the DXCC award. In contests, you have to read the specific event's rules to see whether Alaska and Hawaii are treated as part of the USA or as DX countries.

Part of DXing fun is to be able to identify countries based on their ham radio prefixes. How many of these can you answer without peeking at the answers that follow?

1. **Tom N3JMA** is also licensed as VE3YTB. What country is VE, and what does the "3" signify?
2. A few years ago, **Jenny KA3WVD** took a summer course that involved travel to ZS and 5Z. On the way back to the USA, the plane stopped to refuel in D4. During another summer course, she visited PA and ON. What are they?

3. This fall **Carter N3AO** and I enjoyed a vacation abroad, paying short visits to 9H, CN, CT, EA, F, I, and ZB2. What are they? We also visited IT9, which counts as a separate country for the Worked All Europe award but not for DXCC. What is it? From ZB2 on a cloudy day, we could glimpse the DXCC entity whose prefix is EA9. What is it?
4. **Bob W3SA** reports that his son **Bob N1RH** has finally received permission, after miles of red tape, to operate as 9V1ZA.. What country is 9V? **Bob W3SA** is also in the callbook as G4VHE. What country is G?
5. **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW** were abroad this fall, and we'll see some of the slides as part of Gene's presentation in November on the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO). Although part of a larger country, two of the places they visited count as separate entities for DXCC. Their prefixes are GU and GJ. Where are they, and what are they?

Answers:

1. VE = Canada. The "3" refers to Ontario province.
2. ZS = South Africa, 5Z = Kenya, D4 = Cape Verde Islands, PA = Netherlands, ON = Belgium.
3. 9H = Malta, CN = Morocco, CT = Portugal, EA = Spain, F = France, I = Italy, ZB2 = Gibraltar. IT9 prefixes are in Sicily. EA9 = Ceuta and Melilla. We could just make out the coastline of Ceuta across the straits of Gibraltar.
4. 9V = Singapore. G = England.
5. GJ = Jersey, GU = Guernsey. They're the Channel Islands. Though located near the coast of France, these islands are British territory.

FLEA MARKET

WANTED — used programmable scanner in working condition, able to receive 2m band and National Weather Service. Contact **Ned Smith WQ3Z**, wq3z@arrrl.net, 215-836-0206.

FOR SALE: — Icom 720 All Band HF transceiver with 500 Hz CW filter, 2 mikes, and ICPS-15 power supply - \$325.00. Heathkit DX60 80-10 meter CW/AM transmitter with VFO,

Kenwood R-599 receiver with 500 Hz and 250 Hz CW filters, and antenna switching relay - \$200.00. Contact **Colin Neal AA3LM**, 610-889-0524.

Members' sale/trade/wanted ads for ham radio and related equipment are published free of charge.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TO GET NEW ARRL SECTION MANAGER

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager **Allen Breiner W3TI**, who's 80, has announced he'll step down effective December 31. He has served as SM since 1996.

ARRL Field & Educational Services Manager **Rosalie White K1STO** has named **Eric Olena WB3FPL** of Mohnton, Berks County, to replace Breiner effective the first of the new year. Olena has served as Section Emergency Coordinator since 1994 and was an Assistant SM from 1992 until 1996. He will complete Breiner's present term, which runs to April 1, 2002.

Eric will bring a modern viewpoint to the leadership of EPA Section, and we hope to invite him to speak at a MARC

meeting next year. We've added him to the complimentary copy list for *REMARCS*.

Section Manager is an elected ARRL position. Serving without pay like most League officials, the SM has administrative responsibility for 8 volunteer programs which serve the public and/or other hams. He or she attends hamfests and club meetings, answers members' correspondence, and stays in touch with the Director about what's going on in the Section. When an SM leaves office before the term is up, the Field & Educational Services Manager appoints a successor, subject to the approval of the Division Director. The Eastern PA Section is composed of 34 of the state's 67 counties.

HOMEBREW SHOW & TELL NIGHT WAS FUN FOR ALL

Members brought ham radio stuff they made ... from scratch, from magazine articles, from kits ... to the October club meeting to show and tell.

Lee K2BIZ brought one item he built at age 8 (he's 75 now, you do the math!) so we late-comers could see what a cat's whisker looks like. He showed a 20m transmitter he built around 1950, and a digital frequency counter constructed about 1985. A former ARRL HQ staff member, he also brought some old ham radio books to show us.

Gene WB3FTJ brought several iambic keyers he built. He also showed two versions of a project, built from a 1995 *QST* article, for tuning up without annoying others. The handy device dumps most of your RF into a dummy load while you're using it to tune up. We who always seem to be operating on the National Tune-Up Frequency wish more people would make one of these boxes.

Bob W3ZQN brought and demonstrated a CMOS Super Keyer 3, built from a 1995 *QST* article. The accompanying CW key was also

homebrew. Bob also built a simple meter tester from an article in March, 2000, *QST*. He'll never buy another dud meter at a hamfest! He also showed a Ten Tec 2m rig he built from a kit. Finally, he showed a lightning detector that senses lightning far away, long before thunder is heard. He purchased the mysterious sealed PVC tube that's the actual sensor, but he had to homebrew a device to indicate the output. Not a problem! Bob assembled a gizmo that blinks light and makes a boinggg noise, and made an add-on device that counts the number of zaps.

Harry W3FM used to use a powerful hunting bow and arrow to launch rope leaders for wires up into the trees. Now he has bagged the Robin Hood thing and uses a combination sling-shot and spinning reel to do the job. This device wasn't homebrew (though they can be made), but it's certainly in the spirit of ingenious contraptions that hams use to solve problems.

Carter N3AO brought a bunch of QRP equipment he has built, starting with the Tuna Tin 2 transmitter, constructed

from a kit and a Star-Kist can. Then he showed a Nor Cal 20 "Red Hot Radio" transceiver, which isn't much bigger than the tin can number. He demonstrated the Elecraft K2 transceiver, which has a better receiver than most store-bought radios and loads of features you wouldn't expect in a kit rig. He showed an Altoids tin made into a meter that indicates battery voltage for portable operation. Finally, he brought out a light-weight nesting fiberglass pole that extends into a 35-foot antenna mast and showed how he puts it up for portable operation. No, he didn't punch a hole in the ceiling and goose the librarian ... with help from club members, it was extended horizontally.

This was a fun evening that brought the latest kits and magazine projects together with stuff from ham radio's workbench history. Thanks are due to everyone who participated. What gadgets, gizmos, and doo-jobbies could YOU bring to the next Homebrew Show and Tell Night?

BACKGROUND ON THE MEETING ROOM STORY

The new rules governing use of the Winsor Room by outside groups were not aimed at MARC. They were intended to drastically curtail the use of the room, which was heavily booked by all sorts of organizations including ours. It made no difference how much a group might have done for the library. MARC had donated books, A/V equipment, a blackboard, an American flag ... heck, we even scrubbed the room once when it had become dirty and shabby-looking. The library board decided the room was a pain in the neck, and that was that.

Bob W3SA, Gene WB3FTJ, Judy N3MBW, Phil W3GNG, Bob N3JIZ, Bill W3KRB, John N3MDF, and Kay WT3P attended the October 10 meeting of the Radnor Township Commissioners. **Dan W3LKD** had discussed the problem earlier with the commissioner who represents his part of

Radnor Township. During the meeting's public participation period, **Gene WB3FTJ, Bob W3SA, John N3MDF, and Judy N3MBW** comment-ed on the new library rules and their negative effect on our club. MARC's generosity to the library during our 15 years there was also detailed. We were promised that the matter would be looked into. What's more, the commissioners said we sounded like a worthy group, so how'd we like to meet there at the township building?

Bob W3SA, Bob N3JIZ, Gene WB3FTJ, Judy N3MBW and Kay WT3P attended the next meeting on October 23. We were informed that the library board said no again, because they want to give their new rules a trial period before any re-evaluation. We were told that the library perceives the heavy use of the room by outside organizations to be a problem ... the

same story **Judy N3MBW** had heard from library officials several weeks before. However, the offer to let us meet at the township building was reiterated.

Of course, by the time the library board ever gets around to re-evaluating the rules, all the groups that had to leave will have found other accommodations. Consequently, nothing will be broken, and they won't fix it. There are very few meeting rooms in the western Main Line area that are available for use by community organizations, especially at night. It's too bad that the library board sees as a burden what the rest of us perceive as an asset, but there you go. We are very glad a scheduling snag delayed us from donating to the library the VCR we had purchased for them! To give them a VCR and then be 86'd would have made the bad news much worse.

FCC ENFORCER TO SPEAK IN PHILADELPHIA AREA

Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, the man whose boot-print is on the backside of losers who thought the FCC's Rules didn't apply to them, will speak at the November 29 meeting of the RF Hill Amateur Radio Club in Perkasio, PA. The meeting takes place at the fire house in Perkasio, starting at 7:30 PM.

A soft-spoken South Carolinian with a wry sense of humor, Riley has been a ham for many years and truly loves Amateur

Radio. His official letters to Rule-breakers are anything but soft-spoken ... he has no sense of humor whatsoever about people who do not respect the privilege of being hams.

RF Hill's leaders have kindly allowed us to print this notice about their special guest speaker and will welcome MARC members at their meeting.

AREA LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The following information is from ARRL's license exam database. It is unwise just to show up at a test session without phoning or e-mailing the contact person in advance. You cannot take a test if you don't have all the necessary documents and fee; examiners are not permitted to make any exceptions. The contact person will explain what you must bring and will give you driving directions if needed.

02-Nov-2000, 07-Dec-2000 **Sponsor:** The Phil Mont Mobile RC **Time:** 6:00 PM (Walk-Ins Allowed) **Contact:** William E Rhoads (215) 879-0505, taped message 215-448-1139, evenings (215) 482-0386 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** Franklin Institute, 20th St & Ben Franklin Pkwy, Philadelphia, PA 19104

04-Nov-2000 **Sponsor:** Mid-Atlantic ARC **Time:** 9:15 AM (Pre-registration strongly advised) **Contact:** Robert J Lees (610) 265-6032 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Education Bldg, Montgomery Ave & Fishers Rd, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

11-Nov-2000, 09-Dec-2000 **Sponsor:** Un-sponsored **Time:** 10:00 AM (Walk-Ins Allowed) **Contact:** Lorraine F Hoffmaster (215) 638-1655 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** Bucks County Free Library, 3700 Hulmeville Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020

18-Nov-2000 **Sponsor:** AWARE ARC **Time:** 9:15 AM (Walk-Ins Allowed) **Contact:** Gisele B Walls (302) 478-2757 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** Concord Pike Public Library, 3406 Concord Pike (Route 202) and Whitby Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

20-Nov-2000, 18-Dec-2000 **Sponsor:** RF Hill ARC **Time:** 6:30 PM (Walk-Ins Allowed) **Contact:** Joseph J Burgess (215) 723-6697, joew3pnl@netcarrier.com **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** Indian Valley Public Library, 100 E Church Rd, Telford, PA 18969

30-Nov-2000, 28-Dec-2000 **Sponsor:** N3HTZ NM3K VE Team **Time:** 07:00PM (Walk-Ins Allowed) **Contact:** Cully R Phillips (215) 269-3953 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** Municipal Building, Middletown Township, 2140 Trenton Rd, Levittown, PA 19056

09-Dec-2000 **Sponsor:** Marple Newtown ARC **Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-Ins Allowed) **Contact:** Walter M Faust (610) 622-2200 **VEC:** ARRL/VEC **Location:** Robert Gauntlett Community Center, 20 Media Line Rd And Rte 3 (West Chester Pike), Newtown Square, PA 19073

MARC HAMFEST 2001 UPDATE

Flyers for MARC's 2001 hamfest are available from **Mike KF3CD** (mpilotti@anro.com). It's never too soon to distribute them. Our hamfest is already on ARRL's Web hamfest calendar. ARRL Atlantic Division Director **Bernie Fuller N3EFN** plans to attend our 2001 'fest ... yet another good reason to be there.

FCC SCANS eBAY FOR ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT ADS

The FCC says it has reached an agreement with the eBay auction site that's aimed at curtailing the sale of clearly illegal radio equipment.

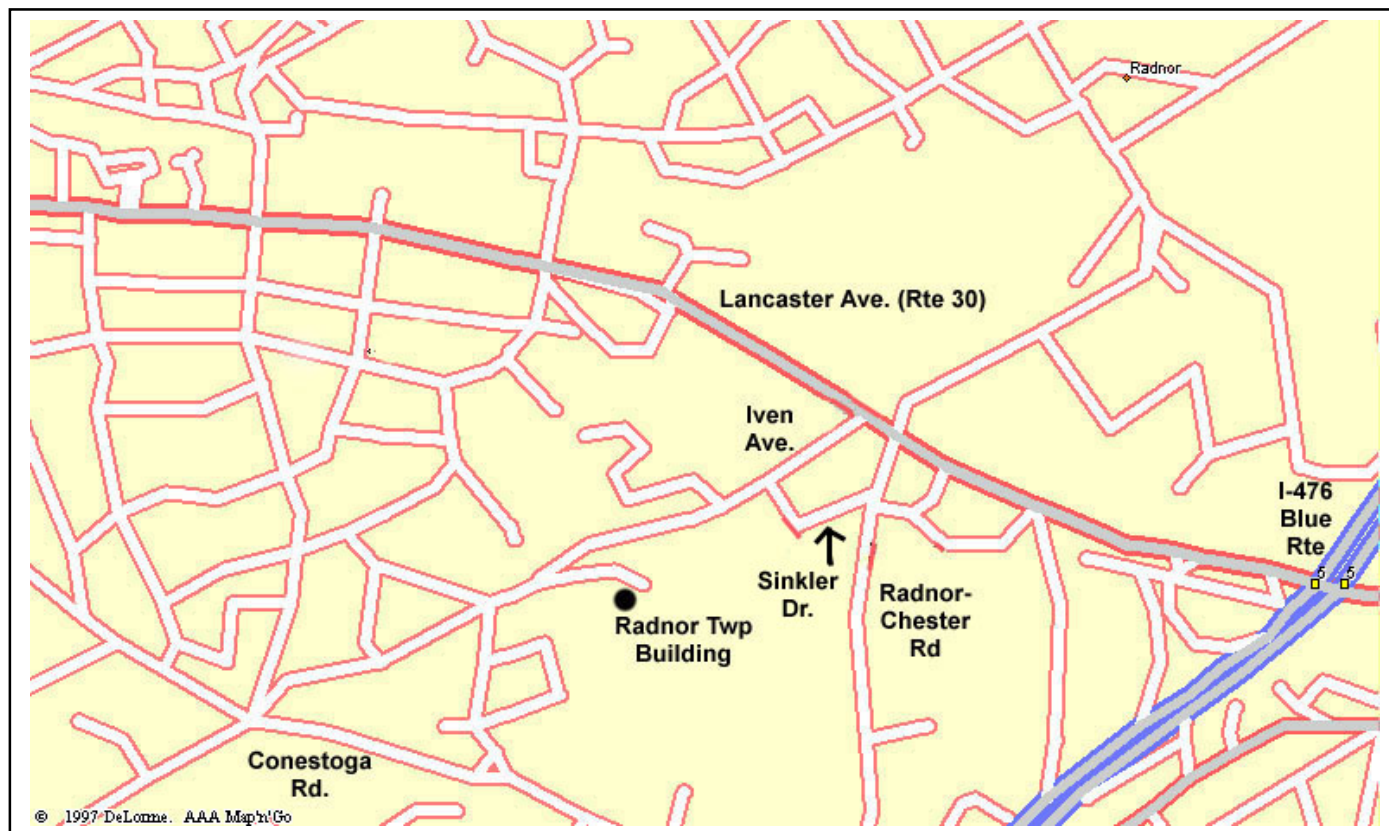
FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH** says eBay has agreed to cooperate in removing advertisements in which the item for sale "is clearly non-certified" under FCC rules. Hollingsworth said most of the equipment involved falls into the CB category, including illegal amplifiers.

Hollingsworth said a review team within the Technical and Public Safety Division of the FCC Enforcement Bureau is screening eBay ads each week. He said the practice could be

extended to other auction sites if the FCC learns of similar problems.

Hollingsworth credits complaints from the Amateur Radio community with getting the new system in place. "I've been collecting complaints for a year, but the amateur community really generated it," he said. Hollingsworth says he sees about 10 complaints a week about auction site radio gear advertisements — sometimes several about the same ad. He cautions that complaints should be based on clear-cut FCC rules violations, such as attempts to sell illegal linear amplifiers. Amateurs can send notice of items they believe to be illegal to fccham@fcc.gov, Hollingsworth said. [tnx ARRL Letter]

OUR FUTURE MEETING LOCATION



The center of Wayne (intersection of Wayne Avenue and Lancaster Avenue) is just off the map to the left (west). The Lancaster Avenue exit of the Blue Route is shown on the right (east) side of the map. If you come to the meeting on the Blue Route, you will still take Lancaster Avenue west. Note, going west on Lancaster Avenue, you cannot turn left onto Iven Avenue. You must turn left (south) on Radnor-Chester Road. It's a major intersection with a traffic light. Then immediately turn right onto Sinkler Drive. This street bears right, to a T intersection at Iven Avenue. Turn left on Iven. Past some sports fields on the left, you will see the township building back from the road. Make a sharp left where you see the V intersection on this map, onto the lane (Creek Drive) where the township building is located. There is a sign for the township building at the intersection. If you are coming east on Lancaster Avenue from the center of Wayne, go to the intersection with Radnor-Chester Road, turn right, and follow the preceding directions. It's legal to turn right from Lancaster onto Iven, but the turn-off is hard to spot at night.

Remember, November and December meetings are at the library! Meetings move to the township building in January, 2001.

PHASE 3D NOW SET TO LAUNCH NOVEMBER 14

The Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite is scheduled to go into space Tuesday, November 14, from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. The launch was delayed from a tentative October 31 launch window opening after another payload aboard the flight was late in arriving at Kourou. AMSAT-DL Executive Vice President **Peter Gülzow DB2OS** says Phase 3D has passed all of its pre-launch inspections, testing, and preparation and is "ready to fly."

AMSAT News Service reported this week that Phase 3D was being moved into the final assembly building at the European Spaceport, where it will remain on hold until the launch date. Once the other Flight 135 payloads arrive, all will be mated to

the Ariane 5 launch vehicle. In addition to Phase 3D, the Ariane 5 will attempt to orbit the PanAmSat PAS 1R communications satellite and two British Space Technology Research Vehicle microsattellites, STRV 1C and STRV 1D.

Phase 3D will be the largest Amateur Radio payload ever put into space. Once in space, Phase 3D will be nudged by its onboard thrusters into an elliptical orbit that will put it some 2500 miles from Earth at its nearest point, and nearly 30,000 miles at its farthest. After Phase 3D is in its intended orbit, it's expected to be a few months before the satellite is commissioned and ready for general Amateur use. [tnx ARRL Letter]