



REMARCS



MAY / JUNE, 1997

MARC'S 20TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY -- JUNE 28 & 29

There are people who don't like Field Day. This is America, so they're entitled to their opinion, but personally I've always put them in the same category as people who have no faith in baseball and rarely change their socks. Editors are entitled to our opinions, too.

Is Field Day a contest or an emergency-preparedness exercise? Yes.

Is Field Day relevant in an era when most Amateur emergency work is on VHF FM, rather than HF? Experienced emergency communicators will tell you that teamwork and cooperation, self-confidence, willingness to improvise, knowing how to get on the air quickly using unfamiliar equipment under nerve-jangling circumstances, getting back on the air fast when things go haywire . . . in short, all the stuff we practice at Field Day . . . are essential skills when its a no-kidding, sweaty-armpits emergency like hams are contending with in North Dakota and Minnesota right now, instead of a pleasant community walk-a-thon. For proof, read the story on page 6.

What has contesting to do with emergency preparedness? Successful testers can copy accurately for hours and hours through mind-numbing splatter and QRM. They have learned endurance, concentration, accuracy, and assertiveness. The good ones have a lot of technical know-how, too. When the stuff hits the fan, you can do a lot worse than have some skilled testers among your emergency communications volunteers.

So Field Day certainly has its serious and educational side. But it is also a great deal of fun. MARC Field Day has a lot of laughs and good fellowship and pretty good food, too. Many long friendships began at Field Day.

MARC's idea of winning at Field Day is trying new things, learning something, and having a good time together.

Set-up will begin at about 10 AM on Saturday, June 28, at the site on Egypt Road in Audubon, PA. For more information and a map to the site, please turn to page 5.

HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 18



The next MARC hamfest committee meeting will be Sunday, May 18, 2:30 PM, at the home of Mike N3IRZ. Any member who wants to help plan and manage the hamfest is welcome to attend. We need people willing to bite off and chew a modest chunk of leadership responsibilities. It doesn't matter how long you have been a ham, what your license class is, or whether you've ever been to a hamfest in your life. If you have a positive attitude and some time to donate towards the event that raises most of the club's annual revenue, come to this meeting and get involved!

On the other hand, back-seat drivers, Monday-morning quarterbacks, prophets of doom, and gas-bags whose idea of

hard work is picking fault with others' efforts should stay at home and find someone else to annoy.

At the March 16 meeting, decisions were made about direct-mail distribution of flyers, vendor recruitment, distribution of flyers at hamfests and via electronics retail stores, selection of a food vendor, other publicity and promotion activities, and clean-up plans.

Main door prizes this year will be an ICOM IC-T2A 2m handie-talkie and a Grundig shortwave receiver. Find out more about hamfest plans and how you can get involved, on page 2.

LET'S GO OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

MARC night at the Phillies will be July 5. **Bob WA3PZO** has reserved a block of 25 seats in section 306 for the 7:05 PM game versus the Chicago Cubs.



Okay, we all know the Phillies are playing terrible baseball this year, but following the game is a spectacular Independence Day fireworks show that will make a trip to the Vet worthwhile.

Tickets cost \$14 per person. Other expenses at the game will include about \$5 for parking and whatever you spend on souvenirs and food. This is a family event where spouses, kids, dates, and friends are welcome.

Contact Bob NOW to reserve tickets and make arrangements to pay him. His phone number is (215) 624-6450, e-mail bjosuweit@aol.com. Deadline to reserve tickets is May 15, the club meeting date.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS



At the March 27 Board meeting, it was announced that the ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager plans to have a meeting of club officials in May. MARC's membership in the ARCC repeater coordination organization was renewed for \$50. Several hamfest tables have already been sold. There were also reports about the repeaters, future meeting programs, and public service.

At the April 24 Board meeting, topics discussed included public service events, future programs, plans for Field Day, and the hamfest. Board members brainstormed information to be included in our annual ARRL Special Service Club renewal report. The possible site change for '06 is temporarily on hold. The treasury balance was \$8,614.54.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Watching the TV news reports from North Dakota and Minnesota, where cities are under water and on fire, where hams are doing their best to help others while their own lives and homes are besieged by disaster, you can't help feeling grateful for the benign environment of the Delaware Valley.

While many communities in the USA sit there like bowling pins waiting for nature to hurl the next tornado, flood, forest fire, earthquake, blizzard, or hurricane down the alley, we are in more of a lawn croquet kind of situation. We get whacked sometimes . . . but the balls are smaller and they don't roll nearly as fast.

This is not to say that big ones cannot happen in Pennsylvania. Talk to the hams who remember Johnstown and Hurricane Agnes, for example, or the aftermath of Three Mile Island. But the small-scale, short-duration emergencies more typical of this area hurt people and disrupt communities, too. Consequently . . .



Every ham should register and participate with his or her county's ARES/RACES program. No excuses. No "been-there, done-that." No "I'm-too-young-too-old-too-busy-too-this-too-that."

In return for the privilege and delight of being hams, we should all accept responsibility for learning how to serve the community.

A pretty good deal, if you ask me. **Bob W3ZQN** can tell you about Montgomery County RACES. For information about Chester County ARES/RACES, phone (610) 344-5000, Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 4:30. If you have information on ARES/RACES in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, send it to me and I'll print it. -- 73 de WT3P

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MARC TO COMMUNICATE FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Volunteer communicators are needed for the Memorial Day parade on May 26, in downtown Wayne. As in previous years, MARC will provide safety communications for the colorful event.

Last year, we had a car in the parade, too. We hope to do that again. We will need to be in Wayne in the morning to receive our instructions and assignments. Contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587) for details.

CLEAN-UP DAY AT RADNOR LIBRARY'S WINSOR ROOM

"Everyone says you're the nicest group who uses the room," said one of the librarians to our clean-up squad on Saturday, April 26. "You treat the Winsor Room as if it were your own." Library officials sincerely appreciated the elbow-grease applied by our volunteers: **Bob W3SA, Carter N3AO, Edie KA3NKP, Jeff WA3RIZ, Dan KA3KHR, Bob W3ZQN, Kay WT3P, Steve KD0VA**, and Steve's son **Andy WA0WGH**.

We washed the kitchen cabinets, counters, stove-top, and walls, then vacuumed and scrubbed the kitchen floor. In the

meeting room, we dusted all sorts of stuff, cleaned the baseboards, washed chair-back scuff marks off the walls, damp-wiped all the chairs and table tops, spot-cleaned and vacuumed the carpet, washed crud off the ceiling ventilation grilles, cleaned the chalk board, swept the projection room, and cleaned the lectern. We also dusted, vacuumed, and picked up debris in the lobby and coat-rack areas.

It only took about an hour and a half to do all this and more, and we had a good time doing it.