



JULY / AUGUST 2004

REM  RCS

www.marc-radio.org

MARC'S 440 MHZ REPEATER IS ON THE AIR! 445.675/R is WB3JOE

MARC now has a fourth repeater on the air, in the popular 440 MHz band. The frequency of the repeater is 445.675 (negative offset), with 131.8 Hz CTCSS on the input like our other machines. *Do not set a CTCSS tone on your rig's input, because the repeater doesn't transmit a tone at this time and you won't hear the repeater.* A work party set up the repeater at Paoli Memorial Hospital and put it on the air on Saturday, May 22. **Dennis K3DS**, **Ron W3ZV**, **Dick K3IIN**, and **Carter N3AO** carried the equipment up to the site and installed it. Thanks, guys! The Board decided to add a 440 MHz repeater to our system because so many people now have dual-band rigs and enjoy using that band in addition to 2 meters.

MARC HAMFEST - SUNDAY, JULY 11 - KIMBERTON SET-UP IS ON JULY 10

MARC would not be the club we know today without our annual hamfest. The funds it raises are essential to operation of the club. Dues income alone just won't get the job done. For example, the 440 MHz repeater we just crowed about? Thank the hamfest. Did you take a license exam and have the fee picked up by the club? You paid \$15 dues for the year and took an exam for free whose fee was \$12. Thank the hamfest.

Nobody in his wrong mind -- let alone his right one -- would pay the kind of local radio club dues we'd need to charge to provide the services we get from MARC because of the hamfest.

The hamfest's success depends on having enough volunteers. If enough people do some work, then nobody finishes the weekend feeling like something the dogs chewed up.

People have been working in the background for months to get ready for the event: Hamfest chairman **Mike KF3CD** arranged printing of the flyers and personally contacted several past ven-

dors, including the food service. **Carter N3AO** and **Kay N3KN** wrote letters to past vendors and door prize donors seeking repeat business and also wrote to area ham clubs asking their help in promotion. **Bob KB3FSQ** handled publicity press releases. Several members and friends of the club have taken hamfest flyers to other events and distributed them -- thank you! **Rick N3AGS** is handling indoor vendor table sales again this year; we expect many of our favorite vendors to be there again. **Bob N3JIZ** confers with the fairgrounds electrician to be sure we have juice and a PA system. As treasurer, **Carter N3AO** gets the necessary change from the bank account and sets up the ticket sellers' aprons; he also filed the form to get the required liability insurance certificate. On hamfest day, **Dori W3IBH** has volunteered to do the PA announcements, and **Ron W3ZV** will handle talk-in. **Gene N3HG** and **Judy N3MBW** will manage the club members' sales table again.

(Continued on page 6)

HELP US GET THE HAMFEST FAIRGROUNDS FREE!!

We pay the Kimberton Fire Company \$900 to rent the fairgrounds for our hamfest. This year, if MARC provides enough volunteers for the Fire Company Fair on July 29 - 31, the fire company will not charge us any rent for the hamfest. Because our main door prize has been donated, getting the fairgrounds free would eliminate both our largest hamfest expenses. The impact on our hamfest's bottom line would be huge.

Volunteers are needed for two kinds of tasks at the fair: (1) helping park cars and collecting parking donations, and (2) selling tickets for carnival rides. Ride ticket sellers will work sitting down, with chairs provided by the fair. Here's how the work shifts break down:

Thursday, July 29

6 - 10 PM: 4 parking helpers, 4 ride ticket sellers

Friday, July 30

6 - 10 PM: 4 parking helpers, 4 ride ticket sellers

Saturday, July 31

1 - 5 PM: 4 parking helpers, 4 ride ticket sellers

6 - 10 PM: 4 parking helpers, 4 ride ticket sellers

We already have some volunteers but we need more. We need you! Your non-ham family members could work, too; there's no communications involved.

To sign up for a shift (or two?), contact Mike KF3CD now. His contact info is shown on page 6.

See you at the MARC hamfest, July 11!

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

4th Tuesdays, 8 PM, Tredyffrin Township
Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. 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/ 445.675/R
145.13 & 147.06 linked, CTCSS 131.8 Hz
Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-327-8666,
smaslin@marc-radio.org)

NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
All nets on linked 145.13/R & 147.06/R
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 N3KN
(610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net)

BRING A FRIEND
TO A MARC MEETING!

HOLIDAY PARTY DATE CHANGED

Okay, December is a long way off -- but in the interest of keeping everybody informed, please note on your calendar that the MARC holiday party will be on December 14, not December 28. In the future, the Board intends to hold the holiday party on the second Tuesday of December every year, if the meeting room is available. There will be no club meeting on December 28.

LICENSE EXAMS -- AUGUST 7

MARC's Volunteer Examiner team will administer license tests on Saturday, August 7, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, starting at 9:15 AM.

Applicants are urged to register in advance, because if nobody pre-registers the session will be cancelled to avoid wasting the examiners' Saturday morning waiting around for someone to show up and take a test. Pre-register by contacting **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com).

MARC members may take part in one club-sponsored test session per year free of charge -- the club pays the test fee. For more info about MARC test sessions, turn to page 5.

VOX

Welcome new members: **Will KB3IEL**, **Ian KB3JAH**, **Mike W2YYY**, and **Ken W2YME**. Welcome returning members **Tom N3JMA**, **Dan KA3KHR**, **Harry W3FM**, and **Lor W3QA**.

Bill N3NUL was seriously injured in a car crash in May. Our thoughts are with him as he recovers, with his wife and son who were also injured, and with his brother, **Bob N3JIZ**. **Charlie N3NQX** is now an authorized operator at **NJ2BB**, the Battleship New Jersey ham station. **Dori W3IBH** received her B.S.N degree from West Chester University, and her daughter is getting married this summer. Members seen at Dayton: **Ted NT3J**, **Josy WQ3E**, **Carter N3AO**, **Al W3AHR**, **Gene N3HG**, and **Kay N3KN**. **Kay N3KN** finished DXCC on 80m for 5BDXCC. **Dan KA3KHR**'s daughter **Amy** has been named a Fulbright Scholar, one of the most prestigious awards a student can earn. We recently learned that past member **Al W3GHV** is a Silent Key. New members **Mike W2YYY** and **Ken W2YME** live on a boat.

Al N3EA is moving to Florida. A founding member and past president of MARC, he will be greatly missed. He has been the trustee of our **WB3JOE** club callsign since we received it from the FCC in 1978. He has been a friend, an Elmer, a leader, and a by-the-book Amateur who made sure that operation on our repeaters was above reproach. He'll be back in these parts sometimes, we're sure, and we wish him well in 4-land.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMUNICATIONS

MARC provided communications for the Radnor Township Memorial Day parade again this year. There were no incidents, and the rain held off until the parade was over. Communicators for the event were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Ned WQ3Z**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Steve KD0VA**, **Dieter K3DK**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Roger N3VZB**, **Beth KA3GKI**, **Gene N3HG**, and **Dave WB3EHS**. **Carter N3AO** drove his car as the MARC entry in the parade, decked out with flags and banners about ham radio. **Leland N3LJB** marched with his fellow Valley Forge Military Academy cadets. He flicked a glance at the hams as he marched by -- we know he recognized our ops, but of course he did not break the discipline of the corps.

When we started doing communications for this parade, Memorial Day was about remembering those who gave their lives for the United States in conflicts years ago. Today, it is still about those people but also about men and women whose loss is today's news -- and tomorrow's. MARC salutes all who have served our country in every way.

NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW
FOR SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS

Would you like to give some time for club leadership responsibility? Club elections are coming up at the September meeting, and the nominating committee is getting to work now to find candidates for club leadership for 2004-05.

Incumbents are listed in the box on page 3. Not all of them are seeking re-election, including **Al W3EA** as Member-at-Large. Nobody owns any elective position, and any licensed member of MARC may run for any job. It does not matter what your license class is or how long you have been a club member. Callsign trustees are appointed, not elected.

Board members are expected to do their particular jobs and also to participate in monthly board meetings where the club's official business is done. If you would like to find out more about what's involved in serving on the board, please contact nominations chairperson **Kay N3KN**.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Logbook of the World users can now claim QSL's for DXCC, and that's not all the LOTW system can do to help DX hounds.

LOTW users who already have at least one flavor of DXCC award can also choose to view our award status on-line: how many countries we have on each band and mode and which countries they are. We can view the information as a grid or as a list. We can easily see which LOTW QSL's would be useful additions to our award totals.

Does being able to view our DXCC status on-line mean the DXCC records database is on a computer connected to the Internet, vulnerable to hacking? Uh-uh, the actual DXCC records database is not connected to the Internet in any way, shape, or form. Instead, a copy of the DXCC data file, updated daily, is transferred onto the computer used for LOTW.

There is no charge for using LOTW until we choose to claim some QSL's for DXCC. Then there is a small per-QSL fee. Depending on how many QSL fee credits we decide to buy (the minimum purchase is 20), this can be as little as 15 cents or as much as 25 cents per QSL. That's a lot cheaper than most other ways to confirm a DX QSO.

When LOTW started allowing users to apply QSL's to DXCC in May, I found 11 QSL's needed for my DXCC awards. I used my plastic to purchase some fee credits, then stepped right through the process to identify the QSL's I wanted to claim and to fill out the rest of the application form. Now those QSL's are in my DXCC records. It couldn't have been easier.

Further enhancements to LOTW are planned for the future. Right now, I'm having fun. Checking my list of LOTW QSL's whenever I want to is like getting an envelope from the bureau every day. Though most of the QSL's are not useful for me, there were those two on 80 meters that oohed me just that much closer to the magic 100 mark on that tough band. Yee-hah.

You know, some hams expend a lot of energy being angry about this, that, or the other thing. Like the guy who e-mailed me recently bawling that new hams don't know everything. Unlike -- I guess -- him. So help me, if this hobby wrapped me around the flagpole the way it does these people, I'd drop it like it was red hot. With life presenting enough unavoidable aggravations, I don't see why anybody endures a hobby that makes them nuts. Unless they were nuts to start with, and venting ire about ham radio is how they avoid shooting up the Wal-Mart.

That's not me. I'm just as happy as a dog in a barrel of biscuits chasing the DX, and even happier *catching* the DX. That hasn't changed a bit since I put the first one in the log back in 1983. -- **73, Kay N3KN**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the May 27 meeting, the board heard reports on the new 440 MHz repeater, Field Day, membership renewals, public relations, and future programs. The board voted to purchase a pre-amp and a rack for the new repeater. The treasury balance was \$9485.36.

At the June 24 meeting, the board discussed plans for the hamfest, Field Day, public service, and future programs. Particular attention was given to getting enough volunteers for the Kimberton Fire Company fair so as to get use of the property free of charge for our hamfest. Kay N3KN volunteered to chair the nominations process for 2004 and will contact all incumbents about their intention to seek re-election. The board voted to approve Carter N3AO as the new trustee for WB3JOE, and the paperwork for that change was executed. The treasury balance was \$8977.50.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2004

PRESIDENT

Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-327-8666
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 N3KN 610-993-9623
n3kn@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

Dick Thompson K3IIN 610-688-0874
k3iin@arri.net

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2004: Al Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

To 9/30/2005: Gene Hoenig N3HG
610-353-3281, n3hg@arri.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE: Al Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

W3NWA: Kay Craigie N3KN
610-993-9623, n3kn@arri.net

PERSONAL WEB SITES?

If you have a personal web site that you'd like to have listed in a future newsletter, please sent the URL to Kay N3KN.

Please don't ask to list your site if you choose to present content or links that may not be suitable for the whole family. The editor will check things and out and make a decision about whether the site is appropriate to list in this newsletter.

NEW GENERAL CLASS QUESTIONS

The General class license exam question pools changed on July 1. If you're studying for an upgrade or Elmering someone, be sure to use the latest edition of the study manual.

PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY RESULTS MARC LOOKS GOOD!

Results of the 2003 Pennsylvania QSO Party contest have been published, and MARC's 5 scores combined to put us in 10th place among 36 entries in the club competition. MARC's score was 361,043 points.

Furthermore, our members also won two counties. **Steve K3KFD** won Montgomery County with 120,532 points, and he placed second in the Eastern Pennsylvania Medium Power division. Congratulations, Steve! **Kay N3KN** won Chester County with the club's top score of 143,197 points. That was good enough for 9th place in the Eastern PA High Power division -- 200 watts puts you in the high power bracket, where the competition is tough. **Charlie KB3CO** competed in the Mobile division and scored 74,288 points for 7th place. In the same division, **Dennis KA3QOT** contributed 6,922 points to MARC's score and finished 13th. The fifth MARC entrant was **Dennis K3DS**, whose 16,104 points earned 4th place in Delaware County, not an easy county to work in this contest despite all the hams who live there.

Congratulations to all the MARC entries for helping the club move up the ranks in 2003. It takes every player -- big score and small -- to add up to a good showing for the club.

That's not just a platitude. I did the math. The 2003 club competition winner was Murgas ARC of Wilkes-Barre, with an impressive 1.6 million points and 26 entries. Murgas had 3 very large scores but also a bunch of small ones. Murgas's 3 big-gun scores, submitted without the 23 small scores, would have put Murgas in 2nd place.

So Murgas couldn't have won without the big guns, but they couldn't have won without the little pistols, either. If you can add a just few points to the MARC score in the 2004 PA QSO Party, your score will be important!

MARC'S NET CONTROL STATIONS

The job of a Net Control Station is to maintain order on the net in a firm but friendly way, to keep a record of what happened on the net (who checked in, how many formal messages were passed, how long the net lasted), and to send a report to the Net Manager as soon as possible after the net is over.

If a Net Control can't be there for the assigned net, he or she is supposed to either arrange for a substitute or notify the Net Manager so a substitute can be found.

People who serve as NCS on the traffic nets should have some experience as traffic-handlers. This is not important for the Sunday evening NCS, because formal messages are not usually passed on the Sunday nets.

MARC appreciates all our current NCS volunteers: **Dick K3IIN**, **Bob WR3K**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Dori W3IBH**, **Bart K4BF**, and **Carter N3AO**. We can always use backups for those times when the regular NCS can't show up. If you would like to try being NCS -- hey, nobody has ever been seriously injured doing this! -- please contact Carter N3AO (610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net).

ABOUT MARC'S REPEATERS

MARC began in the 1970's as a support organization for the privately-owned 147.06 repeater, the original equipment for which was built by engineering students at Villanova. Later, the repeater became the property of the club. The repeater was originally located at Villanova University. Later it moved to Cabrini College in Radnor, and thence to its present site in Newtown Square.

The 145.13 repeater was put on the air to be an experimental machine, in an era when the repeater sub-band was not fully allocated as it is today. Believe it or not, people used to do RTTY on 2 meters! Well into the mid-1980s there was talk about enabling '13 for RTTY, but it never happened. Neither did any other experimental activities, for that matter. For many years, '13 was located at Bryn Mawr Hospital. Then it bounced around to various locations. Finally, it was installed at Paoli Memorial Hospital when the old WB3JOE packet bulletin board station on 145.09 MHz was discontinued. The two MARC 2m repeaters are linked so the club's widespread membership can all talk together.

In 1987, the FCC gave voice privileges to Novices on part of the 220 MHz band. Previously, new hams had been restricted to CW on HF, so giving them some voice privileges and some VHF privileges was a big deal. Many ham clubs, MARC included, put 220 MHz repeaters on the air to reach out to new licensees and welcome them into the family. Towards that end, 224.42/R and 145.13/R were linked for a while. Both were located at Bryn Mawr Hospital, where 224.42/R still resides.

Now MARC has a 440 MHz repeater co-located with 147.06 at Paoli Memorial Hospital. We hope members and friends of the club enjoy using the new WB3JOE repeater.

TRAFFIC NET CERTIFICATES

Members and friends of the club who send and/or receive at least one message on the MARC traffic nets during 2004 will receive an award certificate from the Net Manager, **Carter N3AO**. The certificates are endorsed for each month in which messages are sent and received.

You can still earn the award certificate (see the "Public Service" column in April QST for an image of the award and a story about it. Operators who have earned the certificate thus far in 2004 are as follows:

Al	W3AHR	Bob	WR3K
Carter	N3AO	Reg	N3KAS
Ed	W3BNR	Bob	W3LIA
Dennis	K3DS	Leland	N3LJB
Ray	N3ESS	Cliff	W3NNL
Bill	KN3EUF	Dave	W3QMR
Bob	KB3FSQ	Dana	AA3QN
Gene	N3HG	Steve	KB2RTZ
Miguel	KC2HMG	Bob	W3SA
Dori	W3IBH	Gene	WB2UVB
Ray	KB3IGL	Mike	N3VJN
Dick	K3IIN	Jean	N2VQA
Ted	NT3J	Mike	W2YYY
Mike	KB3JFO	Ned	WQ3Z
Ed	KB3JGU	Bob	W3ZQN
Andy	K3JSE		

BACKGROUND ON MARC'S TEST SESSIONS

Named after Tom Powell K3YPO

MARC has been offering Amateur Radio license exams through ARRL/VEC since May, 1986. Except for tests given in conjunction with our hamfest one year, our exams have always been administered at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church's education building on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. That location was available to us thanks to **Tom Powell K3YPO** (SK), who was extremely active in church affairs -- in fact, there's a little plaque in his honor in the lobby of the education building. Although Tom was never a Volunteer Examiner, he came to every one of the 59 sessions held in his lifetime, made hot water for coffee, brought doughnuts, and made sure the VE's had everything we needed to serve the applicants well. When he became a Silent Key, the MARC team decided to name the test sessions after him, because his spirit of service to others should be remembered.

MARC's VE team has never had to worry about having enough examiners available. We usually have more examiners than applicants -- except for the April 15, 2000, session when we had 41 applicants and 10 examiners. That was Day One of the restructured license system, when the code speed dropped to 5 wpm for all license classes and some long-time Tech licensees could upgrade to General with just some paperwork. Wow, what a scene, but our VE's handled it just fine.

At our first session in 1986, we had the bare minimum of examiners for our 3 candidates: 3 Extras plus one Advanced class. We only gave Novice and Technician tests -- in those days, Tech was an upgrade exam, not entry-level -- because we wanted to learn the ropes before we went full-blast.

In the 18 years we've been giving tests, several people have served as captain or contact person for our VE group: **Bob WA3PZO**, **Bob W3SA**, **Bart K4BF**, **Kay N3KN**, and **Bob W3ZQN**. I think that's the complete list. If not, will somebody let me know whom to add to the list?

MARC's exam sessions operate under certain ground rules that candidates are told about before the tests begin.

- We do not accept copying Morse code by writing down the dots and dashes.
- We stop issuing exams at 11 AM. After that time, applicants are not permitted to begin a new test element.
- If an applicant fails an element, re-taking the same element using a different test version is not allowed. However, the applicant may take the next higher test for element credit if he or she is prepared to do so.

A number of years ago, a member suggested that MARC should pick up the test fee for club members taking tests at our sessions. The board voted in favor of that, and we've been doing it ever since. Of course, the test fee was a lot lower in the early days of this policy! Despite the rise in test fees, the MARC board continues to believe that encouraging our members to upgrade their licenses is a good thing to do. As long as the money is in the treasury to support this membership benefit, it will continue.

By the way, the belief that VEC's make a big, fat profit from examination fees is mistaken. Some small local or regional VEC's don't charge fees because they are run totally by volunteers and/or radio clubs which eat the small operating expenses. The big VEC's -- ARRL and W5YI -- do large volume, have offices with paid staff, and serve the whole country. Also, the FCC has increasingly required VEC's to do more of the data-handling tasks that Gettysburg used to perform, greatly increasing operating expenses. By the mid-1990's, ARRL/VEC was losing a six-figure amount of money every year and the shortfall couldn't legally be offset by publication sales income! Nor could fees be adjusted at will to match costs. Fortunately, Congress and the FCC changed the rules, allowing the big VEC's to dig out of the hole and reach a break-even point. That's where it is today -- no profit, just break-even.

MARC offers license tests once a quarter, normally on the first Saturday of February, May, August, and November. We ask applicants to pre-register with the team captain. This ensures they have been informed about what documentation and fee they must bring, so they don't have to be turned away without taking a test. But the main reason we urge pre-registration is that before we did this, examiners would arrive at the church on a Saturday morning and sit there for several hours waiting for applicants to show up. Sometimes nobody did. It was unfair to ask people to waste their Saturday morning like that. Now, if nobody registers by Friday evening, the captain cancels the session. If somebody shows up the next day as a walk-in, that's too bad.

When there are applicants who want to take the Morse code test as well as applicants taking theory tests, we split into two rooms, each with its own set of 3 examiners. After the Morse code tests have been administered and graded, applicants from that room may go into the theory test room and take additional exams if they want to.

After the session is over, the captain prepares the report and fee submission for ARRL/VEC. The captain must make sure everything is right before mailing the materials up to Newington. Our test team has an outstanding record of accuracy, as well as a reputation among test-takers for maintaining a professional yet friendly atmosphere at test sessions. All the examiners who've worked with the club over the years deserve thanks for contributing to that good reputation!

We like to congratulate club members in the newsletter when you upgrade. However, following guidance from ARRL/VEC, we do not publicize upgrades until either you tell REMARCS about it or it becomes public knowledge by being posted on the callbook sites on the Internet. ARRL/VEC advises examiners not to release individuals' exam session results without their permission, because in the past some people complained to ARRL/VEC that their privacy was being invaded. Even when they passed the test! Consequently, our VE team captain sends REMARCS the statistics on the test sessions but no names of candidates. When you pass your test, how about letting the editor know so MARC can help you celebrate your upgrade? That makes it news, not bragging.

SUPPORT THE MARC HAMFEST!

Continued from Page 1

Set-Up Day

Set-up for the hamfest will be on Saturday, July 10, starting at noon -- earlier than we've started in the past so maybe we'll get done earlier. We will be doing things like setting up tables and chairs inside, putting up signs along the roadways leading to the fairgrounds, and marking off the tailgate area parking spaces. We need two crews for the sign placement, and there are already maps prepared to guide you. Wear your work clothes. Set-up must happen regardless of the weather. Please come and help if you're able to do physical work.

Hamfest Day

On hamfest day, we need lots of people at all hours, and no experience is required. A crew has to be on site very early to sell tickets to crack-of-dawn tailgaters. We also need work squads to help at the end of the event to remove trash, tidy up the restrooms, put the tables and chairs away, and make sure the facility is even cleaner than when we arrived on Saturday. During the day, we need a lot of people to sell tickets in short shifts. It gets hot out there, and we don't want people working the gates too long at a stretch. We also need two crews to remove the road signs. If you know you can help, please contact **Mike KF3CD** to sign up for something. Otherwise, report to the main indoor table on hamfest day and ask what they need volunteers for at the moment. If you can even cover some job for 20 minutes so someone can grab a burger and use the restroom, you are helping the club.

The main door prize this year will be an ICOM IC-2720 dual-band 2m/440 MHz mobile rig, donated by a friend of the club who wishes to remain anonymous. We also have books donated by the ARRL and subscriptions donated by WorldRadio.

Talk It UP!

We need every member of the club to attend the hamfest, bringing friends (or enemies, or people you don't care about one way or the other). We need each and every member of the club to talk up the hamfest. This is America, so everybody's

Volunteer for the Hamfest Volunteer for the Fire Company Fair

Mike Pilotti KF3CD
mpilotti@anro.com
610-935-4429

entitled to an opinion, but please think about the consequences for the club -- YOUR club -- before you get on the air and complain, whine, gripe, find fault, bad-mouth, moan, groan, and go on. If you have constructive criticisms of the event, send them to the hamfest chairman, who gives all input a fair and honest

hearing. If on the other hand you just want to be a sourpuss, please think about finding an odd sock and biting down on it until the urge passes.

Club Members' Gear Sales Table

Most of us have a few things lying around that we'd like to sell. At the club members' gear sales table, we can leave items of ham and ham-related gear to be sold. No commission is charged for the sales. We can pocket the proceeds at the end of the day or donate all / part of the money to MARC. Items can be brought to set-up on Saturday or to the hamfest on Sunday. Stickers will be available for you to mark each item with your callsign and the asking price.

You'll also fill out a brief information form on each item. For your convenience, forms are available now so you can fill them out at your leisure in advance and bring them to the hamfest along with the stuff. **Kay N3KN** has the forms, which can be sent to you by e-mail as an Adobe PDF file or by snail mail on paper.

If you are interested in helping at the sales table this year, please contact **Mike KF3CD**. Gene and Judy will not be able to manage the table next year. Would you be interested in learning the ropes? This is a very popular feature of the hamfest, and it ought to continue. Gene and Judy have this down to a science, so it will be easy to learn their system and continue it. Talk to Mike.

Please do not dump unsold items at the fairgrounds. Take the gear home. Thanks for this courtesy to our hosts!

Every member benefits from the hamfest, so every member should do some work to help make it a success. See you there!

VANITY CALLSIGN FEE RISES SOON

The FCC regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will rise from \$16.30 to \$20.80 later this year. The FCC announced the new fee in a Report and Order released June 24. The FCC says it anticipates 7800 applications for FY2004 -- 2000 fewer than the previous fiscal year. The FCC expects revenue collected from the vanity call sign regulatory fees in FY2004 to rise by nearly \$2400 to slightly more than \$162,100. The R&O becomes effective 30 days after the R&O is published in The Federal Register. ARRL will announce when the new, higher vanity fee begins. Umm, didn't we learn in Capitalism 101 that when demand decreases, price decreases also? Hmmm. The FCC must have gone to a different school! Anyhow, if you have been putting off applying for that vanity callsign, much more procrastination is going to cost over \$4.

ROUNDTABLE GROUP CONTINUES

Thursday evenings at 8:30 PM continue to be fun on the MARC linked 2m repeaters, thanks to the chitchat roundtable hosted by **Bob W3LIA** and **Dori W3IBH**. There's often a discussion topic, such as the worst job you ever had, the best advice you ever received, etc. Some of it's serious, a lot of it is for laughs. The "worst job" discussion was a howl.

You'll get to know people better and have more to chat with them about when you run into them individually on the air. Listen for a few minutes, get the idea, and then check in for good talk and good fun.

FIELD DAY FUN!

*By Dick Thompson K3IIN*See images at <http://home.comcast.net/~n3kn/field/fd2004.html>

For the 23rd consecutive year, MARC held Field Day at the Verizon Training site in Audubon, PA. MARC operated W3NWA as a 4A class this year.

Planning Field Day began with a breakfast meeting attended by **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **Bob W3SA**, **Dieter K3DK**, **Dick K3IIN** and **Bob KB3FSQ**. Each committee member left the diner with a full stomach and his Field Day assignment. Field Day was officially underway.

Bob W3SA made arrangements with Verizon for the use of their training site, a bucket truck for the 3-element beam and flags, and a 5K generator. **Dieter K3DK** had the all-important job of making sure everyone was prepared to log the contacts. A new Windows logging program was used for the first time this year. Logging was actually fun! **Dennis KA3QOT** managed the food service while **Bob KB3FSQ** issued press releases, contacted local dignitaries (inviting them to FD), and greeted FD visitors.

Set-up began with a trip to the club's storage locker. **Bill KN3EUF**, **Dave KB3DVM**, **Dieter K3DK**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, and **Dick K3IIN** all helped with the equipment transportation. There was no shortage of help at the FD site. Putting up the antennas was the biggest challenge. Just about all the telephone poles had wire strung between them. And of

course, FD does not officially begin until **Bob W3SA**, at the control of the bucket truck, raises the 3-element beam (with flags) in the air. With everyone pitching in, the club was ready for operation before 2 PM. Kudos go to **Ron W3ZV**, **Mitch W2MBH**, **Dave K3DAT**, **Owen N3WO**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Dieter K3DK**, **Dave KB3DVM**, **Sue K3SUE**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **Mike W2YYY**, **Bob WA2POW**, **Ken W2YME** and **Dennis KA3QOT** for all their hard work to get us on the air.

With the hard work completed, it was time to play. Operators included **Mitch W2MBH**, **Mike W2YYY**, **Ken W2YME**, **Dave KB3DVM**, **Bob W3LIA**, **Owen N3WO**, **Al N3EA**, **Josy WQ3E**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **Steve N3LJZ**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Dick K3IIN**, and **Dave K3DAT**.

What would FD be without problems? There were a few little ones, but catastrophe was averted when **Al N3EA**, **Bob WA2POW**, **Sue K3SUE** and **Mitch W2MBH** fixed the connection to the rotor for the beam. Lots of colored wires along with a number coded connector did not confuse this group. Great job!

And, of course, having a chance to meet the owners of the voices we hear on the air sure added to the great fun of this year's FD.

MORE ABOUT MARC FIELD DAY

We're on a short deadline to get this newsletter to members well ahead of the hamfest. Consequently, the Field Day story on this page is a preliminary one. In the next issue we'll have more details, including the breakdown of QSO's by band and mode.

If you took photographs at Field Day and would like them to be added to the club historical archives, please send them to **Kay N3KN**. Paper photos are fine -- they can be scanned -- or you can send them on a disk or as attachments to e-mail. If you want your paper photographs to be returned, please make sure to say so when you send them. If you've posted your pictures on the Web, please send the URL to Kay.

Thanks for supporting Field Day 2004. The weather was outstanding and so was the fellowship at this annual activity.

ADDITIONS TO THE CLUB ROSTER

In no order whatsoever, the additions to the roster are

Will Emmons KB3IEL - 484-467-0177, will@emmons.org
Colin Neal AA3LM, 610-889-0524, cneal@ccil.org
Brian Mulligan N3MDE, 610-429-8155, brian.mulligan@comcast.net
Dan Milligan KA3KHR, 610-356-7731, amysfather@aol.com
Lor Kutchins W3QA, w3qa@arrrl.net
Ken Walker W2YME, 856-765-0461, w2yme@justhams.com
Mike Wrzesinski W2YYY, w2yyy@justhams.com
Ian Kirschmann KB3JAH, 215-323-1805, ikirschmann@netscape.net
Tom Porett N3JMA, 610-896-8413, tporett@uarts.edu
Harry Burhans W3FM, 610-827-7374, w3fm@arrrl.net



BPL TRIAL HALTED IN IOWA

(June 28, 2004) -- Alliant Energy has called an early end to its broadband over power line (BPL) pilot project in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The "evaluation system" went live March 30, and plans were for it to remain active until August or September. Alliant shut it down June 25.

Ongoing, unresolved HF interference from the system to retired engineer Jim Spencer W0SR and other amateurs prompted the ARRL to file a complaint to the FCC on Spencer's behalf demanding it be shut down. Spencer said he was happy with Alliant's decision and was gracious in expressing appreciation to the utility for working with him on the interference issues.

Read the full story about this event and other ham radio news issues on the ARRL Web site at www.arrrl.org.