



REMARCS

P.O. Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399



MEETINGS MAY HAVE TO RELOCATE IN JANUARY, 2001

The Memorial Library of Radnor Township, our meeting location for the past 15 years, has instituted a new policy governing which community groups may use the Winsor Room. The new rules require that at least 50% of a group's membership must reside in Radnor Township. MARC has fewer than 20 members who reside in the township.

On August 1, Radnor Township residents **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW** met with the library director to request an exception for MARC. Gene and Judy presented information in a memo, prepared by **Kay WT3P**, detailing the many contributions MARC has made to the library and the meeting room which benefit all users of the room, not just ourselves. The library director was sympathetic and promised to advocate on our behalf to the library board.

Dan W3LKD, also a Radnor Township resident, spoke to his Township Commissioner about our situation. The Commissioner conferred with the library director, who agreed to permit us to stay at least through December, 2000.

The library board does not meet in August, so they are expected to consider our request in September. If they turn us down, we will probably have to move to another meeting location in January, 2001.

MARC wants to continue meeting at the library, and we think our chances are good. However, it would be dumb not to find an alternative meeting location for next year, in case things don't go our way. We have found one alternative site, a fire company where one of our members is a volunteer.

Your help is needed to identify more options. A list of criteria for meeting sites is printed on page 2. Please read it and send your suggestions to club president **Steve N3ORH** (610-313-8080, smaslin@fast.net).

We may or may not know at the September club meeting what the library board's decision is. The November/December *REMARCS* will certainly update this important story.

2000 HAMFEST PROFIT IS IN THE BANK *See You on July 15, 2001*

Gruesome weather predictions that didn't come true severely cut down tailgater participation, but we had more indoor vendors than ever before and buyer attendance was good. The hamfest profit was \$1,833.40. That's much less than last year, but we can't control the weather or the bungled forecasts.

Vendors, including Amateur & Advanced Communications, reported being pleased with their day's business, and that's good news. We had tables for Navy-Marine Corps MARS, Holmesburg ARC, Philadelphia Area Repeater Association, Marple-Newtown ARC, and the ARES/RACES organizations for Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. ARRL

Section Emergency Coordinator **Eric Olena WB3FPL** and Section Traffic Manager **Paul Craig N3YSI** were there visiting the emergency communicators. We were very pleased to host these neighbor clubs and emergency comm groups and hope to have more in the future. Our hamfest is a marketplace of ideas and information, as well as a place to buy and sell "stuff."

Many club volunteers turned out for the event, both for set-up on Saturday and the hamfest itself on Sunday. We can always use more volunteers, to help spread out the work load. If you were not able to help this year, please do it next year. Our "hamfest honor roll" of volunteers appears on page 5.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MARC will provide safety communications for the Wyeth-Ayerst 5 mile run on Sunday, October 29, in Radnor Township. Volunteers will need to be on site at 8 AM. The event will be

over by mid-day. No previous experience is needed ... just a desire to help the public and participants enjoy a safe event. Contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587) to sign up.

MEMBERS TO VOTE ON BY-LAWS UPDATE

The MARC By-Laws, adopted in 1990, have been studied by a committee consisting of **Al N3EA**, **David KB3CRY**, and **Kay WT3P**. The board reviewed the draft revision and made a few

changes to the proposal. Then the board voted to recommend that members adopt the revised By-Laws. Please turn to page 4 for information on the revision and the voting process.

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Thursdays, 8 PM, Memorial Library of Radnor Township, Wayne. 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!**

VOX

Welcome to returning members **Dave WB3JOY** and **Yak N3MQM** and to recent join-ups **Marty W3TQW**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, and **Chuck KE3RJ**. **Wayne KA3W** used to be **N3AXQ**. **Steve N3LJZ** and **Walt W3HVX** upgraded to Extra and **Dave WB3JOY** upgraded to General. **Carter N3AO** qualified for the VHF-UHF Century Club award (VUCC) on 6 meters. **Kay WT3P** attended the ARRL Alabama State Convention at Huntsville and spoke on the League's new Education Project. **Ron W3ZV** logged China on RTTY.

MEETING LOCATION CRITERIA

What meeting sites do you know that meet most or all of these criteria?

1. About the same size as the Winsor Room.
2. In the western suburbs, preferably on or near a major street.
3. Free or extremely inexpensive.
4. Ample free parking, well-lit for safety.
5. Handicapped-accessible, smoke-free, restrooms.
6. Serving refreshments is permitted.
7. Available about 7:30 to 10:30 PM (not on Friday, Saturday, Sunday).
8. Reliable availability (i.e., we can reserve it for 6 months or a year).
9. No rules restricting use to residents of a particular geographic area.

We will consider changing the meeting night, if necessary. Think in terms of church/synagogue social halls, fire halls, fraternal and civic organization halls, public/private school cafeterias, community rooms at hospitals and places of business. That kind of thing ... be creative.

LICENSE TEST SESSION REPORT

The August 5 MARC test session served 11 candidates. Three went home with new Technician or Tech with HF licenses. Two submitted paperwork upgrades to General. One did a paperwork upgrade to Extra, and 3 passed exams to make Extra. One passed a test element but did not upgrade. One did not pass the test he attempted. Three people took the code test and all passed. The VE's who gave the tests were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Dick K3ITH**, **Bob W3SA**, **Hugh N3HT**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Paul NX3Q**, and **Kay WT3P**. **Ned WQ3Z** brought a copy machine but did not administer tests. **Tom K3YPO** handled logistics. One young man, who holds a German Amateur license, walked in without a USA license but walked out awaiting arrival of his Extra class ticket. The next MARC session will be November 4. Register with **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032).

PROGRAMS FOR THE FALL

September 21, our speaker will be **Greg Johnson K3EWZ**. Greg has been in the ham radio equipment repair business for years, including a contract with a major Japanese manufacturer. This program will be question & answer, so you can bring all your ham equipment trouble-shooting and repair questions to "Ask the Repair Man." Tnx **Harry W3FM** for this program suggestion.

October 19 will be "Homebrew Show & Tell" night. Bring in an item of ham equipment, or a ham accessory, that you have built. If it isn't portable or won't fit in the meeting room, bring a photograph. This can be something built absolutely from scratch, from a book or magazine article, or a kit you assembled. It's been a long time since we did one of these show & tell's. Some of the items have been creative and useful ... others have been kinda goofy. Bring your creations in October for show & tell, and let the fun begin.

November 16, we will learn about the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO) from **Gene WB3FTJ**. He and **Judy N3MBW** are involved in Amateur Radio international humanitarian work in a big way. If you have friends in the medical profession who are not hams, this would be a super opportunity to introduce them to the hobby and its humanitarian angle.

Thanks to **Bill W3IGU** for loaning his slides of the Antique Wireless Association museum for our August program, and thanks to **Janet KA3VTQ** for bringing the stuff to the meeting.

We still need someone to arrange club meeting programs!

It is very difficult for Board members to do their regular jobs for the club and also set up programs. Many good ideas are received, but somebody has to follow through. Could you give some of your time to arrange programs and attend Board meetings once a month? "The dishes," as my father-in-law used to say, "don't wash themselves!"

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

The bright teenaged boy had a regrettable home situation, and even before the Internet there were creeps on the prowl for kids at loose ends.

But this kid was a ham, and he had adult ham friends whose interest in him was entirely on the up-and-up. Sometimes he acted more like an adult than they did (*there was this trip to the ARRL Convention in New York City, but that's another story*). Anyway, the boy was interested in computers, but all his family could provide was a VIC-20. In case you don't remember those, let's just say that you own ballpoint pens that do nearly as much as a VIC-20.

So one day the older hams said to each other, "This kid's got potential, but he needs a real computer, not this toy." One of them had an old Apple II lying around the house taking up space, and another one installed a new ROM chip set to upgrade it to an Apple II+. We are talking here about a 6502 1 MHz processor with 64k RAM on the motherboard. Stop laughing. In those days, that WAS a real computer! Then they said to each other, "He needs a disk drive, too."

In those days, most computers did not come with disk drives (or much of anything else). The older hams bought a 5.25" disk drive and interface on the cheap and "loaned" it to the young ham with the computer. "Enjoy," they said.

One thing led to another, and today he is a successful businessman who works with ... computer systems. This is not a bad payback on an old computer from the back of a closet and a \$99 mail-order disk drive. But when you put a kid's best interests first, how wrong can you go?

Sometimes when you cast your bread upon the waters, it just gets soggy and sinks. Other times, it helps someone turn his life in the right direction. If the opportunity comes along, give a kid a hand up. You won't be sorry!

A recent entirely unscientific quickie-clickie poll on the ARRL web site showed that 56% of respondents were introduced to ham radio by family members and friends. Though not statistically valid, the poll still tells a truth. The greatest sales force Amateur Radio ever had or ever will have is ordinary hams like you and me, who just happen to love this stuff.

Do something nice for your friends today. Tell them about ham radio.
— **73, Kay WT3P**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

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

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MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Kay Craigie WT3P 610-993-9623
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PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL

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

PROGRAMS

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2000-2001: Al Maslin N3EA 610-446-4936
amaslin@earthlink.net

1999-2000: 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@arri.net

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

Much of the July 27 meeting was devoted to discussion of the Winsor Room situation and consideration of member input about Field Day. The sense of the board was that MARC's overall approach to Field Day does not need to be changed. Specific details about bands, modes, and how many stations will be left to the good judgment of the Field Day captains. A proposed revision of the By-Laws was distributed. In August, the board will vote whether or not to present the revision to the membership for their approval. The board also discussed the financial results of the hamfest and how to do even better next year. The 145.13 repeater was reported to be working well at its new location, and it may be possible to turn off the CTCSS tone. The treasury balance was \$10,882.22.

The August 24 meeting reviewed progress on the meeting room issue. The board voted to hold next year's hamfest on

July 15 and approved a small increase in ticket and tailgate prices. To avoid weather complications, the annual junque auction will be held in March rather than January, 2001. The board also voted to sell two Maggiore repeaters and a set of Wacom duplexers that have been out of use for several years. They also approved setting up a packet radio station at Bryn Mawr; this station will be something modern and experimental, rather than an old-style BBS. The 145.13 and 147.06 repeaters will be enabled for linking. The link will not be activated all the time, but rather only on specific occasions when the membership is best served by having linked repeaters. Following a report and discussion, the board voted to recommend that the membership adopt revised club By-Laws. The treasury balance was \$9,865.51.

BY-LAWS REVISION PRESENTED TO MEMBERS FOR VOTE

The existing By-Laws were adopted by the membership in 1990. A committee was appointed earlier this year to review the By-Laws, with the goals of (1) making the By-Laws and current practices agree with one another; (2) remedying any flaws in the By-Laws; (3) shifting the club elections from January to September; (4) making any other changes that are in the best interests of MARC.

The draft was reviewed by the board and a few changes were made. The board voted to present the proposed new By-Laws to you, with a recommendation to adopt. The proposed new By-Laws are being sent to all voting (licensed) members, electronically or on paper, depending on how you receive your newsletter. A ballot is provided. The formal vote will be held at the September membership meeting. Two-thirds of those voting must say "yes" for the new By-Laws to be adopted.

If you are unable to attend that meeting, you may vote by mail ahead of time. If you need another copy of the existing By-Laws in order to make a decision, you can download them from the club's Web site (www.marc-radio.org) or request a paper copy now from **Steve N3ORH**.

Changes which amount to patches on the existing By-Laws, to bring them in line with current practice:

- Drop the past president from the Board.
- Pluralize references to call sign trustee(s).
- Delete the rule that Members-at-Large can't be directors in any other capacity.
- Shift responsibility for maintaining the membership roll from Secretary to Membership Services chair.
- Drop the requirement for Secretary to bring By-Laws to every meeting.
- Add requirement for Secretary to circulate board minutes to board members and to ensure that minutes (or a summary) are available to the membership.

- Drop the (unenforced) requirement for an annual audit of the books and replace it with an optional audit.
- Revise nominating procedures; drop requirement that nominations chair cannot be running for office.
- Replace requirement for candidates' biographical info with option for biographical info in case of contested elections.
- Restore provision for write-in votes that was accidentally deleted in 1990.

Changes that are substantive:

- Remove term limits (2 consecutive terms) for president and vice president. Why should capable people who are willing to serve be forced out after 2 years?
- Revise the process for dealing with directors who skip too many board meetings without appropriate cause. The existing rule is harshly-worded and doesn't provide for due notice to "delinquent" directors. While making it clear that directors are expected to attend meetings, the revision's language is gentler and a process is created to give people notice and a chance to shape up before being booted off the board.
- Shift the elections from January to September. Severe weather has forced cancellation of January meetings twice in the last 5 or 6 years. Also, new directors come in during membership renewals and hamfest prep. Shifting elections to September brings new board members in when things are less stressful.
- To phase in the election calendar change, members are asked to approve extending the term of the present board by six months. Terms that now end January 31, 2001 would extend to September 30, 2001; the Member-at-Large position that now ends January 31, 2002, would extend to September 30, 2002.

REVISED ELECTION TIME-LINE

Date	Event
May meeting of the board	Nominations chair named
July newsletter	Nominations officially solicited from membership
August membership meeting	Nominations close
September 1	Cut-off date for members to be eligible to vote and to be eligible to seek/receive write-in votes
September newsletter	Slate is published; ballots and proxy materials distributed
September membership meeting	Ballots cast; ballots counted; results announced
October 1	New board takes office

MULTIPLE-CHOICE MORSE TO BE 86'D BY VEC'S

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has approved revised standards for the administration of Morse code tests. Under the revised standards, examinees will have to show 25 character-count solid copy on test sheets or successfully answer seven out of ten questions on a fill-in-the-blank quiz about the sent text. The plan bars multiple-choice tests for code exams.

Morse examinations will use a Farnsworth character speed in the range of 13 to 15 WPM. The audio pitch will have to be between 700 and 1000 Hz. Standard 5 WPM tests with 5 WPM character speed will be given only as a special accommodation.

The new Morse testing standards are to be in effect by next July 1, but VECs may implement them sooner. The NCVEC vote came July 21 during a

meeting of VECs in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. [*tnx W1AW Bulletin*]

This announcement by the NCVEC does not appear to reverse the FCC's mandate that accommodations must be made to ensure that people with documented handicaps (such as hearing impairment) must be given a fair chance to pass a Morse code test. MARC's license test team never used the controversial multiple-choice format for code tests.

HAMFEST HONOR ROLL

Mike KF3CD, chairman	Dan W3LKD	Steve N1HDP	Steve K3KFD
Steve N3ORH, assistant chairman	Bob N3JIZ	Jon N3VZG	Foster K3FXS
Mitch W2MBH	Travis N3YLI	David KB3CRY	Jeff WA3RIZ
Dan KA3KHR	Rick N3AGS	Bob W3ZQN	Branin N3SAM
Bill W3KRB	Ron W3ZV	Carter N3AO	Gene WB3FTJ
Ned WQ3Z	Steve KD0VA	Dieter WB3JWU	George N3ORC
Kay WT3P	Josy WQ3E	Al N3EA	Edie KA3NKP
Harry W3FM	Paul WB3CEZ	Bob W3SA	Dave WB3EHS
Susan K3SUE	Judy N3MBW		

Thanks to all! This list is from the sign-in sheet, plus other people who helped at different times in different ways. If you helped with the hamfest, but your name does not appear on the list, we apologize! Please contact the editor ASAP so you

can be credited in a future issue of the newsletter. We want to recognize and thank each and every club member whose hard work and positive attitude contributed to the success of the event this year.

FIELD DAY UPDATE

The MARC Field Day entry was sent to ARRL HQ by co-captains **Rob W13S** and **Janet KA3VTQ**, whose work is greatly appreciated. The sidebar shows how FD 2000 compares to FD 1999. We went down just a bit on SSB but came way up on CW, and added some digital QSO's.

Some comments about FD 2000 were received and discussed at the July Board meeting. Next year, people who want to operate at night are urged to bring their HF rigs. People who operate during the day often don't want to leave their rigs overnight when they aren't present. This year's lack of rigs to use at night is an easy fix for next year.

Also, more stations may be set up next year, offering additional opportunities to operate.

At some clubs' Field Day, the total emphasis is on contesting. If you are not an expert tester, these clubs make it clear that your participation is not wanted. Other clubs hold their annual picnic on Field Day weekend, and set up a station where occasionally somebody operates.

Like most clubs in this area, MARC has steered a middle course between the social and the competitive. We certainly do have fun socializing at Field Day, and we also encourage operating ... but that's operating by everybody who wants to, not by just a few highly-skilled testers. We are not a contest club ... and Field Day is an operating event, not a pure contest.

BAND	1999 SSB	2000 SSB	1999 CW	2000 CW	2000 DIGI
144	12	0	0	0	0
6	43	0	0	0	0
28	60	0	0	41	0
21	12	6	25	29	0
14	590	715	7	57	14
7	65	78	115	232	0
3.5	80	30	0	4	0
	862	829	147	363	14
99 TOTAL	1009 QSO's				
00 TOTAL	1206 QSO's				

All requests for QSL cards for MARC Field Day QSO's have been responded to. Believe it or not, sometime a club callsign operation can be very hard to get a card for. Some trustees just don't appear to give a hoot. MARC honors the reputation of **Bob Young W3NWA** (SK) by fulfilling QSL requests promptly. W3NWA QSLs are printed as needed and include a small color photo of Bob operating at an early MARC Field Day.

*Several MARC members who enjoy serious contesting are also active members of the Frankford Radio Club, which exists only for competition in HF DX contests. If you would like to know more about FRC, please contact: **Kay WT3P**, **Steve K3KFD**, **Al N3EA**, or **Josy WQ3E**.*

SEEKING FORMER MEMBER JOHN ECKERT N3LMX

Ted Mills N3KWQ, who works for SEPTA, is holding an item of valuable property with the callsign "N3LMX" on it. The item was found by another employee on SEPTA a few months ago. Ted wants to return this property to **John Eckert N3LMX**, who was a MARC member some years back, but hasn't been able to locate him.

John's callbook address is no longer valid and he isn't listed in the current Western Main Line phone book. If you hear John on the air or know how to contact him, please ask him to get in touch with Ted (n3kwq@arrl.net) or **Carter N3AO** (n3ao@arrl.net, 610-993-9623) so his property can be returned.

THIS & THAT

If you have any old cel phones and/or accessories that are no longer in use, they can be dropped off at any library in Delaware County. The libraries collect them for a charity that programs them for emergency use and gives them to abused women [tnx **Mike KF3CD**].

The Philadelphia U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will operate special event station **K3G**, 1400Z to 0000Z on October 21, commemorating the 61st Anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Planned frequencies are 7.232, 14.332, 21.332, and 28.332. QSL via **Dan Amoroso NM3S**, 196 Dam View Drive, Media, PA. 19063. For additional Information call Dan at 610-566-2187 [tnx **Dan NM3S**].

There's a web site with information about more than 640,000 nonprofit organizations that may help you decide which charity appeals to answer and which ones to ignore. A self-described "donor's guide to the charitable universe," www.guidestar.org features a searchable database that you can use to research charities which want your money. [tnx *Surrey Services for Seniors*].

The Main Line Volunteer Force summer food drive collected over \$30,000 worth of donated food and household products for needy families in our area. Thanks to all MARC members who gave food and/or cash.

ANTENNA PARTY AND STUFF FOR SALE FOR PAST MEMBER

MARC is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(4) of the IRS code. For that we have been in the debt of **Harry Baron N3EMX**, who prepared the necessary application years ago.

Now at age 83, Harry's moving to an apartment and must dispose of his ham gear. The sidebar shows the major items he has for sale. Please contact him if you are interested. The number is 610-667-5525.

Kenwood TS-930S/AT & manuals
Kenwood SM220 station monitor & manuals
Kenwood PC-1A phone patch controller
Kenwood SP-930 speaker

On August 12, a group of MARC members went to Harry's home in Merion and took down his antennas. The workers were **Ron W3ZV**, **Susan K3SUE**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Dan KA3KHR**, and **Carter N3AO**. Although Harry hasn't been a MARC member for a while, we are pleased that club members could do something to repay his kindness in doing the paperwork *pro bono* for MARC's tax exemption. To the work party, thank you for giving your Saturday morning to help our friend.

TWO GREAT OPERATING EVENTS

Pennsylvania QSO Party and Scouts Jamboree on the Air

Pennsylvania QSO Party

Whether you are a serious contester, a casual contester, a first-time contester, or just somebody with time on your hands and operating privileges on 80 and 40 meters ... join the Pennsylvania QSO Party October 14-15!

The point is to work as many Pennsylvania stations in as many of the 67 counties as possible. Stations in Pennsylvania get points for working ARRL Sections outside of PA also. Most of the activity is on 40 and 80 meters (phone and CW), though serious competitors also go on 10, 15, and/or 20 meters to call CQ for ARRL Sections.

A lot of hams from all over the state take part in the contest, which is one of the biggest state QSO parties in the USA. Only California's contest may be bigger. Believe it or not, most of the Philadelphia metro counties are not that easy to work. You

could be the most popular kid on the block, because people will want to work you for your county.

If you would like the official details and rules when they are mailed out, please contact **Kay WT3P** or **Carter N3AO**.

Scouts Jamboree on the Air

Ham radio and Scouting are a super combination. You can introduce kids to the magic of ham radio by having a Scout group visit your shack on JOTA weekend, October 21-22, 2000. JOTA is not a contest. It's an event for Scouts to learn about ham radio hands-on. Check the story on page 48 of September *QST*.

Jon N3VZG (n3vzg@arrl.net) is a contact person for JOTA and Scouts in our area. You could also talk to **Rick WB3BSA**, whose suffix is no accident.

MICROWAVE UPDATE 2000 COMES TO PHILADELPHIA AREA

The annual Pack Rats VHF conference will host the national Microwave Update 2000 Conference. It will be at the Holiday Inn Select in Trevese, Bucks County, and the registration fee is \$40. If you are interested in weak signal operations and microwave communications on the Amateur bands, you have to be there. For details and late news, check the Web site at http://www.ij.net/packrats/MUD_2000/mud.html. The dates are September 29-30. The Pack Rats Hamfest is October 1.

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

How has restructuring affected MARC membership? The answer is complicated, since our membership today is smaller and doesn't consist of exactly the same people as it did pre-April 15.

Of last year's 160 licensed members, 23 did not renew (2 of them are Silent Keys). We have added 7 new members (1 Tech, 3 General, 1 Advanced, 2 Extra), for a current licensed member total of 144.

LICENSE CLASS	POST-APRIL 15		PRE-APRIL 15	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Novice	2	1.4%	2	1.3%
Technician	16	11.1%	24	15.0%
Tech Plus	17	11.8%	31	19.4%
General	30	20.8%	22	13.8%
Advanced	25	17.4%	35	21.9%
Extra	54	37.5%	46	28.8%
TOTAL	144	100.0%	160	100.0%

We lost 5 Tech Plus members during renewals, so the disappearance of 9 additional Tech Plusses means they upgraded to General or Extra. We lost 4 Advanced members and gained 1, so we should have 32. Instead, we have 25, so 7 must have upgraded to Extra. We lost 1 General member and gained 3 new ones, but instead of 24 Generals we have 30, indicating 6 upgraders in the group.

The loss in the Technician category is mostly just that: a loss of members. We need to do a better job of welcoming newer licensees who use our repeaters, so they will want to join MARC. New hams don't know that our repeaters are club-sponsored unless we tell them and invite them to learn more about our organization.

Tech Plus members! If you took the old Tech/General theory test (before 3/21/1987), you only have to present your proof, fill

out a form, and pay a small fee to upgrade to General. If you took the shorter Tech theory test, you only have to pass General theory (35 questions) to upgrade to General. No Tech Plus licensee has to pass any more Morse code tests to make General.

Now that the stampede of restructuring upgrades has slowed to a trot, it will be interesting to see what happens with upgrading over the next couple of years. The 13 and 20 wpm code tests, long blamed as the barrier to upgrading, are gone ... so will most people who have already satisfied the CW requirement move on up to Extra? Will active Technicians decide that getting full HF privileges is worth 5 wpm code and learning more theory? No one knows the answers yet.

145.13 REPEATER MOVE GETS USERS' THUMBS-UP

The test move of 145.13/R to Paoli Hospital has been a huge success. The coverage is much better to the south than we expected, and users in the Norristown / K of P area are happy, too. Looks like this is where we want to be, in order to provide repeater access to our whole membership.

Because you can't hog up antenna sites these days, the little-used WB3JOE packet BBS at Paoli Hospital was QRT when the repeater was installed. We hope to put packet back on the air from another location, using an application that is modern, interesting, and experimental ... any ideas?

BUBBLE, BUBBLE ... SIGNAL TROUBLE!

PSK31 operators who congregate on 14.070 MHz have reported a strange intermittent sound on the frequency. It sounds like loud water bubbling.

The first assumption was that it's intentional QRM, which isn't out of the question. But an inquiry to ARRL HQ brought up two other possibilities. One is that it could be a harmonic of a shortwave broadcast jamming signal.

Some governments, such as Cuba, try to jam shortwave broadcast stations they object to, such as Radio Marti. The jamming signals sound rather like water bubbling. In my opinion, that's what's heard on 18 MHz at the third harmonic of Radio Marti.

It's a difficult international problem to resolve, because the offending governments don't give a rat's fanny that they are QRming us hams.

The other possibility is that it may be accidental interference from someone's computer. To run PSK31, many people simply hook the output of their sound cards to the rig's microphone input and turn on the VOX. Sometimes they operate for a while and step out for a bite to eat without exiting their PSK31 program or turning off the rig. Then their screen saver kicks in.

Many Windows-based computers have a screen saver called "Underwater," which features an ocean floor,

swimming fish, and ... bubbling water sound effects. If these sound effects go out the sound card, into the mic input, trip the VOX, and get transmitted, then you've got bubble-bubble noises on 14.070 MHz at unpredictable intervals for unpredictable lengths of time ... which is what has been going on.

When you aren't at the control point of your station, disable the screen saver, exit your PSK31 program, turn VOX off, and/or turn off your rig. Whatever works. If the screen saver theory turns out to be true, you really don't want the FCC tracing the source to your shack.
[tnx ARRL HQ Staff, Joe K3JV, and Harry W3FM]