



MAY / JUNE 2003

REMARKS

www.marc-radio.org

MAY MEETING DATE CHANGED!

The meeting room at the Radnor Township administration building is a polling place for Pennsylvania primary elections on May 20, our usual meeting date.

Consequently, the MARC meeting is re-scheduled for Tuesday, May 27. Please mark this change on your calendar now.

RADNOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT

MARC will communicate once again for the Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, in downtown Wayne. Volunteers should meet at 8:30 AM in the Micro Center parking lot on Lancaster Avenue in Wayne. Talk-in will be on 147.06/R.

Parades are noisy, so it is essential to bring an ear-phone for your rig.

To sign up for the event, or (if you haven't done one of these events before) to find out more information, contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587).

MARC had 2 public service events on April 27. Because of tight publication deadlines, we are unable to tell you that story in this issue. Look for it next time.

LICENSE EXAMS MAY 3

MARC will administer ham radio license exams at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 3. Applicants should arrive by 9:15 AM to do the paperwork. Pre-registration is strongly advised. Contact **Bob W3ZQN**, rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032, for info and registration.

Remember that 1 free license test session per year is a benefit of MARC membership.

TRAFFIC NET AWARD YOU CAN EARN

All MARC members are invited to check in to the club's message-handling (traffic) nets, held on the linked 2m repeaters on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 8:30 PM.

On these nets, you can learn how to compose, send, copy, and deliver formal radiogram messages, a skill that's valuable in ARES/RACES operations.

(Continued on page 5)

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FIELD DAY? PLANNING MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 24, 10:30 AM

This is the last regularly-scheduled newsletter before Field Day, June 28 - 29, and frankly, we aren't where we need to be.

Bob W3SA has arranged the use of the field and generators. **Janet KA3VTQ** has volunteered to be the food captain. **Foster K3FXS** has offered to work on set-up of computers and software. **Bob KB3FSQ** is prepared to do publicity. **Leland N3LJB** is making sure nobody forgets about the event. We know there are others we can depend on to show up, do the heavy lifting, and operate the stations. That's great.

What is not so great is how few people have expressed interest in doing the pre- and post-event leadership work and planning that makes Field Day happen. The event does not just materialize on the spot at the field.

Some of the unclaimed jobs include: transportation of club-owned gear to and from the storage locker, set-up and take-down crews, paperwork and entry submission after the event, arranging enough tents and rigs, ordering Field Day pins from ARRL, station and antenna location decisions, choosing bands and entry class, arranging helpers for inexperienced operators . . .

Do you get the picture? Did you think everybody just shows up, operates a few hours or hangs around to shmooze for a while, and goes home? Nuh-uh. Not everybody. The dishes, as my father-in-law used to say, don't wash themselves.

Usually in the May / June issue, the Field Day article is a cheerleading piece that encourages members to come, participate, learn, have fun, bring visitors, and receive all the benefits that Field Day offers to members of a club like ours. This year, we have to talk about leadership.

We are going to hold a planning meeting at the home of **Kay N3KN** and **Carter N3AO** on Saturday morning, May 24, at 10:30 AM. It is open to all club members who are willing to volunteer for one or more Field Day tasks. If you are unable to attend but will commit to one or more of the unclaimed jobs listed above, please contact **Carter N3AO** (n3ao@arrl.net) or **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@arrl.net).

An obvious option is to go back to the KISS-principle Field Day that we had year before last. That way, if you don't like the color scheme, we'll hand you the paintbrush, and Field Day 2004 will be done your way.

Field Day will be held in Audubon, PA, (see the map on page 6), with set-up starting at 10 AM. What Field Day amounts to, and whether it will continue past 2003, is really in the membership's hands.

MARC HAMFEST SUNDAY JULY 13 KIMBERTON, PA

TALK IT UP NOW! Get flyers from Mike KF3CD (mpilotti@anro.com, 610-935-4429) for friends and other clubs.

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesdays, 8 PM, Radnor Township
Building, St. Davids. 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
145.13 147.06 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
Homebrewer Net, Saturday, 9 AM
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!

VOX

Bill W3IGU is the recipient of a 75-year Quarter Century Wireless Association membership plaque. Welcome **Brian N3MDE** back to the club and say hello to associate member **Steve Buerkle**. **Dieter K3DK** is the former **WB3JWU** and **Kay N3KN** is ex-**WT3P**. **Owen N3WO** has moved to Bridgeport. **Steve N3ORH** and family have moved to Pottstown. Jenny **KA3WVD** receives her Master of Social Work degree in May from Radford University in Virginia. The two MARC members who went to Honduras with the International Health Service's 2003 humanitarian mission were **Lor W3QA** and **Josy WQ3E**. You recall **Lor's** presentation at a MARC meeting earlier this year. A medical doctor, **Josy** speaks Spanish in addition to French and English. **Carter N3AO** spoke on QRP at the Warminster ARC, where he saw past member **Sean N3EOG**, who sends his 73 to old friends.

MARCH AUCTION MIXES FUN WITH COMMERCE

The annual junque auction at the March club meeting was well attended and a lot of fun. MARC thanks everyone who brought stuff to sell, especially those who donated their entire share to the club rather than just the required 10%. We had a total of 41 transactions that netted \$133.90 for the club treasury. Auctioneer **Bart K4BF** was in fine form as always.

Something you may not have been aware of . . . two members purchased items which they turned around and gave as gifts to a new teenaged ham who was a visitor at the meeting. Something like that happened last year, too.

When you hear stories about some old-timers being snotty to new hams, pull these stories out of your hat to balance off the bad news with good news.

MAY AND JUNE MEETING PROGRAMS

"SHOW & TELL" . . . HOMEBREW AND STORE-BOUGHT

The May 27 meeting program will be Homebrew Show & Tell Night. Members are invited to bring something for ham radio that you made (from plans, from a kit, your own invention, whatever!) and tell the group about it. This could be a rig, an accessory, a meter, a gizmo. It could be useful and successful or, if you have a sense of humor, a dismal flop or miserable failure. If the item is not portable or too large to fit in the meeting room, bring a photograph.

The June 17 program will be another Show & Tell, but this time for equipment that you purchased. Time to show that new HT, antenna analyzer, mobile rig, CW keyer, SWR meter, RigBlaster, RigRunner . . . any ham radio toy old or new that you'd like to tell others about. It could be something you think is the greatest product since duct tape or something you wish you had never paid a dime for at the ham stuff store. Again, if it isn't portable or won't fit through the door, bring a photo or some product literature.

Our July 15 program will be about the ham radio station on board the Battleship New Jersey. This will be an excellent opportunity to bring guests who have served in the military, to show them ham radio's role on the museum ship here in the Philadelphia area.

Ideas for programs are urgently needed. As you know, no one has been willing to serve as program chairman for several years, and so the board has to come up with topics. We need your ideas and your help in setting up programs . . . even if it's ham radio folk-dancing to the tune of CW training tapes.

Is anyone in the club an active member of QCWA and willing to give a talk about that organization? Does anyone have contact with a radio-control model aircraft club which might do a program for us? All ham radio and more-or-less related high tech topics are fair game! Talk to any Board member about your ideas for future meeting programs.

CLUB BUYS USED RIG FOR LOANER

A used Kenwood TS-440S-AT with power supply has been purchased by the club to use for Field Day and for loan to new hams who don't have HF gear of their own yet.

Dennis K3DS handled the e-Bay purchase and will check out the rig. Its first official use will be at Field Day.

The club owns two Kenwood 520 rigs, donated years ago by hams who were disposing of their stuff. These workhorse tube rigs were used a lot, until they finally kicked the bucket. They will be sold, either on e-Bay or at the hamfest, to recover part of the cost of the recently-purchased rig.

QSL SERVICE CONTINUES

MARC members who belong to the ARRL can pool their DX QSL cards for shipment to the League's outgoing QSL bureau. MARC picks up the fee. You must provide proof of ARRL membership and sort your cards by DXCC country. Bring cards to a MARC meeting and give them to **Leland N3LJB** or **Owen N3WO**.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Wearing my ARRL hat, I sometimes get messages insisting that contesting should be made illegal because this or that person hates it. Leaving aside the obvious consequences of prohibiting every ham activity that somebody somewhere hates, let me put the case for contesting to you like this:

If you do much formal message-handling, you know that some messages arrive for delivery in a condition that's simply deplorable. We see botched signatures, ruined addresses and phone numbers, checks that don't add up, and texts that have jumped the tracks and gone down the ravine. The folks who relay this rubbish, however, can and do lay claim to their traffic-handling laurels just as if the relay were perfect. If that's satisfactory public service or good PR for ham radio, then I'm a monkey's aunt.

In contesting, on the other hand, there are unpleasant personal consequences for mistakes and sloppiness. Computerized log analysis allows major contest sponsors to inflict penalty points for every logging error. Believe me, when you've decided you're some kinda radio hot-shot, reading your contest error report can re-size your ego in no time flat.

If I turned in a contest log that was as full of errors as those wrecked radio-grams, I wouldn't just be penalized some points. I'd be disqualified.

Good testers learn to stay focused, to hear well, to copy rapidly and accurately. They learn to send clearly, so other ops won't waste the clock asking for repeats. They don't whine about not having a dead-quiet frequency (*On HF? Please!*). They press on. Do it fast. Do it right. Do it despite the bedlam. Do it despite the fact that your butt is so numb, it ain't funny.

It's all about speed, accuracy, concentration, and endurance. You aren't born with those skills. They're hard won through practice in competition.

Though we do it for fun and ego, contesting makes us more proficient operators for those occasions when we must serve the public and fun is the farthest thing from our minds. The training you get on a traffic net is very important, but contests are valuable training experiences, too.

And yes, I have this new callsign, celebrating 20 years as a ham and 20 years as your MARC newsletter editor. The suffix stands for nothing except my desire to have a call that goes fast on CW. If you go to Dayton, drop by the ARRL booth, where I hang out most of the time when I'm not out running up the credit card bill. 73 -- **Kay N3KN**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the March 27 board meeting, there were reports on membership renewals, future programs, future public service events, and the status of the repeaters. Following discussion of options regarding club-owned HF equipment, the board voted to allocate up to \$500 to purchase a used Kenwood TS-440 on e-Bay, with **Dennis K3DS** tasked with making the purchase. Subsequent to the meeting, the board agreed by e-mail to increase the authorized amount, because it became clear that \$500 was insufficient to purchase the desired equipment. Planning meetings for the hamfest and Field Day were discussed. The treasury stood at \$10,911.18.

At the April 24 meeting, **Dennis K3DS** announced that a Kenwood TS-440S-AT with power supply had been purchased on e-Bay for \$550 plus shipping costs. Following a report on future programs, a program for the June meeting was discussed and a decision was made. Reports were provided on public service, membership renewals, and committee meetings. The treasury balance was \$11,034.62.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2003

PRESIDENT

Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-327-8666
smaslin@marc-radio.org

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

Carter Craigie N3AO 610-993-9623
n3ao@arrrl.net

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Kay Craigie N3KN 610-993-9623
n3kn@arrrl.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

PUBLIC SERVICE

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

TECHNICAL

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

PROGRAMS

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2004: **Al Maslin N3EA**
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net
To 9/30/2003: **Gene Hoenig N3HG**
610-353-3281, n3hg@arrrl.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE: **Al Maslin N3EA**
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net
W3NWA: **Kay Craigie N3KN**
610-993-9623, n3kn@arrrl.net

REPEATER LINKING WHAT DO YOU THINK?

At the present time, the MARC 2 meter repeaters are linked for morning and evening drive times and for scheduled nets.

If you use these repeaters, what do you think of having the repeaters linked all the time?

On the one hand, 24/7 linking would allow you to chat anytime with friends who have a poor signal into the repeater that you can hit the best. As it is now, you have to use some other club's repeater that all of you can hit.

On the other hand, with full-time linking one QSO would tie up both repeaters, even if all participants in the conversation were accessing only '13 or only '06. Others who wanted to QSO would have to use some other club's repeater.

There are valid arguments pro and con. Please send your views to one of the MARC board members-at-large, listed in the box on this page.

COSTS: SOME PERSPECTIVE

You think ham radio is expensive in this country? In *The Daily DX* newsletter a few months back, we read that "in Nepal you get a license for two bands, your choice, and you have to pay for each additional band."

Carter N3AO and I have Cayman Islands (ZF) licenses. This year we paid US\$ 24.39 each to renew our tickets for one year. In the USA, unless you have a vanity callsign, your fee for a ham ticket is zip.

Although it's nonsense that we have to pay to renew USA licenses with vanity calls, having a vanity call is by choice. Even so, at the present time the vanity fee comes out to \$1.45 per year. I spend more than that on snacks when I go to the mall.

The vanity fee will rise slightly this fall, so if you've been on the fence about a new callsign, maybe it's time to act.

BANDS: SOME PERSPECTIVE

Did you ever wonder why 12, 17, and 30 meters are sometimes called "WARC bands"? It's because the World Administrative Radio Conference of 1979 (a.k.a. WARC '79) decided that these frequencies would be added to the ham bands. By itself, the WARC's decision changed nothing, because each country retains authority over spectrum management for licenses within its borders. In the years that followed, hams in the USA and many other countries were given permission to use these new allocations by our governments. Fun ensued.

But not everywhere.

To this day, 24 years after WARC '79, hams in Thailand are still not allowed to operate on 12, 17, and 30 meters, according to *The Daily DX*. What's more, they are not allowed on 80 and 160 meters, either, except during certain contests.

Access to spectrum is something we dare not take for granted. In the USA, hams are fortunate to have a strong national society that speaks for us in Washington. If you're not an ARRL member now, think about Thailand. Then go find your check-book, join the League, and help defend our bands.

ARE YOU GETTING THE NEWS?

The best source of up-to-the-minute news about ham radio is the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org. The site is updated daily with news about all sorts of ham radio issues and events.

To get full benefit from the site -- such as some feature stories that won't be in *QST* -- register for the members-only section of the site. Over 100,000 ARRL members have registered so far.

If you haven't registered, grab your *QST* -- you'll need your member ID number from the mailing label -- and follow the links from the main ARRL page.

Then check the page whenever you go on-line, to get the latest news about ham radio.

Not an ARRL member? With your credit card, you can join on-line. Then you'll get all the benefits of League membership, one of which is knowing you're part of our national organization that is working constantly to promote ham radio's interests.

BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY 60TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT STATION

On May 24, the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station, **NJ2BB**, will run a special event operation commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ship's commissioning.

Find out more about this shipboard museum ham radio station by going to the BNJARS web page at www.qsl.net/bb62/.

Our July meeting program will be about the Battleship New Jersey ham station. Details will be in the July/August *REMARCS*.

MARC HOMEBREWER NETS THINK INSIDE THE BOX!

homebrewer nets that meet Saturdays at 9 AM on the linked repeaters are not just for the hams who can make a transceiver out of a dog food can, a spool of twine, and a couple of burned-out light bulbs. They're for anyone who wants to learn more about what goes on *inside* the boxes in our ham shacks. Join in!

EURO POSTAGE UPDATE

Rather than automatically send \$2 to Europe for return postage on QSL requests sent directly to the DX, I've been tracking what it actually costs the DX to post the reply card. This is easy for the countries that use the Euro currency, trickier for those that don't.

This is because \$1 is worth just a bit less than €1. You can check out currency conversion rates on several web sites. One of them is www.xe.com/ucc/.

I'm looking for a reliable, up-to-date site that shows postage rates to the USA from other countries. Information from that site could be fed into the currency converter. The best one I've found so far . . . well, the only one I've found so far . . . is www.atms.ch/rates/. Dependent on information provided by web surfers, this site's information pretty much agrees with actual postage on mail I've received.

In the end, you can't predict the exact exchange rate on the day the DX converts your dollars, but you can form a ballpark idea of whether \$1 will suffice. The chart shown here is based on QSL's coming to me from Europe, plus information I have read in *The Daily DX* electronic DX newsletter.

COUNTRY	EURO
AUSTRIA	€ 1.09
AZORES	€ 0.70
BELGIUM	€ 0.57
FRANCE	€ 0.69
FRENCH GUIANA	€ 0.67
GERMANY	€ 1.50
GREECE	€ 0.55
GUADELOUPE	€ 0.58
ITALY	€ 0.77
NETHERLANDS	€ 0.75
SPAIN	€ 0.75
DENMARK	\$1 OK
NORWAY	NEEDS \$2
U.K.	\$1 OK

TAKE IT OUTSIDE!

More and more people like to take ham radio on their outdoor excursions today. At the same time, they don't want to get so far back to nature that they're logging with a stick dipped in berry juice on a piece of tree bark.

For these high-tech nature lovers, there are logging programs that will run on a PDA or palm computer. Check out the list at www.natworld.com/ars/pages/back_issues/2002_text/0202_text/options.html.

HOBO SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Our neighbors the Pottstown Area ARC will operate special event station W3H from the 12th annual East Coast Hobo Gathering in Pennsburg, PA, on September 20, 2003. To find out more about the event and the special ham operation, go to <http://userweb.ot.com/ag3t/w3h.htm>. [tnx **Ed W3BNR**]

SPARK LODGE OPEN HOUSE

K3BSA, the Spark Lodge ham radio station at the Delmont Scout Camp, will hold an open house on May 17. If you know a kid in Scouting who doesn't know about the fun of radioscouting, here's your chance to make the connection. Check out the Spark Lodge web page at www.k3bsa.org.

TRAFFIC NET CERTIFICATE

Continued from Page 1

Operators who send and/or receive at least one radiogram per month will receive an attractive certificate at the end of the year. It doesn't matter if you're getting involved halfway through the year. You can still qualify for the certificate for the months in which you meet the requirements.

Our traffic Net Control Stations are **Carter N3AO** (Net Manager), **Bob WR3K**, and **Dick KB3IIN**. Dick recently picked up the Monday night slot formerly held for many years by **Bart K4BF**. All these guys, and the other experienced message-handlers who check in regularly, are happy to help you get started learning.

ARRL officials in the Eastern PA Section have noticed the volume of messages coming to the HF nets has increased in the last year, and a big reason for this is the activity on the MARC nets. Many radiograms, alas, are administrivia and spam, which don't give people true practice in traffic-handling. The messages generated by the MARC nets, in contrast, are real messages sent to people you know, who will enjoy receiving them.

All you need to get started is to check into the nets, listen, ask questions, and then try composing and sending a message. For some start-up information, contact **Carter N3AO** (n3ao@arrl.net, 610-993-9623) and check the web page at <http://home.earthlink.net/~wt3p/TRAFFIC.HTML>.

BRING A FRIEND TO A MARC MEETING!

OR FIND A NEW FRIEND THERE.

KIDS DAY JUNE 21

Do you know some kids who'd enjoy getting on the air and having simple QSO's with other youngsters? Kids Day, sponsored twice a year by the ARRL, is the opportunity for hams with HF privileges to give children a chance to play radio.

It is not a contest. Every kid who participates is a winner. Get the details from the June QST or www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html.

If you work Kids Day, be sure to send a QSL card to each child you talk to, in care of the control operator. This kind of follow-up is essential. It provides a souvenir and tells the kids that adults care enough to say, "I hope you had fun on Kids Day."

Here's an important point. Don't just invite the kids over. Invite their parents, too. You never know -- the parents might decide they want to become hams. Also, you want parents to be confident that you have no wrong intentions towards their kids. The best way to do that is to talk to the parents, explain the Kids Day activity, and make it clear that you want at least one parent or another adult relative to accompany the kids to your shack. This protects both you and the children from any misunderstanding. Too bad we have to think about such things, but don't be naïve -- we do have to think about them.

CONTEST FUN IN MAY AND JUNE

May and June are hot months for operating fun. Not only is there Field Day, but also a lot of state QSO parties plus some VHF and HF DX contests.

For QSO parties, we have Indiana, New England, Oregon, Great Lakes, and West Virginia on various weekends. There's also the ARRL June VHF contest, June 14 - 16, the ANARTS World Wide RTTY contest on the same weekend, and the CQ World Wide Worked All Prefix (WPX) contest, CW edition, on May 24 - 25.

Even if you don't keep score, contests are a good way to exercise your station equipment, work new states and DX countries, and build operating expertise.

A good on-line resource is **WA7BNM's Contest Calendar** at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html.

CLOSET-CLEANING SALE

As a result of newspaper publicity about our test sessions, **Bob W3ZQN** was contacted by an older ham in Broomall who is caring for an invalid wife and needs to dispose of some ham gear. If you're interested in any of this equipment, please contact **Walt KB3CKR** at 610-356-6519. Prices are negotiable.

- Yaesu FT-227 2m rig with microphone and manual
- Astron RS-20M Power Supply
- Icom 2m HT (model not given), 2 battery packs, charger
- Ringo Antenna - 2M; Mobile 2M antenna
- Code practice audio cassettes
- Three license manuals (possibly out of date)

PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY RESULTS

Results of the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party are posted at <http://www.nittany-arc.org/paqso.html>. In the club competition, MARC finished 20th of 33 clubs. We thank the 5 operators who contributed their points to MARC in 2002.

The overall club results this year were skewed by the facts that some members of the Frankford Radio Club submitted their scores for FRC instead of for their local radio clubs this year. This caused controversy within some clubs and put some individuals in an awkward position. Your editor, who belongs to both MARC and FRC, was not in the 2002 contest because of a family activity out of state, but had been in the PAQP, my points would have gone to MARC!

Moving on to the details, **Carter N3AO** had MARC's top score and Chester County's top score with 97,334 points QRP. **Tim N8LXR** had the top score in the 2nd call area with 33,894 points; he operated from someone else's house in New Jersey. **David KB3CRY** contributed 20,066 points from Montgomery County. **Dennis K3DS** added 18,128 points from Delaware County. **Dennis KA3QOT** was mobile in Chester County and rounded out the MARC club score with 8,180 points. Whatever a "kudo" may be, a bunch of 'em to all you guys! **Dieter** then-**WB3JWU** participated too, though his points went to a club from his days in central PA.

All MARC members who are on HF are encouraged to play in the 2003 PAQP on October 11-12. It's easy to do, even if you have never been in any kind of contest before. If you do not have HF privileges but might like to participate, you have two options. The best choice is to earn your General between now and October, and get yourself some kind of simple HF station going. The other is to make your interest known to one of the usual suspects, and maybe we can find a place for you to operate under control op supervision.

HAMS ARE U.N. FOOD AID WORKERS

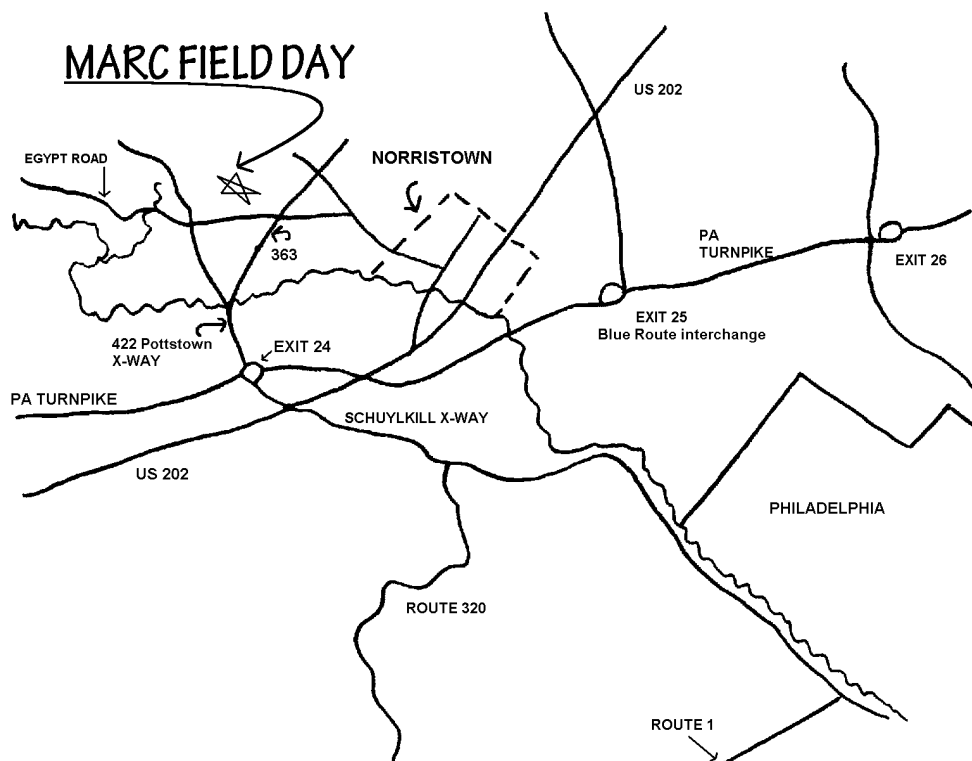
Several radio Amateurs are among United Nations World Food Program (WFP) "Fast Intervention Team" (FITTEST) personnel already in Iraq or expected to be inside the war-ravaged country very soon. FITTEST is responsible for building technical infrastructure to ensure WFP can move relief food supplies rapidly and safely.

Peter Casier ON6TT says the WFP will have a critical role in the post-conflict era in Iraq "where 60 percent of the population is dependent on external food aid." Casier, a top contester, was one of the operators of Afghanistan's YA5T after the US-led military action there in 2001.

Other YA5T alumni expected to soon be in Iraq as part of the WFP effort include **Robert Kasca S53R** -- the last UN international staff person evacuated from Iraq before the conflict -- **Mark Demeuleneere ON4WW**, and **Mats Persson SM7PKK**.

FITTEST has a mandate to install or build basic technical networks, including such systems as VHF repeaters, satellite communications and HF fixed and mobile stations. The team also will set up radio rooms, rework administrative procedures, and assign call signs for all UN humanitarian-aid workers and non-governmental aid organizations.

Another ham ready to go to Iraq is **Ed Giorgadze 4L4FN**, who's standing by in Turkey. Until last November, Giorgadze operated from North Korea as P5/4L4FN while on a WFP assignment in Pyongyang. [tnx ARRL Letter]



MARC FIELD DAY LOCATION

MARC holds Field Day on Egypt Road in Audubon. It's across the road from a shopping center, and near the construction site for the Shannondell retirement community.

Field Day goes on rain or shine, so be prepared with a rain slicker, a hat, and sunscreen. Jugs of tap water to flush the porta-potty are good things to bring.

Children are welcome at Field Day. However, their adults must supervise them at all times for their safety.

Please drive slowly and carefully. Do not go into the Shannondell construction area!