

PUBLIC SERVICE

MARC members responded to a request from Greater Main Line Branch, American Red Cross for communications support at a Norristown shelter for people burned out by an apartment building fire. As it turned out, communications were really not necessary, so the first shift of operators (midnight to 4 AM) went home early and the second shift (4 - 8 AM) were released. Prepared to assist were JOSY KA3Q00, AL KC3ZG, CARTER KD3AO, JERRY KA3NKT, NED KA3EQT, Associate-Member CAROLE BEERS, KEVIN KA3RGF, and JEFF WA3RIZ.

Following one of the club's oldest traditions, holiday radiograms for patients and staff at Bryn Mawr Hospital were originated by MARC members on Sunday, December 18. Operators working at the hospital were CARTER KD3AO, NEIL WA3RPG, CAROL AD1P, WES WB2SVF RAY N3BPJ BART KC3BP, FLOYD KA30XA, NED KA3EQT, HARRY WBKCD, associate members CAROLE BEERS and LISA COHEN. Operators receiving messages at home for relay into the National Traffic System were KEVIN KA3RGF, ANDY N3AZW, and KAY KC3LM. Ninety messages were put into the system. Thanks to BOB WA3PZO for quick loan of 220 equipment. Which brings us to the bad news. Some time last Field Day, a heavy-duty extension cord belonging to KD3AO/KC3LM was apparently badly squashed in a car door or trunk lid. Someone wrapped it with electrical tape that matched the color of the cord, so we didn't spot the flaw. Because of this unreported repair job, several things happened at Bryn Mawr. When the cord went dead short inside the wrap, KD3AO's power supply and KC3BP's 220 rig were blown up. In addition, the metal window sill on which the 220 antenna sat became hot with AC. Fortunately, no one was touching the sill when the AC hit, so nobody was electrocuted. Will whoever patched that cord please send an SASE to Dick Bash and get the rest of your lessons.

Traffic Net participation certificates and ARRL Local Net certificates were awarded to 21 stations at the November club meeting. Everyone is invited to check into the nets. In addition to public service, the nets also are a time to meet other club members for good fellowship. Those receiving certificates this time were ANDY N3AZW, ED WB8NR, BART KC3BP, KEVIN KA3RGF, SEAN N3EOG, HUGH KC3IE, RAY N3BPJ, BOB WB8SA, FLOYD KA30XA, ED KA3DRD, ANN KA3EIW, HAL N3APK, BETH KA3GKI, BOB WB3QN, NED KA3EQT, JEFF WB3GUR, BOB WA3PZO, ART KA3LYM, TOM K3YPO, CARTER KD3AO, and KAY KC3LM (who?).

Surprise your Valentine with a radiogram! You need the name, address with zipcode, and telephone number with area code. There are "canned" messages we can use, in case you aren't feeling very literary; otherwise the text should be under 25 words. Check into a MARC traffic net early in February, and we'll explain the rest. By the way, this doesn't get you off the hook about the candy and flowers, chum.

We were able to move a message to Australia for WES WB2SVF via the NTS Atlantic Region Net (International Assistance and Traffic Net), which meets at 6:30 AM on 14.303 MHz.

The ARRL's counter-proposal rewrite of Part 97 addresses the FCC's drastic chop job on permissible public service communication. The League opposes the FCC version's ban on logistical communications for served-event organizers. ARRL says that logistical comm should be allowed when the public is the ultimate beneficiary.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Districts in metro Philadelphia have been realigned. Delaware and Philadelphia Counties now form District 1, with VIC KD3DE as District Emergency Coordinator. MIKE WB3JHX remains county Emergency Coordinator for Philadelphia, and a new EC for Delaware County is in process of being appointed. Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties now form District 2, with DAN WB3IPX as District Emergency Coordinator. LINDA KA3MEI has stepped into Dan's former spot as Bucks County EC. No changes in the EC's for Montgomery (TOM WB8EAG) and Chester (RICH WB3AAC) Counties.

ANYONE CAN LISTEN TO HAM RADIO. LET'S BE GOOD RADIO AMBASSADORS AT ALL TIMES.