

# BOARD MEMBERS, 1991

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## **MARC TEST SESSION RESULTS**

*Next One is August 17*

The May 11 test session was staffed by BOB W3SA, BOB W3ZQN, CARTER KD3AO, PAUL NX3Q, WALT WB3BDP, HARRY NS3A, AL WA3JKB, ROB WI3S, BART KC3BP, and ALLEN WG3E. Most of the applicants passed at least one of the elements attempted. ED KA3YGI and JOSY KA3QOO were two of the successful ones.

**The next MARC test session will be Saturday, August 17, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive not later than 9:15 AM to take care of necessary paperwork.** All applicants must bring positive ID, the original Amateur license and one photocopy, originals of any certificates needed to document current status, and \$5.25 fee for tests beyond the Novice level. For additional information, contact BOB W3SA at 293-1919.

*Being a Volunteer Examiner requires a little time, a little work, and a lot of attention to detail and correct procedure. The payoff is the future health of Amateur Radio. Contact BOB W3SA (293-1919) or KAY KC3LM (993-9623) for info on becoming a Volunteer Examiner.*

If you have a friend who wants to upgrade, don't "help" by donating an old manual! Use only the newest editions.

Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Therefore: operate QRP [tnx Butler Co. ARA Tell-A-Ham]

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

*Thorncroft Horse Trials*

MARC provided safety communications for cross-country horse trials at Thorncroft Equestrian Center in Malvern on May 5. In this event, riders compete by riding one at a time over a timed course of jumps scattered through woods and open fields, across streams, up and down hills. Opportunities for dangerous accidents certainly exist at this event.

Net Control Stations AL WA3JKB and MITCH N3BGA were assisted by BOB WA3PZO, PAUL WA3YZL, BART KC3BP, CARTER KD3AO, JENNY KA3WVD, TOM KB2HT, RON N3HEF, ART W4VRP TOM K3YPO JANET KA3VTQ, ROB WI3S, and TOM PORETT (awaiting call at the time). Communicators were stationed along the course monitoring one or more jumps. In addition to watching out for accidents, they tracked each rider's progress, to make sure that no one was unaccounted for and perhaps in difficulty.

Fortunately, although several riders fell and a few horses got loose, there were no accidents requiring emergency medical or veterinary assistance. A communications critique after the event produced a number of good suggestions for improving operations next time.

"Next time" at Thorncroft will be October 27. We expect to be called upon for communications help. Thorncroft is famous for its unusual program of horseback riding therapy for the handicapped.

*If you're not already on the public service call-up list, contact TOM K3YPO (642-0135) to sign up.*

## HEADACHES OF A NET CONTROL

by JIM KD3NI



How many of you have ever been a Net Control? Not too many, because it drives you crazy, causes you to pull out your hair, kick the dog or cat, nip at the XYL, or bite your fingernails. All of this, and more, can be eliminated if operators will observe a simple procedure that I have heard few check-ins use. First, we will state how it should be done to give the Net Control time to make the proper notes and to eliminate doubling.

When you check in, say, "This is" [pause] "Kilo Delta 3 November India" [pause] "Jim in Devon" [pause] "With traffic" or "No traffic." **With every pause, unkey the mic.**

Now, let's go back and see why all the pause business.

- 1) **"This is" [pause].** The pause will in most cases alert others that you are checking in and will give the Net Control notice that a station is checking in. It also helps eliminate doubles.
- 2) **"Kilo Delta 3 November India" [pause].** This gives the Net Control time to write down your call. PLEASE give your call using phonetics if you do not check in a lot. Even on FM, if we don't use phonetics, most of us sound like we have a mouth full of soda crackers and are running to catch the next train. This helps prevent time-wasting stuff about "Please come again . . . was that N3WAJ or N3WHA?" [Say them aloud, and you'll understand the problem. Use phonetics until you've become a well-known check-in on the net and whenever there's a new NCS at the helm.]

3) **"Jim in Devon" [pause].** This reminds the Net Control of your name and QTH. Again, this avoids time-wasting exchanges of "May I please have your name and QTH for the log?"

4) **"With traffic" or "No traffic."** When the Net Control asks you to list your traffic, give him time to write it down by saying, "Listing traffic for Paoli [pause] Exton [pause] and Swarthmore." Maybe he can't hear very well or write very fast.

To sum it up, the pauses help avoid doubles and give the Net Control time to record the necessary information in an orderly manner. In turn, that saves time and makes it much easier for you to follow Net Control's instructions. Try it. It will make the Net more interesting.

*[MARC nets are "directed." Transmitting whenever you feel like it without permission from Net Control should be avoided, even to "help" the NCS. If the NCS wants help, he or she will ask for it. For their part, Net Controls should be clear and firm and avoid making awkward pauses . . . that leave an op guessing whether or not he's supposed to say something. Bothersome on SSB and CW, doubling is really the devil on FM because of the capture effect. Doubling because of poor net discipline and wishy-washy net controlling wastes everyone's time and frays nerves. Good net procedure, on the other hand, allows the net's time to be devoted to what is interesting, worthwhile, and fun. Learning to operate in a directed net is easy. Check into a MARC net this month and find out.]*

## CALLING NEW RADIO AMATEURS

*Here's some good reading for new hams, whether Novices or Technicians, published in the January - July issues of QST:*

- "Packet Hardware for Beginners," January, p. 20
- "CW Traffic Nets: Take the Plunge!," February p. 49
- "Making Soldering Safer," March, p. 28
- "Connectors for (Almost) Any Occasion," April, p. 35, and May, p. 34
- "How Many Rigs Can You Hold in One Hand?" [introduction to handie-talkies], April, p. 49
- "Basic Steps Toward Eliminating Telephone RFI," May, p. 22
- "The Amateur's Code in the 1990's," May, p. 47
- "Product Review: QST Compares Dual-Band Hand-Held FM Transceivers," June, p. 36
- "Hand-Held Digital Multimeters," June, p. 19
- "Antenna Here is a Dipole," June, p. 23

"Feeding Dipole Antennas," July, p. 22

"Build a Portable Groundplane Antenna" [for VHF], July, p. 33

"Get Out of the Shack and Into the Action" [introduces public service], July, p. 51



*Also check out the monthly "Packet Perspectives," "The World Above 50 MHz," and "FM/RPT" columns. They often have information of interest to the new ham who operates VHF and above.*

*Take a look, too, at page 8. This is where you will find your area's ARRL officials' names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Most MARC members live in the Eastern Pennsylvania Section of the Atlantic Division. For questions or concerns about ARRL matters, call upon your Section Manager, Vice Director, and Director.*