



REMARCS



JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1993

JANUARY 21 CLUB MEETING -- LET'S MAKE A DEAL!

Once again, it's time to clean out the shack and trade the junk . . . er, stuff . . . for dollars. Here are the ground rules:

Your own ham radio and ham-related equipment only.
Only MARC members may offer items for sale -- no dealers.
MARC receives 10% donation of the sale price of each item, or \$10, whichever is less.
Tag items with your name/callsign, what it is (no, it isn't always obvious), and (if any) your minimum acceptable price.
Take home anything of yours that is not sold.

Please bring some small bills or a checkbook to handle the 10% donation. All items are sold as-is. MARC gives no warranties or guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding items offered for sale. The club and the auctioneer will not be liable for any problems arising from sales at this event. Kindly limit the amount of stuff you bring in. Everyone deserves to have a chance in the time available. Please refer any questions to President AL W3DZI (446-4936).

VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN

It's election time! Nominations Chairman BOB W3ZQN developed a slate with two contested races. If you are a licensed member, a ballot is enclosed with this newsletter. Ballots may be cast in person at the January 21 meeting or mailed to the P.O. box so as to arrive not later than the club meeting date. Do not put your name or callsign on the ballot. Statements of qualifications were invited from the candidates in contested races; responses are printed 'on the back of the election ballot.

1993 DUES NOW ACCEPTED (GLADLY!)

Membership dues are being accepted between now and March 1, the official renewal deadline. Dues can be paid by mail or at the club meetings. Prompt renewal makes life easier for the treasurer and membership chairman. It also saves our club money when we don't have to send out yoo-hoo? mailings, MARC dues are not tax-deductible. Because MARC had 188 licensed members and 9 unlicensed members at the end of 1992, the record-keeping task is no joke. For that reason, we appreciate receiving a membership form for each member in your household. Thanks for your cooperation. Please don't enclose your dues with your election ballot -- something might get lost in the pile-up.

BIG STORM HITS DELAWARE VALLEY -- MARC HELPS!

The storm that began on Thursday, December 10, produced blizzards, high winds, and flooding in the northeastern States. Here in the Delaware Valley, a major problem was power failures caused by falling trees and branches. JIM KD3NI, in Devon, was without electricity for over 24 hours . . . but he was one of the lucky ones! Some residents of Delaware and Chester Counties were without power much longer. On Friday evening, the American Red Cross contacted Delaware County ARES Emergency Coordinator AL N3GTK, who in turn called Public Service Chairman STEVE K3KFD, for communications assistance at shelters being set up for people whose power wasn't coming back any time soon. SEAN N3EOG and DAN KA3KHR responded to Steve's call for communicators at Ithan School and were on the spot within an hour of Al's call to Steve. Steve intended to help at a shelter planned for Welsh Valley Middle School that was canceled before it actually started up. During the Friday traffic net, information was exchanged with the team at the Ithan School shelter. Because the shelter had no customers, the Red Cross closed it down. NED WQ3Z was prepared to help later in the evening, had he been needed.

Communications were on 14513/R. The '06 machine was off the air because of a lengthy power failure at Cabrini College. As late as Monday the 14th, traffic was snarled (and snarling) on Route 30 because traffic lights were on blinker, and some people were still without electricity. Some fun! We're glad MARC members were able to help the Red Cross during this emergency.

ABOUT MARC

MEETINGS

3rd Thursday each month at Memorial Library of Radnor Township, Wayne (near the Post Office), 8 PM. Guests welcome. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD

Meets 4th Thursday each month, 7:30 PM, Paoli Hospital, Meeting Room "6."

SYSTEMS

14513/R cross-linked with 224.42/R, 147.08/R, WB3JOE Packet BBS 145.090

NETS

CLUB NET	SUNDAY 8:30 PM	147.06/R
TRAFFIC NET	M/W/F 8:30 PM	147.06/R

DUES

\$15 licensed, \$5 associate (unlicensed) -- Membership year begins March 1.
Family membership rate: \$5 per ham after first member pays full dues.

V O X

MARC's sincere condolences to DAVE KA3FVB, whose wife passed away in December. BOB W3SA was one of a select few Pennsylvanians honored by GOV. CASEY in 1992 for outstanding service to Town Watch. New Year's wish for LINK W3IVS is to get healthy -- no more hospital stuff, okay? Same goes for TIM WZ3Y, who suffered a stroke in late '92. We hope STEVE N3WZ's recent back operation takes him off the "ouch" list for good. CARL WA3ZZU writes from medical school in Kirksville, MO, that there's one 2m repeater in the area and zilch on the higher VHF/UHF bands. DAVE WB3EHS had a big signal in the November Sweepstakes; KAY WT3P missed a "clean sweep" by one multiplier. STEVE K3KFD reports a good run in the ARRL 10m Contest. SEAN N3EOG should have been credited as one of the communicators at the 10k run last fall.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Nearly ten years ago, a very new ham called up the president of MARC and said, "If you ever need a new newsletter editor, I'd like to try it." Five minutes later, KA3KPW (*who?*) had the job. About 3 years afterwards, the ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager was looking for somebody to create a Section newsletter, and my name was mentioned. I accepted that challenge and was appointed an Assistant Section Manager. A few years later, I ran for Section Manager, and today I'm Vice Director of the ARRL Atlantic Division. It all began with that one phone call. Who knows where it will end?

Well, maybe you don't want ham radio to mutate into an unpaid almost-full-time job involving thousands of miles on the road and in the air every year! Okay. The point is that if ham radio has you feeling like a wallflower at the high school dance, it doesn't have to be that way. *In 1993, as in 1983, the best way to feel included is to get involved.* When volunteers are called for, do it. Come observe a MARC Board meeting. Try something new . . . and who knows where it will end? -- **73 de WT3P**

LICENSE TEST SESSION REPORT

At the November 7 test session, 4 candidates were served. One earned Technician, one Technician + HF, 1 upgraded to General, and 1 passed Extra theory. The Volunteer Examiners were PAUL NX3Q, HUGH KC3IE, WALT WB3BDP, ROB W3S, BOB W3SA, BOB W3ZQN, BOB KA3NIQ, NED WQ3Z, HARRY NS3A, and AL W3DZI.



The next MARC test session will be Saturday, February 13, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Arrive by 9:15 AM to complete paperwork.

Bring positive ID, plus the original and 1 photocopy of your license. Bring originals of any certificates needed to prove your current status. Also bring **\$5.60** test fee (*note increase*), payable to ARRL/VEC, if taking a test above Novice. If you bring cash, have correct change. For further information and directions, contact BOB W3ZQN (2656032).

MARC BULLETINS QRT?

As of the end of December, the Sunday night club net no longer opens with bulletins. Bulletin station HUGH KC3IE wanted to step down, and no replacement has come forward. Members who would be willing to give short local-interest bulletins on the Sunday nets should contact Net Manager BART. KC3BP (367-4288) or Membership Services Chairman NED WQ3Z (825-5528). Otherwise, a long-standing club service is finished. How about some newcomers to the club forming a bulletin team, so no individual is over-burdened?

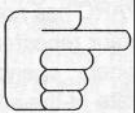
**REMARCS is the bi-monthly newsletter
of the Mid-Atlantic ARC, Inc.
Kay Craigie W13P editor
993-9623**

THE PACKET POCKET

OPERATING TIPS

Tired of WB3JOE's long message when there are more than 19 messages to list if you don't want a pause or the long message, just type **L0**. After an **L0**, type **LTIME NOW** to update your counter.

When sending a packet message to a ham at a distant BBS, help the sysops by giving the complete hierarchical address. If WB3JOE doesn't know where N7QRU BBS is, your message won't move. If you address your message to KA7PAL @ N7QRU.ORG.USA.NA, it'll head right off towards Oregon.



When you get that new TNC on the air, do everybody a favor: **DON'T BEACON!** Beacons

was OK when there were 5 people on packet in the Delaware Valley. Today, home station and personal mailbox beacons are channel-choking digital doo-doo. Get da picksher?

SMOOTH SALE-ING

But seriously (*who, me?*), let's review what the FCC's Rules permit in sale and wanted announcements. The Rules apply as much to a voice swap net as to packet. A ham may "inform other amateur operators of the availability of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, including such apparatus for sale or trade. This exception is not authorized to any person seeking to derive a profit by buying or selling such apparatus on a regular basis" [§97.113(a) (2)].



Common sense indicates what apparatus (*English = stuff*) is normally used in a modern Amateur station. It certainly is not football tickets, bicycles, computer

games, accounts receivable programs, or cocker spaniel puppies. The last sentence of the Rule prohibits dealers from doing business on the ham bands.

If an improper sale/wanted bulletin appears on WB3JOE, it is deleted by a sysop. If it began at 'JOE, the originator will receive a notice of the deletion. Any questions about what flies and what dies at WB3JOE should be referred to the callsign trustee, AL W3DZI (446-4936).

THE FUNETIC ALPHABET

adapted from the original by MIKE MORROW AB6NN
[tnx Binghamton (NY) ARA "BARA Facts"]

The letters B, C, D, E, G, P, T, V, and Z and the number 3 sound quite alike over the air. The letters A and K and the number 8 all sound alike, too. Some help is often needed to make sure the listener gets the correct letter. That is the reason for the standard phonetic alphabet.

But the previous standard phonetic alphabet is out of date. For example, the

word for 'F' is 'Foxtrot.' No one knows how to do the foxtrot any more, and the listener might think you were asking for this dance, which is silly as there is no music playing.

With that in mind, this updated alphabet is submitted for your approval. Your rate of communication is sure to climb, and all will appreciate the higher level of understanding and time savings this can provide.

[The ozone hole's getting a little larger over 6-/and, eh?]

A Aisle	N Neoconservative
B Bilharziasis	O Oedipus
C Cue	P Phlox
D Djinn	Q Queue
E Ewe	R Ratiocination
F Flocks	S Sea
G Gnome	T Tsar
H Honor	U Umiak
I ideogramatically	V Valetudinarian
J Junta	W Why
K Knob	X Xylophone
L Llama	Y You
M Mnemonic	Z Zwieback

BRYN MAWR MESSAGE EVENT



MARC members went to Bryn Mawr Hospital on December 19 for the annual radiogram event. This year, there was some kind of communication problem with the hospital, because only about a dozen messages were waking to be transmitted. Thanks to other messages submitted by RAY N3BPJ, participants didn't waste their Saturday morning.

Operators taking part in the event were STEVE K3KFD, CARTER KD3AO, CHARLIE KB3ABV, WALT WB3BDP, TED KA3QKV, BART KC3BP, JIM KD3NI, JOE N3LMV, NORM N3KNW, NED WQ3Z, and CAROLE KA3UUQ.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY PLANNED FOR 1993

A survey of the membership's opinions and interests is planned for later this year. We have added many new members since the last time this was done. The idea is to find out what kind of club activities you want to take part in, what directions you want your club to take, etc. it's not a "how can the few entertain the many?" production, but rather an effort to find out what the members themselves want to do.

WINTER OPERATING TIPS

In the worst winter weather months, please make an extra effort to operate courteously on the repeaters. Leave pauses between transmissions for motorists in trouble to jump in. Never ask a breaking station to "stand by" while you finish your gabfest about SWR. Finally, monitor the repeaters during winter storms, in case there's a call for help.

If you're the driver during bad weather, use common sense. Pay attention to the road, not a QSO, and avoid taking a hand off the wheel or eyes off the road to fiddle with the radio. Keep a current **ARRL REPEATER DIRECTORY** in your car, if you travel outside the local area, so you can find a repeater in case help is needed. If you break down, be aware that some repeaters do not permit calls to garages or AAA on their autopatches under any circumstances. MARC does allow such emergency calls, by the way.



REMARCS



MARCH/APRIL, 1993

ELECTION RESULTS

Sixty-five ballots were cast in this year's election, out of 186 members eligible to vote. Not a great turnout, but better than last year's **40** ballots. For President, AL W3DZI received 62 votes, CARTER KD3AO and SEAN N3EOG 1 each. For Treasurer, JANET KA3VTQ received 60 votes, CAROLE KA3UUQ 3, BOB WA3PZO 1. For Technical Chairman, JEFF WA3RIZ received 59 votes, SEAN N3EOG 6. For Member-at-Large, DAVE N3LHY received 44 votes, HUGH KC3IE 20. For the other races, the candidates on the ballot received all votes cast: Vice President, BART KC3BP; Secretary ALEX KE3DF; Membership Services Chairman NED WQ3Z; Public Relations Chairman ROB WI3S; Public Service Chairman STEVE K3KFD; Program Chairman TOM N3JMA. The committee of tellers consisted of BOB W3ZQN, BOB WA3PZO, and NORM N3KNW. The new Board took office February 1.

Leaving the Board are AL WA3JKB and HUGH KC3IE. Thanks to both of you for your help in the past.

LAST CALL FOR 1993 DUES!

There are always people who were asleep or in jail or sitting on a flag pole or playing on the Tasmanian Vulture-Plucking Team or competing in the national "Make An Amplifier Out of a Turnip" contest. That's why they didn't remember to pay their MARC dues by March 1. If your mailing label says *MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED*, this is the last newsletter you will receive. If you really did pay, please contact Treasurer JANET KA3VTQ (384-3163) to have the records corrected. Sending out "yoo hoo?" notices wastes the club's money and uses up personal time your editor/membership chairman could have spent chasing DX, annoying her OM, or working on the next newsletter. *Reminder: MARC dues are NOT tax-deductible.*

1-800-32 NEW HAM ARRL's Recruitment Line

If you know somebody who wants to become a ham, he or she can call a toll-free phone number: 1-800-32 NEW HAM (800-326-3942). An ARRL HQ staff member will answer callers' questions Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern time. An answering machine will be on the line at other times. ARRL's Educational Activities Department sends callers a free information package, including a booklet, a list of nearby instructors and clubs, and details about ARRL's license manuals and CW training material. *This number is only for prospective hams, no other ARRL business.* No exceptions can be made.

PROGRAMS

The March 18 program will be on DXing, featuring a panel of club members who enjoy this aspect of ham radio and can answer your questions. You don't have to own a huge tower and high-priced rig, or be able to copy 30 words a minute, to get in on the fun of DXing. The April program will be on commercial applications of packet radio, presented by a speaker from Bell Atlantic. February's program was on Amateur TV, presented by RON COHEN K3ZKO.

"AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTIONS TO GO COMMERCIAL..." ... With What Effect on Club Hamfests?

The following is excerpted and condensed from WESTLINK REPORT (March 4, 1993, page 6): "The basic structure of ham radio conventions is undergoing a major change as the result of a new company called HamShows. Headed up by former Kenwood USA representative MIKE FORSYTH N7KQE, HamShows is a professional promotion and production company that plans to put on its first 'mega-show' in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, this coming August 21st and 22nd. Every amateur within a 200 mile radius of a given HamShow will receive at least three mailings. Exhibitors will be able to advertise in the mailings and area clubs will be invited to participate by purchasing group discount tickets and reduced cost flea-market spaces. Clubs may also earn additional money and prizes by providing volunteer labor for a given HamShow. Forsyth . . . says that he and other industry leaders have long noted the need for such an organization to produce high quality shows of this sort in areas where most hams live. *[continued on page 7]*

“HAMSHOW” COMING TO VALLEY FORGE

[continued from page 1]

“Forsyth also notes that the association of HamShows with CQ Magazine will benefit the whole hobby, saying that the synergy of both companies working together means that they can offer an outstanding marketing opportunity for the exhibitors and an informative show for the ham community to attend. For further information, contact HamShows, P.O. Box 3865, Shawnee, KS 66203 (913) 422-4646; fax (913) 442-4848.”

What effect will this commercial venture have on area clubs' hamfests scheduled in the same time frame? The Gloucester

County (NJ) ARC's hamfest, scheduled for August 22, is about an hour's drive from Valley Forge. Delaware-Lehigh ARC's Easton, PA, hamfest is scheduled for August 15, and of course MARC's hamfest is August 8. Was research done on the regional hamfest calendar before the HamShow's date was selected? If an event might reduce participation in local clubs' hamfests, would it 'benefit the whole hobby? Area hams will ask their own questions and draw their own conclusions, as this interesting story develops.

OPERATING FUN

March 26: W1AW Qualifying Run, 10-35 WPM, 1400Z. See details, page 110, March QST. Also April 14 at 0200Z and April 24 at 2300Z.

March 27-28: CQ World-Wide WPX Contest, phone. The idea is to work as many prefixes as possible. Details p. 44, Feb. CQ. The CW version is in May.

April, various dates: ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprints. See page 110, March QST. Work grid squares from 2m through the GHz.

Special Event Stations: Columns in the major magazines are devoted to special event stations, most of which offer unusual QSL cards or certificates. Some of the stations may be hard to find, and some of the events are kinda strange -- but it's fun to hunt them.

The Amelia Earhart Radio Wing just sent several people you never heard of on a DXpedition whose itinerary includes Sts. Anheuser and Thorazine (ZZ), Squidly islands (PU), and West Bend, Indiana (*what?*) . . . I don't care, either.

Did you hear about the new rag called 86: *The Magazine for Lids?* Articles in the first issue will include 'Real Men Don't Zero-Beat,' 'Fifty-nine Tiresome Things to Say about Computers,' 'Fatuous Platitudes You Can Build,' 'Getting the Most Out of Ethnic Slurs,' and a guest editorial by Chiquita Banana.

And did you read about the new underwater HT from Kenwon't Electronics of Supine, California? Hyped as 'the last HT you'll ever want to buy,' the SK-007 model whams a full kilowatt into your rubber duckie while you enjoy a bathtub ragchew. Or use it maritime mobile while snorkeling in the islands. The perfect gift for someone who's all wet anyhow....

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL -- 1993 MID-ATLANTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensed -- Full Member First member in family = \$15 Each additional member = \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member Unlicensed persons only Dues = \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Callsign badge \$5.50 each
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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED WITH THIS FORM: \$ _____
 FOR CLUB LOGO CALLSIGN BADGE: (remember to include payment)

Print first name exactly as desired on the badge: _____

One copy of REMARCS is sent to each household. Each licensed family club member has membership privileges. A separate form for each member is appreciated for our records,

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

HOME TELEPHONE () _____ OK to publish phone in club list? Yes No

ARRL MEMBER? Yes No LICENSE CLASS: E A G T N None

Membership year begins March 1. We do not accept more than one year's dues at a time. **Dues are NOT tax-deductible.** Make checks payable to Mid-Atlantic ARC, P.O. Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085. (3/93)

CLUB USE ONLY: [] in database [] card issued

“HEY MAN, LET’S SPLIT!”

You’ve found a station operating from the Dogs dinner islands! Major DX! Then you hear: “He’s working split” . . . “UP UP” . . . “UP 2” . . . what does this mean?

WHY SPLIT FREQUENCY?

If a DX station listens and transmits on the same frequency, the pileup often obliterates his transmissions. You can’t tell IF he’s transmitting, let alone to whom. For his part, the DX has difficulty picking callsigns out of the chaos and completing QSOs efficiently. This is frustrating for everybody and certainly slows down the QSO rate.

Consequently, many DX ops work *split frequency*. This means that the DX transmits on one frequency but listens elsewhere, usually a few kHz above or below his transmit frequency. If the pile-up is big, he may listen over a range of frequencies instead of just one.

This makes it easier for the DX to control the pile-up and correctly copy those calling him. Because you can hear the DX, you can feel secure that it really was your call he answered and that he copied your callsign correctly. More people get to work the DX. People are less tempted to call again for an insurance contact. Less wasted time = more fun!

HOW IT WORKS

If you have a dual VFO rig, set your receive VFO to the DX’s transmit frequency. Set your transmit VFO to a frequency within his listening range. Hint: Form a habit for using your VFOs. Either always transmit on VFO A and receive on VFO B, or always transmit on B and receive on A. This helps avoid transmitting on the wrong VFO in the excitement of the chase. If you don’t have a dual VFO, you can often use the RIT control to accomplish the same thing. Choose your own transmit frequency, then engage the RIT and tune to listen on the DX’s transmit frequency. Warning: You may have to break down and read your rig’s instruction manual.

How do you know where the DX is listening? On phone, he will specify a listening frequency or range: A DX op transmitting on 28.480 MHz may say, “Listening up, four-eighty-five to four-ninety.” So you transmit on a frequency between 28.485 and 28.490 MHz. Or he might just say “Up five,” in which case you transmit about 5 kHz above his transmit frequency.

On CW, the DX may be less specific. He might say, “UP 2” or maybe just “UP.” Time to play detective. Tune slowly up the band until you find a group of hams pounding away like mad. There’s the pile-up. Pick your transmit frequency in or near this mess and start to call. If you suspect you can’t hear the pile-up because you’re in their skip zone, try going up 2 or 3 kHz.

Users of the DX PacketCluster often announce where they heard successful calls made, to assist others in the hunt. They may say “UP 3” or “QSX 14050.3” instead of using the word “listening.” They might also say “WORKED 14050.3” to let you know where their own successful call was made. Once their own QSO is in the log, DXers will help others with information.

SOME DX-SPEAK

Pile-Up: The frenzied horde of hams competing to work a DX station.

Breaking the Pile-Up: Getting the DX to come back to your call, amid the roaring chaos.

QSX: Q-signal indicating the DX is working split. “QSX 28.495” means the DX will be listening on 28.495 MHz.

Working transceive: The DX listens and transmits on the same frequency. That is, he is not working split frequency.

Insurance contact: Discouraged practice of working a DX station again on the same band and mode because you aren’t confident of the first QSO.

LIDS AND HOW NOT TO BE ONE

Alas, you will still hear people transmitting on top of the DX. This is because they didn’t listen long enough to pick up the DX’s Instructions, are lids who don’t *follow* instructions, or got their VFOs backwards. The latter happens to the best of us sometimes, though we take care to prevent it. *RESIST THE URGE TO INSTRUCT THESE NITWITS IN THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS.* That would just add to the QRM and make things worse.

Some DX ops don’t give their callsigns and listening instructions often enough, causing lids to bawl, “Who’s the DX?” . . . “What’s his callsign?” . . . “Call?” . . . “CL?” . . . etc., on the DX’s transmit frequency. *KEEP QUIET AND WAIT FOR THE INFORMATION.* Another use of the PacketCluster is to put out announcements asking, “What’s the commotion on 14.025?”

When some lid persists in calling on the DX’s CW transmit frequency, I have actually heard somebody send him a “599 TU” to make him think he worked the DX and go away! Of course, this is illegal and can’t be recommended.

Unkey frequently so you can hear when the DX answers someone. It might be you! Some lids call incessantly. How would they know if the DX came back to their calls?

IN THE LOG!

The best advice for building DXing skills has always been *LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN.* When you hear some juicy DX, don’t immediately start to transmit. Listen. If you don’t hear the other stations he’s working, he may be working split but not announcing it very often. Tune up and down the band a few kHz. Listen. Can you find the pile-up? If not, go back to the DX’s frequency and listen until you discover what’s going on. When you finally break the pile-up, take a minute to analyze what you did that worked. Put that in your data bank of DXing skills for next time. A modest station with a skilled operator will succeed in working DX, and skills develop with time, thought, and effort.

Good luck in the pile-ups! --73 de WT3P



REMARCS

JULY/AUGUST, 1993 FUN HAMFEST HAMFEST FUN

With the August 8 hamfest little more than a month away, every MARC member should be talking it up on the air. Tell your friends, tell your enemies, tell people you don't even know ... this is a good hamfest that supports a local radio club's services and activities. We want sellers. We want buyers. We want people who enjoy buying, browsing, and shmoozing.

One ham's comments published in another club's newsletter sharply criticized our hamfest . . . and by implication, all the club fests in the region, in fact. To that sort of atty-tood, one can only say, "Everyone's entitled to his opinion . . . and don't let the door hit you." Our hamfest feeds ham radio in the Delaware Valley, not some outsider's bank account. The market (that's you and me) will decide if local ham radio clubs can afford to continue as we now enjoy them. If we as a ham community don't support local club hamfests, then we will get what we pay for: Two days of hotsy-totsy commercial show, and 363 days of . . . what?

More than ever before, we have to promote our hamfest aggressively to others and support it ourselves. A lot of effort has already taken place, and more will be needed in the remaining weeks before H-Day. Contact ROB W13S (384-3163) to find out how you can join the MARC hamfest gang.

HAMFEST TO OFFER LICENSE TESTS

For the first time, the MARC hamfest will offer license tests. The session will begin at 9 AM, at the Days Inn on Route 611, 245 Easton Road, just north of Turnpike Exit 27. It is not necessary to buy a hamfest admission ticket in order to attend the test session,

Pre-registration is strongly recommended. If you want to take an exam, call BOB W3ZQN at 265-6032 to reserve a spot. Walk-ins will be accommodated only on a space-available basis. As always, bring positive ID, your license and a photocopy of it, originals of any certificates needed to prove elements passed, and \$5.60 fee. There may or may not be a fee for elements 1A (5 wpm CW) and 2 (Novice theory) -- please check with Bob closer to exam time.

"SUPER MORSE" AVAILABLE THROUGH MARC

"Super Morse" is a share-ware program for IBM-compatible computers that teaches Morse code. Whether you are a complete beginner with the code or working towards 20 wpm, this program has a good reputation for success. The author asks a \$15 donation from those who use it; his address is on the disk, and what you do about that is up to you.

The program is available on 5.25" 360k disk or 3.5" 720k disk. A hard disk drive is not required, although you can copy the program onto a hard disk if you have one. Copies will be available at MARC meetings. A small donation (about 50c) may be made to the treasurer to recover the cost of the disks. There is no restriction on copying the program, so you can give it to others.

It is a good idea to exit Windows before running Super Morse, because CW programs' timing routines may not work properly with Windows taking up some clock ticks.

MARC TO ISSUE ARRL RAG CHEW AND OLD TIMERS AWARDS

For several years, MARC has had an ARRL Local HF Awards Manager, KEVIN K3NTD (296-8888), who is authorized to check cards for the Worked All States award. Recently, KAY WT3P (993-9623) volunteered to issue ARRL Rag Chewers Club and Old Timers Club awards for the club. To qualify for RCC, you just have to rag chew with someone on the air for at least half an hour. That's all there is to it! It's a popular first award for many new hams. To join OTC, you must have been licensed for at least 20 years. No fees or QSL cards are involved. Use the clip-out on page 7 to get your certificate in the job queue.

KEEP READING . . .

Congress asked to recognize hams . . . Novice tests in VEC system . . . Ham radio videos . . . Hamfest calendar . . . AMSAT awards . . . More!



REMARCS



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1993

LICENSING COURSE BEGINS

MARC's Technician course began in September under the auspices of Main Line School Night. The course was organized by NED WQ3Z. Among the instructors are TOM N3JMA, STEVE N3LJZ, and STEVE N1HDP. Both Tom and Steve 'LJZ are relative newcomers to ham radio. Their participation as instructors highlights the opportunities open to newer hams who really want to get involved in this club and the hobby in general. Students in the course will receive complimentary copies of this issue of *REMARCS*.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 1994 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations for the 1994 MARC Board of Directors are now open and will close on the meeting date, December 16, 1993. The election will be held at the January 20, membership meeting, with the new Board taking office on February 1. Licensed members of MARC are eligible to run. The position of WB3JOE Trustee is not elective

The current President and Vice President (see page 3) cannot succeed themselves, since this is their second consecutive term of office in those positions. One 2-year Member-at-Large position is up for election this year, and BOB W3ZQN doesn't plan to run again for that office. Other positions whose incumbents will not seek re-election include Treasurer, Membership Services, Programs, and Public Service. A copy of the MARC By-Laws, where all these jobs are defined, is being sent to members at this time.

DAVE N3LHY (340-9738) has been named Nominating Committee chairman. If you want to run for an office or want more information to help decide about running, contact him as soon as possible. Before nominating someone else, please get his or her permission first.

CLUB CALLSIGN BADGES

Consider the perils of the holiday gift-receiving season:

1. A necktie that looks like a halibut.
2. A subscription to *Fish By-Products Digest*.
3. Tickets to one of those TV talk shows where people tearfully blab their sleazy personal woes, swap insults with their whining relatives, and generally act like something any normal person would simply spray with RAID.

OR . . . you could get your family to give you an attractive MARC callsign badge. It's cheap, they don't have to shop for it, and your nose won't grow longer when you say, "Gosh, honey, I *really* like it!"

MARC badges are expertly engraved by The Sign Man of Baton Rouge and cost only \$5.50. In case you haven't seen one, the MARC logo is stamped in gold color, with your first name and callsign engraved in white, on a deep blue background. Use the membership form on the back cover of this issue to place your holiday order now, so your badge will arrive in time. Or take your chances with the two-week stay at a remote cabin in Idaho, hosted by your brother-in-law who does Jerry Lewis imitations.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND HOLIDAY PARTY PLANS

For the November 18 meeting program, we hope to have a program on Amateur satellites. The December 16 meeting will be the annual holiday party starting an hour early at 7 PM, and non-ham family members are cordially invited to attend. We don't have a technical program ... just good fellowship, fun, and a few special surprises.

This year's whoop-it-up is chaired by EDIE KA3NKP (265-6593). Because of special snacks and munchies, a small donation will be accepted at the party. Anyone who'd like to contribute a dessert or snack should call Edie as soon as possible to coordinate efforts.

NAMES-THE-SAME GAME

16	Bob/Rob/Robert
10	Bill/Will/William
9	Dave/David
6	Al/Alan/Allen
6	Ed/Edward/Eddie
6	Tom/Thomas
5	Paul
4	John
4	Joe

A rumor is going around that every male in MARC is named "Bob." YAK N3MQM even started calling himself "Bob-Yak" so as not to be an oddball. Is it true that we are up to our buns in Bobs? The membership database was queried about some common male names and came up with what you see here.

There are 195 licensed members at the present time, so about 8% of the membership is named Bob, Rob, or Robert. Many of them happen to be very active

club members, so it may just *seem* like we're surrounded.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS



At their September meeting, the Board discussed plans for the 1994 hamfest and the 1993 holiday party. Other topics were recent public service events and the licensing course. The treasury balance was \$9,026.88.

At their October meeting, the Board discussed nominations and holiday party plans. Plans for publicizing Hamfest '94 were also considered. The message-handling event at Bryn Mawr Hospital was called off; response from the hospital in recent years has made the event a disappointment to volunteers from the club. The treasury balance was \$8,780.68.

The November/December Board meeting will be on December 2, at a location to be announced. Contact AL W3DZI (4464936) for updates.

PUBLIC SERVICE

MARC provided communications on September 19 for the first Radnor Fall Festival in Wayne. Our volunteers were BOB N3JIZ, WALT WB3BDP, JOHN N3MDF, BILL WB3ELW, STEVE K3KFD, and NORM N3KNW. Special thanks go to FLOYD KA3OXA for organizing MARC's participation in this event.

On October 17, MARC communicated for an American Cancer Society walk at Valley Forge park. MITCH N3BGA, BOB N3JIZ, and STEVE K3KFD were our volunteers.

Volunteers for public service communications usually sign up at club meetings. If you can't attend meetings regularly but would like to do public service, call STEVE K3KFD (667-1650) to get on his list. No experience necessary-will train!

1994 HAMFEST PLANS



Plans for MARC's 1994 hamfest are already under way. The date will be August 7, so put that on your '94 calendar as soon as you get it. The location will be the Route 611 Drive-In again. ARRL approval has already been obtained. If you are interested in being part of the hamfest planning group, contact AL W3DZI (446-4936) now.

1993 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Al Maslin W3DZI, 446-4936

VICE PRESIDENT

Bart Feroe KC3BP, 367-4288

SECRETARY

Alex Atkinson KE3DF, 984-8621

TREASURER

Janet Vann KA3VTQ 384-3163

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Ned Smith WQ3Z, 825-5528

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rob Vann WI3S, 384-3163

PUBLIC SERVICE

Steve Flink K3KFD, 667-1650

TECHNICAL

Jeff Chapman WA3RIZ 265-6593

PROGRAM

Tom Porett N3JMA, 896-8413

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Bob Lees W3ZQN, 265-6032

Dave Laustsen N3LHY, 340-9738

TRUSTEE WB3JOE

Al Maslin W3DZI, 446-4936

MARC TO OFFER ARRL'S NEWEST AWARD!



ARRL's newest wallpaper is the "ARRL FRIENDSHIP AWARD." Full details and an application form are found on pages 50-51 of the November QST. The rules were written to make it fun, a bit of a challenge, and above all, attainable by hams of all license classes. ARRL membership is a requirement for this award. More application forms are available from KAY WT3P, who'll handle this award for MARC members.

An article about MARC's Rag Chewers Club and Old Timers Club certificate program headlines the November edition of **SECTION LEADER**, an ARRL Field Services Department newsletter. The article highlights the fun we have with the certificates at club meetings and emphasizes how easy it is to administer the awards. If you belong to another ARRL-affiliated club that might like to do OTC/RCC/Friendship Award certification for its members, ask someone to contact Kay for the how-to.

The clip-out on page 7 allows you to apply for RCC and OTC. Applications are also usually taken at club meetings. Can't we put your name on a nice certificate this month?