



REMARCS



FIELD DAY JUNE 26 – 27, 1999

ARRL's annual Field Day is the most popular operating event in North America. Combining an emergency preparedness exercise with competition and outdoor fun, Field Day appeals to different people in different ways. There is something in it for you. Our Field Day site is in Audubon, PA, on Egypt Road.

Bob W3SA once again obtained Bell Atlantic's permission to use the field. A map to the site appears on page 6.

MARC does not do Field Day to compete against other clubs. Those of us who enjoy hard-core contesting have many other opportunities to indulge our mania. MARC does Field Day to learn and practice all sorts of skills, get to know each other better, and enjoy ham radio in an outdoor setting. Nobody's there to show off. Nobody's there to make a beginner feel all thumbs and elbows. In all the years of MARC Field Day, there has never been a single participant who knows it all, and 1999 will not be any different!

If you have not been on HF before, people will help you get the hang of it. If you have not tried CW before, ditto. And if you make a mistake ... so what? You'll be using the club callsign **W3NWA**, so nobody out in radio-land will know who goofed.

NEW ... FIELD DAY PINS!

MARC Field Day participants can have an official ARRL Field Day pin for just \$5. This is new for 1999 ... the design is snazzy! Be sure to get one in the first year they're offered. Bring \$5 to Field Day and sign the participation log.

Sometimes we have a VHF station, too, and you may be surprised to learn what fun is out there away from the FM repeater sub-bands. If you haven't been active on the air in recent years, why don't you come over to Field Day and make a few QSO's just for old time's sake?

Field Day goes on rain or shine, around the clock. If you can't come during the day, how about at night? The field is mowed,

but there are a few sprigs of poison ivy around, so wear appropriate footgear. Hats, rain gear, lawn chairs, sunscreen, and plenty of non-alcoholic beverages are also a good idea. Guests, families, and kids are very welcome, but plan to supervise children for their safety. There is a porta-potty, for those of us who aren't into the behind-a-tree thing.

Field Day captain is **Carter N3AO** (610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net). We need rigs, tents / campers / RV's, and other stuff that Carter can tell you about. If someone wants to do a VHF station, please contact Carter ASAP so that can be factored into planning. We will need workers for setting the site

up (starting about ? AM on Saturday) and taking it down (after ? PM Sunday). **George N3ORC** has volunteered to manage the food this year. Please contact him if you'd like to help keep our cuisine up to its usual tasty standard.

MEETING PROGRAMS

Dennis K3DS has lined up programs that you'll find interesting, informative, maybe even a little controversial ... well worth your time on the third Thursday of the month.

Do you know a ham who doesn't have a home radio club? Bring that friend to a MARC meeting. If you haven't been attending meetings, that's a bad habit you need to break.

May 20th - Jim Miccolis N2EY - "Good Old Days of Ham Radio Licensing"

Amateur radio licensing has gone through many twists and turns over the years in response to initiatives both from the FCC and the Amateur community. Jim will take us on a tour of licensing procedures from "2nd and Chestnut" to e-filing.

June 17th – "Field Day and Hamfest 1999: Looking Forward"

This will be a chance to discuss the MARC Field Day and hamfest. What do YOU want to know about these important club activities?

July 15th - Dennis Silage K3DS – "The New Digital Modes: Say Goodbye to RTTY"

The venerable frequency shift keying radio teletype modes may be on the verge of extinction. A new technique called PSK31 displays definite advantages for Amateur use on HF and weak signal VHF/UHF/EME. It may even be better (in the SNR sense that is) than CW. There's an article about PSK31 in the May QST you'll want to read before the club meeting.

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 and 147.06/R linked
repeater system
WB3JOE packet BBS 145.090
Packet sysop and 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 + 145.13
linked repeater system.
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!

At the March 25 meeting, the Board discussed club expenses and membership renewals. **Steve N3ORH** was asked to find out what it would cost to replace the packet BBS with an APRS weather station. Hamfest publicity was discussed. Little input has been received from members about a new site for 145.13/R. Future public service events were listed. The

VOX

Mark W3XL is ex-**N3XL**. Congrats to **Charlie N3NQX** on his upgrade to General. **Harry W3FM** arranged our outstanding March program on power line interference. **Dennis K3DS** welcomes all such help in scheduling interesting programs. Past member **Jamie N3BLZ** is doing well in Connecticut and sends 73 to all who remember him from student days at Haverford College. **Bob N3ZRR** is pictured on page 1 of the latest MontCo RACES newsletter, which is edited by **Bob W3ZQN**.

LICENSE TEST SESSION

May 8 – Bryn Mawr

MARC's next license test session will be Saturday, May 8, in Bryn Mawr at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue. Registration starts at 9:15 AM. You are strongly advised to pre-register, because if nobody pre-registers, the session will be cancelled. Although walk-ins are accepted, you run the risk of showing up to find nobody to test you. Yes, we usually test on the first Saturday in May, but our VE's had conflicting obligations, hence the switch to May 8. For details, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032 – rjlees@aol.com).

Remember that all dues-paid MARC members get one test session per year free of charge. The club pays the test fee, as a membership benefit.

HAMFEST PLANNING CONTINUES

Putting together a hamfest means a lot of jobs need to be done in advance of the date. For example: **Russ K3RH** sent letters seeking door-prize donations. **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Dennis K3DS** contacted computer hobby clubs so we can send them hamfest flyers. **Bob WA3PZO** tracked down radio-control model aircraft clubs we want to send hamfest info to. **Kay WT3P** worked on letters to other ham clubs inviting them to buy tables to promote their clubs and also tracked (*hm!*) down some model railroad techies. **Foster ??** and **Wojo ??** volunteered to take some flyers to the Trenton Computer Show. **Charlie N3NQX** took some to a model train show.

145.13 LEAVES CABRINI COLLEGE

April 10 was MARC's last day at the Cabrini College repeater site we've used since 1985, first for '06 and later for '13.

The work party consisted of Technical Chairman **Jeff WA3RIZ** and volunteers **George N3ORC**, **David KB3CRY**, **Dave N3MDG**, **Tom N3JMA**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Jan Sharp**, **Brian WD0HBG**, **Carter N3AO**, **Russ K3RH**, and **Bob W3SA**. **Steve N3ORH** and **Lauren N3TJF** have allowed us to store the equipment at their home until a new site is found.

The move ends an era in more ways than one. For the first time, MARC has no repeater located in Radnor Township. For many years, '06 was nicknamed the "Radnor repeater" and the club's original name was the Radnor Repeater Group.

MARCH BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

decision not to allow posting sale / wanted notices on the e-mail listserver was confirmed. A reflector is being set up for internal Board communications. In the last newsletter, the bank balance was reported lower than it really was. The treasury balance as of March 25 was \$5,937.66.

MARC HAMFEST JULY 11, 1999

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

"Always be sincere ... whether you mean it or not" – Flanders & Swann

Remember "dichotomy"? Aren't we glad we can read a magazine or listen to the news and not encounter that beat-to-death word any more? Aren't we glad that "information superhighway" seems to be shuffling off to whatever Buffalo tiresome clichés may go to when they die?

You probably have your own honor roll of worn-out phrases ... my current #1 candidate for linguistic limbo is "dumbing down." This label is automatically slapped on every change (*good, bad, indifferent, or indeterminate*) that comes along. Nostalgia, alas, just ain't what it used to be! What's funny is that a high percentage of people (*or is that "nattering nabobs of negativity"?*) who complain to me about "dumbing down" in ham radio do so in messages whose spelling, punctuation, and grammar are deplorable. Sauce for the gander, anyone?

Bob W3SA has shown good-humored tolerance for all the the fun poked at the scary-looking contraption he must wear to immobilize his broken vertebra. He'd be one rich dude if he had a nickel for every one of the jokes about "Where do you attach the feedline?" and "What frequency is it resonant on?" and "When were you assimilated by the Borg?"

I know whereof I speak. Years ago, at a playground with Jenny, I got a little too frisky and fractured my coccyx (*look it up!*). It hurt like mortal sin, but the jokes were worse. "Are they going to put your a** in a sling?" "Didn't anybody ever tell you that busting your a** is just a figure of speech?" I forgot whether I was taking the pain pills for the injury or the wisecracks!

I'm going to Dayton this year after a 2-year skip. If you're going, too, please jot down a few notes of your impressions and send them to me for a story in a future newsletter. – **73, Kay WT3P**

REMARCS LISTSERVER NEWS

After an inquiry by a member with ham gear to sell, a majority of the Board was of the opinion that the *REMARCS* internet listserver is not an appropriate medium for such announcements.

When the listserver was created, we promised "no spam." Most Board officials believe that club members might find a slew of for-sale notices a little too close to that inglorious lunch-meat. So the member was encouraged to post the for-sale notice on the Web site message board, instead. This probably reaches a wider readership and will not annoy club members who want club activity announcements but not for-sale ads.

Some subscribers to the listserver may have been dropped off the system because they didn't follow the renewal directions exactly. If you did anything other than simply reply to the renewal message, your renewal may not have gone through. If you're not getting the announcements any more, please contact **Kay WT3P** for assistance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1999

PRESIDENT

Tom Porett N3JMA 610-896-8413

tporett@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

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W3NWA: Kay Craigie WT3P 610-993-9623, wt3p@arrl.net

VISIT THE MARC WEB SITE<http://www.marc-radio.org>

If you're on the Web and haven't visited MARC's home page, whaddya waitin' for? **Steve N3ORH** and **Lauren N3TJF** have a fine, colorful site set up for us with lots of good information. There's no substitute for a real visit to the site, but here are some virtual hors d'oeuvres to whet your appetite.

- ◆ Meeting program topics and directions to the meeting site
- ◆ Information about club repeaters and packet BBS
- ◆ Field Day announcement
- ◆ Skywarn information
- ◆ Membership form
- ◆ Hamfest flyer in Adobe PDF format
- ◆ Chat system (outside provider)
- ◆ Message board
- ◆ Members-only section
- ◆ Back issues of *REMARCS* in Adobe PDF format
- ◆ Links to other sites

Suppose you have some ham gear to sell, but waiting for the next edition of *REMARCS* is not convenient. You can post an announcement on the Web site's message board to advertise your stuff. Steve says this has worked out well for people who've tried it.

Adobe-doobie-who?

You may be wondering what this Adobe PDF format is all about. Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) files are visual duplicates of the original document ...whether it was scanned from a piece of paper or created from software. You can view the document on-screen or print it onto paper, and it will look just like the original document. For example, if you download an issue of *REMARCS* in PDF and bring it up on the screen or print it onto paper, it will look exactly like the original paper edition. After each issue is sent to the printer for the paper edition, I tell the word processor to write a PDF version, which I e-mail to Steve for the Web site.

To view or print a PDF document, you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader. This utility is provided free with many software packages, so you may already have it. It is available for free download from the Adobe site (www.adobe.com). Be sure to use nothing older than version 3, because older versions may not handle newer PDF documents. If you like to surf the Web and capture documents, having the Acrobat Reader is essential.

STOP ... LOOK ... LISTEN!

Consumer authorities predict that scam artists will take advantage of the public's fears and technological ignorance to bilk people for "prevention" of non-existent Y2K problems in toasters, air conditioners, and other totally irrelevant household appliances. Others may try to get you to reveal bank account or credit card information they can then use to rob you. Warn family members not to be taken in by such crooks, who may be operating over the phone or going door-to-door.

Do you know the warning signs of a stroke? The American Heart Association is holding free risk assessment for stroke during May, 1999, in Delaware and Pennsylvania. For the site nearest you, phone 1-888-988-2179. In case of stroke symptoms in yourself or someone else, don't waste time. Saying "Aw heck, it's nothing but a virus or that pizza I ate" could be the LAST mistake you ever make! Call 911!

SYMPTOMS OF STROKE

- ◆ Feeling weak or numb on one side
- ◆ Blurred vision or no vision, usually in one eye
- ◆ Inability to speak clearly
- ◆ Dizziness or falling
- ◆ Severe headaches

SHORT CIRCUITS

A report in the *Packet Status Register*, Tucson Amateur Packet Radio's membership journal, says the new DeLorme Earthmate GPS unit cannot be used for APRS, because the data is in a non-standard proprietary format. The older DeLorme Tripmate unit did work with APRS, but it has been discontinued. This fact about the Earthmate isn't mentioned in the sales literature or on DeLorme's web site, but DeLorme

tech support does not deny it when you phone them. [tnx TAPR]

April QST has an article on Y2K and ham radio equipment. Will your favorite logging program gag on the date change? Check it out. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of profanity!

FLEA MARKET

WANTED: Have you recently upgraded your computer CD-ROM drive? Donate your used CD-ROM drive (any speed) and IDE controller to Ukrainian youth ham radio club **UU4JWF**. Not tax-deductible, but helps promote international good will. Contact **Mike KF3CD** (610-xxx-xxxx, mpilotti@anroinc.com).

FOR SALE: Small microwave oven, perfect size for college dorm room (great gift for a kid you know!) or heating up coffee in your ham shack. \$25. Contact **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623, wt3p@arrl.net).

SOME HAM SITES ON THE WEB

Practice for your license upgrade test (*or see if you could still pass the test for the license you hold now!*) at www.biochem.mcw.edu/Postdocs/Simon/radio/exam.html. This is a very sophisticated site that generates sample CW and theory tests. Definitely put this one in the bookmark list in your browser.

Atlantic Division ARRL has a new site at www.bfdin.com/atlantic/index.htm. One of the pages lists Web sites for about 130 local radio clubs in the Division, and they in turn have links to just about everything. Another page has the Division hamfest calendar. Not a fancy site, but informative. I hope by the time you read this we may have a photos section on-line to supplement the text-based material.

Montgomery County hams should put a bookmark on the RACES home page at www.montcopa.org/eoc/oep/oephome.htm so you can keep up with the latest info.

The **Eastern PA QRP Club's** home page is at www.kpsnet.com/wb3aal/Start_Page.htm. Nice folks. Have a look.

If you haven't registered for ARRL's members-only section of ARRLWeb, do it soon. The whole site is packed with good information, but the members-only section is tops. To register, you'll need your mailing label from QST for the membership control number. This is also where you can sign up for an @arrl.net e-mail alias. Start at www.arrl.org and go from there.

ARRL EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION CONVENTION – JUNE 12

The Columbia-Montour ARC will sponsor an ARRL convention for Eastern PA Section on Saturday, June 12, in conjunction with their hamfest in Bloomsburg, PA. It's a pretty part of the state, if you've never been up there to see for yourself.

Find out more about the event by checking out the club's web page at <http://www.bafn.org/~cmarc>.

FCC DENIES EXTENSION IN PHIL-MONT REPEATER MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE CASE

The FCC has denied **Kornwell Chan W3CI** of Dresher, PA, an extension of time to reply to a March 10, 1999, Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture. Chan sent his request for extension via the office of US **Senator Richard Santorum**. FCC's **Riley Hollingsworth** noted April 6 that Chan was visited by FCC personnel February 21 and did not request an extension until March 29.

Chan and Technician licensee **Michael E. Gallagher KB1DTA** (ex-**KB3DHX**), of West Concord, MA, each received \$7500 fines from the FCC in connection with malicious interference to the **Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club** VHF and UHF repeaters. Following up on complaints from the Phil-Mont club, FCC personnel monitored interfering signals which included

transmissions of classical music and a person talking with a disguised voice. In February, FCC personnel tracked the signal to a vehicle in Willow Grove, PA, occupied by Chan and Gallagher, and equipped with Amateur gear.

The FCC cited both licensees for failing to operate "in accordance with good Amateur practice," failing to identify as required, transmitting music on Amateur frequencies, and willfully impeding legitimate Amateur communications. Chan and Gallagher reportedly told FCC officials that Chan used Gallagher's station to transmit music on Amateur frequencies. The FCC said Gallagher "is equally responsible" for transmissions made using his station. [tnx ARRL LETTER, April 16]

1998 PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY RESULTS

MARC was 17th among 31 club entries in the 1998 Pennsylvania QSO Party, with 284,436 points from 4 entrants. Another area club managed only about 165,000 points from 10 entrants, so from that angle, we did really well.

On the other hand, the 40 entrants from the **Delaware-Lehigh ARC** (Allentown/Bethlehem area) racked up 1,664,236 points, just getting their collective nose in front of the 1,654,428 points made by 40-entrant **Murgas ARC** (Wilkes-Barre area). Now, our average score per entrant was a lot better than either DLARC or Murgas ... but there were only 4 of us!

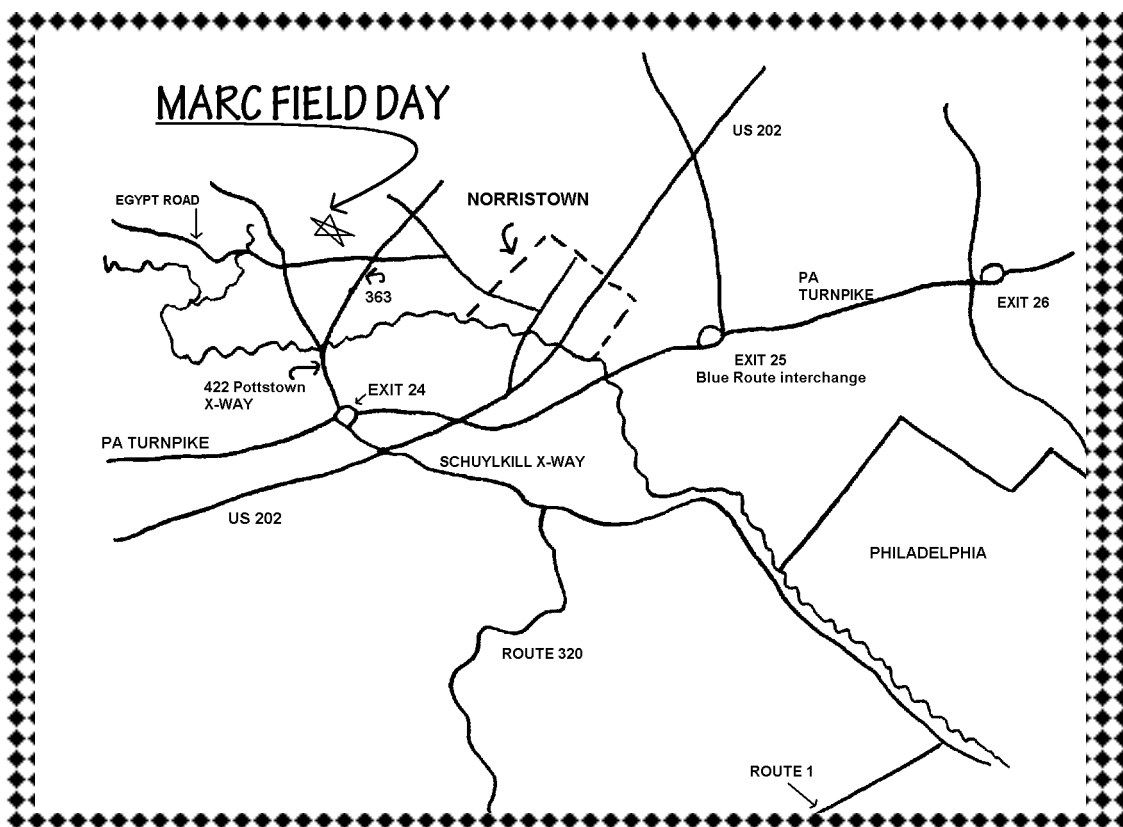
Kay WT3P finished first in Chester County and 8th among medium-power entries in Eastern PA. **Steve K3KFD** finished

second in Montgomery County and was in 7th place among high-power entries in Eastern PA. **Carter N3AO** was in 20th place among QRP entries for the whole state. **Bob WR3K** (then **AA3RK**) also competed in Montgomery County.

SCORES

Kay WT3P	137,120
Steve K3KFD	118,476
Carter N3AO	26,120
Bob WR3K	2,720

Big score or small, they all add up to fun and every point is important. See you in the party in 1999!



MARC Field Day is on the north side of Egypt Road in Audubon, PA.

Shopping centers are on the south side of the road.

Look for an open field with telephone poles in it. After set-up, you will also see cars, tents, and antennas.

For additional directions, contact Carter N3AO (610-993-9623) or Bob W3SA (610-293-1919).

ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1999

This October will be the 50th anniversary of the National Traffic System. Of course, hams relayed formal messages for third parties for decades before that, but the NTS net structure as we know it today was invented after World War II.

Very few local radio clubs in the Philadelphia area sponsor VHF traffic nets affiliated with the NTS. The opportunity to learn formal message handling on VHF is a significant and unusual service our club provides. To mark the 50th anniversary of the National Traffic System, Net Manager

Carter N3AO is going to devise a commemorative net activity, so stay tuned for further announcements.

Formal message-handling ("traffic handling") is not old-timey stuff we can forget about. The skill is expected of hams who plan to communicate for ARES/RACES in such activities as nuclear generating station exercises. Otherwise, ham radio is promising the public something we cannot deliver. MARC traffic nets are also a chance to exchange informal comments with fellow hams; it's not all serious and educational. Check in, learn the skill, and get in on the 50th anniversary activity.

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1999 ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION AWARDS

Two New Yorkers and a Pennsylvanian received the 1999 Atlantic Division awards, which will be officially conferred at the Division Convention in Rochester, NY. "Amateur of the Year" is **Ed Gable K2MP** from Hilton, NY. Ed is an officer and active member of the **Rochester DX Association** and also serves as curator of the **Antique Wireless Association** museum, a major collection on the history of wireless communications. He's an Assistant Section Manager in Western New York Section of the ARRL.

The "Grand Ole Ham" lifetime service award goes to **Angelo DeFazio W2SRP** from Batavia, NY. Ange, who will be 85 this fall, was nominated by his home club, **Genesee Radio Amateurs**. Still teaching Morse code to new hams in the club's license courses and taking part in other club activities, Ange

also volunteers two days a week at the local Veterans Medical Center. He became a ham in 1934, served in the Navy in World War II, and helped many new people get their licenses during the post-war years.

Winner of the "Technical Achievement" award is **Paul Shuch N6TX** from Cogan Station, PA. A retired professor in electronics whose last position was at Penn State, Paul is now Executive Director of the SETI League. SETI stands for "Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence." This isn't "X-Files" boondoggle; SETI does it with radio astronomy, and a large percentage of SETI members are hams. Paul has many technical publications in major ham publications and is credited with introducing microstrip construction to hams, among other innovations.

TRAVIS N3YLI GIVES NEW MEANING TO THE TERM "PLAYING RADIO"

A confirmed Lego-maniac, **Travis N3YLI** constructed a Morse code keyer housed in a structure of Legos. The keyer is **L.B. Cebik W4RNL's** infrared optoelectronic straight key (see *QST*, February, 1992, page 30ff, for the story and schematics). Truly a digital device, it generates the dots and dashes when you tap your fingertip to break an infrared light beam. No, it's not a joke. It works. We had one (not as cute as Travis's) here at Malfunction Junction for a while, and though I wouldn't want to rag-chew half an hour with one, it did key the rig.

Having fun with ham radio is limited only by your imagination. Travis's whimsical take on the optoelectronic straight key is proof that you find fun where you look for it.

The photo doesn't do it justice. Ask Travis to show you the device ... and then you can put it on the air!

