



JULY / AUGUST 2001

REMARKS

www.marc-radio.org

HAMFEST JULY 15 IN KIMBERTON

Come and Bring Friends! Sell Your Stuff at the Members' Table

Every member of MARC benefits from the hamfest. Without the hamfest income, our club simply could not afford to provide all the benefits we have come to expect. We all benefit, so shouldn't we all contribute?

You contribute by talking up the hamfest to other hams and at any other high-tech hobby clubs you attend ... By bringing stuff to sell at the members' gear sales table and donating some of the proceeds to the club ... By working at set-up (1 PM, Saturday, July 14) ... By working a few hours at the hamfest ... By rounding up a carload of people and coming to the hamfest ... By patronizing the vendors, so they will come back.

The members' gear sales table, managed by **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW**, is a great way to sell your stuff without being stuck at a tailgate spot all day. You can bring stuff to set-up on Saturday or on Sunday morning. You can keep all the proceeds if you wish, but you can also donate all or part of the money to the club. Stuff placed for sale
(Continued on page 4)

Look Who's Coming

**ARRL Atlantic Division
Amateur & Advanced
CQ Publications
3rd Call Area QSL Bureau
Radio Shack
The Old Radio Bus
ARES/RACES Groups
Local Radio Clubs
And More!**

NOMINATIONS FOR 2001 / 2002 MARC BOARD ARE OPEN NOW

"The dishes," as a southern philosopher once observed, "do not wash themselves." Likewise, MARC doesn't just happen. People have to donate their time and effort to provide the programs and services we all enjoy. None of these jobs amount to engineering the Panama Canal, ending violence in the Middle East, or doing brain surgery on babies. Can you find the time to hold office in the club?

Nominations are now open for the MARC board of directors for the term beginning October 1, 2001. Elections will be held at the September membership meeting. The nominating committee consists of **Al N3EA** (amaslin@earthlink.net, 610-446-4936) and **Kay WT3P** (wt3p@arll.net, 610-993-9623). The board positions and the names of those who currently hold those positions are printed on page 3.

Any licensed member of the club may run for any elective posi-

tion on the board (callsign trustee positions are not elective). It does not matter what your license class is, how long you have been a ham, or how long you have been a club member. Board members are expected to carry out their specific duties and to attend monthly meetings of the board. All offices have one-year terms except for Member-at-Large, which is a two-year term.

Some board members have decided not to run for re-election. They are Treasurer **David KB3CRY**, Public Relations chairman **Bill W3KRB**, and Member-at-Large **Janet KA3VTQ**. The Programs slot has been open since the last election. No office is someone's private property. It's been a long time since we had a contested election. Could this be the year?

To find out more about the responsibilities of a position or to suggest a candidate for an office, please contact either Al or Kay. Nominations close on August 21, the club meeting date.

JULY AND AUGUST MEETING PROGRAMS

Reporting for KYW News Radio and Fun on the 6 Meter Band

What is it like to be a reporter for an all-news radio station such as Philadelphia's KYW? KYW reporter **Mark Abrams**, our July 17 meeting speaker, will tell us all about it. In private life, Mark is **NT3V**, from Reading, PA, and he is deeply involved in Amateur Radio and Scouting.

In addition to reporting for the radio station, Mark teaches courses in broadcast news writing at Temple University. Mark's wife is **Sue NZ3G**, and one of their four kids has a license now, too. You'll enjoy meeting him and hearing about what goes on behind the scenes to produce the news at KYW.

Do you have one of those new transceivers that does all-mode

VHF as well as HF? We can do much more on VHF than gab on FM repeaters. Already this year, **Foster K3FXS** showed us the satellite side of VHF.

Now, on August 21, **Herb Spoonts W3BO**, from Phoenixville, will talk about fun on the 6 meter VHF band. There are people who've earned DXCC on 6m, and even your editor has 43 states and 13 countries confirmed on 6. Herb is an accomplished 6m operator whose enthusiasm for the "magic band" is contagious. If you have interesting 6m QSL cards or award certificates, please bring them to this meeting to display.

Read more about future programs on page 5.

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
141.13 CTCSS 131.8 Hz
Webmaster: Steve N3ORH
(610-313-8080, smaslin@fast.net)

NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM 147.06
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM 147.06
Net Manager: Carter N3AO
(610-993-9623, n3ao@arri.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@arri.net)

BRING A FRIEND
TO A MARC MEETING!

VOX

E-mail address updates: **Jeff WA3RIZ** (wa3riz@arri.net), **Bob WR3K** (wr3k@classaresume.com), **Jenny KA3WVD** (craigiej@earthlink.net). The latter was correct in the paper list but not in the PDF version.

Welcome new members: **Joe W3JY**, **Joseph WA1SSY**, **William N3OOL**, and **Paul KB3CYD**. **Carter N3AO**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Bob W3SA**, and **Kay WT3P** gave **Bill W3IGU** a hand repairing his broken trap dipole. Bill, who was licensed in 1927 or '28, will be 91 in August. **Carter N3AO** installed a new G5RV antenna for a visually-impaired ham whose antenna was broken by winter weather. Members who attended the hamfest planning session at **Mike KF3CD**'s house on May 20 were **Bob W3SA**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Gene WB3FTJ**, and **Judy N3MBW**. **Kay WT3P** spoke at Ham Com, the big hamfest in Dallas, TX. **Ann KA3EIW** has moved to Paoli. Former club officer **Doug W3CF** (ex-N3ADL) sent 73 to all during a chat in Dayton. Sincere condolences to **Paul NX3Q**, whose wife passed away in June. **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW** operated Field Day from the MARCO meeting in Florida.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the May 24 board meeting, items on the agenda included Field Day, the hamfest, public service events, and meeting program topics. Although it would be desirable to spend less money storing club equipment, no practical alternative is available at this time. Member input will be sought on club logo apparel. Membership statistics were presented and recruitment of new members was discussed. Technical issues regarding linking '06 and '13 were reviewed. An opportunity to establish a MARC repeater on 440 MHz will be pursued. The treasury balance was \$8,797.05

At the June 28 board meeting, a progress report was received on enabling the 145.13 autopatch, linking '13 and '06, and other technical matters. The board voted to continue looking into having a 440 MHz repeater and to sell the club's packet radio equipment. A different storage locker location is being researched. Reports were received about the hamfest, public service, Field Day, membership recruitment, nominations, and future programs. Field Day expenses were \$205.06. The treasury balance was \$7,584.57.

LICENSE EXAM SESSION REPORT

Next Tests Are August 4, November 3

At the May 5 session, we served two candidates. One did a paperwork upgrade to General, while the other unsuccessfully attempted the Technician exam. The examiners present were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob W3SA**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Kay WT3P**, **Dennis K3DS**, **David KB3CRY**, **Dick K3ITH**, **Paul NX3Q**, and **Susan K3SUE**.

This was our 60th session at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, spanning 15 years. Although not a VE, **Tom K3YPO** (SK) was our liaison to the church and always attended the sessions. It was strange, his not being there this time.

MARC will be able to use the facility for our exams at least through the end of 2001. Later this year, **Bob W3ZQN** will discuss the future with the official who supervises the Education Building. If you are a member of Bryn Mawr Pres, now would be a good time to make yourself known to Bob, in case you're needed to put in a good word down the road.

MARC will give tests on August 4 and November 3 at the church, which is on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Arrive by 9:15 AM to fill out paperwork. Pre-registration is strongly advised, since sessions are cancelled if we have no pre-registered applicants. For information, directions, and pre-registration, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032).

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

On Memorial Day, May 28, MARC volunteers communicated for the annual parade in Radnor Township. Once again, MARC had a car in the parade, driven by **Carter N3AO** and decked out with magnetic signs identifying the organization.

Communicators for the event were **Bob W3ZQN** (net control), **Ned WQ3Z**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Jeff WA3RIZ**, **Steve KD0VA**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, **Rich KC2EFA**, **Roger N3VBZ**, **Beth KA3GKI**, and **Bob W3SA**. The communications plan set up by **Bob N3JIZ** went off without a hitch, despite the fact that he had to drop out at the last minute because of a family emergency.

The weather was perfect for the Tel Hai 5 mile & 5 km races on June 9 in Honey Brook. The events were finished by 10 AM, and there were no emergencies. Members who provided the communications were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Roger N3VBZ**, and **Rich KC2EFA**.

If you know about public events in our area which might benefit from ham communications, please contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587).

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Lately when I get a telephone busy signal, a happy machine voice pipes up to inform me the line is busy. Thanks ever so much ... I'm from Tajikistan, or Mars, or the Year 1801, and I didn't know what that sound means.

This is no doubt a product of the same mentality that drives some DXers to inform the DX station, "Many stations calling, so I won't hold it." As if the DX supposed that the bedlam was some kind of intergalactic cat fight! I sit there fuming, "I'm one of those stations calling, Buster, and if you don't shut your yap so I can call again, I'm going to snatch you bald-headed."

(Type A ... who, me?)

People who say there's no such thing as a stupid question haven't spent much time working with the general public. However, many of us are entirely too worried about seeming ignorant to ask the perfectly reasonable questions that would fill in the gaps in our knowledge. So I thank the person who asked what it means when people check in to a net saying "no traffic." I'll bet he's not alone in wondering why we call them "traffic nets." Read the answer on page 5.

Speaking of not knowing it all, **Harry W3FM** mentioned to me that many newcomers to digital modes may not understand the abbreviations and pro-signs they see on the screen. Good point. One day I answered a PSK31 CQ from an Arizona station who gave me a signal report, his name, his location, and ended his transmission with SK. Okey-doke, I thought, he doesn't want to rag chew, so I sent back the same sort of info and signed. Clicking on the frequency several minutes later, I discovered he was wondering where I'd gone. Well, where I'd gone was "away," because he had sent SK, i.e., end of QSO. In this issue I've printed a chart of common pro-signs, abbreviations, and contractions used on CW and digital modes.

Some people have to learn the hard way. A friend from out west suffered substantial damage to his home and the utter destruction of his ham and computer gear when two lightning strikes sent monster EMP surges in on his power lines. Surge protectors? Had 'em. Fried 'em. Having done battle with his homeowner's insurance company for months about the ham gear, he now wishes he'd had the ARRL equipment insurance, which is as close to hassle-free as we're going to come in this imperfect world. He'd be back on the air now, instead of still arguing with his insurance company. Think about it. Which would you rather do? Ham or hassle? — **73, Kay WT3P**

MARC LOGO APPAREL — WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Would you be interested in a windbreaker jacket or a baseball cap with your callsign and the MARC logo? If so, now's the time to speak up. The board is looking into what it would cost to have caps and/or windbreakers. That's directly dependent on how many members would order the items. Below a minimum number for a group order, the cost is too high and providers won't bother with us. Please contact **AI N3EA** (amaslin@earthlink.net, 610-446-4936) and tell him if you would probably order a jacket and/or a cap.

CONTEST FEATURE FEEDBACK

Nat W3JS says he was once a member of the Frankford Radio Club: "I was admitted to membership on the evening of December 7, 1941. As you can guess, I didn't have much of a chance to operate after that night."

Bob WA3PZO presented the winner's certificate to **Susan K3SUE** at a MARC meeting for her top score in the **Holmesburg ARC** 2m simplex test.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000-2001

PRESIDENT

Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-313-8080
smaslin@fast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

David DePizzo KB3CRY 610-630-0129
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MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Kay Craigie WT3P 610-993-9623
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PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bill Owen W3KRB 610-325-3995
gem@op.net

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL

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

PROGRAMS

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2002: **AI Maslin N3EA**
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net
To 9/30/2001: **Janet Vann KA3VTQ**
610-384-3163, jvann@ccis.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE: **AI Maslin N3EA**
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net
W3NWA: **Kay Craigie WT3P**
610-993-9623, wt3p@arri.net

SUNDAY NETS BACK ON 147.06

After an experimental shift to 145.13, the Sunday club nets moved back to '06 in June. Too many net regulars who can hit '06 couldn't get into '13, and we didn't pick up any new northern check-ins to balance off the loss. Of course, when the repeater link is in place, the problem will be solved in the best way.

DENNIS K3DS RECEIVES ARRL
TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The 2001 ARRL Atlantic Division Technical Achievement award has been conferred upon **Dennis K3DS** for his work as technical chairman for both MARC and DCARA and for his activities at Temple University. He's also an Assistant Director in the Atlantic Division and a past Eastern PA Section Technical Coordinator. Congrats, Dennis!

The Division's Amateur of the Year award was given to **Roy Heimel AB4XS** from Coudersport, PA. His service record includes working with Scouts, teaching licensing courses, and helping his home radio club, the **Headwaters ARC**.

VOCABULARY LESSON: DIGGING THE DIGITAL MODES

Abbreviations common on HF digital modes from old RTTY to new PSK31 derive from CW pro-signs and telegraphers' slang. If CW operators can contract a word, they do. If they can't, they do it anyway!

There is nothing wrong with typing plain English words, of course, but it helps to know what the other op is saying to you. Here are some of the abbreviations you'll see on the digital modes:

DE	=	Here is, this is (As in: N3AO DE WT3P)
K	=	Over
KN	=	Over to the specific station called and all others keep quiet (Some telegraphers think this one is over-kill.)
SK	=	End of contact, end of QSO
BTU	=	Back to you (As in: BTU N3AO DE WT3P K)
BK	=	Back, break
PSE	=	Please (Also PLS)
TNX	=	Thanks (Also TKS)
U, UR	=	You, your
TU	=	Thank you
CU, CUL	=	See you, see you later
HPE	=	Hope
AGN	=	Again
CUAGN	=	See you again (HPE CUAGN = Hope to see you again)
BCNU	=	Be seeing you
FB	=	Fine business (Means "excellent")
HW?	=	How well do you copy my signal? (Also SO HW?, HW CPY?)
R	=	Roger, received
GE	=	Good evening (GA = good afternoon, GM = good morning)
QRZ?	=	Who is calling me? (Time to review those Q-signals!)
WX	=	Weather
DR	=	Dear (See the note, below)
OM	=	Old Man, a male ham of any age
YL	=	Young Lady, a female ham of any age

Note: Male hams from outside the English-speaking world commonly refer to other men as "dear." As in "TNX QSO DR OM BOB," which means "Thanks for the QSO dear Old Man Bob." This custom can be a little unsettling at first. Most American men only say "dear" to another man in the salutation of a letter or e-mail. Well, get over it. The other op isn't implying anything, any more than you do when you begin a letter, "Dear Herbert."

MARC HAMFEST JULY 15!

(Continued from page 1)

should be related to ham radio, CB radio, computers, TV, scanners, test equipment, electronic components, telephones, and high-tech / communications. The gear does not have to be in working order.

To find out what jobs still need to be done, contact **Mike KF3CD** (mpilotti@anro.com, 610-935-4429). We need people on site very early to handle incoming vendors. We need ticket sellers throughout the day, so any hours you can work would be good. We need a clean-up squad, with supplies, to ensure that the property and restrooms are left even cleaner than we find them. At set-up on Saturday, wear work clothes. We'll be setting up tables and unfolding chairs, lining the parking lot, putting up signs, etc.

This is YOUR hamfest! Be part of it. Be proud of it.

GET ON 12 AND 17 METERS NOW!

If you're looking for a new DXing challenge, note that single-band DXCC awards for 17 and 12 meters are now available. Why not make some wire antennas for 17 and 12 and get on? If contesting annoys you, remember there is no contesting on these bands. There is plenty of DXing and rag-chewing, however.

Extra and Advanced class ops have no advantage over Generals on 12 and 17, because there are no class-based sub-bands. However, there are mode sub-bands in the FCC's Rules:

18.068—18.110 CW and data only
18.110—18.168 CW, phone, and image
24.890—24.930 CW and data only
24.930—24.990 CW, phone, and image

Check out the ARRL's *FCC Rule Book* (12th edition) for details of the band plans.

There's no telling how long these bands will hold up as the sunspot cycle starts its slide. It's a good idea to get those DX awards in the bag before the sunspots go in the bucket.

Incidentally, do you know why 12, 17, and 30 meters are sometimes called "WARC bands"? It's because the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) of 1979 decided that hams would be allowed to use these bands. We were given our slices of 12 and 17 meters as exclusive world-wide allocations. On 30 meters we are secondary to stations in the Fixed Service outside the USA ... which is why there's no contesting and no single-band DXCC award on 30 meters. Contacts on 30m do count, however, for regular DXCC.

It took a few years for the new bands to be opened to us, and a while for rigs to come on the market that included the new bands. Nevertheless, WARC '79 was something to cheer about.

HAMFEST DOOR PRIZES

The following items are our main door prizes, with their retail values:

- ◆ MFJ-128 Atomic Wall Clock (\$59.95)
- ◆ MFJ-112B World Map Clock (\$24.95)
- ◆ MFJ-124 Atomic Desk Clock (\$39.95)
- ◆ Pryme-ADI Communications 2m Handi Talkie - Model AT-201 (\$229.95)

We'll also have publications donated by ARRL and gifts from other providers, too. If you are associated with an organization or a business that would like to donate a prize, contact **Mike KF3CD** (mpilotti@anro.com, 610-935-4429).

FIELD DAY REPORT

Field Day 2001 was a scaled-back effort, because like so many clubs these days, MARC had difficulty finding someone willing to organize the event. Despite that, and rather ugly weather during set-up on Saturday, we had a good time. In addition to rounding up the usual suspects, we had some new participants. Also, we qualified for 700 bonus points by doing some things we had skipped in recent years, such as copying the W1AW Field Day message ... we did it on PSK31 this year ... and sending a radiogram to the ARRL Section Manager. We expect the final score to be in the vicinity of 2,600 points.

Thanks to **Foster K3FXS**, we qualified for bonus points for a satellite contact. **Carter N3AO** prepared the radiogram to the Section Manager, and **Kay WT3P** sent it. She also copied the W1AW message on PSK31. **Bill W3KRB** sent out the press releases that earned bonus points for PR. The food was managed by **Janet KA3VTQ**, **Rob W13S**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, and **John N3MDF**. **Dan KA3KHR** cooked the dogs and burgers on **Sue K3SUE**'s gas grill. **Bob N3JIZ** and **Dan KA3KHR** brought the VHF station equipment. The event co-captains were **Steve K3KFD** and **Carter N3AO**. **Rick N3AGS** and **Kay WT3P** brought laptop computers for logging, and Kay handled the data processing for our report to the League. **Josy WQ3E** set up the porta-potty. **Bob W3SA** arranged for the field and the generators from Verizon. **David KB3CRY** made sure everyone who had expenses was reimbursed. **Dick K3ITH** and **Kay WT3P** took photographs. A lot of people worked on set-up and take-down, and a lot of people operated. Thank you all!

Although we did not have as many QSO's as we had in past years, we did okay for a club that was on the edge of not having Field Day at all. Next year, **Dieter WB3JWU** and **Susan K3SUE** will be Field Day captains. Please contact them with your ideas ... and discuss with them the jobs you would be interested in doing. Enthusiasm is great. Ideas are great. Neither one is worth a hoot without people willing to do the work.

BAND	CW QSO's	SSB QSO's	DIGITAL QSOS
80	61	0	0
40	90	133	2
20	86	75	8
15	62	99	6
10	6	3	0
50	0	17	0
144	0	8	0
TOTAL	305	335	16

FUTURE PROGRAMS

The September program will be a follow-up to the June program. It will be a look at more advanced concepts in digital communications, by **Dennis K3DS**. The October program will be presented by **Ron W3ZV**, on public service scanning, with an emphasis on trunking systems. "This will be more of a practical than highly technical talk," says Ron, " 'cause that's the kind of guy I am. I'll bring along some of my hardware for show and tell."

Both Dennis and Ron are MARC members. Do you have a specialty in Amateur Radio, other communications systems, or related high-tech subjects that you'd like to present?

Because our membership has diverse interests, we like to have programs on a wide variety of topics. So far in 2001, we've had programs on RACES, Amateur satellites, the FAA and aviation radio communications, ARRL Eastern PA Section, and PSK31 for beginners, plus the annual auction. In the next two months, we'll hear about KYW news from a reporter who's a ham, and hamming on the 6 meter band.

Members' suggestions led to several of these programs. Think about running for Program chairman. You wouldn't be working alone!

WHY DO WE CALL THEM "TRAFFIC" NETS?

A traffic net would be a net that talks about things like jams, accidents, and pot-holes, right? Sounds reasonable, but it's not correct. Just as cars and trucks are the traffic that flow on a road, messages are the traffic that flow on ham radio.

When I was in broadcast radio (shortly after the last dinosaur died), we had a traffic director whose job was to schedule the announcements, commercials, promotional messages, and (oh yeah) programs. Same idea.

On the ham bands, we have formal traffic that usually follows the ARRL radiogram format. There's also informal or tactical traffic, of the type we do at public service events. In handling formal traffic, the message must be copied and relayed exactly as it was sent, and you can't take all day doing it.

While the long-distance relay of formal traffic on HF is less important today than it was years ago, our local ARES/RACES units can't do their jobs if hams have no clue how to send and receive formal messages quickly and accurately.

Traffic-handling isn't calculus, but it requires some practice. You don't master the skill by reading a book or attending a lecture. That's why the ARRL has a daily schedule of traffic nets nationwide to provide practice. Our MARC VHF traffic nets are affiliated with the ARRL's National Traffic System (NTS) as local nets.

One problem is that there aren't many messages being originated these days, so the traffic nets are filled up with administrative reports and the equivalent of junk mail. You can help by learning how to compose messages to friends and family. Just ask **Carter N3AO** to explain how. Our nets are teaching nets ... check in and check 'em out this week.

Fun at the 2001 Dayton Hamvention

Read more about hamfests at
<http://home.earthlink.net/~wt3p/fests.html>

DAYTON — IS THIS TRIP NECESSARY?

Some hams who haven't been to Dayton wonder what's the big deal ... It's just a hamfest. Well, no, it isn't. It's got everything in ham radio you might want to buy or drool over. It's got every celebrity, useta-be, and wanna-be. The guy standing in line behind you for a hotdog might be **Riley Hollingsworth**, the president of the ARRL, a world-famous DXpeditioner, or a buddy you lost track of after high school. Here's a contingent from the People's Republic of China ... a honcho from Argentina's national society ... a group of Kuwaiti Amateurs in snow-white Arab costume!

There are forums on all sorts of ham radio subjects given by top experts from all over the USA and the world.

It's as different from our local hamfests as a Delaware Blue Rocks game is from the World Series at Vet Stadium. Both are fun, but boy, are they not the same!

Someday, go to Dayton. Maybe you won't need to do it more than once. But don't let your ham radio life go by without making the trip. *REMARCS* invited club members who went to Dayton 2001 to share their impressions.

IS IT EXPENSIVE TO GO TO DAYTON?

Dayton is a 2 1/2 day hamfest. With several big indoor halls of vendors, thousands of outdoor tailgaters, and dozens of forums, you need that much time to see it all. That means a minimum of 3 nights in a hotel.

Book a room early. Really early. Hotels fill up long before the hamfest, including hotels in towns miles away — Dayton is a small city! Because the Hamvention is the biggest thing that happens in Dayton, hotels are expensive. **Charlie N3NQX** reports good luck with bed & breakfast lodgings outside of town. They book up slower and may cost less money.

Fly or drive? The Hamvention arranges special fares with some airlines, or you might use frequent flyer points if you can book well in advance. If you fly, you'll also need a rental car. If you drive, you want to go with some friends, because it's a long and boring road to southwestern Ohio!

Paid parking near the Hara Arena is available, but the closest lots are unpaved. If it rains, you're at the mercy of greedy tow-out guys. You can park free at some shopping malls and take an inexpensive shuttle bus to the arena. In some years there are shuttles to certain hotels, too.

Buying your ticket by mail (*watch for magazine ads*) is several dollars cheaper than buying at the door. UPS is at the arena to ship home purchases too large or fragile to carry on a plane.

Expensive? Yeah, I'm afraid it can be. But didn't Congress just pass a tax cut? You CAN take it with you ... to Dayton.



DAYTON DAZE By Kay Craigie WT3P

This year's Dayton weather ranged from dangerous thunderstorms on Friday to picture-perfect sunshine on Sunday. It was so humid inside the Hara Arena on Friday that paperback books displayed for sale at the ARRL booth were getting wrinkly.

One product I heard people talking about was Yaesu's FT-817 transceiver for HF/VHF/UHF. Kenwood's new tri-band handheld was also causing a buzz. I didn't buy anything dramatic like last year's RigBlaster, just my usual pair of Buckmaster CD-ROM callbooks and several bundles of airmail envelopes for sending QSL cards abroad.

Piggy-backed onto the Hamvention are evening events at restaurants and hotels, uniting hams who share special interests. The Contesters Dinner, as usual, had good food and short speeches. Frankford Radio Club past president **Ron "Sig" Sigismonti N3RS** (those are his towers you see when you're driving eastbound on the turnpike near Downingtown!) was inducted into the prestigious CQ Contest Hall of Fame. We were out of there at 8 PM and headed for the contesters hospitality suite that Frankford co-sponsors.

I spent most of my time standing at the ARRL booth answering questions and shaking hands. Though my hot, tired, unhappy feet were calling me things you can't say on the air, being at a major booth is a good way to be found by a lot of friends I might otherwise miss.

The "wide-eyed innocence" award for amazing overheard remark goes to: "You know, they have ham radio stuff here, too."

The "Who Said Small Towns Are Friendly?" prize goes to the guys who were charging \$100 for towing cars out of the deep mud in the parking lot across from the arena. I was very glad I paid my \$2 to ride the shuttle bus from the shopping mall.

THE DAYTON LAYOUT

What you can't grasp about Dayton until you actually go there is how big the darn thing is. Even Baltimore, our largest regional hamfest in the mid-Atlantic states, doesn't elicit the "holy bleep!" reaction that Dayton brings out in even the most been-there-done-that hams going there for the first time.

Grab your copy of May *QST* and turn to the Hamvention ad on page 123. The parking lot to the right of the street that runs vertically through the image is paid public parking, and this year, also the Okefenokee Swamp.

Hara Arena is the huge, rambling building to the left of that street. Indoor vendor and VIP parking are the normal-looking lots closest to the street. The crowded-looking parking areas to the lower left and far side of the arena are the flea market, which has over 2,500 spaces. The white area at the left of the tailgaters is a flea market area covered under a mammoth tent.

You need good walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen, rain slicker, big sturdy bag to hold purchases, and a water bottle.

DAYTON FUN

By Carter Craigie N3AO

"Hi Carter! Good to see you! Kay here? It wouldn't be Dayton if I didn't see you two!!"

So said so many good friends I see only once a year at the Dayton Hamvention, the biggest gathering of hams in the good old U.S. of A.

Sure, I bump into these nice people all year long: in contests, on rag chews, and on my various outings with ham radio. But actually seeing them puts faces on the call signs, and that is great fun. It also insures that they will recognize my call sign, recalling MY face, the next time around — a distinct advantage in contests, of course.

I saw my QRP friends at FDIM (Four Days In May), a special gathering of low-power ops who come to Dayton a whole day EARLY, thus making the whole hamfest a FOUR-day affair. All day Thursday is a forum with exciting and knowledgeable speakers who share the latest things they are doing. During the breaks, and especially during the evenings there is plenty of time for socializing — and that we do! Funzies!!

This year I "worked" at the fringe of the Elecraft table in one of the main indoor venues. This is the brand of QRP radio kits I think are so good, as you already know. I was able to speak with interested newbies, as well as to rub elbows with some of the well-known Elmers on the Elecraft List Server. I really had a good time doing that. Bart would call that "working the crowd!"

I missed my scheduled meet with **Josy WQ3E**, so I was unable to walk the flea market my good friend. Next year, I'll do better.

I bought a nice polo shirt, some PL-259 Teflon-silver connectors (what's a hamfest if you don't buy a set of these?), some excellent DC wire connectors (You've got to see these; they are really good!), a software upgrade to my logging program, and a Clear Speech speaker. I was able to renew my FISTS membership and to pick up a nice blue CW T-shirt.

Probably the most fun of all for me was chatting with hams I knew and with those I didn't. Most hams have a gregarious side, and making connections with them is fun for me. I'll look forward to seeing them next year!



Carter N3AO and Dick K3ITH relax at an informal Rooster Net confab at Dayton. Photo by **Kay WT3P** using Dick's camera. See more photos at <http://home.earthlink.net/~wt3p/fests.html>.

IMPRESSIONS OF DAYTON

By Josy Malebranche WQ3E

Editor's note: Josy, whose first language is French, graciously invited REMARCS to correct any "broken English" in this article. Although we patched a few things, we prefer to let Josy's own personal voice come through. English is a language for poets as well as for grammarians!

For three days after a long-awaited time, the radio world gets a date at Dayton, OH, its Mecca, where all believers and non-believers get together for a convention in great style. The weather was in the party. After episodes of heavy downpour which cleans all on its way, come lightning and thunderstorm. Then the sun brings comfortable temperatures for all the guests. The place was full to the top, packed indoors and outdoors. The crowd behaved politely with no incidents. So much to see in so little time.

Great companies like Yaesu, Kenwood, and ICOM invited people to share their new products rich in technology, just out of the factory. Other companies, less known with less fanfare, attract passersby for a taste of their new products for a try, answering questions with authority.

In this crowded place are people coming from all parts of the world with different faces and only one common language: RADIO. Everybody can easily find his subject of interest and information at the forums. QRP and DX, among the many other presentations, were full — no seats left and many people had to stand. All were paying a religious attention in a silent listening mood. Because it was not possible to attend all the presentations, selection became a great need. Sometimes this leaves a not so sweet taste after making the choice.

Then among the pomp for the circumstance, the last day arrived with great expectation. Everybody holds his ticket tight, waiting to hear his number winning, eyes glued at it. What a tense moment of expectation! With smiles, noise, hugs, and great joy, comes the moment of separation, time to say good-bye, CU. Strange feeling of shrinking heart, a last glance at the big crowd which moves slowly to the gates as leaving behind some souvenir of togetherness, some days of great camaraderie, new friends, all with the hope to be there again next year with the same atmosphere of joy.

AREA HAMFEST CALENDAR

July 15	MID-ATLANTIC ARC	KIMBERTON, PA
July 29	BRATS	Timonium, MD
Aug 12	Jersey Shore ARS	Bayville, NJ
Aug 19	Gloucester Co. ARC	Mullica Hill, NJ
Sept 8	EPA ARA & Pocono ARK	Bartonsville, PA
Sept 15	Delaware-Lehigh ARC	Schnecksville, PA
Sept 15-16	York Hamfest Foundation	York, PA
Oct 21	RF Hill ARC	Sellersville, PA

For additional listings, see ARRL's calendar at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>. MARC encourages you to attend other clubs' hamfests. We should help our neighbor clubs succeed, just as we need their members' support on our hamfest day.