



# REMARCS

[www.marc-radio.org](http://www.marc-radio.org)  
November 2006

## MARC IS THIRTY YEARS OLD!

Thirty years ago this month, a group of hams using the privately-owned **WR3ABZ** 147.06 repeater, then located at Villanova University, met to form a radio club. The club's first president was **Pete Essl K3ZFG**, now a Silent Key. The newsletter, "Radnor Repeater News," began in December, edited by **Bob WA3PZO**. Current MARC members who were at the organizational meeting in November and/or the first membership meeting the following month are **Bob WA3PZO**, **Al N3EA** (ex-**W3DZI**), **Joe W3JDR** (ex-**WA3CMQ** and one of the repeater owners along with **Joe DeCourcelle K3OBU**), **Marlene WA3UOC** (first secretary), **Bill W3YSZ** (first technical chairman and second president), **Don WB3AYT**, and **Carl WA3ZZU**. One of the 28 hams attending the first membership meeting was **Bob Young W3NWA**, whose callsign is now held by the club *in memoriam*. The club has changed a great deal since its founding, evolving from a repeater users' group into a general-interest Amateur Radio club. Amateur Radio has changed a lot, too, in thirty years. What has remained the same is MARC's essential friendliness. No matter what your license class, no matter what you like to do in ham radio, MARC is a good place to call your home in ham radio.

## NEWSLETTER PRESENTATION CHANGES

The MARC newsletter began in the days of typewriters, spirit masters, and mimeograph. In the early 1980s we began using word processing. Seven years ago, in September, 1999, we started offering the newsletter in electronic form. Today fewer than 30 of our 159 members receive the newsletter on paper via postal mail.

As long as there are members who cannot receive the newsletter electronically, we will continue to print and mail a paper edition. However, because most members receive the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## HOLIDAY PARTY -- DECEMBER 12

Here's a heads-up for MARC's annual holiday bash, which will be chaired again by **Steve N3ORH** and his wife **Natalie Maslin**. It will start at 7:30 PM. Dress is casual, food is good. There will be no business meeting or technical program, just good fellowship. Your family members are cordially invited.

If you would like to bring a food specialty to share or have ideas for party food and fun, please coordinate by contacting **Steve N3ORH** (610-327-8666, [smaslin@marc-radio.org](mailto:smaslin@marc-radio.org)).

Also plan to bring samples of your art or craft work to display. We enjoy knowing about your talents outside the realm of ham radio. **There will be no regular club meeting in December.**

## NOVEMBER 21 PROGRAM SOFTWARE-DEFINED RADIO

This month's club meeting program will be presented by **Jim Samuels W3BG** on software-defined radio. These rigs use software rather than hardware to define functionality.

Several products on the ham radio market today are to some extent software defined -- using digital signal processing, for example. Jim, however, operates a rig that is, according to the product Web site, "the first *open source* software, amateur radio transceiver to incorporate the scalable DSP performance of a personal computer (PC) and sound card to perform all modulation, demodulation, and control functions of the radio." To read up on the rig before the meeting, go to [www.flex-radio.com](http://www.flex-radio.com).



## PUBLIC SERVICE NOVEMBER 12

We have one more public service event in 2006. It's the Vietnam Vets 5K run in Norristown on November 12.

No previous experience is required. Please contact **Bob N3JIZ** for specifics on each event and/or to sign up. His telephone number is 610-687-4587.

**Celebrating Thirty Years of Fun and Service Through Amateur Radio / 1976 - 2006**

## ABOUT MARC

[wb3joe@marc-radio.org](mailto:wb3joe@marc-radio.org)  
<http://www.marc-radio.org>

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 PM, Tredyffrin Twp  
 Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. Guests welcome.  
 Smoke-free. Handicapped-accessible.

## BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Tuesdays of even months, 7:30 PM,  
 Paoli Hospital. Members may attend as  
 observers.

## SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R, 445.675/R  
 145.13 & 147.06 linked, CTCSS 131.8 Hz  
 Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-327-8666,  
[smaslin@marc-radio.org](mailto:smaslin@marc-radio.org))

## NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM  
 Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM  
 All nets on linked 145.13/R & 147.06/R  
 Net Manager: Lou WX3I  
 (610-630-9146, [lou@wx3i.net](mailto:lou@wx3i.net))  
 Roundtable, Thursdays, 8:30 PM

## DUES

\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)  
 \$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)  
 Family rate \$5 per ham after first  
 member pays full dues.

## NEWSLETTER

REMARCS is edited by Kay N3KN  
 (610-993-9623, [n3kn@arrl.net](mailto:n3kn@arrl.net))

BRING A FRIEND  
 TO A MARC MEETING!

## LICENSE EXAMS: NOVEMBER 4

MARC will offer license exams at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Montgomery Avenue & Fishers Lane, Bryn Mawr, on Saturday morning, November 4. Applicants should arrive around 9 AM to complete the paperwork. Pre-registration is strongly advised, since if there are no pre-registered candidates the session will be cancelled without further notice to avoid wasting the examiners' time. For details and registration, contact **Bob Lees W3ZQN** ([rjlees@aol.com](mailto:rjlees@aol.com), 610-265-6032).

When will the FCC announce a decision about the Morse code requirement for HF privileges? Rumors abound, but nothing to hang your hat on. A sharply-worded letter from the president of the ARRL to the Commissioners dislodged one long-delayed Report & Order from the FCC's decision doldrums, but it remains to be seen if that verbal wood-shedding's effects will extend to the matter of Morse.

## VOX

Dieter K3DK led the pre-event net for the Pennsylvania QSO Party. Charlie KB3CO and helpers went mobile to put several counties on the air in the contest. Steve WA2EAJ, Carter N3AO, and Kay N3KN were also heard in the contest. Kay N3KN and Carter N3AO are now the grandparents of James Ryan Riffe. Joe W3JY and Ron W3ZV have joined the roster of Volunteer Examiners for MARC. Phil KB3MAW has retired from the military. Dori W3IBH has qualified as a Nurse Practitioner. Steve N1HDP brought the refreshments for the October club meeting. Susan K3SUE is enjoying a better view of the world since her cataract operation. Jon N3VZG is now on the net control roster. We still need more people to be net controls, so contact Lou WX3I (see the contact info in the box at left) to volunteer or find out more about it. If you've been in ham radio in the Philly area for a while, you may want to know that Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club patriarch Jim Spencer W3BBB became a Silent Key in late October.



MARC's communicators at the 2006 Penn Wynne Library Run in Narberth were (left to right) Alex KA2VLP, Will KB3IEL, Bob N3JIZ, Floyd KA3OXA, and Ben W3LKI. Photo by KA3OXA.

## NEWSLETTER CHANGES, continued from Page 1

electronic version, the newsletter is being redesigned to look better on the screen and printed on the member's home printer -- more color, more graphics. We will keep the file size under control, because not everyone has broadband Internet service.

From now on, the paper version may not look as pretty as it used to, because the format is not optimized for that presentation any more.

If you are on the Internet but still receiving the paper version, why not try the electronic edition? Please contact Kay N3KN to get a sample of the electronic edition. You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, version 5 or later, installed on your computer. You can get the newsletter either as a file attached to an e-mail -- in which case you need to know how to open an attached file -- or you can download it from the Web if you understand how to click on a Web page link. Try it and see if it works for you.

TAKE A QUICK TRIP THROUGH MARC HISTORY AT  
<http://home.comcast.net/~n3kn/history/timeline05.html>

The URL is case-sensitive. This document may take some time to view if you have a dial-up Internet connection. Enjoy!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

The September / October board meeting was held on October 26, with all board members attending -- that's a first in recent years! The board allocated funds for the holiday party refreshments. **Kay N3KN** and **Carter N3AO** will inventory the club's history files, noting documents that are essential to keep, and report to the board as a first step in developing a records retention policy. The treasury report included the fact that the bank account signature card must be updated to reflect changes in club leadership since last year. There was discussion of how to recognize board members who leave office; that will be concluded at the next board meeting. There was extensive discussion of the membership survey data. Related to that discussion, the board voted to cancel the January membership meeting now because so many January meetings have had to be called off at the last minute owing to bad weather. Further discussion and a decision on the membership meeting schedule for 2007 will take place at the next board meeting. The board voted to change the schedule for board meetings from 4th Thursdays to 2nd Tuesdays and to change the start time to 7:30 PM, beginning in February, 2007. Also in the realm of planning for the future, it was noted that MARC's repeaters are decades old and will not last many more years. A plan must be developed to replace equipment before it fails and causes disruption of service to members. The treasury balance was \$14,190.33 (*see following report*). The November / December board meeting will be held on December 7.

## TREASURY REPORT

The following report covers the period from the August 24 board meeting to the October 26 board meeting.

Income .....\$32.75  
 Expenses .....\$1,283.20  
 Treasury total \$14,190.33

Significant expenses in this two-month period were for the membership survey (printing, envelopes, postage), the annual liability insurance premium (\$607.00), and the annual post office box rent (\$94). Regular monthly expenses included the storage locker (\$63.60 per month) and the two telephone lines required to control the repeaters and provide autopatch service (\$121.17 total for the two lines for two months). The principal source of income for the period was members' donations for club meeting refreshments. An allocation voted at the October meeting which is not reflected in the figures above was \$250 for holiday party refreshments.

## JERSEY SHORE DXPO

The Jersey Shore DXPO will take place in Manahawkin on November 11. The web site mentions a number of presentations on DXing and DX contesting but also indicates the program was not quite set in cement as of the last week in October. If you're interested in attending, check out the event web site at [http://sjdxa.org/jersey\\_shore\\_dxpo.htm](http://sjdxa.org/jersey_shore_dxpo.htm). Anyone who goes to the DXPO is encouraged to drop us a line afterwards with your comments and impressions.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2006-2007

### PRESIDENT

**Steve Maslin N3ORH** 610-327-8666  
 smaslin@marc-radio.org

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Kay Craigie N3KN** 610-993-9623  
 n3kn@arri.net

### SECRETARY

**Dori Lawson W3IBH** 610-610-910-4063  
 w3ibh@arri.net

### TREASURER

**Carter Craigie N3AO** 610-993-9623  
 n3ao@arri.net

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Joe Ames W3JY** 610-695-0175  
 joe.ames@verizon.net

### PUBLIC SERVICE

**Bob Palin N3JIZ** 610-687-4587

### TECHNICAL

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

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2008:

**Lou Ruh WX3I** 610-630-9146  
 lou@wx3i.net

To 9/30/2007:

**Foster Schucker K3FXS** 302-363-7347  
 foster@schucker.org

### CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

**WB3JOE:**

**Carter Craigie N3AO**  
 610-993-9623, n3ao@arri.net

**W3NWA:**

**Kay Craigie N3KN**  
 610-993-9623, n3kn@arri.net

## GEAR FOR SALE

**David Del Pizzo N3ZG** (ex-KB3CRY) has the following gear for sale as a single lot for \$500, firm price. The gear worked when it was last used but is being sold as-is. David says it would be a fine station for a ham getting started on HF.

- Yaesu FT-101E with manual
- Yaesu YD-844A Desk Mic in box
- MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II with manual
- MFJ Tunable DSP Filter with manual
- Alpha Delta 5 Band Dipole (10,15, 20, 40 & 80 meters)
- 50 feet of coax

Anyone interested can contact David at 610-630-0129 or by e-mail at [del131@msn.com](mailto:del131@msn.com).



## 2006 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Just over half the membership responded to the survey distributed in August. The board was looking for input on what members like and do not like about club meetings, what factors affect meeting attendance, and what programs would interest members. Members were also asked to suggest what changes in the club would stimulate them to participate more.

The board is concerned about the low attendance at meetings in recent months, so members were asked what prevents them from attending MARC meetings. Boiled down, by far the most common reason cited was conflicting obligations -- usually work but also sometimes family obligations. We also have some members who live far outside the western suburbs, who don't drive at night, or who have health problems that keep them away from meetings. Six people said they stay away because programs don't usually interest them, 5 said they don't attend because business meetings are boring, and 1 person said he or she does not attend because people are not friendly. Comparing that input to the reasons people said they do attend meetings (*see the boxes at right*), it appears that most people who don't come to meetings stay away for reasons the club can't control. We have reformatted meetings to shorten the business portion, though members need to know and want to know basic information about activities and how their organization is being governed.

Most people (62) said that if meetings were held every other month it would have no effect on their attendance habits. Eleven said they'd probably attend more often if meetings were held every other month, while 8 said they'd probably attend less often. In light of this input, the club meeting schedule may be changed in 2007.

Members were asked about their preferred meeting dates. A lot of people preferred something other than the current third Tuesdays but there was no convergence on a particular different meeting date. In fact, most people who responded to the question said third Tuesdays are a good meeting date.

We asked questions about members' ham radio interests to yield clues about potential program topics. In addition to the ten most popular activities listed in the box at bottom right, members also said they enjoy contesting, outdoor operating, IRLP and EchoLink, APRS, QRP, award-hunting, Winlink 2000, direction-finding, writing ham radio software, Field Day, and MARS.

We also asked about the bands and modes members like to operate. The results shown in the box at the top of page 5 show that our members participate in a wide range of operating activities on both HF and VHF/UHF. Although some members checked only one operating enthusiasm -- usually FM repeater and simplex operating -- most members checked two or more items. Because there are so many digital modes and systems these days, we asked for specifics. The most popular digital activity among members today is PSK-31. In another part of the survey, several members said they would like to have a program on operating PSK-31. Anybody interested in doing such a program for us?

Turning to program suggestions, several of the topics members

(Continued on page 5)

## SURVEY RESPONSES

### 84 Responses (53% of 159 members)

**How often do they engage in some form of ham radio activity?**

- 44 Daily or several times a week
- 20 A few times a month
- 14 Less than once a month, or rarely
- 6 No answer

## WHY MEMBERS ATTEND MARC MEETINGS

- 43 See my friends / people are friendly
- 44 Programs usually interest me
- 13 Business meetings are informative
- 4 "Learn aspects of ham radio"
- 1 "Refreshments"

## WHY MEMBERS BELONG TO MARC

- 54 People are friendly and helpful
- 52 Newsletter
- 47 Repeaters
- 43 Meetings and programs
- 35 Services (license tests, Field Day, hamfest, etc.)
- 25 Nets
- 24 Public service events
- 9 Web site
- 9 Autopatch
- 6 "Support the local club"
- 1 "We don't take ourselves too seriously"

## ACTIVITIES MEMBERS ENJOY (The Top Ten)

- #1 Reading ham radio books, magazines (46)
- #2 Emergency comm, public service (42)
- #3 Mobile VHF/UHF operating (36)
- #4 Tie: DXing (34), Rag-chewing (34)
- #5 Going to hamfests (30)
- #6 Antenna experimenting (29)
- #7 Nets, roundtables (24)
- #8 Ham radio Web sites, listservers, blogs (22)
- #9 Building, homebrewing, kits (21)
- #10 Tie: Technical experimenting (18), mobile HF (18)

mentioned are already on the schedule. High-definition radio was covered at the October meeting, and software-defined radio is the November program topic. We have also done programs related to GPS and APRS.

The most popular topics suggested were digital modes, antennas (various aspects thereof), DXing, several aspects of safety, and emergency communications. A sample of the other topics members suggested includes historical aspects of radio, trunked radio systems, soldering, how the MARC repeater system works, contesting, new products and technologies, propagation, portable power sources, shortwave listening, IRLP and EchoLink, and the perennial favorite "anything technical." Three specific speakers and their topics were mentioned, and the board will follow up on them.

Some of the suggestions for how to increase member activity are things only the membership can bring to reality. These include

- More activity on the repeaters, especially at drive-time
- More traffic on the traffic nets
- Offer upgrade classes
- Be more friendly

Most repeaters are silent most of the time. That has been true for decades. Also, as our membership has grown older, more people are retired and don't get on the air at drive time the way they used to. That's a good reason but not a good excuse. Why not make a schedule to meet friends on a MARC repeater? If you make it plain that others are welcome to jump in, they just might do it.

Traffic -- radiograms -- has to be originated by somebody. You can use the MARC nets to learn message-handling. Check into a net and say, in your comments, that you want to learn the skill. You'll get help!

Classes for new and upgrading hams were offered by MARC at one time, and they're a great thing to do. They are also -- says the voice of experience -- a great deal of work and harder to bring off successfully than most non-educators suppose. **Carter N3AO** plans to teach a Morse code class in early 2007. It's possible the FCC may rouse from its slumbers and act on proposals to delete the Morse requirement, but we suspect Carter will go ahead with the course one way or the other because he enjoys Morse code and introducing it to others. If you have experience teaching General or Extra upgrade classes and might like to do one for MARC, please contact one of the Members-at-Large.

*"Be more friendly."* On the whole over the years, MARC has earned a reputation as a very friendly club. However, we can always do better. Do we say hello to people we don't already know at club meetings? Will we chat with people we don't already know when they put their callsigns out on the repeaters? Do we readily welcome people to join in ongoing conversations on the repeaters? Most ham radio clubs could do better on those scores. A club can't be friendly unless its members show genuine interest, courtesy, and warmth towards others. At the risk of sounding like **Doctor Phil**, how we behave is what we become. And you never know . . . the unknown person you didn't go back to on the repeater today might have become a lifelong friend.

The board is taking all the survey input into consideration and appreciates the time you took to provide it.

#### BANDS AND MODES MEMBERS OPERATE

66	VHF/UHF FM repeaters, FM simplex
42	Single Sideband
40	HF
32	Digital modes
25	CW
13	VHF/UHF CW and/or SSB
3	Satellites
3	Microwave bands
1	Amateur TV
6	Not on the air

#### DIGITAL MODES MEMBERS OPERATE

*(Yes, we know some of these are networks or systems rather than modes.)*

13	PSK-31
6	RTTY
3	APRS
3	Winlink 2000
2	AMTOR
2	MFSK-16
1	D-Star
1	Hellschreiber
1	MT-63
1	Packet

#### NEWS IN THE AMATEUR SERVICE

► The ARRL is asking the FCC to expand privileges on the 60 meter band and substitute a new channel for one that's often occupied by a federal government user. Specifically, the League wants the FCC to authorize Radio Amateurs of General and higher class to run 100 W effective radiated power instead of the 50 W it now permits and to allow Morse code and narrow-band digital modes, including PSK31 and PACTOR 3. It also asks replacement of the 5368.0 kHz center-frequency channel with 5358.5 kHz, so Amateurs can avoid federal government traffic on the current channel. Operation on 60 meters would remain on a secondary basis, and Amateurs would still have to avoid interfering with federal government and other services.

► The FCC's Report & Order in WT Docket 04-140 expands the bands where voice can be used by General, Advanced, and Extra class licensees but in the process, General and Advanced class licensees will lose some spectrum overall. It remains to be seen if General and Advanced ops particularly care about the loss of some CW and data spectrum in light of the increases in phone band privileges.

Novice and Tech Plus licensees will gain permission to use CW in the General segments on 80, 40, and 15 meters and gain permission to use CW / data in an additional 100 kHz on 10m.

See the new charts at the following ARRL Web page:  
[www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/10/20/104/?nc=1#charts](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/10/20/104/?nc=1#charts)  
 They'll be published in *QST* and other media, too, of course. The start date for the new plan was unknown at the time *REMARCS* went to press.

## Happening This Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>The MARC holiday party will be on Tuesday, December 12 -- not the usual meeting date. Put it on your calendar now!</b>			1 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	2 Roundtable 8:30 PM	3 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	4 MARC License exams 9 AM
5 <i>ARRL CW Sweepstakes this weekend</i>	6 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	7	8 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	9 Roundtable 8:30 PM	10 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	11
12 Public Service: Vietnam Vets Run	13 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	14	15 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	16 Roundtable 8:30 PM	17 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	18 <i>ARRL SSB Sweep- stakes this weekend</i>
19	20 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	21 MARC meet- ing: Software- defined radio, by Jim W3BG	22 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	23 Roundtable 8:30 PM <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	24 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	25 <i>CQ WW DX CW contest this week- end</i>
26	27 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	28	29 Traffic Net 8:30 PM	30 Roundtable 8:30 PM	<b>Dayton in 2007 is on May 18, 19, and 20</b>	



**At the Radnor Memorial Day Parade last May**

**Back row:** Dan K3OU, Bob N3JIZ, Ron W3ZV, Floyd KA3OXA, Carter N3AO, Beth KA3GKI

**Front row:** Ned WQ3Z, Susan K3SUE, Bill KN3EUF, Dieter K3DK, Alex KA2VLP. Ted NT3J also worked at this event. *Photo tnx KA3OXA*

### GEAR FOR SALE

Kenwood TS-950SD (first version of rig) with DSP unit installed, 150 watts, manual. When last used it worked fine for voice and digital modes. CW transmit function can be flaky. For sale as-is for \$150, firm. I need the space in my shack. Contact **Kay N3KN** (610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net).