



REMARCS



20th ANNUAL HAMFEST ON JULY 11

We have the only hamfest in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

MARC's principal annual fund-raiser is just a few days away. To maintain the club we have come to expect, a good turnout is essential. Yes, we say that every year. But it's especially important this year, because last year's hamfest did not bring in a lot of money. The hamfest business in general, world-wide, is on a down-turn. That's a fact of life ... but it's not an excuse to wring our hands and whine about the good old days when you could give a hamfest in a pig barn and people would crowd the place.

We need more volunteers to help with talk-in and PA announcements. Several people who were going to help have had last-minute work conflicts, and so their back-ups need back-ups. Please don't leave these people alone at their posts.

Talk up the hamfest on the air. Plan to attend and tell your friends ... tell your enemies ... tell people you don't even know! Do you know any new hams? Any potential hams? Bring them along. This hamfest will have a new-equipment dealer (Denver Amateur Radio Supply), so purchases are not limited to boat anchors and crusty old bits of this 'n' that. We must improve the number of buyers over last year! Unfortunately, we just learned that the commercial computer show will compete with us again for computer hobbyists.

We will be setting up the site on Saturday afternoon starting at 1 PM. Wear your grubbies and work gloves. On Sunday, we need help at oh-dark-hundred (or even earlier) to get the vendors in. We need help all during the day for ticket sales. After the event, we need help with the extremely important task of clean-up. That is not sarcasm. Leaving the fairgrounds even cleaner than we found them, including the restrooms, helps ensure our welcome back in future years. Cleaners need work gloves and basic cleaning products.

If you can help with any kind of work, please contact hamfest chairman **Mike KF3CD** (mpilotti@anroinc.com, 610-935-4429).

MAIN LINE VOLUNTEER FORCE "CHRISTMAS IN JULY" *"Hunger Knows No Season"*

MARC is a member of The Main Line Volunteer Force, a group of 19 organizations that promotes care for the less fortunate in our community. It's one of the ways MARC justifies our Federal tax-exempt status under Section 504(c)(4) of the IRS code. Some of the other members are ANRO Printing/Direct Mail, Anthony Wayne Buick-Ford, Autobahn Carson-Pettit, Coldwell Banker Caparo Real Estate, Desmond Hotel, Harron Communications, Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors, Sovereign Bank, and Wilmington Trust of Pennsylvania.

The "Christmas in July" campaign comes at a time of year when area food cupboards are running on fumes. People donate a lot at Christmas ... it's a season of gift-giving and

nobody wants to be Scrooge, The Sequel. By mid-year, however, those holiday donations have been used up. MLVF seeks to re-stock the local food cupboards for the remainder of the year.

At the July meeting, we will collect donations of non-perishable canned goods, household paper products, cleaning supplies, and baby supplies (especially disposable diapers).

Cash is also accepted. If you can't attend the July meeting but would like to donate, contact **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623, wt3p@arri.net) or **Mike KF3CD** (610-935-4429, mpilotti@anroinc.com). No MARC funds are spent on MLVF projects.

MEMBER GEAR SALES TABLE

Bring your surplus ham, computer, and high-tech gear to be sold at the member sales table. The club will keep 10% of the sales price ... or you may choose to donate the whole amount to the club treasury.

Each item must be tagged with your name and the desired price. At the hamfest, you will fill out a 3x5 card form so the money can be accounted for. Gene WB3FTJ and Judy N3MBW run the table.

Any unsold gear must be taken home by the member. It cannot be abandoned or dumped at the fairgrounds.

Gear can be brought on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning.

Free stuff at club meetings. Page 6.

MARC callsign tags for just \$12! Page 4.

Used PC's for sale, cheap! Page 4.

ARRL books at MARC hamfest. Page 5.

Electronic REMARCS coming. Page 6.

145.13 is back. Sort of. Page 2.

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!

JOIN ARRL THROUGH MARC

Help ARRL defend our frequencies
 and earn \$\$ for MARC at the same
 time. If you're not an ARRL member,
 contact David KB3CRY to find out
 how to join ARRL through the club.

VOX

Welcome new member **Mark W8HCL**. Congratulations to **David KB3CRY** on his upgrade to General and **Wojo KB3CXU**, who upgraded to Tech Plus! We regret that long-time member **Hal Grace W3HFY** became a Silent Key in May, following a stroke. **Steve N3ORH** has been appointed ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for Eastern PA Section. His dad, **Al N3EA** (ex-W3DZI), is the Section's Official Observer Coordinator. **Harry W3FM** assisted **Gosia KB1BEB / SP6VXR**, a YL who's visiting the USA from Poland, in making long QSO's with her father **Janek SP6AZM**. **Gosia** and **Janek** visited Field Day and may attend our July meeting ... please welcome them warmly. **Jeff WA3RIZ**, **Bob N3JIZ**, and past member **Dennis N3AVI** took down the old '06 tower at Cabrini College. **Jen KA3WVD** is in France for a summer course in medieval civilization and some youth hosteling. **David KA3HBK** was back east recently for a visit ... wanna feel like Super-Geezer? David is 30! He was a MARC net manager at 13 and Board member at 14. **Bernie Doehner NU1S**, also an ex-teen member (ex-N3FSM, ex-KA3RFG) sends 73 from Rochester, NY. He's now a systems engineer with Harris RF.

145.13 TO RETURN ... BUT DON'T RELAX!

Thanks to the kindness of **Lauren N3TJF** and **Steve N3ORH**, the 145.13 repeater is going back on the air from their garage in Norristown. We had to get the machine back on the air, to hold onto the coordinated frequency. But this is a TEMPORARY solution to the site problem. Members in the Norristown / K of P area: get your mojos workin' and find a permanent site that will serve your area. Contact **Jeff WA3RIZ** or a Member-at-Large with ideas you can then check out.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

Info tnx Bob N3JIZ

Although it was not strictly speaking a MARC event, several club members communicated for the MS Walk at Kerr Park in Downingtown, Chester County, on May 2. Our volunteers were **Rick N3AGS**, **Carter N3AO**, **Dave WB3EHS**, and **Bob N3JIZ**, along with friend of the club **Buzz K3WJZ**.

The Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade had great weather, for a change. Our communicators were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Ned WQ3Z**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Gene WB3FTJ**, **Roger N3VBZ**, **Travis N3YLI**, **Beth KA3GKI**, **Rick N3AGS**, and **Bob W3SA**. Driving in the parade as the MARC float was **Carter N3AO**.

MARC members communicated for the Tel Hai 5k / 5mi Run and 1 mi walk on June 12. It was an early start ... volunteers had to be there at 7:30 AM ... but the weather was pleasantly dry and cool. **Roger N3VBZ**, **Bob W3ZQN**, and **Bob N3JIZ** worked this event. They could have used 2 or 3 more hams. Our people provided comm for 2 of the timers and kept track of runners. Fortunately, there were no emergencies. All in all, it was a quick and fun event.

MAY LICENSE TEST REPORT

Next session is August 7

The May 8 license test session served 5 candidates. Upgrades and new licenses included one Technician license, one Tech Plus, and one General. One candidate passed an element that did not produce an upgrade. Unfortunately, one applicant did not pass the element attempted. Two candidates were MARC members using their free test benefit. The person who passed 13 wpm is a graduate of **Carter N3AO**'s Morse code class. The examiners for the session were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Dennis K3DS**, **Dick K3ITH**, **Bart K4BF**, **Hugh N3HT**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, and **Bob W3SA**. In addition **Tom K3YPO** helped with logistics.

The next test session will be Saturday, August 7, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Arrive by 9:15 AM for the paperwork. Pre-registration is strongly advised, because if nobody pre-registers, the session will be cancelled. Contact **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032) for information, directions, and pre-registration.

SHORT CIRCUITS FROM THE EDITOR'S SHACK

Don't talk to me about health food ... at my age, I need all the preservatives I can get!

Do you remember those puzzle cartoons in *Highlights for Children* magazine that ask you to find all the things that are wrong with this picture? The dog with his head on backwards ... the fish up a tree?

At a large hamfest in another state, a guy said that a member of his local club had become a Silent Key and the widow needed help selling the ham gear. But when volunteers were called for at the club meeting, nobody spoke up. This is not right, the ham harrumphed. The ARRL should appoint somebody in every ham radio club to help widows dispose of ham gear.

Ummmmm ... Help me, Rhonda. How is the ARRL going to appoint somebody in this man's local radio club to do something nobody would volunteer to do in the first place?

Also, where was this fellow, exactly, when the call for help was made. When did the cat give his tongue back?

What is wrong with this picture?

People can be very quick to criticize others for not doing something they won't do themselves, and very quick to shuffle off the responsibility for catching the ball onto someone else. The people next door. The government. The ARRL. How come it's always somebody else's job?

On the whole, MARC is a club whose members do not suddenly forget how to speak English when something needs to be done. However, we need more public service volunteers, more candidates for office, more Field Day ops, more hamfest workers. Friends, we run a real risk of burning out the people who give huge amounts of personal time and work on club projects.

In nudging people to participate more, I never want to imply that what's already being done is insignificant or not noticed and appreciated. Everybody's effort is a piece of the total picture. The message is that we need a lot more bodies making up the "everybody."

If you do something, no matter how large or small, to promote the MARC hamfest, then you have accepted a share of the responsibility for making our main fund-raiser happen. There is still time to do your part ... right up until we turn lights off and go home on July 11.

Please don't be like the guy at that hamfest: Not a fish up a tree, not a dog with his head on backwards. Please do your best to be one of the things that's RIGHT with this picture. – 73, Kay WT3P

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

PSK31

The July 15 program will be on PSK31, a popular new digital mode, presented by **Dennis K3DS**. Just as there will always be CW, there will always be RTTY, too ... but the newer digital modes offer a lot to both the experimenter and the practical communicator. PSK31 is the newest thing, so come and learn about it.

DX

August 18 will bring us a program about what perfect loony-toons do on THEIR vacations: they go on DXpeditions to remote, harsh, dangerous places so we DXers can notch another one on our lists. We'll see a video on the **VP8SSI** South Sandwich Islands (go to Antarctica and turn left) expedition and talk about DXing

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1999

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

in general. Bring a couple of your favorite DX QSL cards for show-and-tell.

/ RPT

On September 15, **Gene Pressler W3ZXV**, VP of the Area Repeater Coordinating Council, will discuss the growth of FM repeaters in the Delaware Valley and the need for voluntary frequency coordination above 30 MHz. This is a fascinating and controversial story extending over thirty years. Did you know that all repeaters were once required to have special repeater callsigns with "WR" prefixes? Our '06 used to sign **WR3ABZ** and later **WR3AKR**.

MARC CALLSIGN CAR TAGS FOR SALE

Would you like to have a nice blue-on-white tag for the front of your car like the one shown here? Would it be even better if you could contribute to the club while you're getting it?

A local provider has offered to make these tags for us, customized with members' callsigns. The image shown is an actual scan of the tag, not an "as-if." The price is so reasonable that we can add a few dollars for the club's benefit and still sell the tags to you for just \$12 each. An order form is on page 7.

In addition to some for your cars, you need one to hang in your shack, too. Let your creativity run wild.

Ideally, tags will be picked up at club meetings, but for an additional \$2 we can ship the tags to you. You can pay for tags at club meetings or by mail. Checks



should be payable to Mid-Atlantic ARC. Mail orders go to MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085-0352. Please print "tag order" and your callsign (clearly) on your check. Pay \$12 if you will pick up the tag at a club meeting or \$14 if you want the tag shipped to your home address.

DONATED COMPUTERS FOR SALE ... "THE PRICE IS RIGHT"

MARC received about three dozen used computers as a donation from Genuardi's supermarkets. Most of them are 486's, with a few 386's and a few Pentiums. Some keyboards and mice are also available. We have a dozen monitors, to be sold separately from the CPU's.

Most of the computers appear to work. They have widely varying quantities of RAM and most have small-ish hard drives. Some are brand-names (IBM, Dell, Compaq), while others are no-name generics.

Club members have first call to buy these computers, as-is, with no warranty given or implied by either MARC or Genuardi's. Sales are first-come, first-served. At Genuardi's request, purchasers will be asked to sign a statement showing they agree that the sale is as-is.

Computers and monitors which do not work are free for the taking. Computers which appear to work are \$40 (monitor not included). Monitors that appear to work are \$25.

Act now. Computers not spoken for by the hamfest date will go on sale there to anybody, member or not.

All proceeds go to the club treasury. Payment may be in cash or by check payable to Mid-Atlantic ARC. To discuss a purchase, contact **Steve N3ORH** (610-313-8080, smaslin@fast.net). Purchasers must pick the stuff up at Steve's house in Norristown or make other mutually-convenient arrangements.

CLUB BADGES AND MORE

MARC's logo callsign badges are a bargain at \$6.50 from The Sign Man of Baton Rouge. We've been doing business with this engraver for years. We've had very few glitches with the orders, and those were all promptly solved to customers' satisfaction. The badges have white letters engraved on a

deep-blue badge, with the MARC logo stamped in gold color. The Sign Man has other products as well which you can learn about by browsing the Web page at www.thesignman.com or phoning 225-757-1545. MARC does not make any profit from the badges.

TRAINING MATERIALS YOU CAN BORROW

MARC has a complete set of ARRL's license test preparation videos, plus a copy of the Extra class license manual (there's no Extra video course). Members are encouraged to borrow these materials to study for an upgrade, or help a family member become a ham. We also offer free copies of a shareware program called SuperMorse to help you learn or improve your Morse code. Contact **Kay WT3P** (wt3p@arrl.net, 610-993-9623) if you'd like to borrow something or get a copy of SuperMorse.

Some people wonder if upgrading is worthwhile, since the FCC is going to change the Amateur license structure and requirements any time now.

I think so, for two reasons. One is that regardless of what the FCC requires, increasing our knowledge and Morse code skill is a good thing to do. Learning is good for us. Period.

Another reason is that, depending on how the FCC implements restructuring, there may be some snobbish backlash towards anyone who gains privileges or has to pass a different set of exams. "I had to do blah-blah-blah, but you only had to do yadda-yadda-yadda, so I'm a real ham and you're a wuss." I don't like that attitude, but disliking it doesn't make it go away. The more you can upgrade before restructuring, the less you'll be subject to cheap shots from old goats of all ages and species.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the May 27 meeting, the Board discussed equipment insurance updating. They heard reports on Field Day (good news) and the search for a 145.13 site (not so good). It was noted that the '06 phone line was not working right, so the autopatch was off-line. The idea of holding a fund-raiser raffle was discussed but not approved because of the expense of obtaining a township permit. Callsign license tags were approved as a fund-raiser. Prices were determined for the computers donated by Genuardi's. A letter was authorized formally accepting the donation. The Main Line Volunteer Force food drive was explained. A PR mailing is planned to coincide with Field Day. The treasury balance was \$6,056.35.

At the June 24 meeting, the Board noted progress on the equipment insurance update project. There were reports on Field Day, the hamfest, the callsign tag and computer sales, and recent public service events. A common theme was the need for more volunteers on club projects. The '06 phone line is still not working, owing to a phone company mess-up. Recent PR work was described. The survey on electronic newsletter distribution was discussed. Suggested sites for 145.13 were reviewed; the machine will temporarily be put on the air at a Board member's home, to hold the frequency. The treasury balance was \$6,422.55.

ANY HAMS = OWLS?

Do you know any hams who are current or prospective students at Temple University? Please tell them they are invited to contact the Temple University ARC. This can be done via e-mail to the club as k3tu@blue.vm.temple.edu or by phone to **Dennis K3DS** at his office number (215-204-6761). The club has a Web page at www.temple.edu/radio_club. The club's repeater is K3TU/R on 448.200+ (PL 131.8). They publish an electronic newsletter, too.

NEW QRP BOOK FROM ARRL WILL BE FOR SALE AT OUR HAMFEST

Other Popular ARRL Titles Will Be Available

The ARRL has published Wilkes-Barre author **Rich Arland K7SZ**'s *LOW POWER COMMUNICATION: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF QRP* [1999, \$14.95]. It's a good introduction to QRP, written in plain English, and it really covers the waterfront. There are chapters on getting started, antennas, propagation, advanced techniques, equipment (commercial and kits), solar power, computers and software, emergency comm, QRP clubs, the Internet, and buying used gear.

Appendices show calling frequencies, net skeds, web sites, and manufacturers and suppliers. For some reason, S&S Engineering is not listed among the kit manufacturers. You may find some other shortcomings, too, but on the whole it's a fine book to read if you're thinking about dropping out of the

TVI brigade. FYI, the Ten-Tec Argonaut 509 pictured on page 4-5 belongs to **Carter N3AO**. It was from the estate of his Elmer **Joe K3ZQH**, whom some of you may have known.

MARC will have a consignment of popular ARRL publications for sale at the hamfest. **Carter N3AO** will be selling the books. MARC gets to keep 10% of the gross, too.

Because the QRP book was not yet published when the consignment was packed, and because we have a lot of members who are heavy into QRP, somebody (*hmmmm?*) arranged a special small consignment of the new book. Get there early, because we don't have many copies. We are going to try to get the QRP books autographed by the author.

CQ Publications will have a table at the MARC hamfest, courtesy of Bob WA3PZO and associates.

MORSE CODE LESSONS TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Carter N3AO will offer a free course in Morse code again this fall for club members, their families, and their Significant Others. The classes meet at his home in Paoli. For people who have stuck with the classes, the pass rate is very high. For one thing, Carter genuinely enjoys Morse code. He presents it as a fun operating skill, not as some kind of Klingon initiation ritual or nasty-tasting medicine.

Whether you are learning code for the first time or brushing up for an exam or just for fun, you can attend this class. Once we figure out who wants to do what, we'll go from there. The class will meet on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM, starting on September 7.

For more information and directions, contact **Carter N3AO** (610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net).

BOB WA3PZO HAS LEAD STORY IN JULY ISSUE OF CQ VHF

Even with the NATO bombing over, the Balkans are still headline news. The July issue of *CQ VHF* magazine made the activities of hams in the Balkans its lead story.

The author is our own **Bob WA3PZO**, who conducts the magazine's public service column. He discusses what hams

did to help their country during the Kosovo conflict. The fact that their country is Yugoslavia gives the story an unusual spin. Read the story and sort out your own opinions about hams' serving their country ... when their country is not on our side.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION STUDIED

We recently surveyed members who are on e-mail about their views on electronic distribution of *REMARCS*. Postage and printing are very expensive, and it's now possible to distribute documents electronically in Adobe PDF format that look just like the paper editions.

A significant number of members said they'd like to receive *REMARCS* as an e-mail file attachment in PDF format. So

between now and the September/October issue, we're going to run some test distributions.

If everything works, we can save big \$\$ on the newsletter without sacrificing quality, and re-direct those resources to other club needs.

MARC MEMBERS ENJOY KID'S DAY CONTACTS

Some club members took part in the Kid's Day operating event on June 19. **Mike KF3CD** says, "Had a total of 9 neighborhood kids in my shack on Kid's Day. Everyone got to exchange the standard info including favorite color and then chat with kids in several other states. The upper part of 20 meters was JAMMED with kids! Our furthest contact was California and the nearest was a ham in Phoenixville, as well as **K3BSA**, operating from a Boy Scout camp in Green Lane, PA, north of us. Don't know who had more fun, me or the kids! Sent QSLs to all contacts that were kids and included an SASE for each kid in my neighborhood that participated so that they should each personally receive a direct QSL. Took several photos of our group and plan to send them into *QST* and *WorldRadio*."

Kay WT3P sandwiched QSO's with about 10 kids between a speech at a QCWA luncheon in Bordentown, NJ, and driving to

Frederick, MD, for a hamfest the following day. It's true: 20 meters was Kiddie City, and many of the youngsters were the subject of pile-ups. The next Kid's Day event will be in January, 2000. Watch for the announcement in *QST*.

On a related note, **Rick WB3BSA** spear-headed a Spark Lodge ARC special Field Day at Camp Delmont. It's the first of seven Cub / Parent weekends at the camp. Young Scouts and their parents will be introduced to ham radio.

When we invite kids into our shacks, it's a good idea to invite their parents also and get to know them. There are some sick, evil people in this world, and parents have to be cautious about adults who reach out to their children. Let's always keep parents reassured that our interest in their children is entirely on the up-and-up.

FIELD DAY '99 IS HOT, HOT, HOT

When I left the Field Day site at 7 PM on Saturday evening, the thermometer still read 89 degrees. Saturday's weather was brutally, suffocatingly hot and humid ... the worst I have ever seen at Field Day. The people who came for set-up deserve a lot of credit for doing physical labor under those conditions.

George N3ORC and **Janet KA3VTQ**, with grill-meister **Dan KA3KHR**, put together a delicious lunch for the set-up crew. **Bob W3SA**, who arranges the field with Bell Atlantic, checked the voltage on the generator trucks. **Mitch W2MBH**, who comes down from north Jersey every year, watched the generators on the night shift. Bell Atlantic gives us use of the field, the generators, and even the gasoline for them, all free of charge. The workers who bring the equipment to us do so on their own time, as volunteers.

Bill W3KRB checked out a ground-mounted antenna. **Foster K3FXS** attempted some satellite QSOs. They didn't work, but the main thing is that the effort was made. **Carter N3AO** briefly operated solar power QRP, using a new home-brew wire antenna, and earned us a solar power score bonus. **Bob N3JIZ** set up a VHF station again this year. **Ned WQ3Z** brought his son **Justin**, who made his first ham radio QSO.

We had an unusually large number of visitors this year, thanks not only to **Bill W3KRB**'s PR work but also to interviews with **Kay WT3P** and **Carter N3AO** on KYW radio. **Bob WA3PZO** was also interviewed as president of Holmesburg ARC. The reporter we have to thank for this publicity for ham radio is **Mark Abrams**. In private life, **Mark** is **NT3V**.

BAND	SSB	CW
144 MHz	12	0
50 MHz	43	0
28 MHz	60	0
21 MHz	12	25
14 MHz	590	7
7 MHz	65	115
3.5 MHz	80	0
TOTAL	862	147

Several things about next year ... the field we've been using for 17 years is scheduled to be developed, so we don't know for sure where Y2K Field Day will be held.

Carter N3AO has announced that 1999 is his final year as Field Day chairman. He has done it for a long time, and now it's somebody else's turn. He is willing to continue storing the club's gear at his house, because the club doesn't have the money to rent a storage locker. Someone will have to come get the stuff for FD and bring it back, however.

If MARC members want to have a Field Day next year, then someone(s) needs to step forward and volunteer to organize the event. Honestly, it's a substantial amount of work: before, during, and after the FD weekend. As they say at the auctions, "Fair warning."

HAMFEST CALENDAR

JULY 25	Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society - Timonium, MD	SEPT 19	York Hamfest - York, PA
AUGUST 15	York Ham and Computer Swap Fest - York, PA	SEPT 25	South Jersey Radio Association - Mt. Holly, NJ
AUGUST 22	Gloucester County ARC - Mullica Hill, NJ	SEPT 26	Foundation for Amateur Radio - Bowie, MD
SEPT 18	Delaware-Lehigh ARC - Schnecksville, PA	OCTOBER 3	Pack Rats - Wrightstown, PA (new location!)
SEPT 18	Delaware Valley Radio Association - Trenton, NJ	OCTOBER 17	RF Hill ARC - Sellersville, PA

After our own event on July 11, please support our neighbor clubs by visiting some of these summer and autumn hamfests in our region. We've all got to help each other.

Yes, there are two hamfests in York ... both at the same location (not the big fairgrounds) but different sponsors.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio 'fest on September 26 is the event formerly known as and held at Gaithersburg, MD. No more Gaithersburg. The hamfest is in Bowie, now.

The Pack Rats will move their hamfest to the same location used by the Warminster ARC, the Wrightstown Grange Fairgrounds. Their former site, the Route 611 Bucks County Drive-In theater, where MARC used to have our hamfest also, is now a store and parking lot.

For additional hamfest schedules and information, check out the ARRL Atlantic Division web page at <http://www.bfdin.com/atlantic/index.htm> and the national ARRL hamfest list at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>.

STEVE K3KFD'S FREE STUFF AT CLUB MEETINGS

Steve K3KFD brought a bunch of power supplies to give away at the June meeting. He plans to bring more power supplies, plus some modems, IDE hard drives, and other odds & ends to the July meeting. You need this stuff ... and Steve doesn't.

Bring a friend to the MARC meeting and take home some toys. You can sneak it in the house under cover of darkness, and nobody has to know!

NEWSBITS

I found a warning label printed on a AAA battery that says not to swallow it. OK, sounds reasonable. Then it says if somebody swallows the battery anyhow, to have the doctor call a certain phone number ... which is going to be hard to read, under the circumstances. Now you know who's dumber than somebody who would swallow a battery: it's the person who wrote that warning label.

The fee for a vanity callsign will rise from \$13 to \$14 on September 10. Over 1,000 vanity call applications are still being received every month. *[tnx ARRL LETTER]*

MFJ Enterprises has acquired Hy-Gain, a well-known manufacturer of antennas, towers, and rotators. Hy-Gain was owned by Telex Communications of Lincoln, Nebraska. As it

has done with other enterprises it has acquired, MFJ plans to keep the Hy-Gain name and operate the antenna manufacturer as a separate entity. *[tnx ARRL LETTER]*

Operating in most of Europe and in some South American countries just got much easier for US hams. The FCC has implemented the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Recommendation T/R 61-01 that eliminates the need to obtain a special license or permit for US hams wishing to operate for brief visits to most European countries. In addition, the ARRL has begun issuing International Amateur Radio Permits to simplify operation by US hams in certain South American countries. *[tnx ARRL LETTER]*

CALLSIGN TAG ORDER FORM

CALLSIGN TO BE PRINTED ON TAG:	
NUMBER OF TAGS ORDERED: () @ \$12 each =	\$
POSTAGE / SHIPPING (per order, not per tag)	
If picked up at club meeting = \$ 0	
If mailed to you = \$ 2 →	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED	
Checks payable to Mid-Atlantic ARC	\$

Mail orders to MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085-0352.
Please print "tag order" on your check.