



REMARKS

P.O. Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399



145.13 BACK ON THE AIR

By Al Maslin N3EA

The 145.13 repeater is now back on the air. It is located on a building in Norristown. It's not a very high location, but at least the repeater is up and running again. There is no autopatch facility at the moment, and the repeater is not linked with the 147.06 repeater. The PL for access is still 131.8 Hz.

The following members helped with the move: **Jeff WA3RIZ**, **Al N3EA**, **Dave KB3CRY**, **Bob W3ZQN**, and **Bob N3JIZ**. Special thanks are due to **Steve K3KFD** who arranged for use of the building (he owns it!) and also supplied coffee and

doughnuts during the move, and to **Steve N3ORH** and **Lauren N3TJF** for letting us use their garage to store the repeater while we were looking for a site for it.

[Editor's note: If members know about better sites that would cover the Norristown / K of P region, please find out who's in charge of the site and contact a Board member right away. Meanwhile, we sincerely appreciate Steve K3KFD's generosity in letting us use his building for the repeater.]

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BOARD

We haven't even eaten up all the leftover Halloween candy, and already it's time to think about elections to be held in January. But time flies! Between now and the close of nominations at the December membership meeting, we must develop a slate of candidates.

President **Tom N3JMA** is not eligible to run for that office again in 2000, and VP **Gene WB3FTJ** has decided not to seek re-election. **Dennis K3DS** cannot run again for Program Chairman owing to work schedule conflicts, and **Jeff WA3RIZ** has decided to step down after many years as Technical

Chairman. Those are major slots to fill, and there may be more. Who's going to step forward?

Any licensed member of the club, regardless of license class or length of membership, may run for any position on the Board. Nominations chairs this time around are **Steve N3ORH** (smaslin@fast.net, 610-313-8080) and **Al N3EA** (amaslin@earthlink.net, 610-446-4936). Please contact one of them if you would like to run for office, if you would like to suggest someone as a potential candidate, or if you just want to know more about the responsibilities before you decide.

HOLIDAY PLANS ... FUN FOR US ... SERVICE TO OTHERS

MARC's holiday plans for 1999 have expanded to include not only fun for ourselves but also a service activity to benefit the less fortunate in our community.

MARC's annual holiday party will take place on the regular December 16 meeting date. There will be no business meeting or technical program, and your family members are invited to come along and share fellowship and special refreshments. Bring a favorite CD of holiday music. If you are into any artistic activity, bring some samples of your work to display. More information will be announced at the November club meeting.

MARC also participate in the Main Line Volunteer Force's "Santa's Brigade" charity service activity. MLVF is a group of public-spirited businesses (we're the only non-profit member) that helps local agencies serving the needy in our area.

At holiday time, MLVF collects small gifts for children and senior citizens whose families can't afford any presents. MARC's goal is to provide gifts for 10 people this year. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and no club funds will be spent. For more information, please turn to page 4.

CLUB'S MAILING ADDRESS CHANGES

Because the Villanova post office has too little parking and too much attitude, MARC's Board decided to move the club's PO box to another location. That's the Southeastern PA mail facility near the Gateway shopping center and Route 202 in Tredyffrin Township.

Mail will be forwarded from the old PO box to the new one ... but please change your records now to show that the club's official address is PO Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399.

IMPORTANT! The Board requests members' input now on the future of 224.42/R. See the story on 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, 147.06/R, 224.42/R
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
 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!**

VOX

Kay WT3P spoke at a luncheon meeting of QCWA Chapter 166 in Ludwig's Corner. **Tom W3BED** is president of the chapter, and other MARC members present included **Bill W3IGU**, **Phil W3GNG**, and **Gardiner W3IM**, who received a certificate honoring him for being a ham for 60 (yep, that's s-l-x-t-y!) years. **Carter N3AO** spoke on QRP at a Holmesburg ARC meeting in Philadelphia; **Bob WA3PZO** is president of that club. MARC members heard in the PA QSO Party include **Carter N3AO**, **David KB3CRY**, **Ron WA2SJW**, and **Kay WT3P**. Welcome new members **Robert N3IFF**, **Richard KC2EFA**, and **Tim N8LXR**.

Stan Greenstein N3CUS became a Silent Key in September. He served as Member-at-Large for the 1988-89 term, and his wife **Mary N3FKM** was a MARC Novice course grad. Stan and **Harry W3FM** were elementary school classmates who re-discovered each other 40 years later through membership in MARC.

LICENSE TESTS NOVEMBER 6

MARC will give tests at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 6, at 9:15 AM. Pre-registration is urged, because if nobody pre-registers, the session will be cancelled. Contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com) for registration and other information.

PUBLIC SERVICE

On October 31, MARC members were to communicate for an American Lung Association run in Radnor Township. On November 14, members will communicate for a Vietnam Veterans of America benefit run at the Norristown Farm Park in Norristown. Please contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587) to volunteer. No previous public service experience is necessary ... just a desire to do a good turn for your neighbors and help justify the frequencies we hams are permitted to use.

PACKET BBS TO QRT BY YEAR'S END

The WB3JOE packet BBS as we know it is expected to be discontinued by the end of 1999. The computer isn't Y2K compliant, and the BBS software is not Y2K compliant and is no longer supported by the author. Few club members use the BBS much any more. Probably, the BBS will be replaced by an APRS station, but that is still under study by the Board. Members who have expertise with APRS and are knowledgeable about APRS activity in the western suburbs are invited to contact a Member-at-Large with their views and ideas.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE 224.42 REPEATER?

Member Input Needed Now!

The MARC 224.42 repeater was set up in response to the FCC's 1987 Novice Enhancement decision. At the time, the Novice was the entry level license. Novices had previously been restricted to CW-only on small HF segments. Novice Enhancement gave Novices (and Techs, all of whom had passed 5 wpm at that time) voice privileges on 10 meters and privileges on 222 MHz and 1.2 GHz. To welcome Novices into club activities, the Board authorized a 222 MHz repeater which was eventually linked with 145.13/R. A few years later, introduction of the new Technician license that didn't require a code test pretty well eliminated demand for the Novice ticket.

So, the original purpose of the 224.42 repeater has been overtaken by events. However, some members have 222 MHz equipment and use the repeater sometimes. The repeater has

not been functioning properly for a while, and its repair has received lower priority than maintenance of the 2m repeaters.

Although the Board voted earlier this year to do away with the 224.42 machine, they have decided to solicit members' views before finally pulling the plug. To put the repeater back in good working order will cost some money ... how much, we don't know at this time. Is there enough member support for keeping the machine to justify spending money?

Members who have an opinion one way or the other about the future of the 224.42 repeater are requested to contact **AI N3EA** (amaslin@earthlink.net, 610-446-4936) now and state their views. The deadline for input is the November 18 club meeting, so the Board can take the comments into consideration at their December 2 meeting.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

You hear some hams moan that wireless phones and the Internet have replaced ham radio during emergencies. Nonsense! If they were ARES/RACES members, they would know that ham radio continues to be an important part of emergency preparedness in this country. Hurricane Floyd is the latest example ... **Carter N3AO's** relatives in Virginia and North Carolina can tell you about the key role hams played during that storm and its nightmare aftermath.

When normal communications are disrupted or overloaded, hams are called upon by EMA and relief agencies. When the phones go out, the hams go on. This is just as true today as it was when "digital" meant counting on your fingers.

Did you know that in many other countries, it is illegal for hams to provide the kinds of public service and emergency communications that we regularly do in the USA? That's a fact. Many hams live in countries where third-party communications are either completely prohibited or restricted to a degree we can't imagine.

Minus the emergency communications argument, it is not a piece of cake to get national governments to favor ham radio spectrum allocations.

That's why one goal of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is educating governments about the contribution Amateur Radio can make to disaster communications. If more governments can be persuaded to permit hams to help during disasters, the resulting benefit to the citizens of those countries will increase the perceived value of ham radio. That counts, when government telecom leaders vote on international spectrum allocations. The ARRL is a member society of the IARU and pays dues to help fund IARU's international advocacy activities.

We're lucky our country allows hams to provide emergency communications. It's good for everybody. If you aren't in ARES/RACES now ... sign up! And if you aren't an ARRL member, you aren't helping fund IARU's international advocacy for ham radio. If hams won't help, who will? - **73 de Kay WT3P**

NOVEMBER PROGRAM FUN

The program will be about ARRL, circa 1936. Do you know what the ARRL HQ callsign was back then? It's no longer associated with the League. If you go back a few years (you figure out what "a few" means to you), bring in some QSL cards, shack photos and other ham radio memorabilia to show and tell. I hope to bring a few old ARRL license study manuals, etc., that may bring back memories. What do YOU have to share with those of use who were born yesterday?

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the September 23 meeting, the Board authorized paying **WORLD RADIO** \$65 for one year's worth of announcements in the magazine's club column. Moving the club's post office box to the Southeastern post office was approved, contingent on there being a suitable size box available. The Villanova box will be discontinued when its rental term expires. A site in Norristown has been secured for 145.13/R, with the move scheduled for October. **AI N3EA** has taken charge of getting the phone service repaired for 147.06/R. The packet BBS will be turned off by the end of the year. Although the 220 repeater is still on the air, the intention is still to do away with that repeater. A small storage locker will be rented for club gear, such as Field Day equipment. Equipment will be inventoried before storage begins at the Malvern facility which has the best pricing. Public service opportunities for the fall were mentioned. The treasury balance was \$9,055.44.

At the October 28 meeting, the Board discussed the upcoming elections and named a nominations committee. It was announced that the membership and Board meeting rooms have been reserved for next year. Public service events were listed. The repeaters were discussed, and the Board decided to seek members' input on the future of the 224.42 machine. It appears that we may be able to use the same Field Day site again next year, contrary to earlier information. The "Santa's Brigade" activity was outlined. Much of the meeting was an extensive discussion of the termination of the **WB3JOE** packet BBS and its possible replacement by an APRS station. A decision was deferred to a future date, because the Board felt that not enough information was available about how our station would fit in with other APRS activity in the area and how the station could be made most beneficial to MARC members. The treasury balance was \$8,978.54.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1999

PRESIDENT

Tom Porett N3JMA 610-896-8413
tporett@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Gene Hoenig WB3FTJ 610-353-3281
ehoenig@pol.net

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

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del131@msn.com

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PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL

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PROGRAMS

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

AI Maslin N3EA 610-446-4936
amaslin@earthlink.net
Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-313-8080
smaslin@fast.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

Because of the holidays, the November and December Board meetings are combined on the first Thursday of December, which falls on December 2 this year. Members may attend Board meetings as observer.

WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

All Pennsylvania auto license plates of the standard blue and yellow color are to be replaced in the near future. Replacement plates are being distributed at no cost to registrants. This includes all Amateur Radio callsign plates.

The intention of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is that all ham radio callsign plates will carry the "Amateur Radio" legend. But there's a snag. In many cases, PennDOT's records may not indicate what is a ham radio callsign plate and what is just a vanity plate!

If your Amateur Radio callsign plate carries the "Amateur Radio" or "Amateur Radio Operator" legend, you don't need to do anything. PennDOT knows your plate is a ham radio callsign tag, and your new tag will have the right legend.

But if your Amateur Radio callsign plate is (a) blue on yellow with no legend, (b) yellow on blue with "You've Got A Friend in Pennsylvania" legend, or (c) yellow on blue with "Keystone

State" legend, PennDOT records may not show that your plate is a ham radio callsign tag. Unless you do something soon, your replacement tag may not say "Amateur Radio."

If your ham plate is one that PennDOT records do not show as a ham callsign tag, the easiest way to ensure correct replacement is to provide necessary information to **Dave Heller K3TX**, who is in contact with PennDOT officials about this matter. You can, of course, work through your preferred local tag agent, but Dave has volunteered to help fellow Pennsylvania hams get the right replacement tags.

Hams desiring Dave's help should contact him directly. The address is Dave Heller K3TX, P.O. Box 224, Morrisville, PA 19067. Dave is not on e-mail. He can be reached by telephone at (215) 736-3333 or (215) 946-1040, preferably in the late evening. If you inquire by mail, please enclose an SASE.

PennDOT does not want the old tags back, and they would rather not receive individual inquiries from thousands of hams. Please work through Dave or your preferred local tag agent.

FLEA MARKET

For Sale: Tektronix oscilloscope model 565, with manual. HP RF Generator Mod 606A, with manual. Both units work and are large, tube-type devices. Contact **Fred KA3NKK** (610-449-4080).

Swap Net: Delaware County ARA sponsors a swap net on their 147.36/R, Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. New NCS is **Donald Stazney N3LJC**. You don't have to be a DCARA member to participate.

Old Computers: One way to dispose of older computers is to donate them to charities that fix them up for distribution to underprivileged kids and the like. The *INQUIRER's* weekly "Tech Life" section sometimes has a list of such organizations. Some of them may be qualified to give you a tax deduction receipt for your old confuser and peripherals.

SHORT CIRCUITS

Interested in digital modes? You may want to check out the Delaware County Digital Users Group. For more information, look up their Web page at <http://www.delcodug.org/> or e-mail **Roger Jordan KB4MHL** (kb4mhl@delcodug.org).

Lots of fun operating events are on the November/December calendar. A favorite of mine is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest (see p. 105, November QST), which is open to everybody having HF privileges. Ham radio's not a spectator sport ... get on the air and play radio!

Are you baffled and confused about how to register in the FCC's Universal Licensing System? All hams must register, but

very few have done so. If you're not on the Web or simply don't understand what to do, please contact **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623 or wt3p@arrl.net) for assistance. If you have registered but have friends who don't get the picture, please offer to help.

Speaking of outreach ... when you hear a new ham's callsign on the repeater, part of the welcome should be an invitation to attend a club meeting, join the club, etc. Some newcomers may not realize these are club-sponsored repeaters. If you jot down the callsigns and give them to **Kay WT3P**, info about MARC can be sent to the new people.

SANTA'S BRIGADE PROJECT [continued from page 1]

MARC's gifts will be routed to a shelter in Phoenixville which has both adults and children as residents. You'll be provided with the recipient's name and enough information to select appropriate gift items. Suggestions include school supplies (small notebooks, crayons, markers, pens, pencils, rulers, etc.) for children as well as small toys, and perhaps some personal care products or inexpensive clothing items for adults.

Don't purchase anything before signing up and receiving your recipient's information.

Gifts are to be wrapped and tagged with the recipient's name. They should be brought to the MARC holiday party. If you can't attend that event, we'll make arrangements to collect your gift. To sign up as a gift provider, please contact **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623 or wt3p@arrl.net).

It doesn't take long or cost much to bring some joy to a needy neighbor's holiday. No matter which version of the holidays is celebrated at your house, please consider sharing the spirit of the season with someone less fortunate than ourselves.

ELECTRONIC REMARCS IS (are?) A SUCCESS

Over 60 club members have elected to receive the newsletter as an e-mail file attachment in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). Problems with the first e-REMARCS distribution were few and could be solved.

When you receive the newsletter electronically, what you see on screen or your printer looks exactly like the paper version ... well, almost. In the electronic version, you see some Web addresses in color. If you click the mouse on those links, your Web browser will start up and take you to the sites, assuming that your Internet connection is configured to do that.

Distributing the newsletter electronically saves the club a lot of money on postage and printing. That's money we can spend on other programs and services. There are no plans to discontinue the paper edition, but we do encourage you to opt for electronic distribution if you are able to do so.

What do you need in order to receive the newsletter by e-mail?

- ♦ An Internet service that allows file attachments. The last file was about 200 kilobytes ... some Internet providers restrict file size for attachments, and some don't allow file attachments at all.
- ♦ Adobe Acrobat Reader software, version 3 or 4. This software is provided along with many applications today, because it's how they do the instruction manual. It's also available free for download from Adobe's site at www.adobe.com.

If you have what's required and would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send a message to **Kay WT3P** (wt3p@arrl.net), so we can make sure your current e-mail address is in the database. If you have already signed up for e-distribution, you don't need to do anything further, unless you change e-mail providers.

AUTOPATCH UPDATE

The 147.06/R autopatch is working again. At press time, the speed dial numbers were not available, but the basic 'patch works. If you like to use the 'patch, please inform your family members that conversations on the 'patch go out over the air and are thus not private. We don't want anyone to be embarrassed because they didn't know about this aspect of the service.

HAM STATIONS IN SCIENCE MUSEUMS

Featured on ARRL Atlantic Division Web Page

Sure, you probably know about W3AA at the Franklin Institute. But you might be surprised to learn how many other working ham radio station exhibits there are in science museums in the mid-Atlantic region. Like W3AA, they are staffed by volunteers from local ham radio clubs who give their time to promote the hobby to the public.

QSL cards from a bunch of these stations are shown in the photo features section of the ARRL Atlantic Division Web page (<http://www.bfdin.com/atlantic/index.htm>). At the main menu, click on "Photos" and go from there. Also on the Division's page is an early list of next year's hamfests ... and lots of other good stuff (*she said, so modestly*).

HOW TO GET MARC STUFF

MARC offers attractive callsign badges with the club logo in gold color on a blue-and-white badge, and blue-on-white callsign car tags that also make great decorations in the ham shack. If you would like to order a badge or callsign tag, please use this form. Send it with your check payable to MARC to Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399.

If you know that your family members haven't a clue what you'd like as a holiday gift, leave this page open in a conspicuous place!

CALLSIGN BADGES (\$6.50 each, including shipping)	AMOUNT
Print FIRST NAME as desired on badge:	\$
CALLSIGN CAR TAGS (\$12 each, NOT including shipping)	
Print CALLSIGN desired on tag:	\$
If you want the tag mailed to you, add shipping charge → \$2.00 →	\$
(No shipping charge if tag is picked up at club meeting)	
TOTAL ENCLOSED (checks payable to MARC)	\$