



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2004

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

WHAT IF THERE WERE NO MARC?

Would it make any difference if the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club didn't exist? Well, if there were no MARC . . .

- The repeaters wouldn't be on the air.
- The only hamfest in the western suburbs wouldn't exist.
- The only regularly-scheduled license tests in the western suburbs wouldn't take place.
- One of the two VHF message-handling nets in the Philly area wouldn't be on the air.
- This newsletter wouldn't be published.
- You'd have to go somewhere else for Field Day.
- We wouldn't have heard all the interesting meeting programs MARC has presented over the years.
- The events where MARC provides safety communications might not have any ham radio help.
- The MARC friends you've made would still be strangers.

MARC contributes a lot to the Amateur Radio community. When we pay our annual dues, we not only do something for ourselves but also support the health of ham radio in the whole area.

The dues deadline is March 1. You can pay at club meetings or send in your renewal by mail. A renewal form will be provided to you soon. Thanks for being a MARC member and for paying your dues on time!

DAN W3DI HONORED BY CANADIANS

MARC member **Dan Amoroso W3DI** has been awarded the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Certificate of Appreciation for the superb work done in the planning of the HF Radio Events at ISAR 2001, ISAR 2002 and ISAR 2003. The award was made following a recommendation by the Awards Committee of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary.

ISAR is an annual event between Auxiliary teams from the United States and Canada demonstrating various skills in the field of search and rescue. ISAR 2003 featured events that were designed to test the volunteers' ability to plan, communicate and prosecute a maritime search and rescue (SAR) mission.

According to **François Vézina**, Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, a number of certificates were also presented to various members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary who made important contributions to the ISAR Competition.

The event celebrated the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary's 64th Anniversary and the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary's 25th Anniversary. [tnx WB3FPL, ARRL SM/EPA]

PROGRAMS AT THE MARC MEETINGS

Remember the power failures last fall? Remember how you wished you had a generator as the hours went by and all the food in your refrigerator was turning into gross, disgusting crud? Our January 27 club meeting will feature **Joe Vilardo K3JV** speaking on how to select and safely set up a home generator. We hope that members who already have home generators will come and add their experience to what Joe tells us.

Our February 24 meeting program will be on the topic of terrorism awareness and prevention. It will be presented by a specially-trained officer from one of the area's police departments. Nobody wants to get to the point where we're seeing booger-bears under the bed, so learning realistic ways to be more aware of our surroundings is a good thing to do.

March 23 will be the annual MARC junque auction, when we drag our unwanted ham and ham-related gear out of the basement, brush off the dog hair and spider webs, and sell it to other people so we can buy the stuff they don't want in their own basements any more. The auction is a little bit of commerce and a whole lot of laughs, so start thinking now about things you'd like to bring for sale. Inexpensive items usually sell the best -- leave the \$200 rigs at home and sell those at the hamfest this summer.

INFO FOR POTENTIAL CLUB MEMBERS

We have a one-page handout that summarizes the club's activities and the benefits of being a MARC member. Actually, there are two versions of it: one for people with ham radio licenses and another for prospective hams.

If you know any hams who have moved into the area, any new licensees in the area, or any prospective hams in the area, the appropriate club information sheet can be sent to these people. Just send their names, call signs (if any) and postal addresses to **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@arrrl.net).

CLUB CALENDAR ON MARC WEB SITE

When's the club meeting this month, and what's the program about? When are the next license tests? Field Day? Hamfest? You can refresh your memory about MARC events easily using a new feature on the club's web site at www.marc-radio.org.

Click on "Upcoming Events," then on "Calendar of Upcoming Events." As you move your cursor over an event posted on the calendar, the cursor changes to a hand. Click and you'll get more information about the event.

You don't need to log in to get this information. The "Login" option on the calendar menu is only for board members authorized to work on the calendar. We hope you like this new service on the club's web page.

ABOUT MARC

wb3joe@marc-radio.org
http://www.marc-radio.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

4th Tuesdays, 8 PM, Tredyffrin Township
Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. 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
145.13 & 147.06 linked, CTCSS 131.8 Hz
Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-327-8666,
smaslin@marc-radio.org)

NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
Homebrewer Net, Saturday, 9 AM
All nets on linked 145.13/R & 147.06/R
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 N3KN
(610-993-9623, n3kn@arri.net)

BRING A FRIEND
TO A MARC MEETING!

LICENSE TEST SESSION

MARC will offer license tests on Saturday, February 1, at 9:15 AM at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. The test fee remains at \$12 for 2004 -- no increase. Pre-registration is recommended, because the session will be cancelled if no one signs up. For information and pre-registration, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com).

MARC administered license exams on November 1, serving 6 applicants. The session resulted in 1 Technician, 1 Technician + HF, 2 Generals (one a paperwork upgrade), and 2 Extras.

Nine exam elements were administered, 7 of which were passed. Every applicant passed at least one element, and so everybody went home with something to show for the morning's work.

The Volunteer Examiners were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Steve KD0VA**, **John, N3RBJ**, **Dick K3ITH**, **Paul NX3Q**, **Kay N3KN**, **Ned WQ3Z**, **Bob W3SA**, and **Ted NT3J**. Some of the examiners were serving for the first time, and we hope to see them again at future MARC sessions.

VOX

Congratulations to upgrades **Paul K3HAZ** and **Marty W3TQW** (Extra) and **Dick K3IIN** (General). Please welcome new members **Peter KB3KIP** and **Cliff W3NNL**. Also welcome returning member **Joseph WA1SSY**. **Paul K3ZI** is the former **K3HAZ**. **Janet KA3VTQ** has a new e-mail address, janetvann@juno.com. **Dick K3ITH**'s Field Day photo showing **Leland N3LJB** and another young ham appears on page 20 of December, 2003, QST. **Dick K3IIN** enjoys coaching Special Olympics athletes. **Lor W3QA** is now RACES Radio Officer for Chester County. **Dori W3IBH** (ex-KB3JZN) has been named Assistant Director of Emergency Services at Brandywine Hospital. Her new call used to be signed by her father, **Bob W3LIA** some years back. Also, please update Dori's telephone to 610-269-7123. **Steve K3KFD** also has a new phone number, 610-667-3730. **Ron W3ZV** has a new grand-daughter. **Bob W3SA** turned 81 in December.

If you would like to volunteer to bring refreshments to a club meeting, please contact **Bob KB3FSQ** (215-477-6475, kb3fsq@netcarrier.com). Bob will be keeping track of this in the future and send reminders to the volunteers, to avoid mix-ups.

A big "thank you!" is due to **Janet KA3VTQ** for organizing the MARC holiday party for 2003. We also appreciate everyone who gave her a hand with refreshments for the event.

ABOUT THE MARC NETS

The Sunday evening MARC Club Nets are for fun and good fellowship among members and friends of the club. Message traffic is not relayed unless it has emergency or priority precedence.

The Monday / Wednesday / Friday evening MARC Traffic Nets exist to relay formal message traffic (radiograms) and to teach this important emergency communications skill to members and friends of the club. If time permits, informal comments are also made. Although the net has a serious purpose, a friendly atmosphere is maintained.

The Saturday morning MARC Homebrewer Nets bring together hams who are interested in construction of electronics projects -- whether experts, beginners, or in-betweens. From time to time, a group of homebrewers gets together in person at a member's home. If you are interested in these gatherings, please contact **Jack KB3GDC** (jfk402@snip.net).

General questions about the MARC nets should be sent to Net Manager **Carter N3AO** (n3ao@arri.net).

PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITY

On Saturday, November 8, members and friends of MARC provided safety communications for the Penn Wynne Library 5K run in Wynnewood. The volunteers were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Ben W3LKI**, **Floyd KA3OXA**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Steve KD0VA**, **Bob W3ZQN**, and **Carter N3AO**. No emergencies occurred. After the recent unseasonably warm weather, the gang needed a little thawing after several hours outdoors on this frosty morning.

Before **Bob N3JIZ**'s famous sign-up clipboards went into hibernation for the winter, MARC had one more public service event on the calendar. This was the Vietnam Veterans 5K run in Norristown on November 16. MARC's communicators were **Ted NT3J**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Josy WQ3E**, **Charlie KB3CO**, **Dieter K3DK**, and **Bob N3JIZ**.

Keep a good thought for our service men & women overseas!

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

My letter carrier, Fred, knows he's supposed to bring me QSL cards, preferably DX, preferably new ones. I usually rip into the airmail envelopes with all the decorum of a starving rat, but one arrived that made me slow down and think about it. The Russian who was kind enough to confirm his country for me on 17 meters wrote in English on the outside of the envelope, "Good country USA!!"

Did you think you'd live to see the day when a Russian would write that on an envelope? When he *could* write that on an envelope and not be -- what's Russian for "dead duck"?

This is a major "holy cow!" experience for anybody who recalls old Nikita Krushchev banging his shoe on the podium and parking his nukes in Cuba. Today, young people don't remember the Cold War era, when Americans and people in the Soviet-controlled countries were unlikely to have any personal contact with each other. They / we were the enemy -- devils complete with horns, tails, and pitchforks. Godless Commies vs. Capitalist Swine.

People new to ham radio may not know that ham radio was an exception to the generalization about ordinary Americans having no contact with ordinary people living in the Soviet bloc. Although hams on the other side were not allowed to say much to us beyond name and signal report, that's more conversation than most Americans could imagine having with a Russian, Bulgarian, East German, etc. Our fellow Americans were astonished to learn that we could work hams on the other side as a daily sort of thing. No big deal. It was only a tiny crack in the Iron Curtain, but a crack it was.

Today, the curtain's gone, and a Russian writes "Good country USA!!" on an envelope he sends to an American ham.

It was a dangerous world during the Cold War, and it's a dangerous world today. We can't flip to the last page of the book and find out how our present story comes out in the end. What we can do, as ordinary people who have the privilege of being American hams, is to try our best to promote international good will through Amateur Radio so that some day, people in countries and cultures that are our enemies now will write on their QSL card envelopes, "Good country USA!!" -- **73, Kay N3KN**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

Because of the holidays, the board holds a combined November / December meeting. At this meeting on December 4, the board heard a report on programs for 2004. Board meetings have been arranged for 4th Thursdays in 2004, with the exception of November / December, which will be a combined meeting on the first Thursday in December. The board discussed the problem of keeping track of who has volunteered to bring refreshments to club meetings. It was decided that **Bob KB3FSQ** will be the contact person for refreshments volunteers and will follow up with reminders to those who have offered to bring refreshments. The treasurer reported that several important bills have been paid: liability insurance, domain name renewal, and post office box rent. Generous donations have been received for the Nick Fund. The treasury balance was \$11,445.03.

PRESS CLIPPINGS, PLEASE!

Actually, you can leave the scissors in the drawer. PR chairman **Bob KB3FSQ** would appreciate hearing from members when you see a MARC publicity press release in the local news media. He distributes announcements about club meetings, license tests, the hamfest, Field Day, etc., list of local media. Because the announcements go via e-mail, all this publicity work doesn't cost the club a cent -- quite an improvement in both cost and person hours over the days when your editor was PR chairman and had to do the lick, stick, and stamp routine to get the press releases out!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2004

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

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

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bob Weiss KB3FSQ 215-477-6475
kb3fsq@netcarrier.com

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587
rjpelectric@worldlynx.net

TECHNICAL

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

PROGRAMS

Dick Thompson K3IIN 610-688-0874
k3iin@arri.net

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2004: Al Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

To 9/30/2005: Gene Hoenig N3HG
610-353-3281, n3hg@arri.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE: Al Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

W3NWA: Kay Craigie N3KN
610-993-9623, n3kn@arri.net

NICK FUND UPDATE

Members responded to the request for donations in the last newsletter. We received \$488 in donations, bringing the fund total up to \$494. Sincere thanks to all who donated, either by mail or by dropping something in the hat at the holiday party.

SOME MARC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS And How to Get Them

- Autopatch on 2m repeaters. For access codes and usage guidelines, contact **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@arri.net).
- Access to members-only section of MARC web site (www.marc-radio.org). For access information, contact **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@arri.net).
- Participation in one MARC-sponsored license test session per year free of charge. You take the tests, MARC pays the test fee to ARRL/VEC. For info about MARC license exams, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com).

2003 TRAFFIC NET CERTIFICATES

Members and friends of MARC could earn a 2003 traffic net certificate for sending and/or receiving radiograms on the MARC nets during the year. The certificates are endorsed for each month in which the operator sent and/or received at least one radiogram. The 2003 MARC Traffic Net Certificates are awarded to the stations shown below. The certificate program will continue in 2004!

Mike	WA2ABF	Ryan	KC2KQH
Rick	N3AGS	Bob	W3LIA
Al	W3AHR	Leland	N3LJB
Carter	N3AO	Cliff	W3NNL
Bart	K4BF	Lor	W3QA
Ed	W3BNR	Dana	AA3QN
Bob	KB3FSQ	John	N3RBJ
Steve	KB3FSR	Ben	WA3RLT
Gene	N3HG	Rich	K2RSJ
Miguel	KC2HMG	Steve	KB2RTZ
Dori	W3IBH	Bob	W3SA
Ray	KB3IGL	Susan	K3SUE
Dick	K3IIN	Steve	KD0VA
Ray	KC2IYC	Mike	N3VJN
Ted	NT3J	Jean	N2VQA
Mike	KB3JFO	Ned	WQ3Z
Ed	KB3JGU	Bob	W3ZQN
Bob	WR3K		

2003 TRAFFIC NET STATS

Number of traffic net sessions:	157
Number of radiograms handled:	519
Most traffic passed in 1 month (December):	103
Most check-ins in 1 month (January)	255
Number of certificates awarded:	35
Highest % check-ins named Bob (Dec. 24):	75%

Message-Handling Tip

When you originate radiograms for others, put their town (not yours) as the origination point. Also, encourage them to sign the message in a way that can't mystify the recipient as to who the sender is. First names / nicknames alone may puzzle addressees who get this phone call out of the blue. Senders may suppose Uncle Joe will immediately recognize who "Tony" or "Bucko" is, but if the signature is "Your nephew, Tony Jones," and the origination point is the town where Tony lives, all doubt is removed. Unless dear old Uncle Joe is a little out there, which you can't control, can you?

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

At the end of 2003, MARC had 155 licensed members and 5 unlicensed (associate) members. The zip-code with the largest number of club members -- 12 -- was Malvern 19355. Ten licensed members don't have e-mail addresses on file, though we're pretty sure a few of those people are on e-mail but haven't chosen to put that information on their membership forms. Thirty-two club members are receiving this edition of *REMARCS* on paper rather than e-mail. The license class data represent good news and bad news. The good news is that MARC members continue to upgrade their licenses. On the other hand, we could probably be doing a better job of bringing new licensees into MARC. Having all license classes and a mix of old-timers / newcomers is good for everybody. When you hear a KB3xxx callsign on the club's repeaters, please mention MARC and invite the person to visit a club meeting if they haven't already done so. The MARC board sends mail to new hams in the area telling them about the club, but nothing works better than a friendly word from you over the air.

Extra	63
Advanced	21
General	37
Tech + HF	10
Technician	23
Novice	1

FUN QUIZ QUESTIONS

Our fun quiz trivia questions this time have to do with things historical. If you're interested in the early history and pioneers of Amateur Radio, you may want to read *200 Meters and Down*, by **Clinton B. DeSoto**, published in 1936 by the ARRL and still in print. The answers appear at the right. Don't peek!

1. Why does the ARRL HQ station sign **W1AW**?
2. Why is RTTY (radioteletype) sometimes called "Baudot RTTY"? No, smart-mouth, it's not named after the French actress who made shocking movies back in the 1950's!
3. In what decade was the first "Worked All Continents" award issued to a ham: 1920's, 1930's, or 1940's?

FUN QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **W1AW** was the callsign of ARRL co-founder and first president **Hiram Percy Maxim** (1869-1936). The Maxims were a well-known family of inventors. HPM invented the Maxim silencer for firearms; his father **Hiram Stevens Maxim** invented the Maxim machine gun.
2. **Emile Baudot** (1845-1903), a French engineer and telegrapher, invented the digital code which became the basis for International Telegraphy Code #2, which we use for radioteletype (RTTY). The baud as a unit of symbols transmitted per second is also named after him. Alas for **Mile Bardot**, whose movies wouldn't cause a furor now.
3. The first Worked All Continents (WAC) award was issued by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in 1926, just 3 years after the very first 2-way trans-Atlantic QSO. That's some kind of progress in just 3 years!

MORE ABOUT LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD

Logbook of the World (LOTW), the ARRL's database project allowing hams to confirm contacts electronically for major operating awards, now has user software for Mac, Linux, and Windows operating systems. The user software is a free download from the LOTW section of ARRL's Web site.

What's the advantage of using LOTW compared to the bureau? It's cheaper! When you QSL via the bureau, you have to pay for

- QSL card printing
- Postage for mailing cards to the outgoing bureau
- Bureau processing fee
- Buying envelopes for the incoming bureau
- Postage to put on envelopes for the incoming bureau
- Postage for mailing envelopes to the incoming bureau

Although QSLing via the bureau is vastly cheaper than QSLing direct, it adds up over time, and some QSLs that eat up your incoming bureau envelopes and postage are not useful for your awards -- after the first ones, all those cards for Germany and Italy on 20 meters are just bookmarks or drink coasters.

In contrast, with LOTW, you pay nothing until you choose to claim a QSL for an award. The QSL's you aren't interested in don't cost you a penny. When that QSL you've been yearning for finally shows up on your LOTW list, then you'll pay only about 25 cents to claim it for your DXCC. That's a bargain.

When I send "Please QSL" cards via the bureau now, I put a sticker on my cards that says "QSL via bureau or Logbook of the World." That lets the other operators know they can fulfill my request free of any expense to them by using LOTW.

By the way, the US dollar has dropped to only about €0.79. \$1 is no longer enough return postage for direct QSL's from France, and \$1 is cutting things close for some other Euro countries such as Italy, Netherlands, and Spain.

2004 EVENTS TO REMEMBER

For later updates and more information, check the MARC web page (www.marc-radio.org) and click on "Upcoming Events," then on "Calendar of Upcoming Events."

January 27	MARC meeting
February 7	License tests
February 24	MARC meeting
March 1	Dues payment deadline
March 23	MARC meeting
April 27	MARC meeting
May 1	License tests
May 25	MARC meeting
June 22	MARC meeting
June 26-27	Field Day
July 11	MARC hamfest
July 27	MARC meeting
August 7	License tests
August 24	MARC meeting
September 28	MARC meeting & elections
October 26	MARC meeting
November 6	License tests
November 23	MARC meeting
December 28	MARC holiday party

ON-LINE PRACTICE TESTS

One way to find out if you're ready to take a license exam is to use the practice tests feature on QRZ.com. Go to the QRZ web page, scroll down, and look for "Database" in the menu box on the left. One of the choices is "Practice Tests."

Wouldn't it be fun to know if the people who are scornful towards new hams have tried taking these tests cold turkey . . . and if they did, what their scores were? Though some might pass easily, others could be wiping the egg off!

PRB-1 LEGISLATION IN PENNSYLVANIA?

ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager **Eric Olena WB3FPL** (wb3fpl@arrl.org) wants to hear from any PA ham who's had antenna and/or tower problems because of municipal regulatory issues (not including covenants or deed restrictions, which are another kettle of fish). This information will be helpful in support of future PRB-1-type legislation in Pennsylvania.

WHAT HAPPENS AT MARC BOARD MEETINGS?

In some radio clubs, the club members have to debate and vote on each and every thing at monthly business meetings. It can get lengthy, especially if you have someone in love with the sound of his own voice or who likes to swim upstream.

MARC, in contrast, has a board of directors governance structure. Members elect board members whom they trust to make decisions, which are reported to the membership in the board meeting minutes and reflected in the treasurer's report. In addition to doing their specific jobs, MARC board members are expected to take part in this decision-making activity.

Two Members-at-Large serve on the board to bring up members' concerns. Contact one of them when you have an issue to bring before the board. Nothing goes on in secret. Club members may attend all board meetings as observers. Elections for the board are held at the September meeting.

PAST MARC SPEAKER TO CHAIR NATIONAL HAM RADIO YOUTH AWARD PROGRAM

Amateur Radio Newsline has announced the appointment of **Mark Abramowicz NT3V** to chair the Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) Award Committee. Abramowicz is the father of 2002 Young Ham of the Year **Josh Abramowicz KB3GWY**. A news reporter and anchor at KYW radio in Philadelphia, Abramowicz is known professionally as **Mark Abrams**. He is also is an adjunct professor at Temple University, where he teaches courses in writing for the mass media.

Mark, who lives in Reading, did a program for MARC in the last few years about what it's like to be a reporter for a major all-news broadcast station. He answered questions about how KYW broadcasts are produced and even admitted that the apparently goof-proof KYW reporters do occasionally fluff a line.

In the past, he has also done Field Day reportage on KYW, including sound bytes from an interview with your editor. We congratulate Mark on his new appointment, and we're pleased to count Mark as a friend of MARC.

MORE INFO ABOUT DIGITAL TV

Ray K3RIZ gave an outstanding program at the November meeting about the transition from analog to digital television. We hope to have Ray come back next year for another presentation on a technical topic.

Ray says if anyone is interested in following the ever-changing landscape of digital television, the best web page is probably one by **Mark Schubin** called Schubin's Monday Memo. It is usually updated weekly and provides commentary and numerous links to digital TV news both in the U.S. and the world. It can be accessed through <http://digitaltelevision.com>. Click on the link for Schubin's Memo or Schubin's Monday Memo.

STUFF ON THE INTERNET FOR OPERATING FUN

Contest Rate Sheet newsletter

Published every other week, this newsletter has info about all kinds of HF and VHF contests plus operating tips. Subscription is free to ARRL members. Log into ARRL Web at www.arrl.org, then click on "Member Data Page" in the menu box titled "Members Only." Then you can sign up for the newsletter.

DigiPan PSK31 software

This program that made PSK31 easy to use is still good and still free. Download the latest version from www.digipan.net.

RF Safety Calculator

Not exactly a fun thing, but then neither is being caught off guard by a neighbor who's all wiggled out about RF exposure. Make sure you're within the FCC's Rules by using the on-line calculator at <http://n5xu.ae.utexas.edu/rfsafety/>.

Time correction for your computer

If your shack computer has an Internet connection but uses an operating system that doesn't automatically update the clock, your time can drift off and make your logs wrong. When I ran Windows 98, I had this problem. The National Institute of Standards & Technology has free programs you can use to correct the time: www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/service/its.htm.

Linux stuff for ham radio

Tim Dickerson N9NU has a Web site devoted to ham radio software that runs under the Mandrake 9.x version of the Linux operating system. Applications include antenna modeling, APRS, AX.25 packet, beam heading, call sign server, contesting, DX packet cluster, GPS, grid locating, Morse code training, propagation predicting, PSK-31 and other digital modes, rig control, RTTY, satellite tracking, SSTV, TCP/IP packet, WE-FAX and more. Poke around at www.n9nu.net/linux/linux.php.

Banaba Island DXpedition

Ever wonder what's involved in making one of those ham radio expeditions to some remote island you never heard of unless your occupation ends in "-ologist"? Banaba Island is part of Micronesia. A group of hams will operate from there early next year. The logistics are mind-boggling, because there's no Radio Shack, Home Depot, HRO, or Acme way out in the Pacific Ocean. See the pictures at www.dx-pedition.de/banaba2004/.

ARRL ADDS NEW ON-LINE ANTENNA COURSE

A new course on "Antenna Design and Construction" has been added to the ARRL's program of on-line continuing education and certification courses.

Students who take "Antenna Design and Construction" must hold an Amateur Radio license. They will become familiar with -- and experience -- antenna design and construction techniques. Optional antenna construction projects and experiments involving HF and VHF/UHF antennas of various types are available for the more adventuresome.

The course has 15 learning units and takes 20 to 25 hours to complete over an 8-week period. It's also worth 1.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Authored by Ward Silver N0AX, "Antenna Design and Construction" joins "Antenna Modeling" as the C-CE program's second antenna-related course. It will use the ARRL publication ***Simple and Fun Antennas for Hams*** by **Chuck Hutchinson K8CH** and **Dean Straw N6BV** for its textbook.

Students will also need a computer with an Internet connection and an e-mail account. They should possess basic skills in navigating the Internet and using e-mail. They'll also need a 2-meter transceiver with an S meter, an HF transceiver, 50 to 100 feet of RG-58, RG-8X or RG-213 coaxial cable with PL-259 connectors on each end, an HF forward/reflected power and standing wave ratio (SWR) meter, an HF dummy load and a 1:1 ferrite bead choke balun. An antenna tuner for HF is optional. Depending upon which construction projects they choose to take on, students may require various other materials.

The registration fee for this course is \$65 for ARRL members and \$95 for nonmembers, exclusive of textbooks and materials. Course registration closed in December for the first iteration of the course, but it will be offered again.

To find out more about the ARRL's various on-line courses, go to www.arrl.org/cce/. The new antenna course is EC-009 in the list of available courses.

SOME 2004 HAMFESTS

Additional information about hamfests and ham radio conventions is available from the ARRL at www.arrl.org/hamfests.html. The ARRL list is updated frequently, as sponsors provide their information.

March 27-28	Baltimore ARC, Timonium, MD
May 2	Warminster ARC, Wrightstown (Bucks Co.)
May 14-16	Hamvention, Dayton, OH
July 3	Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre (well, near W-B)
July 4	Harrisburg RAC, Harrisburg
July 11	MID-ATLANTIC ARC, KIMBERTON
Aug. 6-8	International Earth-Moon-Earth conference, Ewing Twp, NJ
Oct. 2	Red Rose Repeater Assn., Brownstown, PA

Happy New Year 2004 from the Mid-Atlantic ARC!



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENT AMATEURS

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer 59 scholarships for the academic year 2004 - 2005 to assist licensed

Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over 75 Amateur Radio clubs in the Baltimore / Washington/ northern Virginia area, fully funds seven of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual hamfest. The remaining 52 are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors. Some of the donors are 10-10 International, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, the Young Ladies Radio League, and the Radio Club of America, in addition to local radio clubs and individual donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2004 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

FAR, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

PQ QSO PARTY PRELIMINARY SCORES ON LINE www.nittany-arc.org/paqso.html

The preliminary scores list for the 2003 Pennsylvania QSO Party are on line now. They show 5 entries for MARC (coded as "MAA") for a total of 361,043 club score points.

Two of our entries -- **Dennis KA3QOT** and **Charlie KB3CO** -- operated mobile from a number of different counties. When you guys check your scores on line, note that the club affiliation isn't shown in the various counties, only in the Mobile totals ("M.TOT") section that follows the Lycoming County scores.

Here's how the scores look now:

Kay N3KN	143,197	#1 Chester County
Steve K3KFD	120,532	#1 Montgomery County
Charlie KB3CO	74,288	Mobile
Dennis K3DS	16,104	Delaware County
Dennis KA3QOT	6,922	Mobile

If you're on HF, think about playing in the PA QSO Party next year. It's easy. It's fun. Ask any of the operators listed here.



ITU SUGGESTS MORSE CHARACTER FOR @

The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) may have eliminated the treaty requirement for prospective amateurs to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF access, but the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hasn't forgotten Morse code altogether. In Geneva on December 5, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures. It also includes a new Morse code character to cover the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses.

Once it's made available in English, French and Spanish, the draft new recommendation will go out to ITU member-states using a new procedure for simultaneous adoption and approval. On December 3, the draft new recommendation won the approval of Working Party 8A, which is responsible for the Land Mobile and Amateur services.

Within the ITU, the international Morse code has been defined by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), which is responsible for the public telephone and telegraph network -- mostly landline. A few years ago, the ARRL pointed out to the US delegation to the ITU Radiocommunication Advisory Group that Morse code's role more properly resides in the radiocommunication realm, not wire, and should be the responsibility of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R).

The transfer was agreed to, and International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President **Larry Price W4RA** proposed the draft new recommendation at the November-December Working Group 8A meeting. The draft new recommendation is almost unchanged from its ITU-T text.

"No one wanted to disturb something with more than 150 years of history," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager **Paul Rinaldo W4RI**.

To keep up with the times, however, the IARU proposed adding a new character -- the @ symbol -- to permit sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. The draft new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together to represent the @ symbol.

While the draft new recommendation is still a working document, its expected to become a Recommendation within about six months, pending approval by member-states.

FLEA MARKET

For Sale: Kenwood TS-811A 430 MHz all-mode transceiver, hand mic, manual, no CTCSS, \$375. RF Concepts RFC 4-310 brick amplifier for 430-450 MHz, 30w in / 100w out, pre-amp, FM or SSB/CW. \$200. Contact **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@arrrl.net, 610-993-9623).

Members' ham radio for sale / trade / wanted notices published free of charge.