



REMARCS



MARCH / APRIL, 1995

PROGRAMS . . . HISTORY OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE . . . FIBER OPTICS

Our March 16 speaker will be **John J. Dancey N3NUE**, president of Dancey Associates Inc., who comes from a law enforcement and industrial electronics background. In the electronics industry, he assisted in the design of analog and digital computers, as well as flight simulators and other training equipment. After leaving industry, he served as a police officer in Long Branch, NJ, and later joined the NJ State Police. Following his promotion to Detective, he was assigned to the Intelligence Bureau, Electronic Surveillance Unit. He retired in 1987 and formed Dancey Associates. His company designs and supplies electronic surveillance equipment for the law enforcement and government communities, and provides specialized training of narcotics enforcement officers. He is a member of the Delaware-Lehigh ARC. [Info tnx WB3FTJ]

The April 20 program will be given by **Bob Graves**, from Bell Atlantic, explaining all about fiber optics. Bob is an engineer, not a speakers bureau person, so he knows his technical stuff. The February program was given by ARRL Eastern PA Technical Coordinator **Dennis Silage WB2LGJ**, on digital signal processing.

DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW!

There are excuses we might accept . . .

- . . . You were abandoned by your guide in the trackless wastes of the Takla Makan . . .
- . . . You were tied in a straitjacket after watching too many episodes of "Barney" with your kids . . .
- . . . You fell in a pothole on Route 30 and had to be rescued by coal miners from Schuylkill County . . .

Otherwise, it's time to pay your club dues! If you have already paid for 1995, we thank you. Please check your mailing label, if you don't remember whether you paid or not. If there seems to be an error, please contact the treasurer or your occasionally fat-fingered editor and keeper of the database.

MARC'C 145.13 REPEATER JOINS THE HUB LINK SYSTEM

It's a Privilege to be Appreciated, Not Abused!



By invitation, our 145.13 repeater has become part of a state-wide system of linked repeaters known as the Hub. This system allows users to link their local repeater to another distant repeater . . . Allentown, Scranton, Harrisburg, Williamsport, Dubois, Bedford, just to name a few . . . for a brief QSO. The possibilities for emergency communications are obvious, but the Hub can also be used for short routine QSOs. Long ragchews on the link are strongly discouraged by the system organizers. Between the hours of 6 AM and 11 PM, QSOs should not exceed 15 minutes. Autopatching via the link is not allowed; in fact, the 'patch is disabled when the link is up, and vice versa.

There is a weekly net on the Hub on Sundays at 7:30 PM. All members are invited to check into this net, during which the whole system is linked together. Before checking in, listen to find out the customary protocol for doing so.

DON'T BE A LID ON THE LINK! MARC can be dropped from the Hub if our users fail to cooperate with the system guidelines! A sheet giving the link access codes and the system guidelines is available on request to all licensed members who have paid their 1995 dues. Direct your request to Membership Services Chairman **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623, WB3JOE packet, email wt3p@aol.com, or callbook address). DO NOT GIVE THE CODES TO ANYONE AND DO NOT DISCUSS THEM OVER THE AIR. Having the codes is a privilege of MARC membership. Any paid-up member who wants the codes can have them through the Board-approved channel. Just ask.

Our access to the Hub is already bringing new members to MARC. Also, we will hear unfamiliar callsigns on '13 when distant users bring up the link. Please welcome these distant users and go back to their calls with all the courtesy you would give to a friend. To make the system work, we must drop the habit of cold-shouldering unfamiliar callsigns. Let's make sure everyone thinks of 145.13 as a friendly repeater for distant users and local hams alike.



REMARCS



MAY/JUNE, 1995 COME TO FIELD DAY! JUNE 24-25

Ah, the scent of stale fritos, flat soda, and cold pizza is in the air . . . Field Day, the most popular ham radio operating event in North America, will soon be here. Sponsored by the ARRL, Field Day is a combination contest and emergency-preparedness drill. If you abominate the outdoors, detest fun and good fellowship, can't bear to get your fingers dirty, hate to learn anything new . . . in short, if you have a heart of Styrofoam and the personality of an onion, then you won't like Field Day. Biased? Who, me?

MARC Field Day does not expect you to be an expert operator, let alone a hot-dawg contester who copies code at Warp 9. No matter how new you are in ham radio, or how new you are to Field Day, you are warmly welcomed at MARC's operation. We will have a VHF station as well as HF stations. Set-up starts at 10 AM on Saturday; clean-up starts at 2 PM Sunday. We need operators, cooks, technical workers, gofers, shleppers, and hangers-around. More information will be given at the May and June club meetings. A map to the site appears on page 7. Contact Field Day Chairman Mitch N3BGA (610-539-0281) to volunteer yourself and your stuff.

The field is mowed, but shoes with socks are recommended to avoid injury and poison ivy. A chemical toilet is provided for those of us who need it. While bringing little kids may not be a good idea during set-up and take-down, for safety reasons, families are otherwise very welcome to visit and enjoy the event. Be sure to bring a hat and anti-sunburn goop, or rain gear if needed. Field Day goes on rain or shine.

Actually, if you want stale fritos, flat soda, and cold pizza, you may have to bring your own. In the last few years, the food at MARC Field Day has been outstanding. How good is it? You'll have to come, do some work, have some fun, and find out!

PROGRAMS ... PROGRAMS ...



At the May 18 meeting, the featured guest speaker will be Joe Behm of PECO. Mr. Behm holds a degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University and has been with PECO for 17 years. After 14 years as a generator engineer, he became a cost of element analyst. In English, that means he determines the cost of generators and other equipment used by PECO in power generation and distribution. He will speak to us on power generation and distribution, voltages, stepdowns, power grids, power grid control, and interesting stuff like that.



The June program will be an ARRL update by Kay Craigie WT3P (who?), Vice Director of the ARRL's Atlantic Division, it says here. She has been Vice Director since 1990, prior to which she served two terms as ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager. In addition to traveling to dozens of hamfests and club meetings each year throughout the five-state Atlantic Division, she has at various times served on the League's Membership Services Committee and ad hoc Spectrum Management Committee and has been liaison to the ARRL Digital Committee and VHF Repeater Advisory Committee. This year, her responsibilities include being on the Administration and Finance Committee and the ad hoc Volunteer Enhancement Committee.

WHAT'S THIS LINKED REPEATER THING, ANYWAY?

By Jeff Chapman WA3RIZ

The link system that our 145.13 repeater is connected to is called the "Pennsylvania Complex Link Group." This system is set up to allow the interconnection of several 2 meter repeaters throughout Pennsylvania. Out-of-state repeaters can also connect into the network. At one time, I understand there was even a wormhole connection into a system in North Carolina. On the Sunday evening net, it's not unusual to hear stations check in from Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York State. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is aware of this resource and has worked it into their operational plans. The National Weather Service has used the system to track storms through the state with an Amateur operator running net control from State College.

This is all made possible by taking advantage of some very well-placed mountain-top UHF repeater systems. These repeaters form a continuously-connected backbone at several key locations around the state. Any traffic heard on one of the backbone repeaters will be heard by all. The backbone repeater systems are interconnected through a combination of UHF, microwave, and some landline connections. The participating 2 meter repeater systems connect into the backbone via a UHF link radio. [continues on page 3]

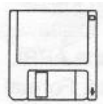
LOST YOUR BUTTONS?

For anyone with normal-sized fingers and the normal human's propensity for occasional attention lapses, the dozens of itty-bitty buttons on today's HF and VHF rigs can be trouble. Of course, if you've never made a major operating boo-boo, you haven't been licensed very long. However, that's no excuse for being an on-the-airhead. Here are a few examples of things not to do.

- + **Transmit with the offset button set wrong.** It's easy for a finger to nick this button accidentally when we press one beside it. We don't want to transmit up 600 when we should be down 600, on simplex when we should be up or down 600, or not on simplex when we think we are. If you aren't being heard, check that offset button.
- + **Transmit on the wrong VFO.** Another "Which way is up?" mistake, this one occurs in working split frequency. It can be not only embarrassing but also illegal. To work DX on 40 phone, for example, we have to use split-frequency operation. Europeans cannot operate at all above 7.100 MHz, while we cannot use phone below 7.150 MHz. The solution is for them to call below 7.100 and listen above 7.150. We listen for them below 7.100 and transmit on their listening freqs in our phone band. This is fine, as long as you don't set up your VFOs backwards or accidentally turn off split operation by pushing the wrong button. If you do, you may violate the FCC's rules and/or be called rude names by rude people.
- + **Transmit with the AF gain or volume switch turned down.** Especially on VHF rigs without an S-meter, this can cause us to step on an ongoing QSO, because we can't hear the people using the frequency. If we are lucky, they will forgive us for stepping on them, when we realize we've goofed and apologize profusely.

The moral is to check the settings on the rig before transmitting and to pay attention what our fat little fingers are doing to all those microscopic buttons.

CALLSIGN DATABASE NOW ON INTERNET



The Federal Communications Commission is now offering the complete Amateur service database on the Internet, via the FCC's file transfer protocol (FTP) site. This new service marks the beginning

of electronic granting of licenses at the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The database will be updated every Monday by noon Eastern time.

As soon as the data for a new license appears in the database, the license is effective and all privileges of that license may be exercised by the licensee. Licensees will no longer need to wait to receive a license document in the mail. They may use the database as proof of licensing and go on the air immediately.

Information may be retrieved using the following procedure:

ACCESS: ANONYMOUS FTP.FCC.GOV
 DIRECTORY: PUB/XFS ALPHATEST/AMATEUR
 DOCUMENTATION: README.TXT

The FCC's Consumer Staff in Gettysburg can answer questions at 800-322-1117 or 717-337-1212. **[W1AW, ARRL Bulletin #40]**

W5YI TO W1AW: PULL THE PLUG ON HF!

Fred Maia W5YI, publisher of the commercial newsletter *THE W5YI REPORT* and manager of the W5YI/VEC, has petitioned the FCC to ban all information bulletins and code practice transmissions below 30 MHz. This would, of course, silence the W1AW bulletins on HF, as well as the daily code practice transmissions.



Claiming that HF bulletin and code practice services have outlived their usefulness, Maia says they make hams mad by interfering with their QSOs and add to a rising tide of anger on the bands. He says code practice is available on computer software and that ham radio information bulletins can be found on various computer on-line services . . . not to mention (and he didn't!) in his commercial newsletter! Hmm. The FCC assigned file number RM-8626 to this petition.



Not coincidentally, Maia's petition would also outlaw controversial HF bulletin operations by a certain ham whom the FCC has cited and fined for broadcasting. However, the FCC has never bothered to collect so much as a penny of this or any other recent monetary forfeiture imposed on

a ham for rules violations. In a recent filing with the FCC on the subject of forfeitures, ARRL issued a blistering protest of the FCC's failure to make violators pay their fines. The FCC's thumb-twiddling makes most hams a lot madder than the occasional QRM any HF op is accustomed to!

Whatever is claimed about bulletins and code practice interfering with QSOs, in your editor's personal opinion the real reason for the petition is that the FCC can't/won't enforce its rules. So out must go the bath water, baby and all. Is silencing ham-band broadcasters worth killing W1AW code practice and factual HF bulletins from W1AW and other responsible operators? Should hams be, in effect, forced to own a computer in order to get ham radio bulletins and take code practice? Normally, ARRL does not file comments on petitions. This one is an exception!

The comment period for this petition ends May 4, so you probably don't have time to express your opinion now. However, if the FCC proceeds to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on this topic, MARC will get that information to you as quickly as possible. *[some info tnx ARRL]*

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Introduction to Radio Frequency Design, by **Wes**

Hayward W7ZOI (1995, ARRL, \$30, diskette included). This book, ARRL's most popular new title, prepares the reader to design HF, VHF, and UHF equipment. The author emphasizes use of models and their application to both linear and nonlinear circuits, discusses oscillator design, applies two-port network methods to the design of amplifiers and oscillators, and covers structured equation sets to aid readers in writing programs for PCS and



hand-held programmable calculators. There's a bibliography, too. And software on the included diskette has programs that will design and analyze all sorts of filters, RF system dynamic range, feedback amplifiers, and phase-locked loops.



FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX



Do we ever actually listen to some of the things we say?

What is the first thing we ask someone who has just been cut, burned, bopped, bean-balled, dog-bit, knocked down, run over, thrown down a flight of stairs, squashed under a falling piano, or had the living spit scared out of him?

"Ooh, are you all right?"

Just peachy, thank you. Now will you call 911 before *I* am *completely* dead?

Spin the VFO . . . It's MARC hamfest time again. I go to a lot of hamfests. They range from small enough to hold inside a phone booth to big enough to need their own area code. I like hamfests, because in this unpredictable world they provide some things a person can depend on.



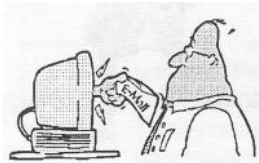
Like hamfest food. A few hamfests have excellent food. Yeah, *really!* Most hamfest snack bars, however, feature grease-dogs, beast-burgers, sausages of dubious ancestry, gummy french fries, watery sodas, and tongue-shriveling liquid purveyed as coffee that would **have** more credibility as flea dip. After nearly a decade working the hamfest circuit, I could digest a handful of machine screws washed down with kerosene.

And hamfest attire. Hams are born in a flannel shirt and baseball cap. Tee-shirts replace the flannel in hot weather, but the caps are permanent. *(We whose hair looks stupid in a baseball cap do not have it easy in ham radio.)*

And hamfest soreheads. It is a mathematical fact that the people who come up to a hamfest booth and argue until your driver's license expires are the same characters who have not owned a toothbrush since Nixon was president. This is why a slang term for long-windedness is "gassing."

So swallow a slug of Maalox, grab your baseball cap, floss those pretty teeth, and come say "hi" at the MARC hamfest! -73 de WT3P

E-MAIL DIRECTORY COMING



Many club members have e-mail addresses. We know who we are, but we may not know who the others are. So we're going to publish an e-mail directory in the next newsletter.

To have your e-mail address included, please send it now to Kay WT3P (wt3p@aol.com). If we already have your e-mail address, just send your permission to publish. We will NOT publish any member's e-mail address without permission!

Eventually, the e-mail directory will be integrated with the membership telephone list published several times a year.

DON'T BE A SCAM VICTIM!

The *INQUIRER* reports that a disabled car scam is operating in the upper Main Line area. Victims are approached by a man in his 20's, who claims to know a family member or to be a workman who has just done a job on a neighbor's property. The man says he needs \$15 to \$30 to have his broken-down car towed to the shop. He may even offer a credit card (possibly stolen) as security. If this happens to you, offer to call 911 for the man, but DO NOT give him any cash. After he leaves, call police.

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PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

MARC members who helped communicate for the Delaware County Special Olympics on May 20 were Janet KA3VTQ, Gene WB3FTJ, Sean N3EOG, Ned WQ3Z, Jerry KA3NKT, Floyd KA3OXA, and Beth KA3GKI.



Memorial Day weekend weather was soggy, but that didn't stop the parades or the hams who communicated for them. At the Radnor parade in Wayne, MARC's volunteers were Floyd KA3OXA, Jerry KA3NKT, Sean N3EOG, Ned WQ3Z, Carter

KD3AO, Bob W3ZQN, Phil N3RBX, Roger N3VBZ, Beth KA3GKI, Bob W3SA, Bill N3QOR, and Bob N3JIZ.

Across town, Bob WA3PZO and Mike WB3JHX were among the hams who helped at the Bustleton-Somerton parade in Philadelphia. 'PZO's face even appeared on the noon news!

Future public service events to put on your calendar are a benefit for Parkinson's Disease on September 9 at Rose Tree Park, and a Thorncroft Equestrian Center event on October 22. More about those in the next issue, but you can call Sean N3EOG (610-449-6447) now if you just can't wait that long. No previous experience is needed to volunteer for public service communications. It is not hard, just important!

VHF AND ABOVE

By Bruce Walker N3JOV

[This is another in our series about how to have fun on the bands above 30 MHz besides FM repeaters and packet. This time, we look at a band that provides exciting DX opportunities . . . 6 meters. Send your VHF news to N3JOV @ WB3JOE. Let's get some chatter going about who's doing what above 30 MHz!]

Six meters is hopping. Really it is. Sporadic E hopping that is. During this part of the sunspot cycle, sporadic E (also called E skip) is our most common method of propagation.



Sporadic E is an ionized cloud located roughly 70 miles above the earth. Most are only a few hundred yards thick. However, they can be many miles wide. They are also very unstable. They rarely last for more than a day and sometimes last for as little as five minutes.

Sporadic E clouds can form anytime, but they are very seasonal with a mild peak in occurrence during the winter months of November through January, plus a major peak during the summer months of June, July, and August. During the peaks, multiple hops are possible, allowing band openings to the west coast, Europe and South America.

Sporadic E is most common during the day and shortly after sunset. Openings rarely happen after midnight. But don't leave if 6 fades out. The cloud may dissipate, and the band may close, but the cloud could also re-form later. So if 6 is open early in the day, don't forget to check it out later, too.

Six meters can be fun, and you don't need a super station to work DX. A modest station with ten watts and a small beam can work lots of DX. For multiple hops, a small amp (100 - 200 watts) will work wonders.



The best way to detect a 6 meter band opening is to monitor the 50.0-50.1 portion of the band for beacons. Many hams all over the world operate propagation beacons for just this reason. Also, when you have short skip on 10 or 15 meters, (200-300 miles) check out 6 meters as well.

During the month of June, I counted 27 days on which 6 was open for some part of the day. And on at least 10 days, it was open to Europe. Ron KE3NU also reported to me that he worked Europe and the Azores during June. Today, July 1, I worked 42 stations in 28 grids, including stations from TI (Costa Rica), KC4 (southern USA), FG (Guadeloupe), V44 (St. Kitts), VE4 (Manitoba, Canada), HI (Dominican Republic), XE (Mexico), YV (Venezuela), and W6 (California), all in one day. Today 6 was hopping . . . like mad.

So is 6 a band worth taking a second look at? Yes!! Yes!! See you on 6.

WHAT ARE PROPAGATION BEACONS?

They are automatically-controlled stations which transmit their callsigns in CW with the designator /B on a fixed frequency at a known power level, some of them 24 hours a day. By rotating your antenna as you tune through the beacon sub-band, and noting which beacons can be heard at your QTH, you can deduce whether the band is open at all, and if so, in which directions propagation seems to be the strongest. By using the beacons, you avoid wasting your time on a dead band and/or an unfavorable path. A list of propagation beacons on 6 meters (and other bands) is printed in the **ARRL OPERATING MANUAL**.

GOOD OPERATING ON 6 METERS

On 6 meters, the FCC's rules specify that only CW may be used from 50.0 to 50.1 MHz. Within that CW-only segment, the propagation beacon sub-band is 50.060 - 50.080 MHz. Operators should avoid transmitting in the beacon sub-band, to allow others to copy the beacons. The beacon sub-band is a matter of custom, not the FCC's rules.

Other 6 meter customs you should know about: The SSB calling frequency on 6 is 50.125 MHz. You make a contact on that frequency, then QSY. The frequencies 50.10 - 50.125 and 51.0 - 51.1 are DX windows. This means that USA and Canadian operators should not call CQ in those segments, but rather leave them free for DX stations to call CQ. Of course you can answer those CQ's . . . but when you finish your QSO with the DX, you QSY.

The whole 6 meter band plan (which is a matter of intense controversy once you get to the repeater segment), is published in the **ARRL REPEATER DIRECTORY**.

SPORADIC WHAT?

Read about E skip and other kinds of VHF propagation, such as tropospheric ducting and aurora, in chapter 12 of the **ARRL OPERATING MANUAL** (5th edition). Also explained are VHF operating customs on 6 and other bands.

VIRUS ALERT!

Check out your computer for these new & identified viruses!

☹ **Paul Revere Virus** - This revolutionary virus doesn't horse around. It warns you of impending attack, once if by LAN, twice if by C.

☹ **Congress Virus** - Computer locks up with screen split vertically. Message appears on each window blaming the other side for the problem.

☹ **AT&T Virus** - Every 3 minutes, it reminds you what great service you are getting.

☹ **MCI Virus** - Every 3 minutes, it reminds you that you're paying too much for the AT&T Virus.

☹ **Airline Virus** - You're in Philadelphia, but your data is in Singapore.

☹ **Government Bureaucrat Virus** - Nothing works, but all the diagnostic software says everything is fine.

[adapted from Ft. Venango Mike & Key Club newsletter, originally from KE6IZU packet bulletin.]



REMARCS



SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER, 1995

MORSE CODE CLASS STARTS SEPTEMBER 6

Morse code instruction for beginners and re-beginners will be held on Wednesday evenings, 8 to 9 PM, starting September 6. There is no charge for the class. The location is the Paoli United Methodist Church, South Valley Road and Devon Road, in Paoli. Students will learn the Morse code characters and pro-signs required for the 5 wpm test, along with CW operating customs and other information they will need to use CW on the air. The principal instructor will be Carter KD3AO, whose main interests in CW operation are rag-chewing and traffic-handling. He will be assisted by Kay WT3P, whose CW operation is mostly DXing and contesting.



MARC members are invited to participate as students and as Elmers. Students should be ready to set aside 15-20 minutes, twice daily, to practice CW. How they practice is up to them. A share-ware computer program will be available free. W1AW code practice schedules will be available. CW practice tapes are also sold by various publishers. If enough students

have multi-mode VHF rigs, we may be able to arrange something on the air.

YOU CAN LEARN THE CODE. This will be the most laid-back, user-friendly, no-pressure opportunity you'll ever have. When the HF bands come back to life, be legal and ready to enjoy using them. If you've let your CW slide but now want to upgrade to General, you can start reviewing now.

First preference will be given to MARC members and their families if the class fills up. Contact Carter at 610-993-9623 for details, and see the map on the outside back cover.

Also needed are Elmers who have a positive attitude about new hams and who genuinely enjoy Morse code. Natural-born know-it-alls, CW-phobes, show-offs, and snobs who look on Technicians as a species of virus should find another place to go on Wednesday nights. Dale Carnegie?

RAIN WALLOPS HAMFEST . . . ON TO PLAN "B"

Remember the movie that came out this summer . . . "Waterworld"? They could have filmed location shots at the MARC hamfest on August 6. Despite pouring rain, over 500 buyers **and** almost 70 tailgaters came to the hamfest. By comparison, we sold 1,256 buyer tickets and 171 tailgate tickets last year. Last year, we netted over \$7,000. This year . . . we didn't. The 1995 net is approximately \$1,700.

First, a huge thank-you to the club members who came out in the rain to work at the event. We also owe a debt of gratitude to all the buyers and sellers who came. Several buyers, who don't even belong to MARC, said they attended because they knew we were in trouble and wanted to support our club. That is class. That is ham radio.

We've had an all-outdoor hamfest in August every year since 1979, and this is the first year the weather killed us. Maybe it was about time for our number to come up, but this is a lottery you'd rather lose. Normally, over 2/3 of club revenue comes from the hamfest and less than 1/3 from dues. This year . . . it won't.

MARC is far from broke. No services will be cut, and at the present time, the Board feels a dues increase is not justifiable.

However, the drastic drop in hamfest revenue is something to be taken seriously. And there's more to the hamfest problem than one year's rain. Nothing we can't solve . . . given your help. Read on, inside this issue of *REMARCS*.

PROGRAMS



The September 21 meeting will be on telephone fraud, featuring Joe Fisher, from Bell Atlantic of PA. One of the company's technical people. Joe is an expert on phone switching, cellular telephone communications, and fraud control. Come and find out how the bad boys get their 'Bells' rung.

On October 19, our very special guest will be Joe Fairclough WB2JKJ, from New York City. A dynamic speaker, Joe has for many years used ham radio in his classroom at Jr. High School 22. His goal is not to produce hams, but rather to use ham radio to motivate young teenagers from the roughest, toughest neighborhoods to aspire to decent, productive lives.



ABOUT MARC

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, Paoli Room. Members may attend as observers.

SYSTEMS

145.13/R. 224.42/R (May be cross-linked)
147.06/R
WB3JOE Packet BBS 145.090

NETS

Club Net, Sundays. 8:30 PM, 145.13
Traffic Net, M/W/F. 8:30 PM, 147.06
All members and friends welcome.

DUES

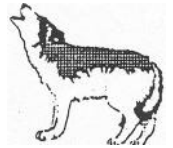
\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)
\$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)
Family rate: \$5 per ham after first member pays full dues.

NEWSLETTER

REMARCS is published in the odd months.
edited by KAY WT3P (610-993-9623,
wt3p@aolcom).

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

*"Say, Zeke, why is your ole dog how'in'?"
"Because he's a-lyin' on a cocklebur."
"Then why don't he git up off the cocklebur?"
"Because he'd a-rather howl."*



There are people who're like Zeke's dog. They enjoy being mad much more than they could possibly enjoy curing the gripe *du jour*. I once said to a particularly persistent sourpuss, "Look, you have to decide whether it's more fun complaining about this problem or fixing it. That's up to you. Let me know when you figure something out." That was several years ago, and I haven't heard back from him. Which was sort of the idea in the first place.

Hmmm. One of the disadvantages of going to college is that it takes you so many words to tell a jerk to shut up. But this way, you do not eat a fist, because you can escape while the guy is still figuring out that you just told him to stuff a sock in his yapper.

You may have noticed that hams seem to have our statistical share of soreheads, airheads, knuckleheads, windbags, wise-offs, horses' behinds, old goats of all ages, and a handful of just plain creeps and weirdos.

However, despite our occasional goofiness and once-in-a-while unpleasantness, hams in general are THE kindest and most generous people in the world. Just look at the attempt to help the ailing Nick UX0ZZ. Please read the story on page 6, and think about making a donation, if you haven't already contributed.

I guess all this is a way of saying that we hams are still in the position of putting our trousers on one leg at a time. See there, I don't need a sociologist to tell ME which way the wind blows! --73 de WT3P

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

On September 9, we will need about 4 or 5 operators for an event at Rose Tree Park in Media. The event benefits Parkinson's Disease. If you can help contact **Sean N3EOG** (610-449-6447) or **Gene WB3FTJ** (610-353-3281).

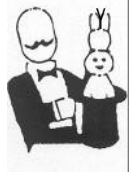
On October 22, we will need operators for an equestrian event at Thorncroft in Malvern. This is an interesting, enjoyable event that benefits riding therapy programs for the handicapped. Contact **Sean N3EOG** (610-449-6447).

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



At their July 27 meeting, the Board discussed Field Day results, the treasury, and hamfest plans. Jeff WA3RIZ outlined possible technical projects, including maintenance and improvement on 147.06/R. Formal proposals will be presented after the hamfest. The Boeing Employees ARS has asked

to use 145.13/R for their weekly club net; the group has no repeater of its own. The overall reaction was positive. However, lacking a quorum and because several points require further conversation with the Boeing club, the Board asked Jeff to continue the discussion. Program plans were reviewed, along with the status of the project to raise money for UX0ZZ'S trip to the USA for medical treatment. Seeking a volunteer to be an ARRL VHF awards manager was approved. The treasury balance was \$7,509.63.



At their August 24 meeting, the Board discussed the treasury, results of the '95 hamfest, plans for future years' shows, and nominations for the '96 Board. Guidelines for use of 145.13/R by the Boeing Employees ARS were approved and will be formally communicated to that group for their consideration. Also approved was an arrangement at the '13 site, whereby a remote input for a privately-operated 440 MHz repeater will share our site in return for our use of the same antenna for repeater control purposes. The idea of a dues increase was discussed: it was agreed that the club has enough money to operate for the year, if expenses are controlled, and that a dues increase for next year is not justifiable based on the information available at this time. The treasury balance was \$11,219.83. Hamfest gross revenue was \$3,965, with a predicted net income of \$1,700.

MARC TO THE RESCUE FOR UKRAINIAN HAM IN A JAM

[The following is based on a press release by Bob WA3PZO and Mike N3IRZ.]

It was in May, 1992, when Mike N3IRZ and Nick Bortnik UX0ZZ first met on the ham bands. "CQ North America, CQ North America. This is Nikolaev, Ukraine, calling and listening."

"UX0ZZ, this is N3IRZ in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. How do you copy?" replied Mike. With that exchange, a unique friendship was born between hams 5,000 miles from each other. During the next several months, Mike and Nick repeatedly and unexpectedly ran into each other while working other Amateurs.

"It was uncanny," Mike says. "Even though there is an 8-hour time difference between us, we kept bumping into each other. Something clicked between Nick and me. We found we have a lot in common, and when conditions permit, we talk for hours." Mike became Nick's QSL manager.



Nick, who is 31 years old, married, and the father of a 1-year-old boy, was stricken in late 1994 with a strange illness. He became unable to work to support his family. Although he went to many different hospitals, doctors in the Ukraine were unable to diagnose his illness.

Mike comments, "You have to remember that Ukraine lacks medical technology. Their hospitals are equivalent to what we had in the USA in the 1930's. CAT scans and MRI machines are nonexistent."

Nick's health declined rapidly. In his weekly sked with Mike, he said he feared for his life. "It began to gnaw at me," says Mike. "I wanted to help him, but I didn't know what I could do." Mike explained to Nick that although funds could be raised for air fare to the USA, it would be very difficult to find an American hospital willing to donate testing and treatment services. However, within a few days, medical and hospitalization assistance were obtained. The source of this assistance must remain confidential.

By mid-summer, Nick was going through the arduous process of obtaining a visa to come to the USA. Congressman Jon Fox's office has helped, but the process is maddeningly slow all the same. Mike went to work raising funds for Nick's air fare. MARC's Board of Directors agreed to donate part of the necessary funds from the club treasury and to serve as the collection point for other donations.

"MARC has been great," Mike says. "You really came through for me, just as I was about to give up. A project like this demonstrates the true spirit of Amateur Radio as a world-wide fraternity. I think it's the greatest hobby in the world."



If you would like to make a donation to assist with Nick's expenses, send your check to MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085. For most efficient processing, write "For Nick" in the lower left corner of your envelope. Checks should be made payable to MARC, with the notation "Attn: Nick" on the comment line. Donations are NOT tax-deductible.

F.A.R. SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, a consortium of more than 75 radio clubs in the greater Washington area, has awarded 55 scholarships for the 1995-96 academic year. FAR administers scholarships for a number of organizational and individual sponsors and funds others from bequests and the proceeds of its hamfest at Gaithersburg, MD.

No student hams from the Delaware Valley won FAR scholarships this year. Announcement of next year's awards competition will appear early next year. Watch for it in REMARCS.

INTERNET CALLBOOK LOOKUP SERVICE

There is an easy way to find out about new license grants and other up-to-the-minute callbook information. Two hams from Arkansas have created a nice front end to the FCC database. It's part of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Internet service. I tried the WWW page and found it fast and easy to use. It's said the TELNET route is even faster. Give these a try and see what you think. [info tnx Glenn O'Donnell N3BDA, Carbon ARC]

TELNET: telnet callsign.ualr.edu 2000

WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.ualr.edu/doc/hamualr/callsign.html>

THE DX DEN

Have you heard of the DXCC Honor Roll? Phil NC3C is just 4 countries away from this prestigious DXing status.

To be on the Honor Roll, you must have a confirmed total among the top 10 of currently-listed countries. For example, if there were 330 current countries, you would need to confirm at least 321 of them. To qualify for #1 Honor Roll, you must have confirmed all countries on the current list. Deleted countries, such as East Germany, don't count towards Honor Roll.

So, you might think, those top guns could meet on a SEPTA bus and have room for a dance floor. Wrong! As of this summer, 49% (or 3,867 people) of the 7,840 active DXCC participants are on the Honor Roll! And 18% (or 1,375) of participants hold #1 Honor Roll status! Good luck, Phil! We're sure you'll make it.

While we're dishing out statistics, the Third Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau, based out in Cumberland County, PA, handled nearly 3 million cards for about 14,000 users in 1994.

That's a total volunteer effort, you know, with no paid staff from ARRL.



The bureau manager says he puts in 3-4 hours a day at the busiest times, and maybe 2-3 hours a week at the slack times. Why does he do it? "I've been licensed 31 years and want to make a contribution back to Amateur Radio." If you use the bureau, cooperation and also the occasional "thank you" would certainly be in order for people who help make confirming DX more fun for us.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX



WT3P's Rule #1 : *Never antagonize a crazy person.* The way the world is these days, the minute you perceive a whiff of bad karma, it pays to step quietly to the exit and get the heck out of Dodge..

Consider, for instance, the genius who phoned the Pack Rats hamfest chairman about their October hamfest. The Rats, you know, also hold their show at the Route 611 Drive-in. "And when does your club have their SUMMER hamfest at the drive-in?" this guy wanted to know.

"Oh, that's another club's hamfest," explained the Rat, "not ours."

"No!" barked Mister Know-it-All. "You're WRONG! Your club DOES have a hamfest in the summer. Tell me when it is!" Wisely, the Rat down-shifted, told him when the MARC hamfest was scheduled, and got off the phone real fast. This guy had too many loose bricks in his chimney.

Which brings me (if *no one* else) to WT3P's Law of the Conservation of Ignorance: *If you don't know something, you can't find out anything else.*

You have to start learning somewhere, and most of us started at zero. Maybe there are no dumb questions....

Baloney. There ARE some dumb questions. You can spot the guy who's going to ask a truly stupid question. He's the one who's convinced he already has all the answers!

MARC should always be a club where we are neither too afraid to ask an honest question nor too stuck-up to answer one. On the whole, I think we are that kind of club. "Atty-tood" just is not our style, which is why the occasional example of it sticks out like a sore head, er, I mean "thumb."

I hope your family enjoys the holiday season. Please pause a minute, as we will here at Malfunction Junction, to be thankful for the privilege of being hams ... and may the only turkey in your life be the one on the dinner table!

-- 73 de WT3P

BOEING EMPLOYEES CLUB HOLDS NET ON '13

MARC has given permission to the Boeing Employees ARS (BEARS/3) to hold their weekly net on our 145.13 repeater, on Wednesdays at 8 PM. BEARS/3 has no repeater of their own. Provisos have been written into the agreement, signed by officials of both clubs, to make sure '13 is available for the MARC traffic net at 8:30 PM, if 147.06 should be out of service. The agreement is for 6 months, after which it will be reviewed by both clubs. Either club can end the agreement at any time, if things don't work out.



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At their September meeting, the Board heard a progress report from the Nominating Committee.

Expense reimbursement was authorized for an official representative to an eastern PA packet sysops conference. Complex repeater link codes will be distributed to all licensed members. The agreement with the Boeing Employees club is in effect. Bruce N3JOV was nominated as our VHF awards manager. The newsletter editor was authorized to seek sponsors for each issue of REMARCS, to defray printing expenses. A new hamfest chairman will be needed. The Board officially thanked Carole KA3UUQ for working with the treasurer to review our financial records. The treasury balance was \$9,903.71.

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MORSE CODE CLASS



The CW class got underway with a good-sized group of students for instructor Carter KD3AO. The students are Bob N3JIZ, Bill N3WBG, Jon N3VBZ and his dad Steve N1HDP, Christopher N3VXB, Dan KA3KHR, Sean N3EOG, Jim KD3NI and YF Libba, and Libby Bruno, YF of Bill WB3IZX.

Members who've been coming along to help include Bill, plus Bob W3SA and Kay WT3P. We began by introducing the characters, several each week. SuperMorse was given to those who wanted it, and the W1AW schedule was distributed. A code oscillator was also available to borrow.

MORE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At their October meeting, the Board decided to follow past practice and change the date of the November meeting because it would normally fall on Thanksgiving. The November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 30. Reports were received from committee chairmen, including the Nominating Committee. A subcommittee plans to visit a possible new hamfest site. The treasury balance was \$9,841.79.