



MARC'S ANNUAL HAMFEST JULY 14 KIMBERTON, PA

The club's annual hamfest will be held at the Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds on Sunday, July 14. **Rick N3AGS** reports many vendors have already bought tables. Every MARC member is needed to make the event a success.

Set-up is on Saturday, starting at 1 PM. Wear work clothes. We need lots of people on Sunday to sell tickets and direct traffic, from 5 AM until about mid-day. Of course you don't have to work that whole time! We need more people early in the morning, because that's when the rush is. Last year, we were short of volunteers for tickets & traffic. Can you help for a couple of hours? Later, we'll need help with clean-up and trash removal. To find out about tasks you could do, contact **Mike KF3CD** (mpilotti@anro.com, 610-935-4429).

Ours is the ONLY hamfest in the western suburbs of Philadelphia. Talk it up with your friends on the air, and encourage your other ham and high-tech hobby clubs to buy a table and promote their activities.

SELL YOUR STUFF AT THE MEMBERS' SALES TABLE

Bring your surplus ham and high-tech gear to be sold at the members' table. You choose whether to keep the money or donate some / all of it to the club. **Gene N3HG** and **Judy N3MBW** do a great job selling the stuff and keeping track of the money. This way, you can volunteer to work at the hamfest, have time to shop, and still get your stuff sold. You can bring the stuff to set-up on Saturday, if you like.

WHY DO WE HAVE A HAMFEST, ANYHOW?

Putting on a hamfest requires a lot of work from a lot of people over many months. Once in a while a member says, "The hamfest is too much work, so much bother. We should drop it." Well, why DO we have a hamfest?

The numbers tell the story. MARC receives about \$2,000 a year in dues income. We take in a few hundred more from sources such as the auction, bank account interest, and donations. Without a hamfest, approximately \$2,300 is what we would have available to operate the club.

By the end of May, 2002, much of our dues income for the year was spent. Some of it paid for regular expenses such as our Internet service provider, the equipment storage locker, **RE-**

Field Day 2002 was great! Dieter WB3JWU and Susan K3SUE led an outstanding event. Read the details in the next issue of REMARCS.

MARCS, and the repeater telephone control lines. Some of it went for one-time expenses such as new Field Day equipment.

Without the hamfest, the



JULY / AUGUST 2002



REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

NOMINATIONS CALLED FOR 2002 / 2003 BOARD ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for the MARC board of directors election, which will take place at the September club meeting. The new board will take office October 1.

Board members carry out their specific duties and attend meetings of the board. All offices have one-year terms, except for Member-at-Large, which is a two-year term. Any licensed member of the club may run for any elective position (callsign trustee positions are not elective). It does not matter how long you have been a ham, what your license class is, or how long you have been a member. Current board members are listed on page 3.

The Programs position has been vacant for two years! Is there no one in the club who will accept this responsibility? How long do the other board members have to go on doing both their own jobs and this one, too? It really is not fair, you know.

To find out more about the responsibilities of any position or to suggest a candidate for an office, please contact either **Al N3EA** (amaslin@earthlink.net, 610-446-4936) or **Kay WT3P** (wt3p@arri.net, 610-993-9623), who are this year's nominating committee. Nominations close on August 20, the club meeting date.

Effective in January, 2003, CTCSS (a.k.a. "PL") will be put on the 147.06 repeater, to conform with guidelines of the regional repeater coordinators. Users of '06 who don't have CTCSS-capable rigs should contact Dennis K3DS for help. Stand by for more information in later newsletters.

board couldn't have authorized the one-time expenses and would have to slash the regular expenses, too. Maybe no Web page, no way to distribute the newsletter electronically. Maybe no newsletter. Maybe no Field Day, if we couldn't afford the liability insurance.

Nobody within a \$50 cab ride of his right mind would tolerate a dues increase big enough to compensate for the absence of hamfest income. Consequently, you would be paying the same amount of dues but getting much less.

Because of the hamfest, we ended the month of May with about \$10,000 in the bank. Most of that is the product of past hamfests. With such a cushion, MARC can continue to be the club you know, even if we have unpredicted expenses . . . such as the Field Day antenna rotator that had to be replaced this year because it was stone cold dead. "Stuff happens," as they say. Thanks to the hamfest, we can deal with it.

This is why we have a hamfest. This is why each of us should support it every way we can. See you there!

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesdays, 8 PM, Radnor Township Building, St. Davids. 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 CTCSS 131.8 Hz

Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-313-8080, smaslin@marc-radio.org)

NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM 147.06

Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM 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

Please welcome new members **David KI6OM**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Steve KD3WK**, and **Leland KB3HWY**. **Owen N3WO** (read it backwards!) ex-**KB3GVY** upgraded to Extra and has been accepted into National Junior Honor Society. **Kurt KB3EJS** upgraded to Tech+HF. **Dave K3IX** (ex-**KB3HFO**) upgraded to Extra and got a new callsign. MARC members seen at Dayton: **Dick K3ITH**, **Gene N3HG**, **Jim W3BG**, **Judy N3MBW**, **Josy WQ3E**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, **Carl WA3ZZU**, **Carter N3AO**, **Kay WT3P**. **Dieter WB3JWU** qualified for all-CW DXCC on 10 and 20 meters. **Kay WT3P** will be the banquet speaker at the Young Ladies' Radio League (YLRL) convention in Ohio. The homebrewer group continues and welcomes new people – contact **Jack KB3GDC** (jfk402@snip.net). Ask **Dave W3LAW** about the atrocious local hooch he had to drink on a visit to a foreign land some years ago. **Gene N3HG** and **Judy N3MBW** enjoyed a post-Dayton trip to Nashville. Most any day now, **Steve N3ORH** will join the exalted rank of guys called "Daddy." MARC thanks our good neighbors, the **Marple Newtown ARC**, for the fine story in their June newsletter promoting our hamfest.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

MARC members and friends who communicated for the Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade on May 27 were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Steve KD0VA**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Leland KB3HWY**, **Jeff WA3RIZ**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Floyd KA3OXA**, **Beth KA3GKI**, and **Bob W3SA**. **Carter N3AO** was our mobile unit in the parade.

On June 8, MARC volunteers communicated for the Tel Hai Retirement Community Fun Run / Walk in Honey Brook. Our communicators were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Roger N3VBZ**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Carter N3AO**, and **Leland KB3HWY**.

Do you know about events that could benefit from ham radio communications? Contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587, rjpelectric@worldlynx.net). For info on the MS 150 City to Shore Bike Tour communications, Sept. 28-29, go to Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club's site at www.phil-mont.org. This is not a MARC event but rather a regional one.

LICENSE TEST SESSION REPORT

Bob WZQN, captain of our Volunteer Examiner team, reports that 4 candidates were served at the May 4 exam session in Bryn Mawr. In addition to Bob, the examiners for this session were **Bob W3SA**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Susan K3SUE**, **Paul NX3Q**, and **Dennis K3DS**.

One candidate upgraded to Technician with HF privileges, one upgraded to General, and another upgraded to Extra. The fourth person passed a test element but did not upgrade. Two test elements were taken unsuccessfully.

The next MARC test session will be on Saturday, August 3, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive by 9:15 AM to do the paperwork.

Pre-registration is strongly advised, because the session is cancelled if there are no pre-registered applicants. Contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com) for details and pre-registration.

The new Extra question pool goes into effect July 1. Make sure you are studying the right stuff, not an out-of-date book .

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MARC NETS

MARC sponsors 4 nets each week on the 147.06 repeater. If that machine is off the air or not operating properly, the nets are held on the 145.13 repeater. Hams are welcome to check in to the nets whether or not they are MARC members. The MARC nets are directed nets, which means that participants should not transmit except when called upon by the Net Control Station. Listen to a net one evening, and you'll quickly catch on to how it works.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 PM, we have traffic nets. "Traffic" in ham radio lingo means formal messages, not jams on the Blue Route. On these nets, you can learn how to send and receive formal message traffic, a very important skill in emergency communications. When there are no messages to relay, we enjoy making friendly comments. The Net Control Stations are **Bart K4BF** or **Bob W3ZQN** on Mondays, **Bob WR3K** on Wednesdays, and **Carter N3AO** on Fridays. **Bob WR3K** is new to the mid-week slot and off to a fine start. **Hugh Toole N3HT** recently retired as Wednesday Net Control after many years of service.

On Sunday at 8:30 PM, we have the MARC Club Net. Although emergency or priority traffic will be handled, the net's main purpose is good fellowship among members and friends of the club. The Net Control Stations are **Carter N3AO** (1st Sunday), **Bob W3ZQN** (2nd Sunday), **Bob WR3K** (3rd Sunday), and **Bart K4BF** (4th and 5th Sundays).

Net Manager **Carter N3AO** (610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net) will be happy to answer your questions about net procedure. We can always use more volunteers to serve as backup Net Controls, because sometimes NCS's catch laryngitis, go out of town, etc. Interested in giving it a try? Talk to Carter.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Kids today behave like a wild hog in a hailstorm, while we older folk were raised to be polite and considerate of others? Go try that story on somebody else! I'm the one who had to glare at and finally "shush!" two elderly couples in the movie theater the other night for repeatedly talking out loud during the movie. I'm the one who was making a speech when an adult in the audience began a loud conversation on his wireless phone. And don't get me started about the adults who waddle onto airplanes wearing huge backpacks that stick out several feet behind. If you're seated on the aisle when one of these clowns turns this way and that looking for his seat assignment, you're going to Cleveland with two black eyes.

Some kids do need a kick in the pants, but some adults need one, too.

One of ARRL's unscientific Web page polls last spring asked if people were going to the Dayton Hamvention®. I wasn't surprised to read that most respondents checked the "No" option, but I was amazed that a bunch of them checked, "What's the Dayton Hamvention®?"

That seemed like a physics major looking at a picture of Einstein and saying, "Who's the geezer with the hair?"

But of course some people are new to the hobby or haven't been very active, and so it's wrong to assume that everybody knows about Dayton. Dayton isn't a hamfest. Dayton is THE hamfest. You should go there once in your ham radio life. Maybe you won't need to go again, but you ought to go once. Vendors, equipment manufacturers, organizations, celebrities and experts (real and wanna-be and think-they-are), forums on all sorts of topics, a huge flea market full of every kind of stuff . . . it's all there.

It's also a mistake to assume that everybody knows why MARC has a hamfest. That's why I wrote the story in this issue to explain things. We don't do it because we're gluttons for punishment (*though that certainly may be a factor*), but rather to maintain MARC as we know it.

Talk it up. Bring your friends. Bring your enemies. Bring people you don't even know. It ain't Dayton, but it's a lot of fun. – 73, Kay WT3P

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the May 23 meeting, the board authorized spending up to \$200 to complete the hamfest direction signs project. The '06 repeater was useless owing to failure of the power amplifier (*since then repaired*). The antenna for '13 needs to be replaced. Because the linking of '06 and '13 should be functional later in the summer, the board must set policies for use of the link capabilities. No decision was made at this meeting. Public service events were reviewed. A nominating committee was appointed. A Field Day report was received. The 222 MHz repeater is still not operating properly and starting a 440 MHz repeater is still on the back burner. The treasury balance was \$10,476.11.

At the June 27 meeting, the board heard reports on Field Day, the hamfest, public service events, and future programs. Linking of '06 and '13 has hit a snag because one of the link receivers appears to be dead. It was voted to conform to ARCC repeater coordinator policy by implementing CTCSS on '06, to begin in January, 2003. Verizon has been thanked for use of the field for Field Day. This was our 20th year at the Audubon site. Good PR coverage for Field Day was noted. The treasury balance was \$9,443.34.

The board unanimously adopted a resolution of thanks to Dieter WB3JWU and Susan K3SUE for an outstanding job in putting on this year's Field Day for the club.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2002

PRESIDENT

Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-313-8080
smaslin@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 WT3P 610-993-9623
wt3p@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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2002: Al Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net
To 9/30/2003: Gene Hoenig N3HG
610-353-3281, ehoenig@pol.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

JULY & AUGUST MEETING PROGRAMS

The July program will be a show & tell about ham radio operating awards. You're invited to bring in a few of your favorite ham radio operating award certificates or plaques and tell us about the fun you had chasing and ultimately earning them. They could be big-deal awards like DXCC or lesser-known ones that others would enjoy knowing about.

The August 20 program will be on APRS (automatic position reporting system), which uses the unconnected packet radio mode to show the position of moving or stationary objects on maps displayed on a computer monitor. Virtually all APRS activity occurs on VHF, particularly 144.39 MHz. Our speaker will be Mark Humphrey K3XY.

Program suggestions are welcome from all club members. Could you present a program on a ham radio or other high tech / communications topic? Have you heard an interesting speaker at another radio club's meetings? Contact any member of the MARC board to pass along your ideas for interesting meeting programs.

WHAT GOT ME INTERESTED IN HAM RADIO

By Jenny Craigie KA3WVD

Nagging. That's what got me. "So... when are *you* going to get *your* license?" When you've got two parents that are so darn involved, what's a kid supposed to do? At every MARC meeting or Hamfest I attended, there was always the impending question of 'when?' Keep in mind that I was just 11 when I finally gave in and got my Novice. (My mom wanted me to get it before 'no-code' came to pass so I wouldn't get knocked by the old-timer backlash.) But it really started much earlier than that.

I grew up in a household of dits and dahs. It really just became background noise – like people who live so close to the fire station that they no longer hear the sirens. I remember my dad sitting in the den, where the cat had peed on the radiator, next to the open window in the dead of summer constantly scribbling down letters and tapping at his keyer. The walls were covered with QSL cards from far off lands and maps that had strange lines and letters on them for checking out station's prefixes. I enjoyed going with my mom to the Franklin Institute when she

was volunteering up at the radio station that made contacts with the spaceships and hearing about the craziness that happened at the reenactments at Gettysburg when she was providing communications. It all seemed like so much fun.

I'm not quite sure how old I was when my parents held the code class in our living room. **Carole Smith KA3UUQ** and **Janet Vann KA3VTQ** were in that class and were obviously frustrated that a little snit like me was picking up the code so easily. It wasn't long before I took my test and passed, on the first try! Then new questions started. So...when are you going to *upgrade*? Sheesh! Haven't I don't enough for you people!?! I'm 23 now and have yet to upgrade, but I really enjoyed working public service events during high school and may get back into radio once I'm finished graduate school. I guess we'll have to wait and see how high the pressure has to build before I give in again to the hobby that we all enjoy.

CLUB MEMBER CLOSE TO ALL-MOBILE 5BWAS

According to his posts on QRZ.com, **Tim N8LXR** is close to becoming one of the first hams to achieve the ARRL's 5-Band Worked All States award using only QSO's made while mobile.

As of late May, Tim needed to log only 4 states on 80 meters to finish working 5BWAS, "using a Yaesu FT 100D and a High Sierra HS 1500 Screwdriver, all Qs at 100 Watts output using CW, all made not more than 50 miles apart, as per WAS rules." He added that his QSL rate is very high, possibly because he explains to people what he's trying to accomplish.

The award rules specify that valid contacts for 5-Band WAS must have been made since January 1, 1970, and that (like the

regular Worked All States award) they must have been made from the same location or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Changes of personal callsign don't affect the validity of WAS / 5BWAS contacts.

Tim's project shows how someone can make an award the inspiration for self-challenge. ARRL doesn't offer an endorsement for mobile WAS or 5BWAS. Tim decided to set that goal for himself, and we wish him success.

Do you hold the 5-Band WAS award? Are you working on it? Send us your story for a future newsletter, and bring your plaque to the July show & tell meeting.

If you hold ARRL's VHF-UHF Century Club award (VUCC) and might be interested in being a VUCC card-checker, please contact Kay WT3P.

FIRST "PA 67" AWARD TO DX!

The first "Pennsylvania 67" award issued to a station outside the USA has been earned by **June Sim VK4SJ**, a YL from Queensland, Australia.

June is a DXer and county hunter. Her Chester County confirmation was from **Carter N3AO** for a QSO in 1999.

This award, sponsored by MARC, recognizes confirmed contacts with all 67 counties of Pennsylvania. For award rules and information, contact **Kay WT3P**, the award manager.

AREA HAMFESTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Additional hamfest information is available on ARRL's web site www.arrl.org/hamfests.html

- July 4 Bressler, PA - Harrisburg RAC - <http://hrac.tripod.com/July4.htm>
- July 7 Wilkes-Barre, PA - Murgas ARC - www.qsl.net/k3yt1
- July 14 Kimberton, PA - MID-ATLANTIC ARC - www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html
- July 20 Beach Haven, PA - Jonestown Mtn Repeater Assn - www.weluvntservers.com/jmra
- July 28 Timonium, MD - BRATS - www.bratsatv.org
- Aug 11 Bayville, NJ - Jersey Shore ARS - www.jsars.org
- Aug 11 Matamoras, PA - Tri-State ARA - <http://tsara.net>
- Aug 18 Mullica Hill, NJ - Gloucester Co. ARC - www.gcarc-w2mmd.org

K3DS: DIGITAL VOICE COMING TO HAM RADIO

Dennis K3DS, who has the credentials to know what he's talking about, predicts that in 5 years, digital voice will be a reality on the ham bands. For background, see articles in the January and February QST by **Doug Smith KF6DX**. More about experimentation with digital voice is on Tucson Amateur Packet Radio's home page (www.tapr.org). Click on "New HF Digital Voice Web Page." From there, you can link to **Charles Brain G4GUO's** page, where there are some .wav files of actual digital voice transmissions on the ham bands.

Back in the 1980's, a speaker at one of our club meetings stated that digital would never challenge analog for music recordings, because adequate sampling rates were unachievable. Oops. Dennis, on the other hand, has a good track record. He told us about PSK31 long before it became popular and predicted it would be the next hot topic. We hope Dennis can give us a club meeting program later this year about digital voice in ham radio.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL ARES/RACES ORGANIZATION

CHESTER COUNTY

WEB: <http://www.inthedark.com/rak/ares.html>
 NET: Thursdays, 7:30 PM, 146.94/R and 446.525/R
 CONTACT: Joe Vilardo K3JV (k3jv@arrl.net),
 Lloyd Roach W3QT (w3qt@arrl.net)

DELAWARE COUNTY

WEB: <http://www.delcoares.org/>
 NET: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, 147.195/R
 CONTACT: Dan Amoroso W3DI (nm3s@prodigy.net)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

WEB: <http://www.montcopa.org/EOC/OEP/races.htm>
 NET: Thursdays, 7 PM, 146.835/R and 449.125/R (88.5 Hz CTCS)
 CONTACT: Bob Lees W3ZQN (rjlees@aol.com)

Do you think your Amateur license is enough to make you useful when the egg hits the fan?

It isn't. You need to be an active member of your county's ARES/RACES emergency communications group. This is where you get the training to be an asset during an emergency. Ask anyone in MARC who has been involved in major drills and real disasters . . . it takes more than a pulse and knowing how to operate the push-to-talk.

If you don't live in one of the 3 counties listed in the box, contact your ARRL Section Manager (see page 12 of any QST for contact information). He or she can put you in touch with the ham radio emergency officials where you live.

HAM ANTENNA LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A bill introduced in Congress May 14 could provide relief to Amateurs prevented by private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) from installing outdoor antennas. **Rep. Steve Israel** (D-NY) introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act." The measure – H.R. 4720 – would require private land-use regulators to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1, which now applies only to states and municipalities. **Rep. Greg Walden WB7OCE** (R-OR) – the only Amateur Radio operator in Congress – and **Rep. Pete Sessions** (R-TX) have signed on as original cosponsors.

cials met with Israel, Walden, Sessions and others on Capitol Hill earlier this year to discuss the prospect of such a bill. With the proposal now in the legislative hopper, Haynie says the "really hard work" is up to the Amateur community, League members or not. "It becomes important for all of us to write your congressman, call your congressman and voice your support," Haynie said. "This will have to be a grassroots effort, and we're going to pull out all the stops."

Israel, whose father is **Howard K2JCC**, said in a statement read into the *Congressional Record* that his bill would subject private land-use regulations to the provisions of the FCC's PRB-1 preemp-

Congress and signed by the president, would give Amateurs living under CC&Rs an opportunity for reasonable accommodation they don't have now, without getting involved in litigation.

In his statement, Israel called CC&Rs "a growing challenge" to Amateur Radio's ability to provide public service communication. Good faith negotiations, he said, "ensure that an Amateur Radio operator's technical needs are met, while preserving the aesthetics and interests of a neighborhood." In urging his colleagues to support the legislation, Israel said the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act "will help to protect the vital function of Amateur Radio as an emergency communications and public safety resource."

The measure contains just one sentence: "For purposes of the Federal Communications Commission's regulation relating to station antenna

structures in the Amateur Radio Service (47 CFR 97.15), any private land use rules applicable to such structures shall be treated as a state or local regulation and shall be subject to the same requirements and limitations as a state or local regulation." H.R. 4720 was expected to be assigned to the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

After the ARRL ran into a brick wall trying to convince the FCC to include CC&Rs under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1, the League's Board of Directors agreed to pursue a congressional remedy. ARRL President **Jim Haynie W5JBP** and other League offi-

Read the latest news about ham radio, updated daily, on ARRL's web page at www.arrl.org. League members who register and log in can also read feature stories that won't be published anywhere else.

tion policy. "Under current law, the FCC does not apply this policy consistently," Israel said, noting that PRB-1 now applies only to state and local zoning and land-use regulation of ham radio antennas. "My bill addresses this issue and provides Amateur Radio licensees with the ability to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with homeowners' associations, just as they do now with public land-use regulators."

Haynie said the measure "doesn't mean you can put up whatever you want to put up, but at least it brings the people to the table so you can negotiate something." He said the important thing to point out is that the bill, if passed by both houses of

The ARRL encourages members of the Amateur community to contact their congressional representatives and urge them to sign on as co-sponsors and to support the H.R. 4720. Visit the US House of Representatives "Write Your Representative Service" Web page for information on how to contact your representative. A sample letter can be found on the *ARRLWeb*. The League requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress – whether or not they are supporting this legislation – to copy ARRL on their correspondence – via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, H.R. 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence. [tnx *ARRLWeb*]

HOW SECURE ARE YOU ON-LINE?

By Kay Craigie WT3P

I am not one of those people who frets about conspiracies of governmental and/or free-lance nasties lurking under every rock by the side of the road. On the other hand, I truly could see around corners if I had to walk somewhere at night when I lived as a single woman in the city. Each of us has to decide a personal boundary line between what is paranoia and what is a realistic assessment of danger.

It's that way on the Internet, too. I always assumed I didn't need to run a firewall program in addition to my anti-virus software. Because I use a dial-up Internet connection instead of a cable modem or DSL connection, and because I disabled file-sharing on my computer, I didn't think I was a sitting duck for snoopers on the Internet who steal information or pry into what's none of their business.

However, a couple of knowledgeable friends said that even Internet users like me should use a firewall. They recommended a free program I could download. With some skepticism, I installed

the software on my computer.

Wow. I am amazed how often somebody pings my computer while I'm on-line. Or a program which has no reason to access the Internet tries to connect to somewhere to do I know not what. Not a sitting duck? Quack, quack, I was wrong!

Convinced, I downloaded and installed the not-free upgrade version of the program, which allows (among other things) identifying where in the world the attempted intrusions come from.

The same friends mentioned another kind of intrusion called "spyware." These are bits of code deposited on your computer while you're on-line, which report information to somebody without your being aware of it. Some of them are clandestine marketing research, reporting which Web sites you visit and which ads you click, while others may be distinctly more objectionable than that.

Even if you never visit a Web site that

you wouldn't show to your mother, you may resent anonymous people making your computer do things you never consented to.

There are free programs you can download to identify and eliminate spyware. The program I installed found 15 items on my computer. An equal number turned up on **Carter N3AO's** machine. Ouch.

I'd be happy to tell you which programs I am using. Just drop me an e-mail. Also, be sure to download and install the latest security patches for your Web browser and e-mail program. Check your software provider's Web page for information. Bad guys and nut cases are always looking for loopholes to exploit.

I still do not worry about black helicopters, and I don't see dead people. On the other hand, I won't be on-line any more without software that helps me keep other people's noses out of my business.

BORROWING EQUIPMENT OWNED BY MARC

The following guidelines have been adopted by the club's board of directors.

Statement of Purpose:

MARC may permit members to borrow certain club-owned ham radio equipment for brief periods of time, for such purposes as helping new licensees get on the air and the presentation of ham radio demonstrations to the public. The club president has the authority to decide whether or not equipment will be loaned to any particular member. Borrowing equipment is a privilege, not a right. The following procedures are intended to protect the club's property and the members who borrow it.

1. MARC equipment may be borrowed only by club members in good standing. Equipment will be kept in the member's possession and is not to be loaned to others.

2. The person in charge of loaning the equipment will confirm with the club president that the member has permission to borrow the equipment.

3. Equipment will be signed out when borrowed and signed in when returned. Any problems with the equipment will be noted in writing when the equipment is returned, so the problems can be attended to.

4. Equipment may be borrowed for 1 month. If the equipment is needed for more than 1 month, the member may request another month from the club president. The president will inform the person in charge of loaning the equipment, if an extension is allowed.

5. Equipment will be returned promptly when it is due. Damage or loss of the equipment must be reported immediately to the club president.

HF transceivers:

6. HF transceivers will be loaned only to members who have license privileges permitting them to operate on HF.

Equipment in the club storage locker:

7. The key to the storage locker will not be loaned to anyone without the permission of the club president.

8. Members who are permitted to borrow items from the storage locker will go to the locker with the president or his designate and sign in / sign out equipment in that person's presence. No one is to remove equipment from the locker for his or her personal use, without going through the proper procedure and without another person present to verify what is borrowed.

New to hamfesting? Check out
<http://home.earthlink.net/~wt3p/fest2.html>

CALLSIGN CAPERS

By Kay Craigie WT3P

Suffix-diving is nowhere near the fun it used to be. Back when callbooks were on paper, instead of on-line or on disk, those of us with too much time on our hands could settle into an easy chair and wander through the flimsy pages of mouse print looking for callsign suffixes that were also words . . . some of which were a powerful motivation to upgrade.

In those days, not so long ago, you were stuck with whatever the FCC's computer spit out for you, or spit out on you. To get away from a positively dreadful or simply ridiculous callsign, you had to upgrade or move to another call area and then request another sequential callsign. You couldn't pay your money and take your choice, as we can today with vanity callsigns. This meant that a lot of people were walking around with callsigns that reminded the rest of us how lucky we were.

There were a few unpublicized cases where the FCC granted someone a replacement sequential callsign for one that was indisputably objectionable. Most suffixes that sound like dirty words are suppressed by the FCC's computer program, but the system isn't perfect. A YL, for example, was issued another 2x2 callsign to replace one whose suffix was the abbreviation for an obscene phrase. Anything short of that horror, and you were stuck. With DIP. Or DUM. Not a pretty thought, is it?

Today, many people have replaced annoying or embarrassing callsigns with ones of their own choosing. Nicer for them, less fun for me.

Also, now I have to scroll through the callsigns on the computer screen instead of perusing the paper pages. It's not as easy on the eyes as you might suppose, and it's less entertaining.

Nevertheless, take a trip with me now through the land of silly suffixes, every one of them real . . . or surreal as the case may be. As far as I can tell, they're all from sequential callsigns, just somebody's luck!

ARRL members: More suffix word-play fun is in the June 12 feature "A Hobby Within A Hobby." Find it in the yellow sidebar titled "Current Feature Stories" at www.arrl.org.

If you like animals, you could be DOG, RAM, BAT, EWE, COW, CAT, PUP (watch out for the DOO and the WEE and the POO!), CUB, CUR, EGL (or

since this is Philadelphia, IGL). You could be either PAW or MAW. LAD is one, but LAS isn't. If you're not careful, you could GAG, OOO, JAM, OWE, DIG, FUS, LUG, or RUN. You could get a JOB, fall in a BOG, play the SAX, be hit by the MOB, wind up as a BUM, eat a bad EGG, get lost in a FOG, spill a bottle of GLU, chew your CUD, fall in the MUD, stick yourself with a PIN, be taken ILL, talk like Elmer FUD, catch the FLU, be caught smoking POT, take a punch in the YAP, rip your BVD, find a hole in your SOX, lose your PEP, get plastered on RUM, and run out of INK. Then who would blame you for saying EEK, GAD, ZOT, UGH, DUH . . . there's a GOB on your MUG and you don't have a RAG, and you can't find the LOO. This is all just too ODD, take a BOW, make a PUN, be a PIP, flip your WIG, dodge the GOO . . . but whatever you do, remember to LAF.

Do this riff often enough, and people will accuse you of channeling Dr. Seuss. Hey, this is a hobby. It's s'posed to be fun.

THE NAME GAME, AGAIN

When **Jenny KA3WVD** was a little kid, she came to the conclusion that all hams are named "Bob." In MARC, that has never been a hypothesis you could dismiss out of hand. Every so often, we check the membership database to see if "Bob" and its relatives are still leading the race for most common man's first name. The chart shows how it shapes up now:

We can all relax, having seen once again that there is something you can depend on besides death, taxes, and being put on hold when you call customer service.

Bob (Robert, Rob)	13
David, Dave	9
Bill (William)	8
Steve (Steven, Stephen)	7

Hams really are named "Bob"!

HAM FUN ON THE WEB

- "Homebrew antenna shootout" - <http://www.turnpoint.net/wireless/has.html> (tnx **Tom N3JMA**)
- RF safety calculator - <http://n5xu.ae.utexas.edu/rfsafety/>
- New DigiPan home page - <http://www.digipan.net/>
- Vanity callsign info - <http://www.vanityhq.com/>
- All about contesting - <http://www.contesting.com/>
- CQ Magazine - <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>
- ARRL Eastern PA - <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=EPA>

W3AA WILL SIGN OFF LATER THIS YEAR

A printed statement issued by the **Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club** on May 15, 2002, begins as follows:

The [Franklin Institute Science] Museum has informed us that the long-anticipated demolition of the fourth floor will begin in January. The entire floor will be converted to offices. A space for our exhibit will not be available until the lower floors are renovated in 2005. With regret, the Board of Directors must announce the end of an era. We have been exhibitors at the Institute for over 51 years.

Our association with the Franklin Institute began in 1945 when **Dr. Wynn Laurence LePage W3QCV** was vice president of the Institute. From humble beginnings of a transmitter and receiver on a card table to our present \$50,000 overhaul of the station in 1991, we have entertained and educated visitors with the story of what Amateur Radio is all about. Our volunteers have spent countless hours in this endeavor.

The museum has informed us that due to the level of construction there is no storage space in the building and the equipment must be removed.

[Editor's note: As one would expect of a club of their stature, Phil-Mont is leaving the Franklin Institute with grace and dignity . . . keeping their bridges un-burned. This story continues to develop, and future REMARCS will relay information published in Phil-mont's newsletter. Please DON'T spread rumors or encourage hot-heads!]