

RECOLLECTIONS

5

Years ago . . . 1989 . . . in REMARCS . . .

MARC's first year in the PA QSO Party club competition (109.5k points) . . . PHIL NC3C made Worked All Zones on CW . . . WB3JOE packet BBS's computer was giving us fits . . . Hams gained access to the 18 MHz band . . . the meeting program was about the Apollo 10 spacecraft recovery mission . . . Nobody ran for program chairman, and the slot remained vacant all year.

10

Year ago . . . 1984 . . . in REMARCS . . .

STEVE WA3EYD upgraded to General . . . Traffic Net certificates were awarded to members such as CARTER (pre-KD3AO) KA3IME, BART KC3BP, KEVIN K3NTD, BOB WA3PZO, and TOM K3YPO . . . New officers were AL W3DZI (President), NED KA3EQT (pre-WQ3Z, Vice-Pres.), BART KC3BP (Sec.), BOB WA3PZO (Treas.). 145.13/R came back on the air after a long down-time.

15

Years ago . . . 1979 . . . in RADNOR REPEATER NEWS . . .

New officers were PETE K3ZFG (Pres.), JOHN WB3ELA (Vice-Pres.), BOB WA3PZO (Sec.), and MARLENE WA3UOC (Treas.) . . . "MARC will be running a hamfest in the summer. Interested in helping? Please contact JOHN WB3ELA" . . . The meeting program was on AMSAT . . . Meetings were at the Metropolitan bank at City Line and Haverford Aves. in Overbrook.

Does anyone have copies of a MARC newsletter for April, May, or June 1979? No copies are in the archive, and no issues may have been published . . . but if you have any of them, please contact KAY WT3P. DON WB3AYT and JERRY WB3FPU kindly donated many of the copies now in the newsletter archive.



COMPONENTS

The Radio Craftsman is a new bi-monthly newsletter dedicated to home-brewing and kit-building. For a free sample copy, send an SASE to *The Radio Craftsman*, P.O. Box 3682, Lawrence, KS 66046-6682. The subscriptions price is \$15 for 6 issues.

Senator Harris Wofford (D-PA) recently became a co-sponsor of S.J. Res. 90, The Amateur Radio Service Joint Resolution. Yes, it is an election year for the Senator, who did not answer letters about this legislation sent to him when it was NOT an election year. (*Cynical? Who, me?*) Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) couldn't find a pencil, either, by the way.



Major shake-ups on the local ham store scene! Ham Radio Outlet (HRO), a nationwide chain of ham gear retailers, will open a large store in the Wilmington area in March. The store will be in the Parkway Plaza on U.S. 13, near I-295. BOB PENNEYS WN3K will be in charge.

Delaware Amateur Supply (DAS) is getting out of the ham gear business. Knowledgeable sources claim the store might not have lasted much longer in the ham business with or without the added competition from HRO.

The arrival of HRO in this market will make life interesting for other ham gear stores and for comparison-shopper hams. Interesting times ahead....

TECHNICAL HELP



Technical questions on Amateur Radio and RFI/TVI problems can be sent to DENNIS WB2LGJ @ WB3JOE or (215) 204-6761. Dennis is ARRL's Technical Coordinator for Eastern PA. He and his fellow-volunteer Technical Specialists will research your question and help you find a solution. Of course, there is no charge for this ARRL volunteer service.

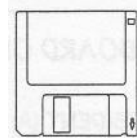
FLEA MARKET

FOR SALE: AT&T PC6300 computer, mono monitor, 5.25" floppy, 26 meg HD. Needs repair. Offers? Also Okidata Microline 192 printer, \$50. Contact DAVE K3NGN (9839950).

LEARNING CW

Want to learn Morse code but don't have time to go to a class?

MARC still has copies of "Super Morse," a share-ware program for IBM compatible computers. Copies are available for members on 5.25" or 3.5" disks at MARC meetings. A 50¢ donation for the cost of the disk is optional.



Here are some code learning tips: DO practice about 15-20 minutes at a stretch, twice a day if possible. Practicing longer is usually frustrating and counter-productive.

DON'T use visual dot-dash charts to try to learn the code, and DON'T write down dots and dashes. Hear the sound patterns and write the characters, without going through any confusing and time-consuming intermediary translation into visual dots and dashes.

DO realize that people learn at different rates. Be patient with yourself. This is not a race. DO use sending practice as well as receiving practice. If you don't have a CW practice oscillator, you can tap your fingers or a pencil on the desk. Although you will not be tested on sending, many people find that practice on sending texts selected from books and magazines reinforces the mental connection between characters and sound patterns.

Once you have learned the characters, how do you practice for the 5 wpm test?

Audio tapes are good up to a point, but nearly everyone memorizes them before the desired speed level has been attained. Computer programs randomize the drill, making them very good for practice. If you have a short-wave receiver or HF ham rig, you can also use the W1AW code practice transmissions from ARRL HQ. Schedules are published in QST.



Above all, don't be afraid of not passing the test. This is not school! Many hams don't pass tests on the first try, and some try many times before they pass. No real ham, and certainly no Volunteer Examiner, laughs or sneers at someone who tries but comes up short. They'll sympathize and urge you to try again.