



REMARCS

P.O. Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399



CLUB NEWS HEADLINES

AUCTION RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 16

Library officials closed the building on our January meeting date owing to the threat of snow. The annual Junque Auction featuring **Bart K4BF** has been rescheduled for March 16. Please look at the January/February newsletter for the ground rules. We will get that stuff cleared out of your shack!

MARC TEST SESSION SET FOR APRIL 15

April 15 is Day One of the new license system! MARC's VE team will hold a test session on that date at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, starting at 9:15 AM. This will be a full-service test session, not just paperwork-only upgrades. For directions and registration, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com). The team will not give tests in May this year.

Remember that club members can participate in one MARC test session per year free of charge. The club pays the test fee.

HF ELMERS WANTED

Upgrading to General is about to become less complicated. That will bring more hams onto HF for the first time. If you'd be willing to advise new HF ops (antennas, equipment selection, operating customs, etc.), please contact **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623, wt3p@arrl.net). See the related story on page 6.

ELECTION RESULTS

The new MARC Board took office on February 1. We still do not have a Program Chair. If you would be interested in doing this job, please contact one of the Members-at-Large. If no one steps forward, the other Board members will plan programs for the year. However, stop and think about what it means when a club wants to have programs at meetings but has no member willing to take responsibility for them.

HAMFEST PLANNING STARTS

The first planning meeting for MARC's 2000 hamfest was held at **Mike KF3CD**'s house on January 30. **Mike KF3CD**, **Carter N3AO**, **Kay WT3P**, **Bob N3JIZ**, and **David KB3CRY** attended; some other people were kept away by the impending snowstorm. The most important message is that more volunteers are needed. Please turn to page 6 for details.

DUES PAYABLE NOW

Membership dues are payable March 1. If you have already paid, thank you! If not, please do it now. Unpaid members who get the newsletter electronically have received a renewal form by e-mail. If you get paper REMARCS, please use the form in this issue.

NEW EXAMINATION QUESTION POOLS ARE ON-LINE

And Documentation for "Old Tech" Upgraders

The question pools are available now for ham radio license exams to be given after April 15. They were posted on the Internet in early February. Technician, General, and Extra pools are posted as text files. The graphics needed for some questions are posted as Adobe PDF files. You can download the new pools free of charge from the ARRL Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>.

MARC members who do not have Web access, but who have an e-mail provider that permits file attachments, may request the question pools via e-mail from Membership Services chair **Kay WT3P** (wt3p@arrl.net, 610-993-9623).

To assist pre-3/21/1987 Technicians (now Tech Plus class), who have credit for General theory, QRZ has put their first electronic callbook from 1993 on line at <http://www.qrz.com>. If

your "Old Tech" license in that callbook shows a grant date on or before 3/21/1987, you can print out the page to show that you passed General theory.

Laurel VEC has announced that they will NOT accept callbook pages or printouts. ARRL/VEC will do so, however. April QST will have an article on documentation for upgrading. I do not know what W5YI/VEC's guidelines are. To avoid disappointment, check with your preferred VE team well in advance. MARC uses ARRL/VEC and follows its guidelines.

Members who need assistance looking up their records in the old on-line callbook may contact **Kay WT3P**. More information about upgrading under the new exam system is found in this issue of REMARCS.

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Thursdays, 8 PM, Memorial
 Library of Radnor Township,
 Wayne. Guests welcome. Smoke-
 free. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Thursdays, 7:30 PM, Paoli
 Hospital. Members may attend
 as observers.

SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R
WB3JOE packet BBS 145.090
 Packet sysop and Webmaster:
Steve N3ORH (610-313-8080,
smaslin@fast.net)

NETS

Club Net, Sundays, 8:30 PM
 Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
 All nets on 147.06/R
 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

Brian WD0HBG passed Extra theory and is counting down to April 15. **Jan KB3???** Is our latest (and probably last) member to get a Novice ticket. **Dave W3LAW** is the former **N3LHY**. E-mail from past member **Jaime KA3NXN** says he's living in Charlottesville, VA. **Bart K4BF** took a trip to London, where he met up with past member **Jamie N1RU** (ex-**N3BLZ**). **Jen KA3WVD** heads to Austria and Italy for spring break. **Al N3EA** spent New Year's in Florida and had several QRP QSO's with **Carter N3AO** back here in frosty Philly. **Ron WA2SJW** was heard in the CQ WPX RTTY contest with a fine signal. **Kay WT3P** will speak at the ARRL's "Public Service Wants You!" forum at Dayton.

The VE team cannot provide information about upgrades to the newsletter because of privacy guidelines. If you'd like your upgrade to be noted in print, please let **Kay WT3P** know about it.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On January 27, outgoing and incoming Board members met to make the transition. The Field Day site is confirmed for this year, though it's expected that this will be our last at this location. The next public service event will be the Radnor Memorial Day parade on May 29. Member input on possible new sites for '13 was received and discussed. Although the plan is still to try the repeater at Paoli Hospital, that can't be done until the weather moderates. In the meantime, we will continue to look for alternative sites. Member input was received on changing the meeting day and time. Following discussion, no action was taken. Much discussion was devoted to reaching out to new licensees to invite them to join MARC. The Board was in agreement that people who want to use the MARC repeaters for activities not sponsored by the club should seek the Board's approval first. Also, leaders of such activities should support the repeaters by joining the club. The treasury balance was \$7,932.21.

On February 24, the Board discussed the hamfest and future program ideas. Upcoming public service events were listed. The Board discussed opportunities for advising hams who will be new to HF as a result of restructuring. Volunteers will be sought to advise new HF ops in the club. The library will be contacted to see if they would accept donation of a VCR for the Winsor Room. Membership renewal was discussed. The treasury balance was \$8,252.38.

Members who have input for the Board should contact one of the Members-at-Large. Also, members may attend Board meetings as observers.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Your Editor Tries Operating Phone

A power failure is especially annoying at night. We were fumbling around for flashlights, hoping we wouldn't trip over the dogs and break our necks.

When I went to call the PECO trouble number, I realized all our phones are cordless and require electricity! I found my cel phone and called PECO.

Then we remembered there's a plain old phone on a shelf in the basement. We keep it for testing at the junction box when the phone service croaks.

Now I see another good reason to keep a low-tech phone in the house: to make sure we can make and receive essential calls on our regular home number during power failures. Think about this for your house!

PUBLIC SERVICE / PUBLIC RELATIONS

MARC's participation in the Main Line Volunteer Force's "Santa's Brigade" project was mentioned in articles appearing in the Suburban & Wayne Times, King of Prussia Courier, Main Line Times, and Town Talk. As noted before, we are the only non-profit corporation associated with MLVF.

A letter was received from St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter in Phoenixville, where our gifts were delivered. It says, in part, "I hope you have some idea of the joy you gave our families with your beautiful and thoughtful gifts — God bless you!"

The Radnor Memorial Day parade on May 29, the Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Downingtown, the Tel Hai Run in Honeybrook in June ... contact **Bob N3JIZ** for more information on these public service communications events. And read the next issue of REMARCS.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

I am a Vice President of the ARRL today because a MARC member could not spell. The whole story is instructive, so bear with me. It is an illustration of the Law of Unintended Consequences, but it could just as easily be titled "Give the kid a chance!"

When I got my license in early 1983 and joined MARC, the club was without a newsletter. An officer decided this wasn't good (*the lack of a newsletter, not my getting a license!*), so he put out an issue.

Gosh. Never mind the all-caps and the dot matrix print with a worn-out ribbon. About half the words were spelled wrong, too. I am looking at a copy of it right now, and it really is the dog's dinner.

Now, remember that (a) he didn't have a spell-checker in 1983 and (b) at least he TRIED, which was more than anybody else was willing to do. Still, it was bad, and people were laughing at it on the repeater.

So I phoned the club president and said, "Look, I'm new and I don't want to step on toes. But if you ever decide to change editors, I'm available."

"You're hired," he replied.

Not long after that, the ARRL Section Manager for Eastern PA wanted somebody to start a newsletter. Via MARC members, my name came up. I was appointed an Assistant Section Manager to do that newsletter, and one thing kinda led to another, and here I am.

Here is the thing. The key events that started the dominoes falling towards my present position all took place before I had been licensed for two years. That's what I meant about "Give the kid a chance!" (*Okay, I was thirty-something, but you know what I mean.*)

What if you had said, "We can't let her write our newsletter ... we can't recommend her to the SM ... she's one of those *%#&@! new hams ... she can't copy 20 wpm ... she can't build a transmitter out of two hairpins and a wad of gum ... she can't recite the Q signals in Pig Latin...." But you didn't. I was willing to volunteer, and you were willing to let me.

If that sort of open-mindedness predominates as we move into the new era of ham radio, then we are going to be just fine. Somewhere out there is the next generation of Amateur Radio's volunteer leaders.

Give the "kids" a chance! — **73, Kay WT3P**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2000

PRESIDENT

Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-313-8080
smaslin@fast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

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Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

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PROGRAMS

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2000-2001: Al Maslin N3EA 610-446-4936
amaslin@earthlink.net

1999-2000: Janet Vann KA3VTQ
610-384-3163, jmvann@juno.com

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

MARC REPEATER OPERATING TIPS

Please Welcome Newcomers ... Ground Rules for Non-MARC Nets

Net Control Stations and all members are urged to give a friendly welcome to new users of the MARC repeaters. They may be new hams looking for a club to call home. Please mention that the repeaters are club-sponsored, and invite people to attend a club meeting. Although MARC's repeaters are open, frequent users of any repeater should help support it through paying dues. New hams probably do not know this, and they can't know about our club unless we tell them.

We do not want to make it sound like, "Pay dues, turkey, or get off the machine!" We DO want new users to be invited to visit our meetings. Everyone is encouraged to note down the call-signs of new users and send this information to **Kay WT3P**. If they are not already MARC members, they'll be sent information about the club.

It is NOT good to hold an organized activity on a repeater without asking the owner's permission. It's like starting a ballgame in someone's yard without asking. This has happened more than once recently. Without asking, non-members have used MARC repeaters for regular, organized nets or code practice ... so that club members who may want to use the repeater at that time of day (or night) cannot do it.

The Board has set the following ground rules for non-MARC net-type activities on our repeaters: (1) Organizers should contact **AI N3EA**, who will relay their request to the Board for consideration and decision. (2) Organizers should help fund the repeaters by joining MARC. If you are aware of non-MARC net-type activities on MARC repeaters, please politely ask the organizers to contact **AI N3EA** immediately.

PARA, CHESCO ARES/RACES ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT

The Philadelphia Area Repeater Association (PARA) and Chester County ARES/RACES (CCAR) have announced a memorandum of understanding whereby the PARA Paoli 146.94 MHz Repeater will operate from the Chester County Department of Emergency Services in West Chester.

Located for many years at a private residence in Paoli, the PARA repeater needed a new site because the Paoli ham moved away. CCAR was looking for a repeater to use during

training exercises and emergencies.

Users will notice new call letters, W3EOC, on the 146.94 repeater. W3EOC is the club call sign of CCAR. "EOC" stands for "Emergency Operations Center".

CCAR has encouraged its members to join PARA, to help support the repeater, and PARA has urged its members in Chester County to join CCAR.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RADIO AMATEURS

Hams who are or will be students at accredited colleges, universities, and post-secondary technical schools still have time to apply for the Foundation for Amateur Radio scholarships for the 2000-01 academic year. FAR will administer 73 scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

The deadline to request an application is April 30. If you are a student ham, or if you know one, write for the information now. Write to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 10738. Education is expensive, but ignorance costs a lot more. This is a very good scholarship program. Go for it!

ARRL LEADERSHIP CHANGES NATIONALLY AND IN ATLANTIC DIVISION

At their annual meeting in January, the ARRL Board of Directors elected new ARRL officers for the 2000-2002 term. Although officers have no vote in ARRL Board meetings, they play a key role in carrying out League policy and providing what you might call the "vision thing."

The new President of ARRL is **Jim Haynie W5JBP** from Dallas, TX. First Vice President is **Joel Harrison W5ZN** from Arkansas. Second VP is **Kay Craigie WT3P** (yes, *the one you*

know). Third VP is **John Kanode N4MM** from Virginia. Rounding out the slate of volunteer officers is International Affairs VP **Rod Stafford W6ROD** from California.

With the incumbent Atlantic Division Director becoming a Vice President, Vice Director **Bernie Fuller N3EFN** moved up to Director. On Bernie's recommendation, Western PA Section Manager **Bill Edgar N3LLR** was appointed as the new Vice Director by President Haynie.

UPGRADING AFTER APRIL 15, 2000

IF I AM A ... NOW

WHAT DO I NEED TO UPGRADE TO ...?

	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL	EXTRA
Unlicensed person	Tech theory	5 wpm code, General theory	Extra theory
Novice	Tech theory	General theory	Extra theory
Technician	-	5 wpm code, General theory	Extra theory
Tech Plus (pre-3/21/1987)	-	Bring proof, do form, pay test fee	Extra theory
Tech Plus (post-3/21/1987)	-	General theory	Extra theory
General	-	-	Extra theory
Advanced	-	-	Extra theory

Read all the details in QST and ARRL's Web site. Do NOT rely on rumors.

Requirements are cumulative, just as they are today. For example, a Novice who wants to become a General must take Technician theory as well as General theory.

Regardless of license class, your operating privileges remain the same. You can renew at your present license class as long

as you want to, including Novice and Advanced. No one is required to upgrade. No one loses privileges already earned.

Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE's) earned under the old system will still be valid under the new one. All CSCE's are valid for 365 days from the date of issue.

IMPORTANT! Pre-3/21/1987 Technicians CANNOT just start using General privileges on April 15. They must bring proof to a VE session, show positive ID, fill out the necessary form, and pay a test session fee.

"YOU PAYS YOUR MONEY AND YOU TAKES YOUR CHOICE"

Consider Your Options for Upgrading Now and After April 15

For Technician upgrading to General (*must pass both General theory and 5 wpm code to earn upgrade*)

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage
Theory: Pass General theory now, turn in CSCE** after April 15, whenever code requirement is satisfied.	Test is 30 questions.	Pay two test session fees, or more, depending on how many tries it takes to pass the code test.
Theory: Pass General theory after April 15.	Pay one test session fee, if code requirement is satisfied at same session.	Test is 35 questions.
Code: Pass 5 wpm now, then present CSCE** or Tech Plus license after April 15, whenever theory requirement is satisfied.	Get Tech Plus privileges immediately and hope to get Tech Plus license document making 5 wpm credit valid forever. Code test is free of charge.	Time is running out!
Code: Pass 5 wpm after April 15.	More time to practice code. Even if General theory is not passed immediately, passing 5 wpm earns some HF privileges. BUT note the "Disadvantage."	CSCE is valid only 365 days. If General theory is not passed in that period, you keep HF privileges but must pass 5 wpm test again to upgrade to General! Code tests after April 15 have test fee.

No medical exemptions ("waivers") are granted for 5 wpm code. However, examiners are required to accommodate people with disabilities to give them a fair chance to pass Amateur Radio license tests. People who need accommodated tests for either code or theory should contact examiners well in advance, so plans can be made to provide a fair testing opportunity.

For Tech Plus (post 3/21/1987 variety) upgrading to General

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage
Pass General theory now, appear at VE session after April 15 with CSCE**, pay another test session fee, and go home as a General.	Test is 30 questions.	Pay two test session fees.
Pass the General theory after April 15.	Pay one test session fee.	Test is 35 questions.

For General upgrading to Extra

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage
Pass Advanced and Extra theory now, appear at VE session after April 15 with CSCE's**, pay another test session fee, and go home as an Extra.	Personal achievement. Advanced is most difficult of existing theory tests.	Pay two test session fees. Combined tests are 90 questions.
Pass Extra theory after April 15.	Pay one test session fee. Test is 50 questions.	Possibly some criticism from people who did it the other way. Do you care?

For Advanced upgrading to Extra

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage
Pass Extra theory now, appear at VE session after April 15 with CSCE**, pay another test fee, and go home as an Extra.	Test is 40 questions.	Pay two test session fees.
Pass Extra test after April 15.	Pay one test session fee.	Test is 50 questions.

About the higher-speed Morse code tests

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage
Skip the 13/20 wpm code test.	Test is not necessary after April 15.	Sooner or later, you will be insulted as a "No Code Extra." Do you care?
Pass 13/20 wpm code test now.	Personal achievement. Prevent insults from snobs later on.	It's a 13/20 wpm code test! Temptation to BE a snob later on.

** CSCE = Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination

GOOD STUFF TO KNOW ABOUT

Several MARC members have already taken advantage of the **free e-mail forwarding service for ARRL members**. Simply by signing up on the League's members-only section of ARRLWeb, you can use the e-mail address *yourcallsign@arrl.net*. When you change ISP's, just go back and register the change on ARRLWeb. The e-mail address all your friends know doesn't change. Easy for them, easy for you. The ARRL Board has adopted a privacy policy that prohibits sharing your e-mail address with third parties without your permission. This is only a forwarding service ... you must have an existing Internet account. If you register for @arrl.net, please pass the word to your editor, so the club's e-mail roster can be updated.

APRS Tracks, Maps and Mobiles: A Guide to the Automatic Position Reporting System (224 pages, \$14.95) is ARRL's newest book on this popular packet radio application. Learn how to add objects to APRS maps, such as hurricanes and emergency response vehicles. This book also covers hardware installation, navigating maps, tracking,

sending and receiving messages and bulletins, direction finding, using the Internet for APRS, and more. The author is **Stan Horzepa WA1LOU**, who wrote ARRL's original book on APRS. Get it at your favorite ham gear store, from ARRL's toll-free order number (888-277-5289), or on ARRL's Web page (<http://www.arrl.org>).

Dayton (May 19-21) will be the ARRL National Convention this year. Get all the details on Dayton on-line at <http://www.hamvention.org>.

Ted Melinosky K1BV, publisher of the major operating awards directory, has a Web site directory of awards, too. Check it out at <http://www.dxawards.com>.

The 60¢ stamps needed for overseas airmail postage when you QSL direct are now available in self-stick form in sheets of 20. No spit!

TIPS FOR THE NEW HF OPERATOR

Because some members will be going on HF for the first time soon, we're going to publish some operating tips from time to time. If you have questions about HF operating practices, or have suggestions for what new HF ops might want to know, pass them along!

- ♦ Always listen before beginning to transmit. Always ask if the frequency is in use before calling CQ. No matter how faithfully you do this, eventually you will get yelled at for QRMing someone who claims he was using the frequency when you came on. Don't let this get you down. On SSB you will hear me say, "Is this frequency in use? This is WT3P asking if the frequency is in use. Say something now, 'cause I do NOT want to hear about it later!" Then I pause for several seconds, and if nobody peeps, I call CQ.
- ♦ FM is channelized. Repeaters are spaced so that (theoretically) their signals won't slosh over onto those of repeaters on adjacent frequencies. HF is not channelized. Your sidebands can bother operators on adjacent frequencies. It's up to you to avoid this, by remembering that (in round numbers) your SSB signal is 3 kHz wide. On upper sideband, you'll be heard from your transmit frequency to

about 3 kHz above it. On lower sideband, you'll be audible from your transmit frequency to about 3 kHz below. Also think about this as you approach the band edges. Don't let your sidebands stray outside the ham bands and/or extend outside your frequency privileges.

- ♦ A perfectly quiet frequency is not a realistic expectation on HF. You will experience some QRM, and you will cause some, no matter how hard you try not to. Most QRM is accidental. We learn to ignore it. If it's too distracting, we move. Don't bawl out people who QRM you. "The frequency is in use. Please QSY," is sufficient.
- ♦ Nobody owns a frequency. If somebody asks you to move off because they want to start a net, strictly speaking you don't have to do it. But it is good practice quickly to conclude your QSO or arrange to move off to another frequency. Sooner or later, you will be rudely ordered off a frequency by some pompous jerk who thinks his group does own it. This will make you mad, but please avoid verbal brawls on the air. Don't get into a p***ing match with a skunk. You can't win, and it entertains the skunk.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE MARC HAMFEST

Most hamfest jobs do not involve a lot of time and work, or even prior experience with hamfests. We need at least two people to do talk-in. Adequate talk-in is CRITICAL to the success of our event, because hams refuse to find out where they are going before they start going there.

An essential task is taking flyers to other hamfests, such as the Warminster ARC 'fest on May 7 and the Murgas ARC 'fest in Wilkes-Barre on July 2. Can you help? **Kay WT3P** will take flyers to Baltimore in March and Penn-Del in April.

We hope to hold some additional prize drawings this year. Volunteers are needed to walk around distributing tickets at the hamfest. We'll need set-up / clean-up crews, and gate ticket sellers. Could you help organize one of these squads?

We need someone to write letters soliciting door prizes. We will have the list of addresses for you ... you just have to prepare the letters and mail them. MARC pays the postage.

Bill W3KRB and **Bob W3SA** will be working on table sales and general publicity. **Bob N3JIZ** has arranged the P.A. system and will captain the parking lot squad. He needs plenty of helpers! **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW** will chair the members' gear sales table, probably assisted by **Carter N3AO**. **Bart K4BF** will do the P.A. announcements. **Steve N3ORH** is the event co-chairman.

Contact **Mike KF3CD** (mpilotti@anro.com, 610-935-4429) to find out what jobs are available and learn how you can help. The hamfest is our principal fund-raiser. Please do your part!

MARC'S FEBRUARY LICENSE TEST SESSION

Impending restructuring has caused a boom in license testing nationwide, and MARC's February session was part of the trend. The VE's served 17 candidates instead of the usual handful, and administered 22 test elements.

New licenses and upgrades included 2 Technicians, one General, and one Advanced. Ten people passed Extra theory but did not qualify for an upgrade ... yet! Three applicants,

unfortunately, did not pass any elements attempted. Four MARC members took advantage of the free test session membership benefit, by the way.

VE's on duty were **Bob W3ZQN, Bob W3SA, Al N3EA, Paul NX3Q, Hugh N3HT, Dennis K3DS, Dick K3ITH, and Walt WA3PPW.** Tom K3YPO handled logistics at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

ARE YOU REGISTERED IN THE ULS?

Form 610, 610V No Longer Accepted by FCC

Registration in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) is required in many radio services, including the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC will not process anything about our licenses (change of address, vanity call application, license renewal, etc.) until we are registered.

People who take examinations are registered by the VEC if they aren't already registered. If you do not want to tell your Social Security number to a VE team, then you must be registered in ULS prior to attending the test session, and bring your License ID number to the session. VE's cannot make exceptions: it's a License ID number or a Social Security number or a Fuggedaboutit.

Effective February 17, the FCC stopped accepting Form 610 and Form 610V. Any applications filed on those obsolete

forms will be dismissed. We are required to use Form 605 instead, and we must be registered in ULS prior to filing a Form 605, or that won't be accepted, either.

The easiest way to register in ULS is on-line. It takes about 5 minutes, and you print out an information sheet at the end which shows your License ID number and your passwords for future use of the on-line system.

The URL for registration is <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>. Click on "TIN / Call Sign Registration" and follow instructions from there. Your Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) is your Social Security number. If you would like to register but do not have Internet access, please contact Membership Services chair **Kay WT3P**.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA QRP CLUB MEETS

Several MARC members belong to the **EPA QRP Club**, including **Brian WD0HBG, Al N3EA, and Carter N3AO**. The organization is what may be called a "virtual radio club," in that most of its activities are on-line. They have an active e-mail listserver and an interesting Web page (<http://www.n3epa.org>). They plan some operating awards and kit-building challenges.

Members of the group held their first in-person meeting on February 26, in the food court of a shopping mall near Reading. Members brought QRP gear they had built and put it on display on the food court tables. The first hour-plus of the gathering was devoted to looking at members' handiwork and talking informally about construction and operating. Then there was a brief meeting with announcements. They plan

occasional in-person meetings for the future, but most club activity will remain on-line partly because the membership is spread out over such a large geographical area.

If you are interested in low-power operation and/or building your own ham equipment, this group is for you. They welcome both experts and beginners equally. One of the refreshing things about them is their up-beat attitude. None of that tiresome old stuff about ham radio going to the dogs, etc., etc. These people are having fun with ham radio!

Check out their Web page, talk to the MARC members who're involved, and you may find that the enthusiasm is contagious.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

March 12	Keystone VHF, York, PA <i>* event cancelled *</i>
March 25-26	*Baltimore ARC, Timonium, MD
April 30	*Penn-Del ARC, New Castle, DE
May 7	Warminster ARC, Wrightstown, PA
June 10	*Columbia-Montour ARC, Bloomsburg, PA
July 2	Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre, PA
JULY 16	MID-ATLANTIC ARC, KIMBERTON, PA
July 30	BRATS, Timonium, MD
Sept. 28-30	*Microwave Update 2000, Trevoise, PA
October 1	Pack Rats, Wrightstown, PA
October 22	RF Hill ARC, Sellersville, PA

** Indicates ARRL State, Section, or Operating Specialty Convention*

Can you take MARC hamfest flyers to some events before our hamfest? Contact **Mike KF3CD** or **Kay WT3P** for a stack of flyers.

Support our neighbor clubs by attending their hamfests with your friends.

ARRL's searchable database of hamfests is at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>.