

## HAMFEST SITE, DATE CHANGE

The 1996 MARC hamfest will be on July 14, at the Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds in Kimberton, Chester County. For the first time, we will have indoor selling space and AC available for vendors. The site is located near Phoenixville on PA 113, just south of the intersection with PA 23. It's just 10.5 miles west of Turnpike Exit 24 and only 8 miles east of Exit 23.



The fairgrounds have ample parking and plenty of space for indoor sales, plus outdoor tail-gating. This site costs more than the drive-in, but it offers much more. Given last year's disaster with the rain and the wobbly future of the drive-in property, the Board decided to move the hamfest. No August dates were available, so after consulting the recent years' hamfest

calendars, the July 14 date was selected.

Running a hamfest at this kind of site requires more advance planning than using the drive-in. That is where YOU come in. The Board held a special meeting on December 5 to identify the tasks that must be done. This show will be a team-managed event, not a burden carried by one or two people as in the past. When we call for volunteers, be one who answers!

General chairman of the event is **Edie KA3NKP**. Publicity will be managed by Bill **W3KRB**. **Bob W3SA** will handle telephone/fax inquiries while **Jeff WA3RIZ** will receive e-mail queries. Jeff set up an Internet account for the club ([wb3joe@voicenet.com](mailto:wb3joe@voicenet.com)), so e-mail inquiries can be handled. **Carter KD3AO** is spearheading volunteer recruitment and will manage a consignment of ARRL publications for sale. **Bob N3JIZ** is investigating the on-site public address system in light of what we will need. **Jeff WA3RIZ** has arranged a 440 repeater talk-in frequency. **Bob W3ZQN** is our point of contact with the property manager. There are plenty more jobs to do, and you'll be hearing from Carter Real Soon Now . . . unless he hears from you first, which would be even better.

Another planning meeting is scheduled for January 7, 1 PM. Members of the 1995 Board and nominees for the 1996 Board are invited, along with anyone else who wants to work on the project. Call **Edie KA3NKP** or **Jeff WA3RIZ** (610-265-6593) for details and directions.

## NEW PACKET SYSOP NEEDED

**Bart KC3BP**, our chief packet sysop, will retire after many years of outstanding service. His meticulous attention to the packet BBS has made it one of the premier systems in the Delaware Valley. We can't thank him enough (though we're certainly trying) for all he has done for us packeteers.



None of the present sysop team has enough free time to serve as chief sysop. This person is responsible for the overall operation of the BBS, especially the software side, and works with the

Technical Chairman to keep things running reliably. He or she should be familiar with the FCC's Rules relevant to packet BBS operation; on that score, the chief sysop works with the club callsign trustee to ensure that the BBS and its users are conforming to the rules. A group of other remote sysops helps handle day-to-day operations.

Interested? Contact **Al W3DZI** (610-446-4936, [amaslin@netaxs.com](mailto:amaslin@netaxs.com)). The selection will be made by the Board.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1995

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### TRUSTEE WB3JOE

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING



At their November/December meeting, the Board approved a \$100 donation to Paoli United Methodist Church for use of the room for the fall CW class. Rules for the January auction were discussed. In technical matters, repairs to the phone line at the '13 site have not been made by

the hospital. A cost projection will be prepared for what it would cost to add remote receivers to '06. **Jeff WA3RIZ** reported on the digital coordination meeting he attended in November.

The Board voted to continue running an ad in *WORLD RADIO* for \$60/year and for the club to become a dues-paying member of the ARCC repeater coordination organization. Moving the hamfest site and date was approved. The newsletter editor was asked to solicit for a new chief packet sysop in the next issue. A proposed new Field Day site was discussed, but some possible disadvantages led the Board not to take action at this time. Concern was expressed about low participation in club nets. The treasury balance was \$10,033.65.



# REMARCS



**MARCH/APRIL 1996**

## DUES ARE DUE NOW!

Maybe you have been chased up a tree by a dog, or hiding out from your neighbor who thinks ham antennas are links to space aliens, or all in a knot worrying about whether your local cable TV system will carry the Underwater Square-Dancing Channel, or trying to convince your kids that you LIKE green hair and nose-piercing so they wouldn't dream of doing it . . .

Yes, there are good reasons for being late with your club dues.

But try to pull yourself together and send in your money soon, if you haven't already paid. Whatever we spend on "yoo-hoo?" notices is money we could have spent on something interesting or fun. If you already paid, thank you!

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

*by David Laustsen N3LHY*

**February's** exciting program was "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Internet," with our own Professor Tom "Gigabyte" Porett N3JMA. Seriously, Tom is one of the area's leading experts on digital graphics, and he took us on a video tour of the net, answering all of our questions.

**March** will feature a demonstration of the practical uses of GPS, or the Global Positioning System. The hardware and daily application of the system will be demonstrated. **April** will feature a video and question/answer program on a recent 160 Meter DXpedition, by John Crovelli W2GD, a leading

contester and DXer. He'll answer your questions on how to get on the "top band" even if you don't have a huge estate across which to string your antennas.

These programs are subject to change, and, as is always the case, if you don't like them you'll get your money back. Your suggestions are encouraged. Positive comments and even cheap shots are welcomed and expected. -- **73, David N3LHY** (DSLautsen@aol.com or 19 Meadow Lane, Doylestown, PA 18901, 215-230-4250, weekdays)

## HAMFEST UPDATE -- GET INVOLVED NOW!

Hamfest plans are moving right along. Artwork has been prepared by Dave N3LHY for paid advertisements we will place in major ham radio publications. We plan 2 ads in *QST* and some in other well-known publications; exactly which ones will be decided once advertising rate information is received.

Volunteers are needed right now for important hamfest jobs. Contact **Carter KD3AO** (610-993-9623, wt3p@gnn.com).

- Flyers are ready for distribution. Get some to take to any hamfests and other club meetings you attend.
- Talk up the hamfest on the air. It is not too early.
- Someone is needed to manage advance sales of indoor tables. We need this person on the job NOW. Talk to Carter about volunteering. Today.
- If you know the whereabouts of the signs used last year along the road to the hamfest, please contact **Deb AA3HE** (610-644-5392, kenzdiers@ucis.vill.edu)

## 20th ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT-TAKE A TEST ON MARC

To celebrate the club's 20th anniversary and to encourage upgrading, MARC members are eligible for one FREE MARC license testing session for the remainder of 1996. This includes the sessions planned for May 4, August 3, and November 2.

Take an upgrade test or earn credit towards an upgrade by taking one or more test elements. The 1996 test fee of \$6.05

will be paid by MARC for any paid-up club member at any one of these license examination sessions.

All other requirements such as ID, having the original and copy of your license or CSCE, etc., remain in effect. Bring your membership card showing 1997 expiration date to the test session. For more information, contact **Bob W3ZQN (610-265-6032 or @WB3JOE packet)**.



# REMARCS



**MAY/JUNE, 1996**

## **FIELD DAY FEVER . . . CATCH IT!**

The most popular ham radio operating event in North America . . . ARRL's annual Field Day June 22-23.

And you're thinking, "But I'm not a contester ... I don't have HF privileges ... it'll be boring ... the food probably tastes like wallpaper ... I don't know enough people ... I'm all thumbs."

At MARC Field Day, you don't need to be a contester, or have HF turf, or fear any sour-pussed lectures, or eat beast stew, or feel like a fifth wheel, or need a Ph.D. in engineering, or know how to build a transmitter out of two clothes-pins and a stick of Wrigley's spearmint.

The purpose of MARC Field Day is to have fun, get to know each other, learn stuff, and enjoy ham radio in the outdoors. It is very laid-back, and everyone who wants to operate gets the chance. We will have a VHF station as well as HF stations, and experienced operators to help you learn the ropes.

Set-up begins about 10 AM at the site on Egypt Road in Audubon, PA. Lunch is provided for the set-up crew. Field Day chairman Mitch N3BGA is looking for tents, rigs, tables, chairs, lamps, outdoor extension cords, etc. Be sure to label all your stuff with your name and callsign.

The field is mowed, but poison ivy is present. Shoes and socks are definitely recommended. Field Day goes on rain or shine, so bring rain gear, a hat, anti-sunburn goop, and gallon jugs of tap water for the chemical toilet.

Families and non-ham guests are very welcome. However, bringing small children who need close supervision is not a good idea, for safety's sake. We don't want any little kids to be injured or wander off into the woods.

MARC Field Day will be fun ... it will be MORE fun if you are there, too. See the map to the site on page 7.

## **147.06/R AUTOPATCH CODES CHANGED!**

*Unidentified Harassment Calls Spur Action by Board*

The access code for the '06 repeater autopatch has been changed for the first time in many years, because of crank calls on the 'patch by an unidentifying station. MARC regrets the inconvenience to members. However, it was necessary to stop this illegal activity. The new autopatch codes appear on your membership card.

Everyone's cooperation can help prevent future problems. Please note the tips shown in the sidebar. The new code will be hard for the banana to figure out. We must all be careful not to reveal it accidentally.

It's a pity that after so many years of hassle-free operation, we have to go back to the era of complicated codes, heightened security, and preaching at members about use of the autopatch. We thought those days were ancient history. Oops.

## **MARC IS ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

<http://www.voicenet.com/~wb3joe>

Thanks to Tom N3JMA, MARC now has a home page on the Internet World Wide Web. The page is

under construction. So far, though, it looks super. Suggestions are encouraged. We are not going to put anything on the Web page that people who pay their dues receive as a membership privilege that would be self-defeating. We want to promote the club and its activities and provide handy links to selected other useful ham radio Web pages.

### **AUTOPATCH TIPS**

- ☎ Don't mention codes on the air.
- ☎ Don't tell codes to anyone.
- ☎ Keep your copy of the codes in a safe place.
- ☎ Secure your ham gear at home and in the car, so unauthorized people cannot use it.
- ☎ Remind family members that 'patch conversations are NOT private.
- ☎ Don't engage an interfering station in conversation or "tell him off." Any attention encourages these idiots and crazies.
- ☎ Refer questions about operation of the 'patch to the Jeff WA3RIZ (technical questions) or Al W3DZI (FCC rules questions).



# REMARCS



## JULY/AUGUST 1996 SEE YOU AT THE HAMFEST!

MARC's first indoor/outdoor hamfest is just a few weeks away. Without the money we make on the hamfest, MARC would not be the club we know and enjoy. That's why every member's support is needed.

Last years rainy Sunday hurt our revenue badly. But with careful management by the Board, the club came through the year all right. Now we need a good hamfest to put us back on track for the future health of our club. With indoor sales for the first time, we will be able to do okay regardless of the weather . . . IF everyone helps.

Volunteers will be needed for Saturday set-up, so if you can't come on Sunday, how about Saturday? We will also need workers on Sunday afternoon for clean-up, in case you're tied up in the morning. And we need people to talk up the show on the air on all the frequencies you frequent.

The hamfest is hard work but also fun. If you are a new club member, it's a great way to meet people and know that you're contributing something to the organization at the same time. No prior experience is needed for most of the jobs that need to be done. See you there!

## PROGRAMS

Our July 18 speaker will be Don Young from Wayne, describing his adventures as a wireman in World War II. The wireman's job was to string communications wire, sometimes under enemy fire, and handle other communications tasks. Don has written about his experiences in a new book called *wire as a Weapon*. Also in July is homebrew night. Bring ham gear you have built and show it off to fellow club members.

The August 15 program will be given by Gene Pressler W3ZXV, from Maple Glen. His topic will be how he used radio to monitor the collision of a comet with the planet Jupiter several years ago. He wrote about the experiment in December, 1994, *QST*. Incidentally, Gene was recently named the ARRL Atlantic Division "Amateur of the Year" for 1996.

In addition, we will have a very special guest at the meeting in August. Read on!

## NICK UX0ZZ COMING TO THE USA!

After months of frustration in the USA and despair in the Ukraine, hams' efforts to bring Nick Bortnik UX0ZZ to America for medical treatment finally overcame bureaucratic roadblocks. Nick is coming to the USA in August.

MARC supported Mike N3IRZ's campaign to get an entry visa for Nick, whose mysterious illness cannot be treated in his homeland. Donations to pay Nicks travel expenses and medical bills poured in as a result of Bob WA3PZO's

### ***ALERT! THREAT TO 2m AND 440 MHz!***

Joke? Not! Another radio service may want to share our most popular ham VHF/UHF bands.

MARC began 20 years ago as a repeater club. Since then, we've grown into a general-interest radio club, but we operate two voice repeaters and a packet BBS on 2 meters. They are where MARC lives, on the air.

The editorial in July *QST* explains what is at stake and how to back up the ARRL's defense of our bands using your own words. Put this newsletter down, and go read the editorial. Then write a letter as suggested there.

If you are not a League member, maybe it's time you joined the organization that's leading the fight to save our club's home on the ham bands. -- 73 de Kay WT3P

publicity drive in the Amateur Radio media.

The US Embassy in Kiev repeatedly refused to grant Nick a visa, despite ample proof that he would not become a burden to society here and would return to the Ukraine.

Three Congressmen helped get the US Embassy to relent. They are Jon Fox and Curt Weldon from Pennsylvania and Andrew Funderburk K4TPJ of North Carolina. Senator Specter's office also wrote to Kiev.

If you'd like to QSO with Nick, you can usually find him around 14.243 MHz at 6 PM our time.

Please come to the August meeting and greet Nick in person. Congratulations to all who took part in this humanitarian project

## FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX



Have you seen the ads for automatic kitty litter boxes? Every time nature calls Fluffy, an electronic scoop-de-poop takes care of business. This is some country we live in. There's a technological answer now to every question, including several that nobody wants to ask.

A question I want to ask is this: How come people will buy a house in a town whose name makes your skin crawl, but they get acid indigestion about a ham antenna tower hurting their property values? I mean, if you would voluntarily live in a town named Sloatsburg, Scaggsville, or Wetumpka, a few yards of aluminum in somebody else's back yard is NOT the problem!

Just open up your Rand-McNally and look at the all the town names that sound like lethal diseases, clogged-up plumbing, or something your dad would smack you for saying at the dinner table. People who write such linguistic monstrosities on their return addresses every day for all the world to read really shouldn't cough up a hairball over a ham tower.

Well, on the day when human attitudes actually make sense, you will find me and several million other people in the snack bar eating our hats. But we're really not such a bad species, you know. We invented ham radio, didn't we? -- 73, Kay WT3P

## UPGRADE OFFER STILL GOOD

If you haven't taken advantage of our 20th anniversary special deal, start studying for your upgrade now. Every MARC member can attend one of the club's license test sessions at no charge during 1996. The club pays the ARRL/VEC test fee.

The next MARC test session will be August 3, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Be there at 9:15 AM with your license and a photocopy of it, plus the originals and photocopies of any certificates needed to prove your present status. Also bring positive ID. MARC members should bring their membership card to qualify for the free test session. For directions and other information, contact Bob **W3ZQN** at (610) 265-6032.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1996

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## TRUSTEE WB3JOE

Al Maslin W3DZI, 610-446-4936  
amaslin@earthlink.net

## PUBLIC SERVICE



MARC communicated for the Memorial Day Parade in Wayne on May 27. **Floyd KA3OXA** was the event captain, with **Ned WQ3Z**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob W3SA**, **Hugh KC3IE**, **Roger N3VBZ**, and **Beth KA3GKI** along the route.

For the first time, MARC had an entry in the parade. **Carter KD3AO's** jeep was decorated with flags, antennas, and banners about ham radio. Associate Member **Libba Cothran** rode along to wave the flag. **Bob W3ZQN** produced some of the banners. **Carole KA3UUQ** was among the spectators with son **Justin**.

Other spring public service events were an equestrian outing at Thorncroft in Malvern and a Parkinson's Disease benefit at Rose Tree Park in Media. **Mitch N3BGA**, **Sean N3EOG**, and **Roger N3VBZ** worked at Thorncroft, while **Gene WB3FTJ**,

**Judy N3MBW**, **Sean N3EOG**, and **Bob W3ZQN** were at Rose Tree.

Helping at public service events is an important and interesting part of being a ham. Please contact Sean (610-449-6447) to find out about future opportunities.



Also, MARC members are encouraged to sign up with your county's ARES/RACES organization. Knowing how to help in case of a disaster is how we justify the frequencies hams are allowed to use for fun and self-education. Cellular phones and the Internet are no replacement for trained volunteer ham communicators. Today's emergency comm is on VHF and UHF . . . so every ham can help. Every ham ought to know how. It isn't hard. We just have to make the effort.



New Date! July 14  
New Location: Kimberton, PA

Indoor-Outdoor Facilities!

Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

# HAMFEST 96

**Sunday • July 14 • Rain or Shine**

*Indoor - Outdoor Facilities*

**Over 100 Inside Tables with Electricity**

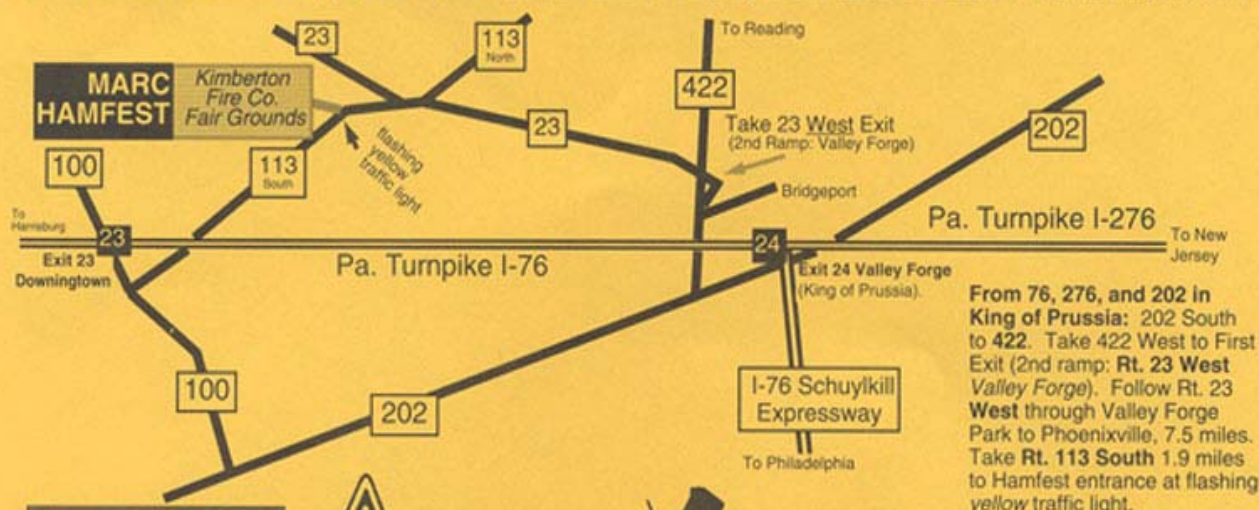
*Kimberton Fire Co. Fair Grounds • Kimberton, PA*

Route 113 - South of the Intersection with Route 23 **Sellers 7 a.m. • Buyers 8 a.m.**

**\$5 Admission, \$5 Tailgate Space.**

Tables by advance sale only. \$15 each for 1-4 Tables Includes Admission, \$13 each for 5 or more. No advance tailgate sales.

Hamfest Information: Bob Haase W3SA (610) 293 1919 voice and (610) 293 7688 fax or e-mail [wb3joe@voicenet.com](mailto:wb3joe@voicenet.com) or write MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085



Talk In 146.835/- and  
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Food and Beverage Sales by  
Authorized Vendors Only.



**MARC**  
MID-ATLANTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



# REMARCS



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 1996

## BOB WA3PZO WINS ARRL NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

*Nominated by Club for UX0ZZ Campaign*

**Bob WA3PZO** has received the 1995 Philip J. McGan "Silver Antenna" award for his PR campaign on behalf of **Nick Bortnik UX0ZZs** trip to the USA for medical treatment. The award recognizes the years most outstanding public relations work for Amateur Radio and is conferred by vote of the ARRL Board of Directors. A committee of outside PR experts sifts the nominations and recommends a winner to the Board.

Bob began the campaign in 1995 as the club's Public Relations Chairman and continued it to successful conclusion in 1996. He worked with ham radio media to promote donations for Nick's expenses and with the electronic and print media in the

Delaware Valley to publicize Nick's problems with getting a visa from the US Embassy in Kiev, Ukraine, to enter the USA.

The campaign to bring Nick to the USA is the front-page headline story in the September issue of *WORLD RADIO*.

The nomination was written by present Public Relations Chairman **Bill W3KRB**, in cooperation with President **Bob W3ZQN**. [More about Nick on page 6]

## NEW HAMFEST SITE A WINNER . . . NEW CHAIRMAN NEEDED NOW!

The weather was a breath-holder, as Hurricane Bertha drenched the Saturday set-up crew, but the new hamfest site at the fairgrounds in Kimberton, Chester County, was proclaimed a winner by everyone. Sunday's weather was bright and HOT. A very good number of volunteers showed up on both Saturday and Sunday. The food was 1000% better than the stuff at the drive-in theater.

Start-up expenses for relocating the hamfest and publicizing the new venue ate most of the revenue. The net from the hamfest was only \$800. However, the Board believes the bottom line will improve nicely in future years, as we become more proficient at running an indoor / outdoor hamfest.

MARC's 1997 hamfest will be known as The Valley Forge Hamfest, and the date will be July 13. The Board decided that a name change would spiff up the image of the event and communicate its location better to non-locals.

**Edie KA3NKP**, who did such a super job in '96, will not be able to chair the hamfest in 1997. We need a hamfest chairman, and we need one NOW.

We're already working on publicity flyers and other plans. Please contact President **Bob W3ZQN** if you're able to pick up this important responsibility for our club. If not you, who?

## WHAT'S NEW IN HAM RADIO

**VANITY CALLSIGN GATE 2 OPENS SEPTEMBER 23.** Extra class hams may apply for vanity callsigns for themselves and club stations for which they're trustees. Applications received before the start date will be returned, *so don't jump the gun!*

**NEW FCC RF SAFETY STANDARDS** that become effective January 1, 1997, could affect the way some hams operate. As a result of a Report and Order adopted by the FCC on August 1 (ET Docket No. 93-62, Guidelines for Evaluating the Environmental Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation), Part 97 will require hams running more than 50 W PEP to conduct routine RF radiation evaluations to determine if RF fields are

sufficient to cause human exposure to RF radiation levels in excess of those specified. Don't panic. Do read up on the subject. A place to start is on ARRLWeb (<http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/>). [tnx ARRL LETTER]

**ARRL SURVEYS MEMBERS ON HF CW REQUIREMENT.** All League members should respond to the survey printed on pages 49-50 of September QST. Only if large numbers of members express their opinions and desires will it be possible to determine where the mainstream flows on this controversial issue. If you don't put in your 2¢ now, don't complain later.



# REMARCS



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER, 1996

## MARC CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

Our club was founded by users of the 147.06 repeater twenty years ago in November, 1976. This issue of *REMARCS* commemorates that event with a special feature section tracing the club's history. Beginning as a repeater-support organization, MARC has grown into a general-interest club whose members are involved in many aspects of today's diverse Amateur Radio. Happy birthday to us!

### DECEMBER 18 HOLIDAY PARTY DOUBLES AS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Fun Starts at 7 PM

Once again, the December club meeting will be a holiday party. No technical program . . . just lots of good food, holiday fun, and enjoyment for the whole family. Come and enjoy good fellowship with other MARC. members. The location is the

regular club meeting site in the Winsor Room at the Library in Wayne, but we will start at 7 PM instead of 8. Party coordinator is **Edie KA3NKP**, in case you're inspired to bring something good to eat to share.

### MARC APPLIES FOR SECOND CLUB CALLSIGN

MARC has received a second club callsign in addition to WB3JOE. Under the present club callsign program, radio clubs can hold more than one callsign. The callsign is KB3BQP. . . for a while, that is.

To replace this unmelodious 2x3, MARC has applied for a callsign with special historic meaning for the organization: W3NWA, the callsign used at the very first MARC Field Day in 1977. It was then held by **Bob Young W3NWA** (SK), one of the club's founders, whom **Gene WB3FTJ** calls "the heart and soul of MARC."

Under Gate 2 of the Vanity Callsign program, we first had to apply for an off-the-rack club callsign, like KB3BQP. When that license arrived, we could apply for W3NWA as a vanity call to replace it. Trustee of the second club callsign is **Kay WT3P**.

Our repeaters and packet BBS will continue to sign WB3JOE. The additional club callsign will be used for special operating events, as approved by the Board.

### NOMINATIONS FOR 1997 BOARD ARE OPEN NOW

All licensed club members are eligible to run for seats on the 1997 Board of Directors. Nominations are now open for the election, which will be held at the January club meeting. Although many incumbents plan to run again, nobody owns an office. Except for callsign trustee, which is appointive, and the

1996-97 Member-at-Large seat currently held by **Deb AA3HE**, all positions are up for grabs. Deb is chairing the Nominations Committee. Please contact her at (610) 644-5392 or [kendziers@ucis.vill.edu](mailto:kendziers@ucis.vill.edu) to find out about running for office. Nominations close on the date of the December club meeting.

### FCC STOPS THE FORM 610R PROGRAM

As of October 22, the FCC stopped issuing Form 610R license expiration/renewal notices. The last notices sent by the FCC covered into February, 1997. The specific date was not available at press time. If you already received a Form 610R for renewal, you can still use it. You can also renew using a regular Form 610.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY ANYBODY TO RENEW YOUR TICKET FOR YOU! Don't be a sucker! An FCC spokesman in Gettysburg says the Commission hopes to have a Form 610 available soon on the World Wide Web to permit on-line renewals.