



ELECTION RESULTS

Thirty-four members voted in the annual election this year, a sizzling 22% of the eligible membership. The ballots were counted at the September club meeting. **Dieter K3DK** was appointed to serve as the teller.

All the unopposed candidates were declared elected. There were no write-in votes cast.

In the contested election for Member-at-Large, we had three candidates running and two seats available. The candidate receiving the most votes was **Lou WX3I**, and he will serve a full two-year term as Member-at-Large. The candidate with the second-highest vote total was **Foster K3FXS**, who will serve the remaining year of **Ted NT3J**'s term. Ted is retiring, moving away from the area, and cannot complete his term of office. The third-place candidate, **Ray KB3NFE**, has shown his willingness to contribute to the life of the club and we're certain he will be called upon early and often.

Joining the board along with Lou and Foster is **Joe W3JY**, who volunteered to handle the public relations job. He has graciously commented that he considers himself the "acting" PR chairman until someone willing and qualified steps up to the plate. If you have PR skills and would like to help Joe, please contact him.

SURVEY RESULTS NEXT MONTH

Because of other personal responsibilities, **Kay N3KN** was not able to finish tabulating all the membership surveys in time for this edition of the newsletter. The results of the survey will be published in next month's edition.

NET CONTROL STATIONS NEEDED

In the recent survey, quite a few members said that the nets are a main reason why you belong to MARC. Because we've lost a few net controls recently -- such as **Ted NT3J**, who's moving away -- we really need some new people to help keep the full program of nets going.

Miguel KC2HMG took a shot at being Moderator of the roundtable net. How about you stepping up to the plate, too?

If you can't commit to doing a net every week, maybe it would be possible to put you on a rotating schedule with someone else. Here's a thought: get a friend and offer to be a net control tag-team. Club & traffic Net Manager **Lou WX3I** (lou@wx3i.net) and Roundtable honcho **Bob W3LIA** (bobl@ieee.org) will work with you to find a schedule that's right for you.

OCTOBER 2006

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

OCTOBER 17 MARC MEETING PROGRAM: HIGH-DEFINITION RADIO

You've heard of high-definition TV and satellite radio, but have you heard of high-definition radio?

Our October program will be about HD radio, presented by **Dave Skalish**, engineer-in-charge at broadcast station **WPHT**. Dave has been clued that our group will be a lot more interested in technical details than the usual community organization.



High-definition radio is digital broadcasting, which is said to make AM sound as good as FM and FM sound as good as a CD. It's an in-band on-channel digital radio system, and it's a product of the iBiquity company (www.ibiquity.com).

The company's web site says, "Simultaneously, one station can offer several audio channels as well as on-screen data. A station can run one channel of music and one of news, or two different music formats. Or run three completely different music formats in three different languages. And much, much more."

Yes, you'll have to buy a new receiver to get HD radio, and receivers with this capability are not cheap. Several dozen stations in the Philadelphia market are broadcasting in HD, so it is a real

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

We have three public service events coming up soon.

October 14: Penn Wynne Library 5K run, Narberth
October 29: American Lung Association / Penn Medicine
at Radnor run, Wayne/Radnor
November 12: Vietnam Vets 5K run, Norristown

These events are interesting, don't take up your whole day, build your operating skills, assist worthy charities, improve event safety, and do good PR for Amateur Radio. Okay, so they don't re-grow lost hair or give you better gas mileage, but apart from that they are really beneficial all the way around.

No previous experience is required. Please contact **Bob N3JIZ** for specifics on each event and/or to sign up. His telephone number is 610-687-4587.

Celebrating Thirty Years of Fun and Service Through Amateur Radio / 1976 - 2006

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 PM, Tredyffrin Twp
Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. Guests welcome.
Smoke-free. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Thursdays of even months, 8 PM, Paoli
Hospital. Members may attend as
observers.

SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R, 445.675/R
145.13 & 147.06 linked, CTCSS 131.8 Hz
Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-327-8666,
smaslin@marc-radio.org)

NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
All nets on linked 145.13/R & 147.06/R
Net Manager: Lou WX3I
(610-630-9146, lou@wx3i.net)
Roundtable, Thursdays, 8:30 PM

DUES

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

NEWSLETTER

REMARCS is edited by Kay N3KN
(610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net)

BRING A FRIEND
TO A MARC MEETING!

NAT BOONIN W3JS, SILENT KEY

MARC member **Nat W3JS** became a Silent Key at on September 17 at age 81. He earned his first ham ticket in 1936 at age 11. He was a Navy radio operator in World War II and later earned his EE degree from Drexel. He worked for the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and RCA in Camden, but spent the greater part of his career with Boeing in Ridley Park, where he designed autopilots for aircraft including the Chinook helicopter. Among his many volunteer activities, he served as treasurer for our neighbors the Marple Newtown ARC for many years.

In addition to technical things such as ham radio, Nat had an avid interest in nature and the environment. He was an expert bird watcher and served as president of the Tyler Arboretum in the 1980s. He was an adviser to the Fairmount Park Commission on the preservation of the park's trees. His family suggests that memorial donations may be made to the Tyler Arboretum, 515 Painter Rd., Media, PA 19063. [info tnx Philadelphia Inquirer]

MARCONI CHALLENGE RESOURCES

Dennis K3DS's "Marconi Challenge" presentation at the September MARC was well attended and thought-provoking. Several people expressed an interest in knowing more -- some want to build the project described in the presentation.

For more information about the "Marconi Challenge," including the PowerPoint presentation Dennis gave at the meeting, go to his Web page at <http://astro.temple.edu/~silage/marconi.htm>.



Dennis K3DS speaking at the September MARC meeting.
Image by Kay N3KN

THE PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY

This fun operating event on October 14-15 is a great follow-up to Field Day as an introduction to competitive operating. The rules are posted at www.nittany-arc.net/paqsorules.htm. The operating period is 1600Z October 14 to 0500Z Oct 15 and 1300Z Oct 15 to 2200Z Oct 15.

Believe it or not, the Philadelphia-area counties are often not that easy to work, so you can be very popular even if you have just a short time to operate. If you submit an entry, be sure to put "Mid-Atlantic ARC" in the club affiliation space so MARC will get credit for your points in the club competition part of the contest.

One of the interesting things about state contests is that a lot of people operate mobile to put counties on the air that might not otherwise be heard. **Charlie KB3CO**, for example, operates mobile. Last year his operation put 14 counties on the air, racked up 209,453 points, and finished second among all the mobiles in the contest. You can work mobile stations more than once on a given band/mode as long as they are in a county where you haven't worked them yet. For example, you can work a station on 40 meter phone in Lancaster County and work it again on 40 meter phone after it crosses into Berks County.

Digital modes are new in the contest this year. Suggested frequencies for working in-state stations on PSK-31 are 3580 and 7080 kHz. RTTY is also going to be allowed, on the same frequencies, and RTTY ops are asked to move off if there's PSK-31 operation in progress. As I read the rules, you can work a station on PSK-31 and then work it again on RTTY on the same band.

Questions about how to operate the contest? Contact **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@arrl.net).

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

I read on the Internet today that the company which cloned cats has gone out of business. Could it be they figured out that cats have the cat-reproduction thing pretty much taken care of?

This is Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) month for Scouts, and our neighbors the Holmesburg ARC are encouraging hams to get kids on the air in their VHF simplex contest, and various other groups sponsor events to introduce ham radio to kids, and that's wonderful. We need more young hams.

At **Nat W3JS's** memorial service, a family member talked about how as little boys in Upper Darby back in the 1930's, Nat and a friend scanned their neighborhood's roof-lines and knocked on doors where they spotted ham antennas. A lot of hams got started that way, back in the day, knocking on strangers' doors, and it's basically how the youngster **Clarence Tuska** met the much older **Hiram Percy Maxim**. The two became friends and went on to found the ARRL. Today, of course, you'd no more let your child pay cold calls on strangers than you'd let them play with gunpowder or gasoline.

Advice I don't see in the youth event announcements -- including the ARRL's Kid's Day -- has to do with this topic we would all rather not think about: How to protect yourself and the kids you want to reach out to from misunderstandings, misinterpretations, and even worse. There are people out there who do wrong to children, and you do not want to be accused of being one of them.

If my daughter were a kid today, I would not let her go sit by herself in a ham shack with a ham of either gender, even somebody I have known for years. Over-protective? I would have thought so, until a local ham was nailed for molesting youngsters he lured to his home to operate his fancy ham station. Some of the kids he harmed or attempted to harm were the children of his ham radio buddies. Some were his own son's friends. That was many years ago and the creep went to jail and lost his ham license, but the whole hideous business came way too close to me to be forgotten, ever.

In your enthusiasm to introduce ham radio to a kid outside your immediate family -- and remember the unfunny stories about funny uncles -- do not put yourself in a position where you could be accused of doing something you did not do. Children can misunderstand. Children have been taught to be wary of improper touching. Some children have been abused by other adults in their lives and may be unable to perceive your interest in them as innocent. Some kids have emotional or behavioral disorders which incline them to say things that are not true. Don't suppose it couldn't happen to you. It could, and your life would be ruined even if you were eventually exonerated. Ham radio would get dragged through the mud with you.

The best self-protection you can get is to insist that the child be accompanied by an adult from his or her family during visits to your shack. If you have a group of kids coming over, have at least one kid's parent or adult caregiver in the shack with you and the kids at all times. This resembles the Boy Scouts' "two-deep leadership scenario." Even if the kid is a member of your immediate family, keep the shack door open at all times, keep your hands to yourself, and make sure there is another adult in the house who wanders in and out of the shack frequently.

The days of little Billy or Suzie dropping by Mr. Wizard's house for a lesson on how light bulbs work are as gone as 50-cent gasoline. As we are finding out, bad things also happened back in the good old days but simply were not reported or talked about. Today we have a responsibility to the children, to ourselves, and to Amateur Radio to ensure that our intentions and our actions cannot be misinterpreted. Ham radio is good, clean fun. Let's make sure everybody knows it. -- **73, Kay N3KN**

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MORE VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS NEEDED

MARC VE team captain **Bob W3ZQN** notes that because some of our long-time examiners are no longer able to participate, the club could use more credentialed examiners to be sure we have enough for our quarterly test sessions.

Bob W3LIA has already earned his credentials and we know that at least one other member has sent in his open-book quiz to the ARRL/VEC.

Although General and Advanced class licensees can be Volunteer Examiners, they cannot administer all exam elements. Consequently, Extra class licensees are the most helpful examiners to have on the team.

If you are an Extra class licensee and would like to become a VE, please contact Bob (rjlees@aol.com) to find out more about being a VE. Or go straight to the ARRL web page at www.arrl.org/arrlvec/ and explore the information under the "Become a Volunteer Examiner" heading.

Happening This Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Club net 8:30 PM	2 Traffic net 8:30 PM	3	4 Traffic net 8:30 PM	5 Roundtable net 8:30 PM	6 Traffic net 8:30 PM	7 <i>California QSO Party is this weekend</i>
8 Club net 8:30 PM	9 Traffic net 8:30 PM	10	11 Traffic net 8:30 PM	12 Roundtable net 8:30 PM	13 Traffic net 8:30 PM	14 Public Service: Penn Wynne Library run <i>Pennsylvania QSO Party is this weekend.</i>
15 Club net 8:30 PM <i>Pennsylvania QSO Party is this weekend.</i>	16 Traffic net 8:30 PM	17 7:30 PM Club meeting: High-Definition Radio: WPHT engineer-in-charge Dave Skalish	18 Traffic net 8:30 PM	19 Roundtable net 8:30 PM	20 Traffic net 8:30 PM	21 <i>Delaware Valley VHF FM Simplex Sprint Contest 10 AM - 2 PM (see story on this page)</i>
22 Club net 8:30 PM	23 Traffic net 8:30 PM	24	25 Traffic net 8:30 PM	26 Board meeting 8 PM Roundtable net 8:30 PM	27 Traffic net 8:30 PM	28 <i>CQ Worldwide DX phone contest is this weekend.</i>
29 Club net 8:30 PM Public Service: American Lung Assn run	30 Traffic net 8:30 PM	31 BOO!	Do you enjoy the club, traffic, and roundtable nets? You can help keep them on the air by taking a Net Control or Moderator spot. Contact Lou WX3I (lou@wx3i.net) about the club and traffic nets, and Bob W3LIA (bobl@ieee.org) about the roundtables.			

LOCAL UNIVERSITY HAM RADIO CLUBS

Many college and university ham radio clubs have faded away, unfortunately, but that's not true at Temple, where the **K3TU** group is alive and well. Temple students, faculty, and alumni can contact **Dennis K3DS** and check out the club's Web site at www.temple.edu/k3tu/. The club has a station that's well equipped for many modes and for bands from HF to the GHz.

The University of Pennsylvania ARC was one that faded away -- the station was dismantled -- until **Russ Miller WA3FRP** and **Jim Talens N3JT** decided last summer to revive it. The Web page is at www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/amateurradioclub/home.html. Hams with a Penn affiliation are invited to contact Russ at wa3frp@arri.net to join the club. There are no dues.

DELAWARE VALLEY VHF FM SIMPLEX SPRINT CONTEST

A VHF FM simplex sprint contest will take place on Saturday, October 21, from 10 AM to 2 PM, sponsored by the Holmesburg ARC of Philadelphia. In addition to offering a fun, fast operating event that most hams already have, the contest is also intended to encourage youth participation. That's why this year's event is being held on a weekend in the daytime, instead of at night as in the past. Hams are encouraged to invite neighborhood kids to operate the event with them -- this is the Scouts' JOTA weekend so there will be lots of youth operation going on.

To find out all the details, go to Holmesburg's Web page at www.harcnet.org.