



JULY / AUGUST 2006

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

IT'S HAMFEST TIME AGAIN! JULY 16, 2006

The annual hamfest is MARC's principal fund-raiser. The \$15 dues collected from each member is not remotely enough to cover the club's regular operating expenses and self-insure the four repeaters. The club you know and enjoy is dependent on the hamfest for its financial wellbeing.

Because every member benefits from the hamfest, every member is asked to do something to help the event. Talk up the hamfest on the air, volunteer to work for an hour or two, buy things from our vendors and thank them for coming.

Buy something to eat from our food vendor and thank her for coming. Her wares are a whole lot tastier and more reasonably priced than the watery coffee and food that tasted like carpet scraps we used to choke down at the old 611 Drive-In Theatre snack bar.

Set-Up on July 15

Set-up for the hamfest is on Saturday, July 15. Things will get under way about 1 PM but if people arrive sooner, we'll get finished sooner. Wear work clothes. We will be arranging the tables indoors and marking the tailgate and parking areas outdoors. This work has to be done rain or shine.

If you have an HT, bring it to set-up and the hamfest, set on 147.450 simplex. That's our administrative intercom frequency for the event.

The big day: July 16

The hamfest especially needs volunteers who can be on the site really early on Sunday morning, because that's when the traffic is heavy with vendors coming in. We appreciate everyone who has already volunteered to be there early, and we can always use more people to spread out the work load.

We also need people to help with clean-up from about noon on. We leave the grounds even cleaner than we found them. All trash is collected and the restrooms are checked.

How to volunteer?

Just show up at the main hamfest information table, sign in, and get a job to do. We have an information sheet for volunteers explaining the basics.

Members' sales table

Once again, **Dieter K3DK** has agreed to captain the sales table
(Continued on page 4)

KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY FAIR ADDS \$900 TO HAMFEST PROFIT (IF YOU HELP IT HAPPEN)

Local hamfests like ours don't make huge profits. Last year, we netted \$3,098 on gross receipts of \$3,470. That profit is great as a percentage of the gross but it's not a large absolute figure. Dayton, we ain't.

For the third year, the Kimberton Fire Company has offered to forgive the \$900 they would usually charge us to rent the fairgrounds, if we provide volunteers for their own fund-raiser. It's a great fair with rides, to-die-for fresh doughnuts, fireworks, farm animal exhibits, and a family-friendly atmosphere.

\$900 is nearly a third of our profit, folks. We need members' help

(Continued on page 4)

BOARD NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW

Nominations for the 2006-07 club board of directors are open. Any licensed member of the club may run for any office except callsign trustee, which is an appointed position. See the line-up of offices on page 3. the Member-at-Large position held by **Ted NT3J** is not up for election in 2006. The election will be held at the club meeting in September.

Two seats on the board are vacant -- Public Relations and Programs -- and **Bob W3SA** is not expected to run for another term as Member-at-Large since he's unable to attend meetings now. So we really need nominees for those positions. It is very difficult for other board members to pick up additional duties when positions are vacant. It's the road to burnout, and that puts the organization's future at risk.

Good radio clubs have fizzled out and collapsed when too many members wanted to be entertained and too few members wanted to share the job of making the organization go. There are members who contribute significant work and time to the club although they do not serve on the board. We would never want to downplay the value of the work you do! However, there are plenty of other members who could give a few hours a month to serve on the board. Might you be one of them?

Dennis Silage K3DS is chairing the nominations this year. Please contact him at silage@temple.edu if you may be interested in running for club office.

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesdays, 8 PM, Tredyffrin Township
 Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. 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, 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)

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 N3KN
 (610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net)

BRING A FRIEND
 TO A MARC MEETING!

VOX

Jeff WN3A, best known to hams as repeater guru for the Philadelphia region and beyond, was the subject of a nice profile article in Temple University public radio station WRTI's member magazine. He's director of engineering for the station. The article mentions Jeff's ham radio activity. Tnx **Bob W3ZQN** for this information. Nice to have a howdy with **Charlie KC3DS** and **Ted NT3J** at Dayton. First Dayton in years when you didn't need a raft or scuba gear. **Ron W3ZV** has taken up geocaching, following the program **Carter N3AO** and **Bart K4BF** presented in May. **Dieter K3DK** organized and sold gear from **Harry W1JZW**'s estate, with proceeds donated to MARC by Harry's family. Thank you, Dieter! **Alan WA2GDQ**, who's president of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association in addition to being a MARC member, was pictured on the ARRL web site presenting an award on behalf of VWOA.

FIELD DAY

(Theme Song: "Splish Splash")

Unless you were in Bolivia over Field Day weekend, you know that the weather was dreadful. Nevertheless, MARC's gang sloshed through to a safe conclusion and say they had fun doing it. The start of operations was delayed for a while on Saturday because of thunderstorms. Good thing we have that big dining fly tent for everyone to hide under.

We operated in class 2A -- two transmitters operating simultaneously. One station ran voice while the other concentrated on CW. Several people got on the air for Field Day for the first time. We'll have numbers for you in a future edition of the newsletter.

The club appreciates the assistance of Verizon for letting us use their training field and for loaning us the bucket truck with generator for the event. They really didn't have to do this any more, since **Bob W3SA** -- a retired executive of the phone company that morphed into Verizon -- is not able to be the contact person any more. However, the company gave us all the courtesy they ever did, and we appreciate it.

LICENSE EXAMS AUGUST 5

MARC will administer Amateur Radio license exams on Saturday, August 5, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church's education building on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive by 9 or 9:15 AM to complete the paperwork.

Club members may participate in one club-sponsored test session per year at club expense as a benefit of membership.

For information and pre-registration, please contact **Bob Lees W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032). Pre-registration is strongly advised because if nobody signs up in advance the session will be cancelled to avoid wasting examiners' Saturday morning.

Note that the question pool for the Tech exam changed on July 1. If you know someone planning to take the Tech test, make sure he or she has studied the new questions.

Lou WX3I shot some good photographs of the event and posted them on the Web at www.wx3i.net/pictures/FieldDay/fd.html. Be sure to take a look -- he captured some great scenes.

The only casualties of the weekend were the two club-owned operating tents, which began to leak seriously. They went out with the trash. One of them was purchased by **Carter N3AO** and **Kay N3KN** back in 1975. The other one was also donated to the club and I don't know how old that one was. The club's board will discuss what to do about Field Day tents.

This year's Field Day was pitched together pretty close to the last minute, but it worked and people had a good time despite the downpour. Particular thanks are due to **Dieter K3DK**, **Ron W3ZV**, and **Carter N3AO** for making things happen. We also thank **Susan K3SUE** for the use of her truck and **Bob N3JIZ** for being the guy you can depend on to go above and beyond the call of duty.

So we managed to pull off Field Day 2006 despite wretched weather and the loss of **Dick K3IIN**, whose energy in past years made PECO look second-best. What's going to happen in the future? The board is going to take that under consideration and probably reach out to club members for input and planning. The whole Field Day thing nearly fizzled away several years ago before Dick and a few other people decided that should not happen. No one can take Dick's place, but somebody (probably a plural somebody) needs to step up and take Dick's role as the sparkplug for Field Day 2007 and thereafter.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Somebody took a poll of college students about favorite forms of recreation, and the kids ranked their iPods ahead of beer. What the heck is the younger generation coming to? Speaking of suds, a medical study showed that an ingredient in beer helps prevent prostate cancer. Before you head for the refrigerator, note that the study says you'd have to drink 17 beers a day to get the benefit. So your prostate would be fine but your liver would be grease. Don't despair -- another study said drinking four cups of coffee a day cuts your risk of alcoholic cirrhosis by 80 percent. So your liver would be okay but your cardiovascular system would be racing like a hamster on crack.

There ain't no justice, is there?

The ARRL June VHF Contest this year was one of those good new / bad news cases, too. When I switched on the rig a little past the 2 PM start time on Saturday, 6 meters was cackling with activity. We'd had some sporadic-E propagation for the east coast in the weeks leading up to the contest, but Saturday of the contest was the best E-skip I've heard in ages. I worked the Dakotas, southern California, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Ops in New England and Florida said they worked Europe.

I was all set to stay up late and then the band just quit. Rolled up the side-walks and went home. Distant stations simply disappeared in mid-sentence. All up and down the band I heard nothing but a few big-signal locals calling CQ and getting no replies.

Well, you'll have that with E-skip, I said to myself. Tomorrow could be just as good as today. Except it wasn't. Bored hams at multi-operator stations on mountain-top expeditions called CQ for hours but hardly anybody answered. There was a brief opening to Florida on Sunday afternoon that provided a few more grids to beef up my multiplier count. On the whole, though, Sunday was as dull as Saturday had been exciting.

VHF, like baseball, stretches your ability to hope for better things to come. You cannot take it for granted that you can just switch on the VHF rig and play radio, any more than you can take it for granted on any given day that the Phillies know what those things in the bat rack are meant to be used for.

Someday they really will prove that our vices and bad habits -- like beer and coffee and maybe even red meat -- are good for us after all. The Phillies really will win a World Series again. Meanwhile, I'll be turning on the VHF rig and scanning the band, waiting 6 meters to remind me why they call it the Magic Band. -- **73, Kay N3KN**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

At their meeting on June 22, the board made decisions about future meeting program topics, named a nominations chairman, and decided to postpone the start of a new club awards program until September. It was noted that the club has no records retention policy and should develop one. A motion to purchase club logo coffee mugs for volunteer work rewards was presented but was lost. Board members were asked to make personal phone calls to members to ask for help at the hamfest and fire company fair. Following extensive discussion of the American Diabetes Tour de Cure public service event, it was voted not to provide communications for this event in future years. The board noted that expected help from another radio club did not happen. The treasury balance was \$12,295.18. The latest bank statement was shown to the board members to substantiate the figures in the treasurer's report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005

PRESIDENT

Steve Maslin N3ORH 610-327-8666
smaslin@marc-radio.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Bart Feroe K4BF 610-367-4288
k4bf@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Dori Lawson W3IBH 610-610-910-4063
w3ibh@arrl.net

TREASURER

Carter Craigie N3AO 610-993-9623
n3ao@arrl.net

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Kay Craigie N3KN 610-993-9623
n3kn@arrl.net

PROGRAMS

(open)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

(open)

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL

Dennis Silage K3DS 610-353-4829
silage@temple.edu

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2006: Bob Haase W3SA
610-293-1919, rhaase@bellatlantic.net

To 9/30/2007: Ted Jennings NT3J
610-793-1979, tedddyjsr@aol.com

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE: Carter Craigie N3AO
610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net

W3NWA: Kay Craigie N3KN
610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

The weather was great for the Radnor Memorial Day parade through downtown Wayne on May 29. Once again, MARC provided safety communications and the N3AO-mobile was in the parade decked out with flags and signs about ham radio.

Our communicators for this event were **Bob N3JIZ, Ned WQ3Z, Ron W3ZV, Alex KA2VLP, Floyd KA3OXA, Dieter K3DK, Ted NT3J, Dan K3OU, Beth KA3GKI, Bill KN3EUF, Susan K3SUE**, with **Carter N3AO** in the parade car. Nice job, everybody!

The American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure event on June 10 was served by 5 club members. We had expected to do this event jointly with another radio club, but they decided to do another event instead. The organization of the event really was not up to par. Our operators ended up being

(Continued on page 4)

HAMFEST JULY 16*Continued from page 1*

for members' gear, assisted by **Will KB3IEL**. This means you can work at the hamfest and have your stuff sold at the same time.

You can bring your for-sale stuff to the set-up on Saturday or to the hamfest on Sunday. Either way, you will fill out an information form stating what the item is, whether or not it works (if you know), the asking price and how negotiable that is (if at all). There is no commission charged on these sales. You may pocket the whole amount or donate some or all the takings to the club. Your stuff, your choice.

This table is intended only for sales of club members' personal gear, as a benefit of MARC membership. Club members who are assisting in the disposal of estate equipment may sell that gear at the members' sales table, whether or not the Silent Key was a MARC member. Again, this is a benefit of MARC membership.

Non-member friends of the club are invited to buy an indoor table or a tailgate space to sell their stuff.

All members must take home unsold items. There is to be no dumping at the fairgrounds.

Please cooperate with Dieter and Will and thank them for providing this great service at the hamfest.

More information:

A copy of the flyer is distributed with this newsletter. Event chairman **Mike KF3CD** is out of town, so don't send your questions to him. The officer of the day will be **Steve N3ORH** (smaslin@marc-radio.org), so please ask him if you need information or advice.

Vendors / Exhibitors / Prizes

We're the kind of hamfest where vendors tend to appear rather than book tables in advance. However, we know that the ARRL, A&A Communications (**Giselle K3WAJ**), Navy/Marine Corps MARS, Chester County ARES/RACES, **Gene N3HG** and **Judy N3MBW**, and Electronic Recovery have already reserved tables.

We will have door prizes donated by the ARRL and WorldRadio magazine. Informational literature has been donated by ICOM. We'll also have additional prizes purchased from the League. The main door prize is a Yaesu FT-60 dual-band HT which you can read about at www.universal-radio.com/catalog/ht/0060.html.

SEE YOU AT THE MARC HAMFEST!**MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

It's been a while since we surveyed the membership to gather facts and opinions for the board to mull over. A questionnaire will be part of the next edition of the newsletter.

If you would like to suggest questions to be put to the membership about the activities and services sponsored by our club, please send them to **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY FAIR*Continued from page 1*

to hold up our end of the bargain with the fire company. MARC board members have been contacting you asking for help. Many thanks to everyone who's been able to say yes.

If you said no because you don't want to help, as opposed to being unable to for some reason, I want to ask you to re-think that. For four or five hours of pretty easy volunteer work, you can help our club earn \$900. Some members work every shift that's on the schedule. Can you help out at just one?

The dates are July 27, 28, and 29 -- all three evenings and Saturday afternoon. If you said no before but can change your mind about it now, please contact **Kay N3KN** (610-993-9623, n3kn@comcast.net) and we'll sign you up.

PUBLIC SERVICE*Continued from page 3*

asked to drive the sag wagons, and the event does not need ham radio communicators to do that. What were the sponsors planning to do for van drivers if our operators had not been there?

Not wishing to put our ham radio volunteers in the position of being asked to do things they are not qualified for and not at ease about doing, the club's board has voted not to offer to do communications for this event in the future. While the charity is a very worthy cause, this particular event is off our public service calendar for the future.

The hams who served this event were **Alex KA2VLP**, **Andy K3JSE**, **Ted NT3J**, **Dieter K3DK**, and **Bob N3JIZ**.



Field Day setup begins under gray skies.

Photo by Kay N3KN

PROGRAMS

July 18: Video night! We'll have some ham radio videos to enjoy. (Popcorn is optional.)

August 15: **Ted NT3J** will introduce the new MARC HF operating challenge program and **Dennis K3DS** will present information about the MARC repeater QSO operating award. More ways to have fun on the ham bands!

The Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club Presents the

Lots
of great
Door
Prizes!

VALLEY FORGE HAMFEST AND COMPUTER FAIR

Sunday July 16, 2006

Rain or Shine • Indoor - Outdoor Facilities

Kimberton, PA • Fire Co. Fairgrounds

Route 113 - South of the Intersection with Route 23

Inside Tables With Electricity

\$10 each for 1-4 Tables, \$8 each for 5 or more, not including admission. *No advance tailgate sales.*

• **Sellers 7 a.m. - \$6 Tailgate Space***

- *Car width space/head in parking • Not including admission
- No reserved tailgate space

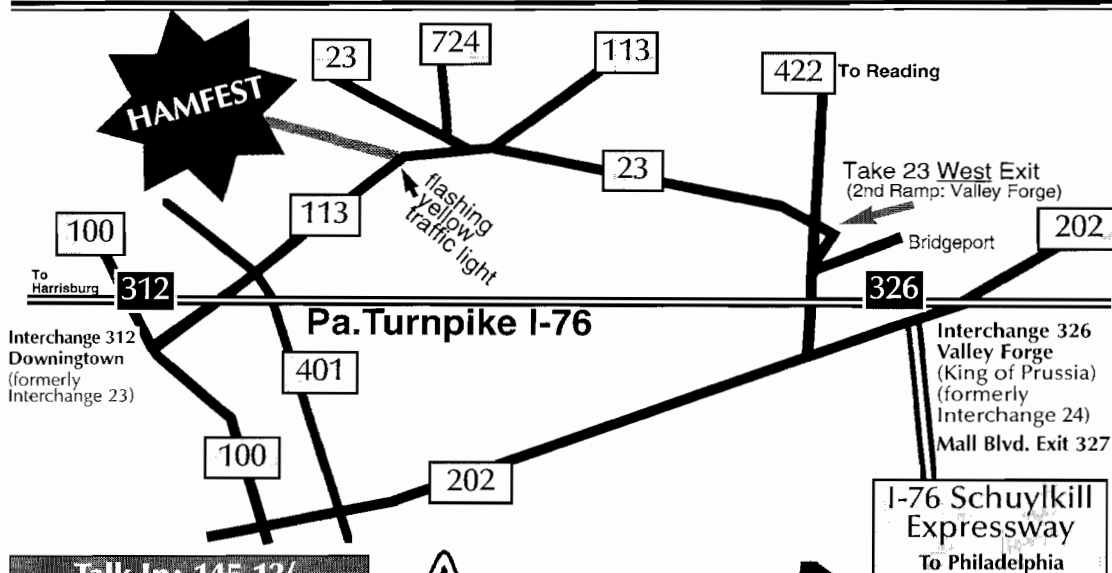
• **Buyers 8 a.m. - \$6 Admission**

- Unlicensed spouse and children of licensed ham free

Indoor Table Reservations: Steve Maslin, N3ORH, 2408 Lomara Dr., Pottstown, PA. 19464

Phone: 610-327-8666 E-mail: reservations@marc-radio.org

Hamfest Information: hamfest-info@marc-radio.org or website at: www.marc-radio.org/hamfest.html
or write MARC, PO Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399



Talk In: 145.13/-
and 147.06/+ CTCSS 131.8

Food and Beverage Sales by
Authorized Vendors Only.



MARC
MID-ATLANTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.marc-radio.org

From the East:

New Jersey: PA Turnpike West to Exit 326 (Valley Forge). Go through toll plaza and take first exit on right (Valley Forge). Follow to Route 23. See ALL below.

Philadelphia: Schuylkill Expressway West to Mall Blvd. Exit 327 (old exit 25). Turn Right on Mall Blvd. Go to stop light, turn Right on to Gulph Road. Follow to Route 23. See ALL below.

ALL: Route 23 West through Valley Forge Park and Phoenixville. Left on Route 113 South (McDonalds on Right). Follow approximately 1.9 miles, Fairgrounds are on the Right.

From the West:

Harrisburg: PA Turnpike East to Exit 312 (Downingtown). Route 100 South to Route 113 North. Cross Route 401. Continue approx. 5 miles on Route 113 to Fairgrounds entrance on Left.

Reading: Route 422 East to Route 724 (past Pottstown). Turn Left off exit ramp onto Route 724. Route 724 ends and becomes Route 23. Follow Route 23 East to Route 113 South (McDonalds on Left). Turn Right onto Route 113, follow approximately 1.9 miles, Fairgrounds are on the Right.

From the South:

Delaware: 1-95 North to Route 202 North. Continue to exit for Route 401. Turn Left off of exit ramp onto Route 401 West. Continue to Route 113 North. Turn Right onto Route 113, continue approx. 5 miles to Fairground entrance on Left

From the North:

Allentown: Northeast Extension South to PA Turnpike Exit 326 (Valley Forge). Go through toll plaza and take first exit on right (Valley Forge). Follow to Route 23. Continue on Route 23 West through Valley Forge Park and Phoenixville. Left on Route 113 South (McDonalds on Right). Follow approximately 1.9 miles, Fairgrounds are on the Right.

GPS Coordinates: N 40° 07.626 min
W 75° 34.008 min