



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2001

# REMARKS

[www.marc-radio.org](http://www.marc-radio.org)

## HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 18 MARC'S 25TH BIRTHDAY!

MARC's annual holiday party will take the place of our regular meeting on December 18. We have no technical program, just good food and good fellowship. Your family members are cordially invited to join us. If you are an artist or craftsman (photography, carving, drawing, sculpture, etc.) bring some samples of your creations to display.

This party will be special because it marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of MARC. The first membership meeting was held in December, 1976.

The event coordinator is **Janet KA3VTQ**. Please contact her (610-384-3163, [jvann@ccis.net](mailto:jvann@ccis.net)) if you'd like to bring some refreshments or help with decorations.

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM: IRLP

In the last issue, you read about IRLP, the Internet Radio Linking Project. Come to the November 20 club meeting and hear about it from **Vic Tenaglia N3IO**, the area's leading authority on this combination of ham radio and the Internet. This would be a good program for your friends who are interested in the Internet but who aren't hams yet.

## PROJECTOR NEEDED

Some potential program speakers need to use one of those projectors that display the monitor output from a laptop computer onto a large slide-show screen. They're very expensive, so few people own one. If you have access to one that you could bring to a meeting for a speaker's use, please contact **Kay WT3P** as soon as possible ([wt3p@arrl.net](mailto:wt3p@arrl.net), 610-993-9623).

## PUBLIC SERVICE NOVEMBER 10, 18

MARC will communicate for the Penn Wynne Library benefit 5k run/walk on Saturday, November 10, at 8 AM, in Wynnewood. Talk-in will be on 147.06.

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## CLUB ELECTION RESULTS

Participation in the board election was a meager 20 ballots cast. All candidates on the slate were elected. **David KB3CRY** received one write-in vote for Member-at-Large. The Programs slot remains vacant.

## SANTA'S BRIGADE CHEERS NEEDY NEIGHBORS

Most of us are up to our ears in holiday gifts ... but not everyone in our community is as fortunate as we. MARC participates in the Main Line Volunteer Force's annual "Santa's Brigade" project, providing modest gifts for residents (many of them children) at St. Mary's Shelter in Phoenixville.

You'll be provided with a person's name, gender, and age, and suggestions for a gift in the \$10 to \$25 range. Gifts can be brought to the holiday party. If that's impossible for you, we can work out another way to collect your gift.

MLVF is made up of well-known organizations (Sovereign Bank, Janney Montgomery Scott, Wawa, Prudential Fox Roach Realty, to name a few) and MARC is mentioned in publicity about the event.

If you'd like to donate a gift for one or more needy neighbors, please contact **Kay WT3P** ([wt3p@arrl.net](mailto:wt3p@arrl.net), 610-993-9623).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE!

**FCC plans "mass conversion" to CORES/FRN for ULS registrants** (Oct 3, 2001) — Before the switchover to mandatory Commission Registration System on December 3, 2001, the FCC plans to do a "mass conversion" from its Universal Licensing System database. "Anyone who has a TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number — typically an individual's Social Security Number) registered with us and a valid license will get a FRN (FCC Registration Number), and it will show in our license database," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau spokesperson told ARRL. Amateur Service licensees who are not already registered in the ULS are encouraged to register their TINs soon, so they can save the step of a second CORES registration after December 3. To register, visit the FCC's Universal Licensing System Web site and click on "Register TIN/ Call Sign."

Once CORES becomes mandatory in December, everyone doing business with the FCC — licensed or not — must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number — or FRN. The FCC called the move "a first step" toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the ULS were assigned an FRN by CORES in a mass conversion last year. Affected amateurs were notified by mail.

The requirement to obtain an FRN extends to applicants for an Amateur Radio license as well as to anyone required to pay a fee to the FCC, such as those applying for a vanity call sign. An FRN will not be needed to file comments in rulemaking proceedings, however. **Read more about this on page 2.**

**1976 — Celebrating 25 Years of Service and Fun — 2001**

## ABOUT MARC

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

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 8 PM, Radnor  
Township Building, St. Davids.  
Guests welcome. Smoke-free.  
Handicapped-accessible.

## BOARD MEETINGS

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

## SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R  
141.13 CTCSS 131.8 Hz  
Webmaster: Steve N3ORH  
(610-313-8080, smaslin@fast.net)

## NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM 147.06  
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM 147.06  
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

Please welcome new members and new licensees: **Owen KB3GVY** and **Lynnette KB3GZZ**. Lynette is married to **Paul WE3NUD**. Also welcome returning members **Chip K3DMC** (ex-WB3DMC) and **Tim N8LXR**.

The board members who did not stand for re-election are due our sincere thanks for their efforts during their terms of office: **Janet KA3VTQ**, **David KB3CRY**, and **Bill W3KRB**. Janet and David, both past treasurers, were extremely helpful to the incoming treasurer in getting the records and accounts transferred.

Ask **Doug N3ENU** about the WW2 vintage German Morse code key he picked up in England. **Kay WT3P** finally received the last QSL cards needed for DXCC on RTTY and spoke at the ARRL Connecticut State Convention. Did you know that **Ron W3ZV** is a 3rd-generation fire-fighter? **Steve N1HDP** and **Jon N3VZG** borrowed a transceiver from the club for a public Jamboree on the Air station in Chester County.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LICENSE!

Continued from Page 1

Applicants for upgrades and new licenses do not have to have an FRN already or to know what their FRN is when they go to an exam session. The number can be added on to the application by the VEC for upgrades, and it will be automatically assigned by the FCC for new licensees.

The FRN is not the same as the ULS License ID number. It is not displayed when you look yourself up on QRZ.com at the present time. However, a quick QRZ.com lookup is an easy way to see if you're registered in the ULS. If you are, then you either already have an FRN or will be assigned one on December 3.

The FCC established CORES last year and has been in the process of implementing it. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau concedes that a lot of issues remain undecided regarding how CORES/FRN will work for the Amateur Service.

**HERE IS WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:** Make sure you are registered in ULS before December 3. Have objections to registering your TIN with the FCC? Write your Congressman (it was Congress's idea). Unless Congress changes their orders to the FCC, we have to register if we want to be licensed. Your license, your choice.

**HERE IS WHAT TO DO** to find what your FRN is or to be sure you're in line to be assigned one on December 3.

1. Go to [www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/).
2. Click on the <LICENSES> LINK (located under the word SEARCH).
3. On the <License Search> page, click on the word <Continue>.
4. Enter your Amateur Radio callsign in the box <Call Sign>.
5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the <Search> button.
6. Click on your highlighted call sign on the next page to get to your FCC record.
7. At the top of the screen there will be two links, each entitled <License Information>.
8. Click on the <License Information> link located second from the left.
9. Your 10-digit FRN is displayed on the top line. Write it down and file it away safely with your license document!

If the FRN number is blank, you must register in ULS in order to be assigned one during the conversion on December 3. Go back to the starting point at [www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/) and click on ULS TIN registration. You will need to know your TIN (Social Security Number) in order to register.

If you are not on the Internet, that does NOT absolve you of having to register and to make a record of your FRN. MARC will help you. Contact **Kay WT3P** (610-993-9623) for assistance. Or you can ask a friend who is on the Internet to let you register from his or her computer. [info tnx ARRL and W5YI Report]

## STORAGE LOCKER MOVED

MARC volunteers moved our hamfest and Field Day gear from the old storage locker in Frazer to a more convenient, less expensive location in Oaks. Members who came out in pouring rain on October 7 to shift the stuff were **Susan K3SUE**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Dan KA3KHR**, and **Carter N3AO**. **Janet KA3VTQ** helped find the new location.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

Continued from Page 1

MARC will communicate for the Vietnam Vets Run on Sunday, November 18. Meet at the Norristown Farm park at 8 AM. Talk-in will be on 145.13.

Contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587) for information and to sign up for these events. Doing public service is interesting, isn't difficult, and shows our neighbors that we're all-around good guys.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

The last time I was president of anything, the year was 1955 and the outfit was the Junior American Citizens Club in Mrs. McMahon's third grade at the W.D. Thomson Elementary School in DeKalb County, Georgia. So what do I know about how the USA ought to deal with terrorism?

I know this: Hams who were on HF in the Cold War days remember how most Americans were astonished to learn that we could have radio contacts with ordinary citizens of the Soviet bloc countries. We might as well have told them we were on a conversational basis with little green dudes from Mars. True, for many years the hams on the other side weren't allowed to say anything of substance to us. But the fact that we could communicate at all was amazing in an era when our governments were rattling nukes at each other.

Thinking back to that time, it seems as though each of those QSO's with Sergei or Vlad or Lyuba chipped an insidious little nick in the Iron Curtain. One day, that barrier built of hate, fear, and menace just wasn't there any more.

So it came about that in the 1990's, I walked down the streets of Prague and Budapest. My daughter lived in the home of a Russian family outside Moscow. If somebody had told me back in 1955 that this would happen in my lifetime, I would have run to my Daddy and told him to call the cops because there was a raving lunatic loose in the neighborhood.

I know this: You and I don't have to feel helpless against the deadly poison of hate. The scientific, fraternal spirit of Amateur Radio is fundamentally opposed to irrational prejudice. When we read in Part 97 that one of the basic purposes of the Amateur service is "continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," let us take that not as a platitude but as a marching order.

Promoting international goodwill through Amateur Radio is the way each one of us can strike a personal blow against the evil that broke our hearts on September 11. — **73, Kay WT3P**

## LICENSE TEST SESSION NOVEMBER 3

MARC will give license exams on Saturday, November 3, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive around 9:15 AM to begin the paperwork.

Pre-registration is strongly advised. If we have no pre-registered applicants, the session will be cancelled to avoid wasting the examiners' time.

To pre-register and get complete details about what documentation you must bring to the session, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com).

The test fee is \$10. However, MARC members are allowed to participate in one club-sponsored test session per year at no charge. The club pays the test fee as a benefit of club membership and to encourage upgrading.

## FLEA MARKET

**FOR SALE:** Butternut antenna model HF6V; 100 ft. RG-213 coax (never used); 16 ft long 2" O.D 1/4" wall thick aluminum mast; two 100 micro amp 4" meters; approx. 50 ft. copper braid; headphone' Heathkit color bar and dot generator; stainless steel hardware, etc. As a complete package \$100. Contact **Tony Lamorgese KA3CBS** (610-544-1016)

*For sale, wanted, and trade ads published free of charge for club members.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2001-2002

## PRESIDENT

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

## VICE PRESIDENT

**Bart Feroe K4BF 610-367-4288**  
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**Kay Craigie WT3P 610-993-9623**  
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## PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Bob Weiss KB3FSQ**  
kb3fsq@netcarrier.com

## PUBLIC SERVICE

**Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587**

## TECHNICAL

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

## PROGRAMS

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

**To 9/30/2002: Al Maslin N3EA**  
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

**To 9/30/2003: Gene Hoenig N3HG**  
610-353-3281, ehoenig@pol.net

## CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

**WB3JOE: Al Maslin N3EA**  
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

**W3NWA: Kay Craigie WT3P**  
610-993-9623, wt3p@arrl.net

MARC HISTORY ON CD-ROM  
A Work in Progress by Kay WT3P

Minutes, certificates, letters, newspaper clippings, newsletters, photographs, slides, handwritten scribbles, 8-track and cassette tapes, hamfest flyers . . . MARC's archives contain a wealth of information about the history of our club. Today, there's a practical way to share highlights of the collection with members. I have been working on a CD-ROM which will contain documents and images presented in PDF and HTML format. Please watch future *REMARCS* for more information.

## REPEATER REPORT

Technical chair **Dennis K3DS** says the noise on the 145.13 repeater appears to be caused unintentionally by a non-Amateur system recently installed at the same site. He believes a technical solution, such as shielding, will take care of it.

The 145.13 autopatch has been enabled. The board has approved an autopatch instruction sheet showing the access codes and user guidelines, which will be distributed to all members as soon as possible.

## MARC BEGAN IN THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR — 1976

On the outskirts of the Liberty Bell city in 1976, a small group of hams got together to form a club that outlived the scary haircuts, wide neckties, and polyester suits, to become the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club we enjoy now 25 years later. Members were invited to tell us what they remember about MARC's past.

The club was actually started by **Joe DeCourcelle K3OBU** and myself, along with some of our early repeater users.

**From Joe Rocci  
W3JDR  
ex-WA3CMQ)**

The name was my suggestion based on my grandiose vision of a club that would grow to very significant regional prominence. The club applied for a club license, and was serendipitously issued "WB3JOE." Joe D. and I subsequently willed the original repeater system to the club and immersed ourselves in our business.

We had constructed a home-made (really . . . resistor by transistor by capacitor) repeater that originally went on the air at 147.66/147.06. This was about 1973 while Joe D. and I were working together as RF engineers at Acrodyne Industries in Montgomeryville. The repeater spent its first year or so in Worcester, PA, at Joe D's house. I think our original repeater call was WR3ABZ, or something like that. Sometime thereafter, **Phil Reger WA3VCS**, an old high school friend of mine arranged through his connections with Villanova University to let us put a 40-foot tower on the roof of the University's engineering building. We moved our 100 watt repeater there, and quickly became one of the hottest repeaters in the Philadelphia region. Our outstanding coverage attracted a large group of regular users.

Joe and I subsequently started a company (Spectrum Communications, Inc) that capitalized on our love for communications RF and ham radio. We were making land mobile radios, repeaters, and amplifiers. The company quickly took off, to the point that we had little personal time to maintain the repeater.

That's when we started the Mid-Atlantic Radio Club, "MARC."

**From Bill Scholz  
W3YSZ, MARC's first  
Vice President**

Twenty-five years - that's incredible! I can plainly remember sitting in a classroom in Villanova University with the other

founders as we conducted our first organizational meeting. A large classroom — way too big for our tiny group of club founders — with a Mother Mary statue near the door (I'm not Catholic so this stands out in memory as surprising!).

Some of the strongest memories are of **Al W3DZI**, **Marlene WA3UOC**, my oldest friend **Peter K3ZFG** (who passed away nearly two years ago), red-headed **Mike Cohen WA3SYI**, and a whole host of others.

In the early years I ran the tech group, contributing geek-oriented notes to each news letter and gathering club members at my house for activities such as direction-finding antenna building parties. I also remember demonstrating transmission of data between two computers: **Mel Richman K3KHU** and I had each home-built 8080-based computers in the 1977 time-frame, and dragged them to a club meeting to demonstrate sending data over 2 FM using homebrew modems (called "TU's" in those days) — we used both ASCII and Baudot code at 300 and 110 bps respectively.

Technology sure has come a long way in the past quarter century! Regards, **Bill W3YSZ**

When I signed on in '77 I was just out of high school and had recently gotten

my Tech ticket. A couple of buddies from school, **Matt WA3SVJ** and **Perry WA3WOE**, helped me get licensed. My first 2m rig was a trusty six-channel Spec Comm from **Joe WA3GMS** which came with the '06 repeater crystals as standard equipment. I spent a good deal of time palling around with friends I met on there.

I could share a few funny stories about **Bob WA3PZO**, who was in college at that time. Bob was also a charter member of the Cornfielders, which was a group of the high school and college guys on '06 from Delaware County and Villanova. The name was coined after **Hank Cutler WB2AOX** began radioing for help after leaving one of our Friday night gatherings. He had gotten his car stuck in a cornfield and listening to '06 that evening one would have thought we were running an elaborate rescue operation. The MARC played a big part in my early ham radio years.

**From Chip Lillie K3DMC (ex-WB3DMC)**

### Sidebar: WHY NOT MID- ATLANTIC RADIO CLUB?

*To qualify for a club callsign back in the 1970's, an organization had to have "Amateur Radio" in its name. That's why we changed from Mid-Atlantic Radio Club to Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club. But we kept the acronym MARC instead of MAARC. Today's club callsign program does not have such strictures about the organization's name.*

### From Rob Reichman WA3IHV

In the "old days" the 147.66/06 repeater had a voice ID with provocative quips . . . as a teenager I enjoyed the series of different

ID's. I don't remember whose XYL recorded the ID's, but I'm sure my XYL would not approve of me monitoring a repeater with such provocative IDs. MCW will pass muster. Hope everyone is well in Philly, Greetings from San Diego. 73 de **WA3IHV**

### From Nat Boonin W3JS

In the summer and fall of 1975 I drove up to eastern Long Island and back every

other week while I was temporarily working up there. I bought a used Heath HW-202 to use during the long drive. It was crystal controlled, and it included a set of crystals for 147.06/66. That got me on the repeater, and at that time I was on the air more than I am now. During that time I bought a synthesizer kit from GLB to get away from being rock bound. I did most of the construction work on it at night in my motel room. I still have the rig, and I think it still works.

So when the club was organized I joined to help support the repeater. I must admit I was not an active member, but I was always interested in what was going on.

### From David Goodman K1FXM (ex-WA3NHO)

I joined MARC on the recommendation of **AI N3EA** whom I knew in his **W3DZI** days, and his wife **Marlene**

**WA3UOC**. I see that "Little Steve" **Maslin** is now the club president. The club repeater had excellent and extremely clear coverage and it became a home for me for many years until my interests changed to DX contesting. I became involved with the **Frankford Radio Club** until my ham radio interests waned in the early 1990's. Although I am still an active ham, I have not been on the air for quite some time. Perhaps I'll come to a meeting and reactivate my interest. My regards to everyone along with my sincere congratulations on 25 years! **David Goodman K1FXM**, Wynnewood, PA.

### From Howard Smith WB3CIW

The repeater was the backbone of my and my son's (**WB3CIX**) Amateur Radio career. There was always someone available to

help and instruct us. We learned a lot and made many new friendships. The things that I remember well were the Fox Hunts, the monthly meetings, Sunday night net, auctions, and especially the Annual Christmas Dinner. To the current members, congratulations on being hams. Enjoy the hobby. It's one of the most gratifying one you could ever partake in.

### Sidebar: "ROCKBOUND"

*VHF FM rigs of the past did not have frequency synthesis. You had to purchase or make and install crystals for the desired repeater pairs (such as 147.66 input, 147.06 output). Consequently, if you bought a rig that was already crystallized up for 147.66/147.06, you were likely to hang with the gang from MARC. Today, "rockbound" radios are still used in Amateur applications where frequency stability is critical. For example, many FM repeaters, including MARC's, are crystal-controlled.*

### From Bob Josuweit WA3PZO

I was exposed to 2 meters using a popular GE crystal-controlled radio, operating from the top floor of the Temple University Engineering Building. I can remember asking about 2m repeaters in Delaware County. I was told of the 147.06 repeater at Villanova University. From home in Haverstown, I began to listen and heard a friendly group. The repeater was built by the Joe's, **K3OBU** and **WA3CMQ**, and others for their final engineering project at Villanova.

There was interest in turning the repeater over to a club. A group met at the home of **Steve WA3NUB** to organize a club. Some of the calls included **AI W3DZI**, **Peter K3ZFG**, **Jack WA3HDJ**, **Mike WA3SYI**, **Marlene WA3UOC**, and **Phil WA3VCS**. We didn't want to be confused with other groups. Although we encompassed the entire Philadelphia area, there was already a Delaware Valley Radio Association and a Philadelphia Area Repeater Association. For the time being, we settled on the Radnor Repeater Group. At the next meeting, we talked about where the users of '06 lived. Besides the immediate Philadelphia area, users lived in southern New Jersey, central Delaware, and Lancaster County. We began to talk about serving the Mid-Atlantic region. We decided to go with Mid-Atlantic Radio Club.

As we talked about forming a club, many of the early users listened to '06 just waiting for a call. Of particular note were the impromptu bowling parties that took us to northeast Philadelphia, City Line Avenue, Willow Grove, and other bowling lanes in the area. To make life interesting, I bet **Marlene WA3UOC** a penny a pin. Just in case, I brought a bag full of wrapped pennies. The difference in the scores is more than I care to remember, but the bag covered the tip for the entire group's ice cream.

Another popular event was the annual Christmas party. One in particular was held at a boat club in Chester. Following the affair, a former club president needed some directions back to the Main Line. Immediately, our trustworthy direction-givers offered our lost president some help. Before we knew it, our president was in Delaware, and we were home in bed.

I can't believe the day! I was rooted to the TV coverage and couldn't

decide whether to pray or cry . . . So I did both.

### From Kevin O'Connor WJ1H ex-KA3RGF [Written September 11]

I certainly would like to send my best wishes from the gigantic state of Rhode Island to the club and all members past and present. I haven't found a club here that comes close to the fun and warmth of MARC.

My memories are of Field Days, club testing sessions at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian, disaster drills, and some emergency communication work. But most of all the camaraderie in every day communication and nets.

Speaking of disaster drills, today makes those drills have incredible meaning. Especially when they announced that telephones were gone, cells were jammed and communication was extremely clogged. Amateur Radio can still play a role even with things like cellular phones. All the best, **Kevin**

## TIMELINE, 1997—2001

For a complete MARC timeline, 1976 - 2001,  
and info on past club leaders  
see the Web page at  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~wt3p/TIMELINE.HTML>

### From Jenny Craigie KA3WVD

My involvement with MARC was not what one would call voluntary. I can't be sure how long ago I became an associ-

ate member, but I can assure you I was more than a few feet shorter than I am today and didn't have much of a choice. Every third Thursday of every month I came along with my parents to the MARC meetings at the Radnor Library. I don't remember all that much from those days, but what I do remember is all the grown ups who treated me like I was just one of the guys even though they had seen me in my footie pajamas at the board meetings held in our living room in Devon.

The best part of those early days for me, other than getting to take home the left-over doughnuts, was goofing around with hams like **Dan KA3KHR** who always wanted an update on my boyfriend status; getting glasses of water for **Bart K4BF** when he was laughing so hard he the veins were popping out of his forehead; selling door prize tickets at the head table as an assistant treasurer with **Bob WA3PZO**; and talking with **Josy WQ3E** and **Bob W3SA**, who were always interested in what I was doing in school. It really was like a second family to me.

As I got older and more interested in service, I really became interested in MARC's radio communications for events. It seemed like every year I was positioned in at the most difficult horse jump where everyone got dumped. Maybe that's why, to this day, I can't make that kind of jump! I liked the feeling of being able to help those in need and I enjoyed working with the club members who volunteered their weekends to provide service to those horse riders, canoers, runners, and bike riders over the years.

I have very fond memories of the MARC club and the people who made it all happen. I can say for certain that I wouldn't be who I am today if it weren't for the encouragement, support, and friendship from those early members.

*"I would encourage all those who have not held office or run a program (hamfest, meeting program, public event, etc. to do so. Even start as a team member, learn as they go. The experience will stay with them forever . . . good for the resumé, too. Also, It's fun!" – Don Schuenemann WB3AYT past president, treasurer, and hamfest chairman*

## HELP A FRIEND BECOME A HAM

If someone asked you about becoming a ham, would you know what to say? Here are some tips.

- Check out the ARRL web site ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) .
- The ARRL's toll-free number (1-800-32-NEW-HAM). During regular business hours, a real live human being will answer questions and send free literature.
- Bring the person to a MARC meeting.

I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, having just earned my Technician, when the

### From Carl Werntz WA3ZZU

gang on the '06 repeater at Villanova University decided that they would like to form a club to support the repeater which "the Joes" had built and gotten on the air, along with its famous voice ID system. They had gotten busy starting a new company to build repeaters, Spectrum Communications (which is still in this business), and were receptive to having others take over '06. I looked forward to the meeting, as it was the first opportunity to put a face with most of the voices I had known.

I attended the first regular meeting of the club in a classroom at Villanova University. I still remember the huge crucifix behind the podium in the room. After a few meetings at the GE space center in Valley Forge, we moved the meetings out to the Metropolitan Savings office off of City Line Avenue. Being a youngster, I needed to get a ride to the meetings, and remain indebted to the local hams, especially **Bob Young W3NWA**, who gave me rides to the MARC meetings.

Fairly early, (likely too young to do it well) I served for on the MARC board as the public service person for a few years while I was in junior high and high school. At that time, we had a Sunday night club net (with only rare traffic), we were involved in a bicycle ride in Lower Merion, horse trail rides by Lake Nockamixon, and the Philadelphia Airport disaster plan.

During afternoon drive time I was delivering The Evening Bulletin to the customers on my paper route and using a Wilson HT (later feeding into a 5/8 wave mag mount antenna mounted between the newspaper baskets on the back of my bike). This setup provided a famously noisy signal which strained the ears of the afternoon drive-time group, including **Bob W3NWA**, **John Struthers W3KIR**, **Dave MacDonald WB3JOY**, **Bill Mescanti WB3CMM**, and **Gene Hoenig WB3FTJ**.

### Sidebar: YOUTH ON THE MARC BOARD

Several under-18's have served on the MARC board of directors. **Carl Werntz WA3ZZU** chaired Public Service, **David Fetter KA3HBK** was Projects (program) chairman as well as a Net Manager, and **Chris Culver N3VXB** was a Member-at-Large. MARC has always encouraged young hams to seek and hold positions of responsibility in the club.

## WANT TO HAVE FUN WITH ELECTRONICS PROJECTS?

**Jack KB3GDC** wants to get together with others interested in electronics project construction. Whether expert or beginner, you can have fun with this. The idea is to enjoy learning together about building electronics projects.

The projects will be stuff you can actually use in your home and ham shack, not just something to stick on a shelf to collect dust. Jack already has a list of ideas. Some are fairly simple, others more ambitious. The group will decide what to build.

The first project will be deciding on a meeting place and time that's convenient. Please contact Jack at [jfk402@snip.net](mailto:jfk402@snip.net) or 610-279-0920 to find out if this activity might be for you.

**From Ray Kiesel K3RIZ**

The original repeater on 147.06 around which the club formed was the "labor of technical love" of primarily two Amateurs, **Joe DeCourcelle K3OBU** and **Joe Rocci WA3CMQ**. They were employed as engineers at Acrodyne Industries, a high tech company involved in TV broadcast and various state-of-the-art projects for military and civilian clients. The home of K3OBU originally became the operational location of the repeater. That location, however, was "altitude handicapped" with respect to the metro Philadelphia area and the dream was to find a site with much improved coverage. Connections were finally made that allowed the repeater to occupy a space in one of the highest (Height Above Average Terrain) buildings on the Villanova University main campus. The coverage problem was solved in a very big way!

Also, in the early to mid-1970's, repeaters were, compared to today, relatively scarce. Activity on the few available machines was fairly intense and many organizations that sponsored them usually demanded that users become contributors. It was, however, the intention of the '06 owners and supporters that the machine should be known as "the friendly repeater" and monetary arm-twisting was not on the agenda.

For some of us, the expected "rewards" from our involvement with the repeater project were twofold: to strengthen our understanding of electrical techniques and propagation principles and to provide an enhanced, reliable communications link for the amateurs of the greater Philadelphia area. Even more gratifying however, was the formation of a long-term, vibrant organization now known as MARC by the fine individuals who frequented the 06 repeater in those early years. Happy 25th! – **Ray K3RIZ**

**From Marlene Patrick WA3UOC, MARC's first Secretary**

The memories keep flooding back.

I remember Charlie (now a silent key) – a blind ham operator from

Ridley Park – who could give directions better than any sighted person I knew. One time Charlie's wife was driving him around and she went through a stop sign. A policeman pulled her over and she and Charlie switched positions – putting Charlie in the driver's seat. Charlie apologized to the officer for running the stop sign – he just didn't see it.

I remember original club meetings in people's basements.

I remember antenna hunts traveling at high speed around Montgomery County with the Yaesu hanging out the window.

I remember **Jay K2JS** (formerly **K2BZK**) who was a pilot and who would fly over to Northeast Philly airport, pick some of us up, and take a hop to Atlantic City.

I remember Field Day and events held in the old 309 Drive In lot. I remember classes to help people get their tickets and upgrade.

It seems like a million years ago that I had a ham radio on my end table – but I remember those days and evenings as some of the best of my life. 73, **Marlene WA3UOC**

**Sidebar: THOSE FAMOUS VOICE ID'S**

*Years ago, voice ID's required clunky tape cartridge systems and weren't common. MARC repeaters once had suggestively-phrased female-voice ID's that wouldn't go over well in these days when ham radio is less of a guy-thing than it used to be. Some local hams thought the MARC voice ID's were uncool even back-when. Today, the 8-track tape is in the club archive, made obsolete by changes in technology and society.*

I think my first involvement with

**From John McBeath W3IQS**

MARC was at their second organizational meeting. **Pete K3ZFG**, was moderating. I was pretty new to ham radio — had been active as a teenager but had been away from the hobby for about 20 years. Things had changed so much I was new for all intents and purpose.

I have a potpourri of snap shot memories — doing the bulletins every week, the Sunday evening nets; doing Field Day in my tent up on Valley Forge Mountain, the transmitter hunts and how Tom (forget his call) helped everyone build a little quad antenna and taught us how to do it — the night **Carter** was "chased off" his first traffic net for not knowing the procedures and my consoling him and urging him not to give it up. Pete was going thru a rig a month and I just stood behind him and bought all his cast offs at a very good price and soon had a nice station which let me do quite well in the DX contests in later years. Also remember **Bob W3NWA** being in the mobile every Saturday morning as he made a run to the liquor store for his weekly prescription!

When the club moved from Villanova to City Line for its meetings, I became somewhat inactive — it seemed like a long drive after working all day. I also remember listening to the "Joe's" get the '06 repeater on the air for the first time (I had some sort of cheap VHF receiver, but no two meter gear at that time). That repeater motivated me to get my first two meter rig.

I retired from AT&T at the end of 1998 and we moved to a place south of Kissimmee, Florida, and bought a motor home for travels during the heat of the summer. When I moved from the Poconos upon retirement, I sold the tower and beam and once again became inactive.

I am in the process of getting most of my equipment ready to sell at the Orlando hamfest early next year — this small home we have will not support a huge sprawling contest type station that I had prior to retirement. I am planning to put up a vertical this winter and get back on the air with some sort of one of the new small sized rigs. I am keeping the amplifier but not sure if I will use it in this development due to concerns about TVI. I do have 2m in the motor home and get on it occasionally. — 73, **John W3IQS**

**FLEA MARKET**

*For sale:* T2X Tail Twister rotator, \$375; DCU-1 digital control for T2X, Ham IV, or Ham V, \$375; 132 ft. Belden 8448 coax, \$10. All in good condition, manuals, original boxes. Contact **Harry Burhans W3FM** (610-827-7374, w3fm@arrl.net, or Frankford Radio Club packetcluster).



## MEMORIES OF THE ORIGINAL W3NWA

By Gene Hoenig N3HG

Although I was first licensed in 1950, I had dropped out of hamming for over 20 years. When I joined MARC, about a year after its inception, I had a new call and was really a novice in every sense of the word. I had never heard of 2 meters or repeaters.

**Pete Essl**, now an SK, was President. But I quickly became "caught up" again, quickly upgraded to General Class, bought a 2 meter rig (a Wilson, now an "SK" company,) installed it my Mazda with the Wankel rotary engine, and began operating extensively during drive times on the 147.06 and 147.36 repeaters (145.13 didn't exist in those days).

One of the first hams I met on '06 was **Bob Young W3NWA** ("North West Airlines") whom we now honor with our club call sign. It became apparent to me that Bob was "the right kind of people." I made it a point to become his friend, on and off the air. Bob, a former Western Union telegraph operator, was a CW buff, and few like him exist any more. We were in my shack one evening along with a few other hams, enjoying refreshments and having a rapid-fire conversation. My rig was on at low volume in the background. Some CW came on which I ignored as, apparently, the rest of us did, continuing our conversation. However, when the QSO ended, Bob summarized the entire QSO for us, reporting that the QSO was between a father and son in different cities. I will never be able to do anything like that!

Bob drove a VW Rabbit with a stick shift, but he operated so smoothly, that one would not know that he was mobile at all. I drive a stick shift as well, and he taught me how to hold the mike with my left hand, hold the steering wheel on course with my left elbow, and shift with my right hand. Don't try this at home!

Bob's mission in life was to promote good operating practices. He would not tolerate failing to sign properly, failing to allow a "breaker" in immediately, failing to leave sufficient time to allow another station to join the QSO. If you committed those and similar "sins," he would let you know immediately, but in such a manner that you felt "instructed, rather than chastised," by the "old man" himself. He firmly established the good operating practices that made MARC the best club in the area. All of us felt that he was the "heart, soul and conscience" of the club.

A few years later, Bob began having seizures, and after nearly being killed while driving, he sought medical attention. Tests revealed he had a brain tumor, the specific type undetermined at the time. We discussed his condition many times, since that kind of unpleasantness is my business. I advised Bob and his wife Marge that because of its location, it was most likely a benign, operable and curable affair. Unfortunately, biopsy showed exactly the opposite, that it was the most malignant of all brain tumors, the same type that carried off George Gershwin. Treatment was ineffective, as it usually is, and about 14 months later, Bob became an SK.

**John Bartholomew WB3ELA** ("Extra Large Amateur,"), a former President of MARC who's also SK now, and I visited Bob frequently during those final months. Only after Bob died did Marge Young tell us that virtually no one else from the club had ever visited, a fact that hurt me greatly. Marge presented us with two of Bob's telegraph sounders as mementos. I have refurbished mine, have it mounted on a plaque, and will be happy to show it to anyone. I am proud to have known this lovely person, quintessential ham and great "Elmer."

## MARC PUBLIC SERVICE: ALWAYS A PART OF OUR STORY

From the beginning, MARC has been a strong public service club. In 1977, our first full year of existence, MARC held Field Day in Lionville, Chester County, using the callsign of **Bob Young W3NWA**. Just two months later, MARC members joined teams of hams helping with communications after the flood disaster in Johnstown.

**Do you remember** . . . The Blizzard of '78 . . . 1980 Olympic Torch Run . . . Lower Merion Bike Hikes . . . Bux-Mont Riding Club events . . . PCOM 10k Runs . . . the Chetwynd Apartment fire, 1984 . . . the Ardmore apartment fire, 1985 . . . Hurricane Gloria, 1985 . . . Chestnut Hill Crop Walk . . . Cabrini College 5 Mile Runs . . . Thorncroft equestrian events . . . Radnor Special Olympics, 1995 . . . Newtown Square Tricentennial, 1981 . . . MARC's car in the Radnor Township Memorial Day parades . . . Vietnam Vets runs in Norristown . . . Tel Hai runs in Honey Brook?

**Do you remember** . . . Bryn Mawr Hospital message-handling events, some years with Santa Claus, 1978 — 1993 . . . Cooperating in National Disaster Medical System drills in the mid-80's . . . WB3JOE packet BBS and VHF Traffic Nets receive ARRL National Traffic System public service certificates in 1991 . . . some mid-80's Field Days drew about a dozen people and made fewer than 400 QSO's . . . Field Day 1991 made over 1,000 QSO's . . . the dreaded ice-cream truck generator at Field

Day . . . the Al Maslin Memorial Throne Room?

MARC also sponsored a TVI committee registered with the FCC Field Office in Langhorne. The committee assisted FCC personnel in fact-finding concerning RFI/TVI complaints involving hams. Though not public service as usually thought of, this activity helped a number of hams resolve neighbor problems.

MARC's VHF traffic nets got off to a rocky start with a bit of controversy but soon became a traditional club activity. Traffic Net Managers have included **Steve WB3CTU**, **David KA3HBK**, **Bart KC3BP**, and **Carter N3AO**. In our 10th anniversary year, an award was offered for originating 10 radiograms via the MARC nets. At one time, the Sunday night net was an ARES Net, with a separate ARES Net Manager.

MARC members have held significant volunteer appointments in the National Traffic System, ARES, and RACES. **Bob WA3PZO** served 9 years as ARRL Eastern PA Section Emergency Coordinator (including 1979, the year of Three Mile Island). Two members, **David K3NGN** and **Carter N3AO**, served as Eastern PA Section Traffic Manager. At the present time, **Dan W3DI** and **Bob W3ZQN** serve as ARES Emergency Coordinators and RACES Radio Officers for Delaware and Montgomery Counties, respectively. Many club members are active in ARES/RACES, and some members hold Official Relay Station appointments in the National Traffic System.



## MY TOP 6 MEMORIES OF '06

By Bart Feroe K4BF

**Number 6:** Early on, I asked **Bob WA3PZO**, "What's this traffic handling all about?" Before I knew it, he had supplied several pamphlets and publications from The League that told me all about it. From there, he suggested that I put together a little talk and maybe a handout and from there sprang "The Not Ready for Prime Time Traffic Handler's Guide."

**Number 5:** Four of us decided to take the train to New York one Saturday to attend the ARRL National Convention. Carter and Jenny stayed home. **Kay KA3KPW**, (long before she was **WT3P** or even **KC3LM**), **Bob WA3PZO**, **David KA3HBK**, and I set off on an expedition to The Big Apple. As a veteran broadcaster with a fear and loathing of "dead air," I had to "do something" during the awkward, "Well, here we are. What do we do now?" portion of the day. Without thinking, I looked at Kay, slapped my legs, clapped my hands, then held them out, palms toward Kay and started "patty cake, patty cake, baker's man." She was playing along before I got to the "baker's" part. I can still remember seeing David's eyes widen as he looked at Bob with an unmistakable "what planet is this guy from?" expression.

Later that same day, again to keep the line moving, I went into a revolving door, but did not come out for several revolutions. When I did emerge, Kay, Bob, and David were all looking at each other with a rather obvious, "we don't know this person" look in their respective eyes.

**Number 4:** One year at a holiday party, **Larry Ferrari WA2MKI** was the entertainment. **Al N3EA** (then-**W3DZI**) had made the arrangements, including toting – make that lugging – the Hammond Theater Organ that Larry used on the air at WPVI over to the bank building. There were a bunch of us who struggled, wrestled, and said a few words Part 97 won't let you repeat on the air, getting that device up a flight of stairs from the parking lot to the meeting room. Everyone had a great time . . . until we had to get that organ back down the stairs.

**Number 3:** The first I knew of MARC came through listening to 147.06 on a scanner. On Sunday nights at 8 o'clock, just a half hour before the MARC ARES Net, **John WB3ELA** with a booming made-for-radio voice gave bulletins that included propagation forecasts, DX reports, an operating tip or two, and even some club news – like the next meeting date and program topic.

**Number 2:** Just a few weeks ago, we confirmed what we had long suspected: that everyone (or nearly everyone) in the club has a first name of "Bob." On one of the nets, everyone who checked in gave his name as Bob. If you hear someone on one of the MARC repeaters and don't know the name, guess "Bob." The chances are better than 50-50 you'll be right.

**The number one MARC Memory** I have is of an incident that came early in my years with MARC. We were at the bank building on City Line Avenue. Carter, Kay, and I were the "bad kids" in the back of the room. **David KA3HBK**, then probably 14 or 15 years old, had made an antenna that he could point upward and, hopefully, hear a Space Shuttle. It looked a bit like an umbrella on steroids that had been caught in the wind and turned inside out, losing its fabric covering along the way. While David was very clearly (and sincerely) explaining how he made this antenna, Kay leaned over to me and whispered, "Do you suppose Mary Poppins was very badly injured?" Never before (and never since) have I laughed as loud or as long as I did that week. I started to cough and sputter and simply kept going. At one point, it appeared I recovered, but moments after things appeared to be back to a measure of decorum, I started to chuckle about it again and it snowballed from there. I actually fell off the metal folding chair.

Thanks, Founding Fathers and Mothers of MARC, for putting it together and breathing life into it that moves forward. I can't wait to meet the next set of members during the next 25 years.

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**BLAME IT ON AL!**  
By Carter Craigie N3AO

There I was, confined to the sofa by the front window, recovering from some minor operation. With a brand-new 2 meter handie-talkie hot from QSOs with anybody on any repeater, I was a new General Class operator with a lust for the joys of FM repeaters. And, boy, was I being a pain to everybody on every repeater! I had no idea that hams weren't just overjoyed to have me interrupting conversations between well-established friends. I was like a puppy eager to play with anything that moved!

You see, I had been a Novice for quite some time, and the only privileges I had were on the CW bands. But with this new hand-held thing I could wag my jaw instead of just my fingers. And, as I said before, I was yakking everywhere I could.

One day — this fateful day — I linked up with a ham named Al with the callsign **W3DZI**. And what joy?! He said he was mobile in my neighborhood! I invited him to stop by, and what do you know? He actually did. In moments after my invitation, a big long black Cadillac slipped into our little driveway in Devon. I could just see the car as I looked out of the window. And up to the door strode **Al Maslin** (now **N3EA**), and I was about to meet

one of the finest hams I've ever met.

Kay let him in and in no time we were making all those connections that happen when hams get together. Al gave an approving look to our simple shack and our modest antennas. And *then* he told me he was the president of the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club. And that car was the Presidential Cadillac! I was so impressed! And believe it or not, he invited me to become a member of the club. Yes, this is where it all started, so you can put the blame right where it belongs: on Al!

And, oh yes, he sat me down and started to teach me proper procedures on ham radio. He taught me about doing more listening than talking; to wait before I keyed down; about ways of conversing that shared a part of me, but also invited the other fellow a chance to do some sharing too. And — about not sticking my nose into every conversation! I can't say I've learned all his lessons yet, but Al hasn't given up on me yet either. I guess I'm his lifelong project!

Now you know how it all started, and you can blame it all on Al!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the September 27 board meeting there was not a quorum, so reports were received but no formal business was done. The treasurer-elect and PR chairman-elect attended the meeting and introduced themselves. The treasury balance was \$11,030.78. The necessary board members were present to execute bank documents updating the list of people who are authorized to sign checks on the club's bank account.

At the October 25 meeting, the board approved ordering new checks showing the current club mailing address, adopted the revised autopatch usage guidelines, set a budget of \$300 for the holiday party, and approved a \$10 donation towards expenses of the Main Line Volunteer Force Christmas project which are no longer funded by Sovereign Bank. Reports were received about the repeaters, public service events, return of the club's transceivers from those who borrowed them, the change of storage facilities, PR deadlines, and the club's ARRL Special Service Club status. The status of the club's GMRS license will be looked into. The board voted to send a letter of support to Newtown Township for Greater Media Tower Company's proposal to erect a second tower at the site where the company gives us tower space free of charge for the 147.06 repeater. The board decided to take no action on two members' suggestions to enable IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) on MARC repeaters, because there are other repeater system upgrades which have higher priority at the present time. The treasury balance was \$10,693.42.

A combined November/December board meeting will be held on December 6, 2001.

## DAYTON TO FEATURE EMERGENCY COMM

The theme of the 2002 Dayton Hamvention will be emergency communications and preparedness, the Hamvention Committee announced in a letter to vendors and exhibitors. Hamvention said it's expecting "record attendance for 2002" at its 51st show, May 17-19, 2002. The annual event draws upwards of 30,000.

"Hamvention expresses deep concern for the tragic events that occurred September 11, 2001, and the world events since," the letter said. "In order to show our support for Amateur Radio, we are going to emphasize emergency communications and preparedness as our theme for Hamvention 2002." The committee said it anticipates new Amateur Radio-related exhibitors as a result and would "limit the number of computer exhibitors at the show to only those who are related to Amateur Radio." [Tnx ARRL]

## MEMBERS QUOTED IN INKY ARTICLE

The lead article in the Inquirer's Chester County & Brandywine Neighbors Section for Sunday, October 28, was about Amateur Radio emergency communications. Chester County Emergency Services director **Ed Atkins** introduced the reporter to ham radio, and she decided to write an article.

MARC members **Bob W3ZQN** (Montgomery Co. RACES Radio Officer) and **Kay WT3P** (ARRL VP) were quoted in the article, along with Chester County ARES Emergency Coordinator **Vern Nelson KC3XL**.

## MARC MEMBERS IN PA QSO PARTY

An unusually large number of club members operated the PA QSO Party October 13-14. They included **Tim N8LXR**, **Dave WB3EHS**, **Bill W3KRB**, **Kay WT3P**, **Ron W3ZV**, **Steve K3KFD**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, **David KB3CRY**, and **Carter N3AO**. Tim went mobile through 28 counties, while the others operated from Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. **Carter N3AO** operated portable QRP from a tent on the Cabrini College campus.

Several MARC people report claimed scores over 100,000 points. So far, it looks like **Steve K3KFD** has the best claimed score, with more than 140,000 points. **Dieter WB3JWU** (a first-time entrant) and **Kay WT3P** worked all 67 PA counties.

If you were in the contest, PUH-LEEZE send in your entry, no matter how many or how few points you scored. Write "Mid-Atlantic ARC" in the "PA Club Affiliation" space on the form. MARC could actually look very good in the club list this year for the first time. The log postmark deadline is November 15. If you need help getting your entry ready, contact **Kay WT3P** ASAP or STT (As Soon As Possible or Sooner Than That).

## WYETH-AYERST RUN COMMUNICATIONS

MARC provided communications for the Wyeth-Ayerst Run on Sunday, October 28, in Radnor Township. The event benefits the American Lung Association.

Our communicators were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Bob W3SA**, **Roger N3VBZ**, **Carter N3AO**, and **Floyd KA3OXA**. There were no accidents or emergencies, and everybody was home for lunch.

## OPERATING FUN

November and December are full of operating events for the competitive-minded. Here are just a few highlights. Check out the details in your favorite ham radio magazine.

ARRL November Sweepstakes (rules are in October QST, page 114). CW is November 3-5, phone is November 17-19. This contest has the world's most complicated exchange, whose ancestry lies in traffic-handling. Especially in the CW edition, it separates the stout-hearted from the thinks-they-are.

CQ World Wide DX, CW. See page 113 of September QST and the CQ web site at [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com). The exchange is 599 and your CQ zone. Most MARC members live in CQ zone 5, so you'd send 59905. Even if you don't keep score, it's great code practice and brings out some nice DX to work. CQ wants all logs electronically this year. Read the information at <http://news.cq-amateur-radio.com/announce.htm>.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest. The band was good in CQWW Phone in late October, so who knows what it will do on December 15-16. The contest is both phone and CW, so you can do either or both. See the rules on page 104 of November QST.

ARRL 160 Meter Contest. No antenna for this band? Your 80 meter antenna will probably load on 160 if you speak firmly to your tuner. Check out the rules on page 105 of November QST. The contest is CW only, December 7-9.

## NEWS FROM ARRL

**Bell Labs develops organic transistors:** According to *Electronic News*, scientists from Lucent Technologies Inc.'s Bell Labs have announced that they have created organic transistors with a single-molecule channel length. The researchers say they believe this development will prompt a new class of high-speed, lower-cost carbon-based electronics. The size of a transistor's channel — the space between its electrodes — influences its output current and switching speed. Bell Labs said its scientists, Hendrik Schon, Zhenan Bao and Hong Meng, have fabricated molecular-scale transistors that rival the performance of silicon transistors. The transistors are about a million times smaller than a grain of sand.

**Library of Congress releases on-line Morse collection:** The Library of Congress has released an online collection of the Samuel F.B. Morse Papers. The collection is on the Library of Congress American Memory Web site at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sfbmhtml/>. The on-line presentation comprises some about 6500 items documenting Morse's invention of the telegraph, his participation in the development of telegraph systems in the US and abroad, his career as a painter and his interest in photography, his personal life and more. The collection includes correspondence, diaries, maps, drawings and other materials dating from 1793 to 1919. Among the memorabilia is the original paper tape containing the first telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?" sent on May 24, 1844.

**Morse Code to be featured on upcoming *X-Files* episode:** Rob Ginkowski WA6CW, of Hollywood, California, served as a

technical adviser to *The X-Files* star Robert Patrick for an upcoming episode. Patrick's character, John Doggett, was in a hospital bed, paralyzed, and was required to send a Morse code message by tapping his index finger. WA6CW (who also works as an actor) taught Patrick how to tap out the message at about 5 WPM. "He was a fast learner," Ginkowski commented. No word on what the message was, but it might be, "The truth is out there." The episode, entitled "4-D," is scheduled to air Sunday, December 9, on the Fox TV Network.

**FCC HQ stops accepting filings in envelopes:** The FCC announced in October that hand or messenger-delivered filings enclosed in envelopes will not be accepted at FCC Headquarters until further notice. The Commission is encouraging everyone to file electronically or via fax whenever possible.

The changes were necessary "as a precautionary measure," the FCC said. "As the Commission continues to balance its efforts to be accessible to its customers with the need for heightened security measures, the Commission encourages its customers to make full use of the Commission's electronic filing systems to facilitate the filing of documents," an FCC announcement said.

The FCC Public Notice made no direct reference to the current anthrax scare. It also made no mention of any change in procedures regarding filings mailed in envelopes to its Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office where Amateur Service applications typically are sent.

## RAISE \$\$ FOR MARC BY JOINING ARRL

If you have never been a member of the ARRL or haven't been a member during the past 2 years, the League will pay MARC a \$15 commission if you join the ARRL through MARC.

If all MARC members who are not League members were to join, the club could put as much as \$500 in our treasury.

Many of the League's activities benefit all hams, whether League members or not: safeguarding access to spectrum, fighting for tower and antenna privileges, watching out for state and federal legislation that would adversely affect hams, educating Congress about Amateur Radio, cooperating with sister societies in other countries to develop consistent positions on international regulations and spectrum management, working pro-actively with industry to prevent electromagnetic compatibility problems, organizing emergency communications networks, fostering the use of ham radio in school classrooms, working with the FCC on Rules enforcement issues, offering license examinations . . . and much more.

ARRL members help pay the bills for these important and expensive activities. Of course you get a lot of personal benefits too when you join the League. You get *QST* magazine, access to the members-only section of the ARRL web site, use of the @arrl.net e-mail forwarding service, outgoing QSL bureau privileges, eligibility for DXCC and other awards, plus opportunities to vote, run for office, and hold appointed positions.

Talk to **Carter N3AO** (610-993-9623, [n3ao@arrl.net](mailto:n3ao@arrl.net)) about joining the ARRL through MARC.

## THINKING ABOUT EMERGENCIES

**Hams who served at the September disaster scenes say an essential skill for emergency communicators was knowing how to operate in a directed net.**

**Do YOU know how to do that? Do you know what a "directed net" is? Do you know what a bad idea it is to start learning these things when people's lives may depend on your competence?**

**A directed net is one which has a Net Control Station who is in charge of all communications on the frequency. The NCS says who may transmit and to whom. Stations in the net must ask the NCS for permission to do just about anything other than keep breathing. They must not just break in and start to talk to others in the net. They must pay attention and follow the NCS's instructions. They must not just disappear. Operators must inform the NCS before leaving the net, unless there is life-or-death peril, in which case you forget about radio protocol and run like heck. The NCS is in charge!**

**By following the NCS's directions, a large number of stations on frequency can participate in an orderly and effective communications event.**

**You can practice participating in directed nets by checking in to the MARC club and traffic nets and by helping at the club's public service events. Another way is to check in to your county's ARES/RACES net. Don't put it off for "someday." On September 10, who knew?**