



REMARCS



MAY/JUNE, 1996

FIELD DAY FEVER . . . CATCH IT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

147.06/R AUTOPATCH CODES CHANGED!

Unidentified Harassment Calls Spur Action by Board

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

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

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

MARC IS ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

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

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

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

AUTOPATCH TIPS

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

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX



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

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

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

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

UPGRADE OFFER STILL GOOD

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1996

PRESIDENT

Bob Lees W3ZQN, 610-265-6032
rjlees@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Porett N3JMA, 610-896-8413
tporett@netaxs.com

SECRETARY

Roger Hehemann N3VBZ
rgrh@earthlink.net

TREASURER

Gene Hoenig WB3FTJ, 610-353-3201
ehoenig@mem.po.com

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Kay Craigie WT3P, 610-993-9623
wt3p@gnn.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bill Owen W3KRB, 610-325-3995

PUBLIC SERVICE

Sean Weckerly N3EOG, 610-449-6447

TECHNICAL

Jeff Chapman WA3RIZ 610-265-6593
jchapman@voicenet.com

PROGRAM

Dave Laustsen N3LHY, 215-230-9816
dslaustsen@aol.com

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Bob Haase W3SA, 610-293-1919
Deb Kendzierski AAJHE, 610-644-5392
kendziers@ucis.vill.edu

TRUSTEE WB3JOE

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

PUBLIC SERVICE



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

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

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

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

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



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