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BRYN MAWR MESSAGE EVENT

Some New Twists in '91

by TOM POWELL K3YPO

On Saturday, December 21, MARC brought happiness and cheer to patients and staff at the BMH with the annual holiday radiogram event.

Operators working at the hospital included JIM KD3NI, WALT WB3BDP, BILL WB3ELW, NORM N3KNW, ROB WI3S, FLOYD KA3OXA, and JANET KA3VTQ. Operations were supervised and managed by CARTER KD3AO. Receiving traffic at home-based stations for relay into the National Traffic System were KAY WT3P and BART KC3BP. RON N3HEF and HUGH KC3IE also checked into the net and were ready to receive.

Two meters and 440 MHz were used to move more than 75 radiograms for destinations in various parts of the United States: New England, Florida, the mid-west, and the west coast. All this was done in the BMH Bodine Lobby between 10 and 1 PM, demonstrating how MARC is prepared to use Amateur Radio in an emergency.

In response to a suggestion made by BMH Public Relations, MARC Public Service added a new dimension to this holiday event by playing Santa Claus to the kids in the Pediatric Unit. With 22 decorated mylar helium-filled balloons donated by Party Land (6 West Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore, 896-4300) "Santa Claus" RAY N3BPJ and his helpers JANET KA3VTQ and WES WB2SVF visited young patients, giving each one a balloon and a gift. The older kids were introduced to Amateur Radio by talking to Santa via 2 meter simplex and receiving a copy of the ARRL "Archie's Ham Radio Adventure" comic book. A visitor observing what we were doing donated \$20 to help cover our costs!! In all, 15 patients were visited.

BOB WA3PZO and ROB WI3S photographed the event, covering both the traffic handling in the lobby and the fun in pediatrics. Bob also provided the Santa Claus outfit. This public service project was planned and arranged by TOM K3YPO.

HAM RADIO CLASS AT FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Starts February 2

A ten-week Technician license class (no CW offered) will be part of the Franklin Institute's adult/teen workshop series. Classes will meet on Sunday mornings from 11 AM to 1 PM, starting February 2. Instructors will be members of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club. The Institute is charging \$130 for non-members, \$120 for members. Questions about registration can be directed to 448-1286. *[The museum sets the workshop prices, not Phil-Mont.]*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

At their combined November/December meeting, the Board heard reports on the holiday party, Bryn Mawr message event, future programs, and the 1992 slate. The 1992 hamfest was discussed; a new chairman is needed, and a new site may be needed. The treasury balance was \$7,535.62.



All club members may attend Board meetings as observers. Your voices on the Board are the Members-at-Large.

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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Alan Robinson WA3JKB, 768-0985

Bob Lees W3ZQN, 265-6032

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EDITOR'S JUNK-BOX

I would like to thank the club members for your expressions of care for me and my family when I was as sick as your basic dog. The good news is that after a second operation later this summer to tidy up some loose ends, there will be absolutely no permanent effects of this episode on my health or lifestyle. So you ain't seen the last of me yet! This issue marks the end of my 9th year as MARC's newsletter editor. Stay tuned.

In the last year, MARC has gained a large number of new members who have recently joined the Amateur Service. This is good news for MARC. In recent *REMARCS*, I've been trying to work in more information that will benefit new hams. Looks like there is good reason for that effort to continue.

I recently received a major DX award certificate on which the printing twice refers to the recipient as being a 'he.' C'mon, people, wake up and smell the 21 st century! No, I am not going to send it back. I may be annoyed, but I'm not crazy. 73 for now de KAY WT3P

NEW VIDEO LIBRARY

TOM N3JMA is building a collection of videos to loan for new (and/or improving) hams. He'll have the videos on display at meetings. Borrow and enjoy, but please return them promptly. If you have items that can be legally copied for the collection, please contact Tom at 896-8413.

PUBLIC SERVICE

There will be a Thorncroft equestrian event on May 10 for which communicators are needed. If you don't have a Mother's Day obligation and can help out, contact STEVE K3KFD at 667-1650.

Training in formal message-handling continues on the three weekly MARC VHF Traffic Nets. Learning to operate in a directed net and to relay radiograms is an important skill for all hams; most local radio clubs do not offer this education. Also, it's a good way to meet other club members and make friends.

UP TO SPECS

Here is a plain-English translation of some terminology found in high-tech advertising literature:

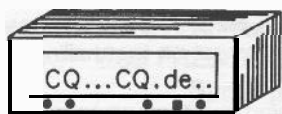
New -- Different color from previous design.
 All New -- Parts not interchangeable with previous design.
 Futuristic-- No other reason why it looks the way it does.
 Unmatched -- Almost as good as the competition.
 Redesigned -- Previous faults are corrected, we hope.
 Years of development -- We finally got one that works.
 Microprocessor-controlled -- Does things we can't explain.
 Performance-proven -- Will operate through the warranty period.
 Foolproof operation -- No provision for any adjustments.
 Maintenance-free -- Impossible to fix.
 24-hour service -- Given 24 hours, we can usually find a technician to ignore your problem.
 Meets all standards -- Ours, not yours.
 Satisfaction guaranteed -- See 'Meets all standards.'
[Adapted from 1992 RADIO WORLD DIRECTORY]

BRING A FRIEND TO A MARC MEETING!

CQ CONTEST? WHAT'S A CONTEST?

By Q. R. Zedd

Some people enjoy competition: on the tennis court, at the bowling alley, at the card table, or on the ham bands.



The essence of ham contesting is to make as many contacts as possible in a specified time period. There are contests for specific parts of the spectrum (ARRL 10

Meter Contest), specific modes (CQ World-Wide DX CW), specific groups of hams (ARRL Novice Roundup), specific geographical areas (Pennsylvania QSO Party), and so on. The most popular operating event in North American ham radio is a combination contest and emergency preparedness exercise called Field Day, held the fourth full weekend every June.

In addition to the number of contacts made, many contests add spice by **weighting** scores in some way -- more QSO points for CW contacts than for phone contacts, for example. If a phone QSO is worth 1 QSO point, a CW QSO might be worth 2 QSO points. Many contests also have **multipliers** to boost the final score. Here's how multipliers work. After you add up all your QSO points, you multiply that figure by something else achieved during the contest. You might multiply by the number of ARRL Sections, DXCC countries, CQ zones, or Pennsylvania counties that you worked, for example. Weighting and multipliers become major factors in the contesteer's operating strategy. To keep things relatively simple, Field Day does not have multipliers, but CW contacts are weighted to count more than phone contacts.

A valid contest contact consists of an **exchange**: the information stations must send, receive, and log. In addition to the callsign, items that might form part of an exchange are serial numbers, states, ARRL Sections, CQ zones, signal reports, and organization membership numbers. The Field Day exchange is somewhat

mysterious, but everyone is told what to send and log by the Field Day captain, so you don't have to worry about it. Although the big-whoop winners in contests are serious radio-sportsmen with access to cowabunga stations, contest sponsors today try to attract more "little gun" participants by creating a lot of sub-categories that are within the reach of those who don't have a prayer of winning the whole doughnut.

However, even if you don't play to win, contests are a good way to sharpen operating skills and to contact states, grid squares, and countries needed for operating awards. They also give you a better practical understanding of propagation than reading about it in a book. For those who feel tongue-tied in a rag chew, contesting could be just the right ice-breaker. That's because you don't have to think up anything original to say! After the contest, however, you'll have your contest experiences to talk about in rag chews.

Before jumping into a contest, either figure out the exchange by listening, or look it up in one of the magazines. Never try to engage a contest station in a rag chew, and avoid breaking his rhythm to ask what's going on, what's the exchange, where's he located, etc. You may get your head back in neat bite-size pieces.



People do not bark or bite, however, in the Novice Roundup, Field Day, and Pennsylvania QSO Party contests. This makes them good spots to get your toes wet in competitive operating. Come on out to MARC Field Day this June and try this side of ham radio fun. Who knows? You might be the next hot prospect for one of the big contest clubs, or just have a heck of a good time.

MARC SCORES IN '91 PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY

Seven MARC members submitted scores in the 1991 PA QSO Party, for a club total nearly 25k greater than last year: 87,223.5 points. We placed 15th out of 17 clubs eligible for awards, or 23rd out of 47 total clubs. Congratulations to WES WB2SVF, who won Delaware County! ALLEN WG3E finished in 11th place among the mobiles and handed out many multipliers. KAY then-KC3LM now-WT3P (who?) had the top score among MARC entries.

Berks County's Dauberville DX Association won both the overall club trophy and the medium/small club gavel with 1,988,094.5 points, almost 10k more than last year's winner, the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club.

The 1992 contest, the 35th annual outing, will be October 10-11, Columbus Day weekend.

1991 MARC SCORES

Kay KC3LM	49,594.5
Carter KD3AO	18,057.0
Wes WB2SVF	11,136.0
Allen WG3E/M	5,482.0
Bob K3QXH	2,356.0
Bart KC3BP	550.0
Ned WQ3Z	48.0

OPERATING FUN

ARMED FORCES DAY: A communications test between hams and the Military Communications System, May 16-17. Special QSL card. Lengthy details, page 128, May QST.

ARRL JUNE VHF QSO PARTY: Some FM activity, but mostly CW/SSB. Rules, page 126, May QST.

CALAVERAS CO., CALIFORNIA: WA6YGA, May 15-17, celebrating the annual frog-jumping contest. **ARCADE, NY:** AA2EN will celebrate the Arcade & Attica Steam Railroad, May 30-31. **BALTIMORE:** WA3PJQ honors the submarine service aboard the USS Torsk. *I'll bet you missed the Toad Suck Daze station, from Toad Suck, Arkansas. No, I don't make this stuff up!*

ABOUT MARC

MEETINGS

3rd Thursday each month at Memorial Library of Radnor Township, Wayne (near the Post Office), 8 PM. Guests welcome. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD

Meets 4th Thursday each month, 7:30 PM, Paoli Hospital, Meeting Room "B."

SYSTEMS

145.13/R cross-linked with 224.42/R, 147.06/R, WB3JOE Packet BBS 145.080

NETS

CLUB NET + BULLETINS SUNDAY 8:30 PM 147.06/R
TRAFFIC NET M/W/F 8:30 PM 147.06/R

DUES

\$15 licensed, \$5 associate (unlicensed) -- Membership year begins March 1.
Family membership rate: \$5 per ham after first member pays full dues.

VOX

Welcome new members BOB WA2CDI, JOE N3LMV, and CHARLIE KB3ABV.

JUDY N3MBW and JOHN N3MDF from our license course have received their callsigns. TIM (ex-KE3BC) WZ3Y received the next-to-last 2x1 callsign issued by the FCC in the whole USA. GEORGE (ex KA3ZTP) now signs N3MDT.

TOM N3JMA's son MATTHEW passed Novice theory at the May 9 test session -- nice going! ROB W13S has been appointed an ARRL Public Information Officer; this will bring him ideas from the League on publicizing ham radio and MARC. TOM KA3FXX, seen at a hamfest in western PA, sends 73 to everyone. Best wishes to STEVE N3LJZ and LEAH N3MJM, expecting a harmonic early in July. KAY WT3P (who?) placed 2nd among low-power mixed-mode entries in eastern PA in the 1991 ARRL 10m Contest. REIN W1BFM has moved to Massachusetts. KEVIN WJ1H (ex KA3RGF), briefly in town on business, was a welcome voice on the repeater. AL N3GTK is the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Delaware County and president of our neighbor club DELAWARE CO. ARA.

GARY KE3BU and JEFF WA3RIZ arranged for a packet demo and info about ham radio to be presented at a computer show sponsored by the Exton PC Council. Good work!

Club member badges with the MARC logo, engraved by The Sign Man of Baton Rouge, are still available for \$5 each. Talk to KAY WT3P.

REMARCS is the bimonthly newsletter
of the Mid-Atlantic ARC, Inc.
Kay Craigie WT3P editor
993-9623

FCC PROPOSES RULES CHANGE

The FCC has proposed to relax its Rules to permit some Amateur public service communications that are currently prohibited. PR Docket 92-136 outlines changes in Part 97.113 that would give hams greater flexibility in communicating for public activities such as parades, fairs, races, and 'athons.' Certain personal communications would also be legalized.

Communications for hire or material compensation would continue to be strictly prohibited. The Commission is concerned, however, about possibly increasing the potential for commercial exploitation and abuse of Amateur Radio. Nothing in the proposal would relax prohibitions on foul language.

All hams, especially those involved in radio club leadership and community public service communications should read the existing Part 97.113, then study this proposal carefully and offer well-reasoned comments. The comment deadline is October 1. The text of PR Docket 92-136 is set for publication in early July.
[info tnx ARRL LETTER]

TEST SESSION RESULTS



MARC's test session on May 9 served 5 candidates. The VE's were PAUL NX3Q, AL W3DZI, NED WQ3Z, ROB W13S, HUGH KC3IE, BOB W3ZQN, and BOB KA3NIQ. One applicant passed Technician, and one earned Tech + HF. Some candidates passed test elements but didn't qualify for a new license or an upgrade.

The next session will be August 22, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Fisher's Lane and Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr. Be there by 9:15 AM to do the paperwork. The test fee for all exams except Novice is \$5.40, cash or check payable to ARRL/VEC. Bring your license, a photocopy of it, positive ID, and any certificates needed to document your present status. Contact BOB W3ZQN (2656032) for information and details.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK-BOX



Back when JENNY KA3WVD was a kiddie, she and I trudged all over a certain large church complex before we located the room where the nursery school babies' play group met. No signs, no nothin'. Hot and frustrated, we finally found it.

Next time I saw my neighbor who taught at that nursery school, I suggested putting up a few signs next time around. She went into huff & puff mode and declared, "No, that's not necessary. EVERYBODY KNOWS where the play group meets. [*"But I didn't...."*] Yes, EVERYBODY KNOWS." Thus rudely dismissed from the human species, I somehow refrained from telling her what she could do with her attitude plus 40 feet of garden hose.

Since then, "EVERYBODY KNOWS" has become a catch-phrase in our family for that mentality which assumes you should have been born knowing everything. If you weren't, it's your fault and your problem and to heck with you.

Yes, there's a point to this. For Americans, impatient/y inclined to expect instant-everything, the frustration potential is high in ham radio these days.

Ours is a complex hobby with a menu likely to bewilder many new Amateurs. Besides all the technical information to absorb, there are so many modes and enthusiasms, so many opinions about equipment, so much lingo, so many customs that aren't in the Rules, so many people who seem to know so much.

Sorting it all out just takes time -- I don't care how smart you are.

While the newcomers are trying to find their way, the "establishment" in any ham radio club can unconsciously adopt "EVERYBODY KNOWS" as its motto. We who've been absorbed in ham radio for a few years, or many years, can easily forget that we were not born knowing this stuff. Didn't get it by mental telepathy, either, did we, sugarlump?

Most of us really are not snobs or jerks. Things just slip a person's mind after a while, such as what it feels like to be new and overwhelmed by it all.

We 'old-timers' should examine our attitudes and actions to make sure we are not giving the "EVERYBODY KNOWS" treatment to new Amateurs. Unlike my neighbor, we should be willing to put up a few signs. It's not just on CW that we must be ready to QRS . . . 'send more slowly.'

New people, for your part, must not fall into habits of passiveness, self-pity, or resentfulness. *The best way to fee/ included is to get involved.* Ask lots of questions and volunteer to try things. Don't get mad at what you don't understand yet. Relax, and give yourself time. This is not a race.

If we practice some patience and meet one other half way, we'll all enjoy better friendships and a better club as a result.

--73 de KAY WT3P

SIDEBANDS

There's usually a selection of ARRL operating aids, award forms, Form 610's, club membership info, etc., available at MARC meetings. If there's something you'd like that doesn't seem to be there, let KAY WT3P know. We'll try to get it for you.

Are you upto-date on the Rules of the Amateur Radio Service? If it's been more than a few years since you took a license test or read through the Rules, a copy of Part 97 would be a good purchase at the next hamfest.

DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING -- SIT THERE!

By KAY CRAIGIE KC3LM, in EPA FEEDLINE, JULY, 1989

You have just tuned onto a frequency and hear a situation in progress. You don't know what is going on. What should you do? First, turn your VOX off. Then:

1. **KEEP QUIET.** Don't ask what is going on. Don't ask if it's real or a drill. Don't offer to help. Don't answer questions, Don't relay. Don't tell other people to shut up. Don't ask weak stations to say again. Don't ask where this repeater is located. Don't ask if your friend Alonzo who used to live up this **way** has checked in because he had a real good signal on this band back in 1956. **KEEP QUIET.**
2. Tips #2 through #9 are the same as Tip #1.

3. If, after carefully listening long enough to understand what is going on, you discover that you can definitely be of specific assistance, check in at a time when it is not disruptive of the ongoing activity on frequency. If Net Control asks for stations in Guatemala or the Yukon, it is disruptive to check in from Bushwhack County. After acknowledgement by Net Control, return to following Tip #1 until asked to transmit again.

Of course, we can't hear the 500 operators who're following Tip #1, only the dozen who don't -- so we can't gauge the true percentages. However, it only takes a few people to cause serious, maybe even dangerous, delay in a real emergency or to turn a drill into a farce.

THOUGHTS ON DISASTER TRAFFIC-HANDLING

By KAY CRAIGIE WT3P

Whether it's Hurricane Andrew, a California earthquake, a major industrial accident, or some other disaster, hams outside the stricken area want to help. Sometimes we're approached by frightened people wanting word on friends and relatives in the disaster area. We may get phone calls from the news media looking for a local angle or "hook" for the story.

What should we do, and not do, when a disaster strikes somewhere else, if we really want to help those most in need? The answer isn't mysterious, once we pinpoint who is "most in need."

The news media and the frightened people calling us on the phone are not those most in need! They're just scared, or they're just doing a job. The people in the disaster area are in actual danger, so they are most in need.

What do they need most from ham radio? They need hams in their local area to provide emergency communications for the agencies that are protecting their lives and property. Hams engaged in that critical work don't have time to chase all over creation trying to locate a thousand Aunt Susies in who-knows-which Red Cross shelters. Hams should not be hogging the phone circuits trying to ring a thousand Uncle Freds, when those lines are needed for essential emergency-management communications.

Experienced hams in disaster areas often put premature welfare inquiries aside, until the situation cools way down. By the time the hams can attend to those inquiries, those who sent the messages have often already heard from their loved ones.

Once we understand what hams are needed for in a disaster area, it's clear why welfare inquiries should be postponed until well after the hot phase is over. Sure, that's when relatives and the media are the most anxious for us to do it, but we should resist and describe to them how hams are truly busy helping people survive the disaster. The relatives will often be understanding. The local media may go away grumpy, because they're deprived of their sensational or sentimental story hook. That's tough!

If we go on TV and say that ham radio's main role in a disaster is finding out about the welfare of individuals, we're distorting the true importance of ham radio in emergency communications. That's not good for ham radio, and it doesn't help the people who need our help the most. The October 12, 1992, issue of *THE ARRL LETTER* details what hams really did as "first responders" in Dade County, Florida. It's an impressive story that puts welfare inquiries in their proper perspective. Need convincing? I'll send any MARC member a photocopy of the issue for an SASE.

Operating Guidelines

1. **Listen.** Monitor recognized disaster net frequencies. Transmit *only* when directed by a net control station, or station in the disaster area.
2. **Monitor W1AW** for timely bulletins (*they're on WB3JOE packet, as well as on HF*).
3. Hold off on **health and welfare traffic.** Don't clog primary disaster frequencies by trying to force H&W traffic into the disaster area. Amateurs' efforts must be directed to receiving messages *from* the affected area, each one having the potential of heading off numerous H&W messages. U.S. Amateurs must listen carefully for instructions on handling H&W traffic when the disaster is in another country.
4. **Control** of the communications situation belongs with Amateurs *in the affected area*. Act according to directions of designated net control stations,
5. It is the responsibility of the **Red Cross** to manage the H&W traffic function (the Red Cross term is "Disaster Welfare Inquiry"). Hams support the Red Cross communications network, not the other way around.

Adapted from ARRL FIELD FORUM, July, 1991