



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2002

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

MEETING PROGRAM TOPICS FOR THE NEW YEAR

This issue of *REMARCS* highlights how we have fun on the ham bands. Of course, having fun on the air requires some stuff . . . and so our January 15 meeting program will feature a sample of the latest ham radio stuff, courtesy of **Joe Vilardo K3JV** of Ham Radio Outlet in Wilmington, Delaware. He's going to bring both HF and VHF equipment, so there will be something for you to look at no matter which part of the spectrum you hang out in.

The words "interesting" and "Pennsylvania Turnpike" don't usually occur in the same sentence! Did you know, however, that radio communications are used in the operation of the turnpike? Our February 19 meeting program will be presented by **Cully Phillips N3HTZ**, one of the technical guys who keeps the turnpike's radio system working. Cully is a former ARRL Technical Coordinator for Eastern PA Section. This would be a good op-

portunity to bring friends who aren't hams (yet), because everyone has had some experience of the turnpike.

March 20 will be the annual Junque Auction. Start thinking now about the stuff you'd like to sell. Expensive things usually do not find buyers at our auction, so think in terms of less pricey items such as accessories and test equipment. A change for this year will be elimination of the rule restricting sellers to no more than three items. Start looking over your stuff and think about what you'd like to bring to the auction.

Are there things you'd like to see offered for sale at the auction? In the next *REMARCS*, we will print a wish list of stuff that members send in. No names will be published, so you aren't making any commitment. If you suggest something you'd like to see for sale, somebody might decide to bring it.

FROM OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

By Bob Weiss KB3FSQ

As your public relations chairperson, I have greatly increased our coverage in various print and electronic media. This necessitates my asking you all to be on the lookout for any articles (including meeting notices) that appear in the media, as I cannot possibly look at all of the sources to which I send news releases. I greatly appreciate your doing so. Please bring the clippings to club meetings or mail them to my callbook address or the club PO Box.

HAMFEST PLANNERS TO MEET JANUARY 27

All MARC members who're interested in helping plan and manage the July 14, 2002, hamfest are invited to a meeting at the home of **Mike KF3CD** on Sunday, January 27, at 1 PM. We know that we will need a PA announcer and several teams of physically strong people to install direction signs along area roads on Saturday afternoon. For more information about the meeting and driving directions, please contact Mike at mpilotti@anro.com or 610-935-4429.

DELAWARE VALLEY 2 METER FM SIMPLEX CONTEST FEBRUARY 2, 2002

MARC will be an official participant in this year's second annual Delaware Valley 2 Meter Simplex Contest to be held February 2, 2002, from 7 to 11 PM. The event is sponsored by the Holmesburg ARC of Philadelphia.

The contest is open to all Amateurs. Stations within a 60 mile radius of Philadelphia's City Hall will exchange their zip code and contact number. Stations outside of the 60 mile radius will exchange their state and contact number. Stations from New York to Maryland will be able to participate in this evening event.

According to HARC President **Bob Josuweit WA3PZO**, the contest is designed for hams to have fun over a 4 hour period on a Saturday night. The contest allows hams to meet their neighbors on the air as well as give an opportunity to experience something else besides repeater contacts. The 60-mile radius reaches just about all of the county boundaries surrounding Philadelphia. This also opens up an opportunity for approximately 60 clubs to participate in the event. In choosing City Hall as the center of the contest, Bob noted the statue of William Penn on top of City Hall. "What better center point for the con-

test and the sponsoring organization whose club call is **WM3PEN**." Last year's winner, MARC member **Susan K3SUE**, won by just 1 point!

The contest gives individuals as well as clubs to participate in the event. Bonus points are being allowed for contacting club stations/callsigns. "We realize that everyone will not be able to contact WM3PEN so we're giving clubs a chance to put their club callsign on the air." A complete list of all bonus stations will be published by January 19, 2002.

Contacts can be made on any 2 meter FM voice frequency provided there is no interference to repeater, digital, satellite, or other activities taking place in the two meter band. Contacts on 146.52 will not be permitted.

Here's a chance to spend a few hours on the radio, participate in a contest, and not be tied up for a long time.

Awards will be issued to individual top scores in a high and low

(Continued on page 6)

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

BOARD MEETINGS

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

SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R
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@arrrl.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@arrrl.net)

BRING A FRIEND
TO A MARC MEETING!

VOX

Welcome returning members **Marlene WA3UOC** and **Joe W3JDR**. Marlene is **Steve N3ORH**'s mother and was the first secretary of MARC. Joe is one of the two Joe's who built the original 147.06 repeater. **Al W3GHV** has also returned to membership. Welcome new members **Dave KB3GYN** from Sanatoga and **Dave KB3HFO** from Malvern, who has returned to ham radio after having had a license some years ago.

In the last issue, **Nat W3JS**'s last name was wrong. It's Boonin, not Sander. **Nat Sander W3BSG** has been a Silent Key for some time. **Nat W3JS** was extremely nice about my mistake. **Bob WA3PZO** is helping dispose of an estate. Contact him at bjosuweit@aol.com or 215-624-6450 to find out what's available. **Owen KB3GVY** upgraded to General. **Tom N3JMA** had photographs in two shows in NYC art galleries in December. Worked All States applications from **Gene N3HG** and **Susan K3SUE** were checked by **Steve K3KFD**, our ARRL WAS award manager. **Carter N3AO** presented a program for DCARA about operating QRP on the Appalachian Trail. **Kay WT3P** gave a talk for Holmesburg ARC about the ARRL's Education Project and received the certificate for RTTY DXCC. Happy birthday to **Link W3IVS**, who turns 81 in February. Serendipitously, your editor ran into past MARC president **Jeff Ollis KB3HFI** (ex-WB3KNB), who's back in ham radio. Good to see **Paul WA3YZL** at the holiday party. **Dennis K3DS** is singled out for thanks in the author's foreword to ARRL's new book on digital signal processing. **Harry W3FM** collects cancelled commemorative stamps, especially the DX variety, for a boy in Belarus whose dad is a ham. Could you give him some from your incoming mail?

EXAM SESSION REPORT

Next one is February 2

At the November 3 test session, our team served 6 applicants, all of whom passed their exams. Three people earned new Technician licenses. One person upgraded to General, and 2 people made Extra. One member took advantage of the free test session benefit of MARC membership.

The Volunteer Examiners were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob W3SA**, **Bob KA3NIQ Dick K3ITH**, **Walt WA3PPW**, **Susan K3SUE**, **Paul NX3Q**, and **Kay WT3P**.

The next session will be Saturday, February 2, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive by 9:15 AM. The test fee will remain at \$10 for 2002. Pre-registration is strongly recommended, because if nobody pre-registers, the session will be cancelled. For directions, information, and pre-registration, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com).

In addition to the February 2 session, MARC plans to give tests on May 4, August 3, and November 2, 2002. We'll continue to offer members 1 free session per year.

The February session is our 63rd at the church, spanning 15 years. Our use of the space was arranged by **Tom Powell K3YPO (SK)**. In his memory, our sessions are now known as the Tom Powell Memorial Test Sessions.

SANTA'S BRIGADE DONORS

MARC members who contributed gifts for the needy to the Main Line Volunteer Force's Santa's Brigade project are **Bob WA3PZO**, **Kim KB3COV**, **Lynnette KB3GZZ**, **Janet KA3VTQ**, **Gene N3HG**, **Judy N3MBW**, **Steve KDOVA**, **Steve K3KFD**, **Carter N3AO**, **Jenny KA3WVD**, and **Kay WT3P**.

COULD YOU ORGANIZE
A TECH COURSE FOR MARC?

We have access to a room where a Tech license course could be held. Now, we need two or three people willing to organize a course. It's not a question of advanced technical knowledge but of organizational skills and possibly some teaching experience. Get a copy of ARRL's *Now You're Talking*, read it, and ask yourself, "Could I present this to others?" If you want to explore the idea, please contact Membership Services Chairman **Kay WT3P** (wt3p@arrrl.net, 610-993-9623).

PENN WYNNE LIBRARY 5K RUN / WALK

This public service event on Saturday, November 10, was a new one for us. Club members who participated were **Rick N3AGS**, **Roger N3VBZ**, **Carter N3AO**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Rich KC2EFA**, **Floyd KA3OXA**, and **Bob N3JIZ**, in addition to friend of the club **Ben W3LKI**. There were no emergencies.

The Vietnam Vets run, scheduled for November, was cancelled by organizers.

If you know about any charity -athons (walk, bike, run, bunny-hop) and similar public events which could benefit from Amateur Radio safety communications, please contact **Bob N3JIZ** as soon as possible. Many event sponsors believe they don't need ham radio, assuming that cell phones are enough. If nothing goes wrong, that may be true. Of course, assuming that nothing can go wrong is why the Titanic is an aquarium today, isn't it?

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

The other person who lives here had the bright idea of getting up at 4 AM to see the Leonids meteor shower on November 18. The TV and newspapers said it would be the biggest Leonids show for 30 years. That's fine, because I don't want to get up at 4 AM again for at least twice that long.

It didn't help that I had stayed up past midnight to watch a Humphrey Bogart movie on cable. But I'm not the one who slept through the alarm.

Anyway, we clomped out into a nearby field to watch the meteors. When we got too cold to be entertained any more, we clomped back into the house and defrosted. It's oh-dark-hundred on a Sunday morning, we are certifiably insane, and so what's next? We went into the shack to see if 6 meters was responding to the meteors.

It was. Yee-hah!

By the time propagation fizzled out, we had worked a bunch of new grid squares, including many on the west coast. **Carter N3AO** even worked a few Europeans and a boot-legger using an 8-land callsign that isn't in the FCC's database.

DXing is what attracted me into ham radio in the first place. I didn't discover for years that we can DX on VHF as well as on HF. Now I've confirmed 14 countries, 43 states, and over 200 grid squares with my ancient, third-hand 6 meter rig. What haven't you played with in ham radio? Open up the ARRL *Operating Manual* and see what sounds like fun. Or hit the books and upgrade to General or Extra. Learning isn't merely fun . . . It's also good medicine for the frazzled nerves and painful emotions we've all been dealing with since we learned on September 11 that Mommy was wrong when she told us there are no such things as monsters.

How fortunate we are that in Amateur Radio we can learn for a lifetime, yet never learn it all. This issue highlights some of the ways MARC members like to have fun on the air. Let's learn new things and enjoy the ham bands together! Happy New Year! – **73, Kay WT3P**

HOLIDAY PARTY WAS FUN FOR ALL

Our annual holiday party, the first at the township building, was great fun. **Janet KA3VTQ** and her mother organized the event. **Lynette KB3GZZ**, **Mike KF3CD**, **Dieter WB3JWU**, **Owen KB3GVY**, **Judy N3MBW**, and **Gene N3HG** brought food, snacks, drinks, and the equipment needed to put on the feast. **Jeff WA3RIZ** displayed some of his photographic work and took some photos of the gathering. Some members we haven't seen in quite a few years were able to attend. A highlight of the evening was the 25th birthday cake, whose candles were blown out by the original club members who were able to be there. When we have the photo, we'll put it on the web for you to enjoy. Thanks to everyone who worked on the party!

IRLP DEMO AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Vic Tenaglia N3IO demonstrated the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) at our November meeting by carrying on a QSO with **VK7KKV**, who was on a repeater in Tasmania, Australia. He was also able to call CQ on a repeater at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, though no one replied.

When Vic's antenna didn't work well, **Rich KC2EFA** brought out his antenna mounted on an umbrella. It looked way beyond weird, but it worked. Club members **Foster K3FXS**, **Vince WA3ADI**, and **Jack KB3GDC** are into IRLP now. Find out more about this subject by asking those guys and checking out the web page at www.irlp.net.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2002

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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k4bf@arri.net

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Bob Weiss KB3FSQ 215-477-6475
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PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587
rjpelectric@worldlynx.net

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@arri.net

HAM RADIO AT NBC10 FAMILY TECHFEST

Three MARC members were among those staffing the ARRL booth at NBC10's Family TechFest at the Philadelphia Convention Center December 1-2. **Dennis K3DS**, **Bob WA3PZO**, and **Kay WT3P** were joined by Section Manager **Eric Olena WB3FPL**, **Al Tribble W3STW**, and **Jim Biddle W3DCL** in introducing ham radio to a large number of people who attended the free event. Kay was interviewed for the Channel 10 news, too. **Ned WQ3Z** stopped by the booth to say hello.

The event was very successful as PR for ham radio, and we hope to be able to do it again in future years. Literature was provided by ARRL and AMSAT-NA. An illustrated story about the booth was posted on ARRL's Web site.

CLUB MEETING DATES IN 2002

January 15	May 21	Sept. 17
February 19	June 18	Oct. 15
March 19	July 16	Nov. 19
April 16	August 20	Dec. 17

HOW I HAVE FUN ON THE AIR

By Dieter Hauer WB3JWU

As a ham, I enjoy working DX on the HF bands and also work QRP stations to practice my weak signal skills. Occasionally, I like to operate simplex FM on VHF and have done so recently from the Empire State building in NYC. I just wish that more hams would monitor the existing simplex frequencies!

Although I don't consider myself a serious contest operator, I did participate for the first time in the October PA QSO Party and had a lot of fun.

For special events, I strongly recommend: Route 66 in November and the National Weather Service-Skywarn event in early December. Special events are fun to participate in and don't require a lot of your time. The sponsors also provide some nice certificates commemorating these events and credit your participation in them.

The MARC Sunday radio nets are entertaining and very interesting. **Carter N3AO**, **Bart K4BF**, and **Bob W3ZQN** do a marvelous job when serving as net control. I've listened to many other nets on VHF and HF, and this one is the best.

ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES, 2001

By Ron Kenwood W3ZV

Well, it's come and gone and the clean sweep still eludes me. Got 77 out of 80 possible. 468 QSO's. My own personal SS "Bermuda Triangle" strikes again. I don't know what it is about Canadian provinces, but Quebec and the Maritimes did me in again. Same as last year. Oh yeah, I missed Maine as well but that's almost Canada anyway.

Worked Yukon NWT with a funny story attached. Ham A works Ham B. I am waiting to work B. A and B are old friends and chat briefly. A is low power unassisted (like me) and B is unlimited (packet spots allowed). B is bragging about clean sweep and A is beating him up about "cheating" with packet. A brags about snagging VY1VY in Yukon. B says where is he now? A says hang on, I'll check and comes back and says 21.200. I never did worked B, but bagged the VY1 on about the sixth call. The 21.200 simplex thing gave me heartburn, so I moved the XIT up a hair just to lessen my guilt. Maybe that's why he heard me through the pileup.

Station improvements now include Array Solutions RatPack 6 port antenna switch and RF Applications Band Decoder. No more late night trips outside to disconnect 10 and add 80. And for the first time, I spent 0.0 hours on the wrong antenna. Neat! And I get a pretty new LCD to watch in the bargain. Life is good.

WEB SITES FOR RADIO FUN

Need help identifying what the various digital modes sound like? **Dennis K3DS** recommends www.qsl.net/g4hbt/sounds.htm.

To find out the QSL routes for stations in the CQ World Wide DX contests back to the mid-1990's, **Dieter WB3JWU** points us to www.arrakis.es/~ea5eyj/cqwwdx.htm.

One of the best sites for real-time DX info is www.dx-central.com/.

The National Weather Service / ARRL Skywarn Recognition Day is explained at hamradio.noaa.gov/ and described on pages 76-77 of November '01 QST. If you missed the event last year, it should be back in December, 2002.

QRZ.com is the site most often used to look up hams' addresses. If a ham in another country isn't listed there, try Buckmaster's site at www.buck.com/hammain.html. Though it has way too much distracting advertisement clutter, it does have info on some overseas hams who aren't on QRZ.

What ham radio web sites make your operating more fun? Send them in for a future newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTING . . .

"Having Fun on the Ham Bands"

PUBLIC SERVICE IS HOW I ENJOY HAM RADIO

By Ned Smith WQ3Z

My favorite ham bands and modes? Any band where I can make a new friend or hook-up with an old one – this means ALL AMATEUR BANDS! My most memorable QSO was working what had been East Germany on 10 meters shortly after the fall of the Berlin wall.

My favorite operating events are public service events – such as parades and run-a-thons, walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, "anything-a-thons." I got into amateur radio because of emergency assistance and public service; a field event such as a parade or walk-a-thon is THE BEST practice simulation we can have to prepare us for true emergencies.

The most memorable operating experience I've had was being able to survive as net control station for a run-a-thon across the Ben Franklin Bridge. We were using three different radio frequencies across two radio services (Amateur Radio Service and General Mobile Radio Service) and I had to keep order.

Most fun operating experience: Being simplex talk-in to a MARC Hamfest with **Neil WA3RPG**. Neil and I were in the same van; Neil was working the repeater, and I was "final approach simplex." As a station would get within simplex range Neil would instruct the station to "...now please QSY to 146.52 simplex and call . . .WB3JOE . . .:" I would wait about 15 seconds and call the station now on final approach. It was a blast.

Favorite piece of ham radio gear? The ICOM IC32AT. This really was / is the perfect radio for my needs.

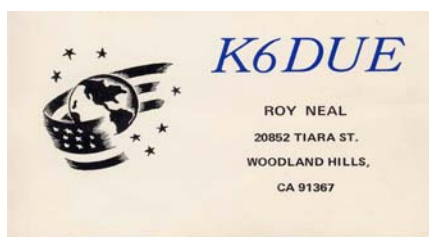
January fun on the air: Kid's Day, RTTY Roundup, North American QSO Party CW, 070 Club PSK Contest, January VHF Sweepstakes, Michigan QRP CW Sprint, Kansas QSO Party. Special event stations: Stonewall Jackson's birthday, commemorating kumquats, anniversary of the Challenger explosion, Olympic Torch relay in Idaho ... I couldn't make this stuff up! Check the magazines for details.

MY ONE & ONLY QSO WITH A CELEBRITY

By Kay Craigie WT3P

My favorite kinds of operating are contesting and DXing. A rag-chewer, I'm not. ("Name here is . . . Occupation is . . . Rig is . . . Favorite pair of socks is . . .") But when my parents still lived in Georgia, **Carter N3AO** and I used to have a weekly blab with my father **Jim KD3NI** (then **N4IQR**) on 20 meters.

Sometimes propagation just wouldn't cooperate. That's what happened on October 13, 1984. Carter called and called, but Daddy couldn't hear a thing. Fuming, Carter was about to flip the switch, when someone asked "Is this frequency in use? This is **K6DUE**, **K6DUE**." The man's rig had audio to die for and his voice quality didn't sound like anything I'd ever heard on the ham bands. Carter growled, "You can have the frequency. It's no good to me."



Meanwhile, gears were turning in my head, and I said, "Hold it, I know that callsign. I think that's **Roy Neal** the TV broadcaster."

Carter rapidly switched gears and

asked if he was indeed the man who used to be the TV network anchor man for the NASA space missions. Yes, he was, and we proceeded to have a really friendly rag-chew.

It turned out that Roy grew up in Wayne, PA, and when we said we lived by the corner of the Devon Horse Show Grounds, he knew exactly where that is. We exchanged QSL cards. This QSO proved that you never know who you'll meet on the ham bands or where famous people might have lived as kids. Or what their real last names are!

Little did I guess at the time that I was going to become an ARRL official and would meet Roy in person some years later. He was instrumental in the League's Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) project. He has always been just as friendly at Dayton as he was that day back in 1984 when a couple of rather new hams ran into him on 20 meters.

*In the CQ World Wide CW contest in November, several MARC members worked some nice DX. **Dieter WB3JWU**, for instance, worked Burkina Faso (XT), Guatemala (TG), Chagos Archipelago (VQ), and Ascension Island (ZD8). **Carter N3AO** worked St. Kitts-Nevis (V4) on a new band, plus Burkina Faso. **Kay WT3P** logged Burkina Faso and Madagascar (5R) on CW for the first time. **Ron W3ZV** added Madagascar and Peru (OA) to his log.*

Whether or not you keep score, contests offer chances to work good DX, which is defined as anything YOU haven't worked and/or confirmed yet . . . be it England, Germany, or some exotic land most Americans never heard of. Like Burkina Faso, whose capital city is Ouagadougou. For real. Look it up! What juicy DX have you logged recently?

FM and repeaters . . . VHF weak signal . . . Satellites . . . Moonbounce . . . Microwaves . . . QRP . . . CW . . . Fast-scan TV . . . Slow-scan TV . . . RTTY . . . PSK31 . . . Hellschreiber . . . MFSK16 . . . Single-sideband . . . APRS . . . IRLP . . . DXing . . . Rag-chewing . . . Contesting . . . Traffic-handling . . . 10-10 numbers . . . County-hunting . . . Award-chasing . . . Public service . . . Special event stations . . . Packet radio . . . Mobile HF . . . Special-interest nets . . . Islands on the Air . . . What's your idea of fun?

ME FIRST! ME FIRST!

By Carter Craigie N3AO

I may never have been first in foot races, first in girls' eyes, or first in the hearts of my countrymen. But I sure have had lots of firsts in ham radio: my very first QSO, my first ham radio catastrophe, my first Official Observer Notice, the first kit I built (it worked!), my first DX QSO, my first QRP operation out of doors, and my first hiking-and-hamming on the Appalachian Trail.

Let's start with my first ham radio QSO. As a college professor, to meet another professor on the air was a thrill: **Dan Hedding KA3GQL**, Drexel Hill, February 10, 1982, 15 meters CW. Dan was teaching at Philadelphia Community College. I still have his QSL card, and I kept the pages of my copy of the conversation. That QSO was the start of months on the air with nothing but CW contacts, as Novices in those days had no phone privileges; I didn't even know that there were voices stored up in my transceiver — for the longest time! For getting me going, thanks, Dan!

Finally I passed the General tests and bought a 2-meter handy talkie. I wasn't satisfied with mere HT battery power; I wanted MORE! So I figured out a way to connect my HT to a Radio Shack 12-volt power supply. That's when I learned why those wires were red and black — I fried my final transistor! **Ned WQ3Z** and **Al N3EA** have never let me forget that awful catastrophe. **Paul WA3YZL** helped me install the replacement final; I was happy again. Thanks, Paul!

I learned that operating phone on a frequency of 14.349 wasn't such a good idea when I received my first Official Observer notice telling me I was slopping over the band edge. Boy, was my face red! This wasn't a first I wanted, but it helped me become a better operator. My second OO notice is another story for another time.

My first kit was a Heathkit digital clock — which I still use to this day in my shack. It was built under the watchful eye of my Elmer, **Joe W3ZQH**. He taught me to solder, a skill I'm still pretty good at these days. That experience helped me to start building things — and opened the door to worlds of enjoyment. Thanks, Joe! I have now built many QRP transceiver kits — and they all work!

As most of you know, the thrill of hearing your own callsign coming back to you from far overseas is an ever-new kind of thrill. My first came from Western Samoa: **Graham 5W1DQ**, September 1, 1982, 10 Meters SSB. Boy, I sure was proud of that first DX contact, and I let everybody know about it! I hope they didn't mind me patting my own back. Who cares? I was excited!

Bart K4BF helped me do my first out-of-doors contest. We went to the PA-DE state border for a QRP operation. We didn't make many contacts, but we hung an antenna from a mast I had made, and we sure had fun. Now, operating "al fresco" is one of my special delights. It has led me to hiking-and-hamming on the Appalachian Trail; I've "put out" the Trail from PA, MD, and WV so far. I've also done the PA QSO Party from a tent in the woods, with help and advice from **Bob W3SA**. Thanks, Bart and Bob!

These firsts have led me to new insights and learnings, and I look forward to many more! I encourage you to try your own personal firsts; you never know where they may take you. Ham Radio First and Forever!

2 METER SIMPLEX CONTEST

(Continued from page 1)

power category. Club station awards will also be issued in the high and low power category. There is also an opportunity for clubs to sponsor awards for their members in high and low power categories. An award will also be issued for the highest mobile score. A list of zip codes up to 60 miles from Philadelphia's City Hall is available from the sponsoring club. For further information contact WM3PEN@harcnet.org or WA3PZO@harcnet.org.

SAMPLE CONTACT EXCHANGE

*If you live in the 60 mile radius of William Penn
(Philadelphia City Hall)*

"KB3AKK, this is WA3PZO. Please copy number 1, zip 19136."

If you live outside of the 60 mile radius

"WA3PZO, this is N3EFN. Please copy number 1, PA."

SCORING

Contacts with **WM3PEN** (the sponsoring club's callsign) are worth 3 points. Contacts with other clubs' calls (such as MARC's **W3NWA**) are worth 2 points. All other contacts are worth 1 point. Add up the contact points, then multiply by the number of zipcodes and states. Final score will be the number of contact points times the number of zipcodes / states.

LOGGING

The sponsors have not announced a required log format. However, MARC suggests that your log might look something like this, showing the local time, the contact number you sent, the callsign of the other station, the contact number received from the other station, the other station's zipcode or state, and the points earned for the contact.

TIME	# SENT	CALLSIGN	# RCVD	ZIP/STATE	PTS
0701	1	N3ORH	2	19462	1
0703	2	W3NWA	3	19301	2
0715	3	KA2YKN	6	NJ	1
0717	4	WM3PEN	14	19136	3

ENTRY DEADLINE

Your entry should state if you used high (10W or more) or low power (less than 10W). It should also show your name, callsign, and address (plus e-mail address if you have one).

All logs, whether paper or electronic, should be received by February 28, 2002. Logs may be sent to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 6253, Philadelphia, PA 19136 or emailed to WM3PEN@harcnet.org. If you e-mail your log, it should be a text file, not a word processor document, a spreadsheet, a logging program data file, or any other format that requires special software to read.

ENJOYING SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

The ham radio magazines list special event stations that we can work for fun and for unique commemorative certificates or QSL cards. These stations usually operate in the General bands plus the Novice/Tech segment on 10 meters. These days, most stations are on phone, but you'll find some on CW and digital modes, too.

What's a special event? Holidays (Christmas, Veterans Day) and well-known historical dates (December 7) are common reasons to put on a special event operation. Anniversaries of local or state historical events (Oklahoma Statehood Day, Washington crossing the Delaware), events related to famous people (Will Rogers Day, 100th anniversary of Walt Disney's birth), features of the landscape (lighthouses, Route 66), and events connected to radio communications (100th anniversary of Marconi's transatlantic message, 40th anniversary of the OSCAR-1 launch) give rise to special event stations, along with fairs, festivals, and obscure local events of every type you can imagine and several that you can't. Clearly, what constitutes a "special event" is a very flexible notion.

QSL information is usually published in the magazines and announced by the station operators. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope of the correct size, and be patient in awaiting a response. Sometimes it takes a while.

Patience is also called for in working the stations. The operators may be using unfamiliar equipment, and some of them are not very experienced on the air. Sometimes they rag chew more than is called for in this kind of operation. If there's a pile-up of stations calling, they may have a hard time picking out someone

THINK YOU CAN'T? OH YES, YOU CAN!

(Maybe. You won't know 'til you try.)

Can't get on 160 meters because you don't have an antenna for that band? With a tuner, your 80 meter dipole may be willing to operate on 160. Maybe not well enough for DXing, but you can enjoy nice QSO's with eastern North America if you work CW and with local hams if you prefer SSB.

Can't get on 12, 17, or 30 meters, because you don't have the antennas? With a tuner, my tri-band Yagi with 40m add-on works fine on 12m and 30m with a decent SWR. The Yagi can't hear a thing on 17 meters but has a good SWR on transmit. When I need extra oomph for DX, I listen on my 17m wire and transmit on the beam. If you have two transmit antenna terminals on your rig, you can try this trick yourself. I don't recommend it if you use an outboard A/B switch.

Making wire antennas for 12, 17, and 30 is not brain surgery. Need an Elmer to help you learn to make a wire antenna? Contact a MARC Member-at-Large, and he'll pair you up with someone. — **Kay WT3P**

to work. It can add up to slow going, if you're accustomed to the rapid-fire pace of DXing and contesting. But how does a person learn to operate except by operating?

Some of the certificates and special QSL cards are attractive and artistically creative. Some are whimsical and funny. Others are, well, none of the above. When everyone's having a good time and keeping the bands warm, that's the main thing. Grab a copy of your favorite ham radio magazine and see what special events are coming up soon.

DAYTON OFFERS ADVANCE SHUTTLE TIX

Hams who use Dayton's shuttle buses will be able to buy their rides in advance this year. In 2001, we had to stand in a long line to buy a ticket, then in another long line to get on the transport. This was not a lot of fun when it rained! Even on dry days, it caused much sour-pussing from bus riders.

Combined admission and unlimited-trip shuttle bus ticket are being sold in advance for 2002. Regular admission tickets without bus passes, and separate bus passes for single days and for the whole weekend will also be sold.

The advance shuttle bus tickets won't totally relieve you of standing in lines for transportation, but they will shorten the wait.

Finding a parking space on your own near the Hara Arena is difficult, and many lots turn into the Okefenokee Swamp when it rains. The shuttle buses are a good choice and will be a better deal in 2002 than in 2001.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENT HAMS FROM FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO

The Foundation for Amateur Radio plans to administer 62 scholarships for the 2002-03 academic year. Licensed hams may compete for these scholarships if they plan to pursue full-time studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school.

FAR's awards range from \$500 to \$2,500. The organization is a non-profit consortium of more than 75 local ham radio clubs in the Washington / Baltimore area. Some of the scholarships are funded by FAR, but most are administered cost-free for sponsors such as QCWA, YLRL, Radio Club of America, 10-10 International Net, and Northern California DX Foundation, plus a number of local radio clubs and private individuals.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2002. The address is FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. FAR is incorporated in the District of Columbia and is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

EXTRA QUESTIONS TO CHANGE IN JULY

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee has released a revised and expanded Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2002, and must be used to generate all Extra class written examinations administered on or after that date.

The new Element 4 pool expands the number of questions by more than 20 percent – 806 questions – as opposed to 665 in the current Extra class pool, and it contains more technical material. More than half of the questions cover electrical principles, circuits, signals and emissions.

The revision is in line with the goal of replacing the difficulty of the old 20 wpm code test with a more demanding test of technical knowledge. The new questions are on ARRL's web page.

FIELD DAY RESULTS

MARC's Field Day score is on page 103 of December QST, 4th one down, 2nd column from left. Our score was 2,858 points.

The **South Jersey Radio Association** had the top national score in class 6A. The **Gloucester County ARC** had the top national score in class 9A. Congrats to our neighbor clubs in New Jersey.

Dieter WB3JWU and **Susan K3SUE** are already planning great stuff for MARC Field Day, 2002. Be part of it!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

The board holds a single meeting for November and December to avoid date conflicts with holidays. At the December 6 meeting, the board heard a report on the program topic questionnaire circulated at the November club meeting. The board authorized spending up to \$500 to purchase 2m and 6m antennas and accessories for Field Day. The club will officially participate in the Holmesburg ARC 2m simplex contest in February. Plans for public relations activities were described. Public service events in 2002 are expected to be much the same as in 2001. Repeater technical issues were discussed. It was noted that MARC used to hold a General Mobile Radio Service license, but it has expired. Changes in the GMRS licensing system and the 1989 revision of business communications rules in the Amateur service have made GMRS no longer useful to the club. The treasury balance was \$10,291.48.

DELCO ARES/RACES MAKING PROGRESS

ARES/RACES is under way in Delaware County! For reasons beyond hams' control, ARES/RACES organization in DelCo has lagged behind Montgomery and Chester Counties. That's all in the past now, with **Dan W3DI** and several capable assistants leading the way.

VHF/UHF and HF rigs have been set up and tested in the ARES/RACES room at the 911 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Lima. Picture ID's for the team have been produced. Packet radio is available, thanks to equipment donated by MARC that was formerly our WB3JOE BBS stuff.

Dan says that they plan to apply for a vanity call sign for the ARES/RACES station. Weekly nets are to begin in January, with the NCS operating from the 911 EOC to give that equipment regular operating tests.

MARC encourages all club members to register in ARES/RACES and be active volunteers, not just names on paper. Local contact people are **Dan W3DI** (nm3s@prodigy.net) for Delaware County, **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com) for Montgomery County, and **Carter N3AO** (n3ao@arrl.net) for Chester County. Carter is not in charge of ARES/RACES in ChesCo but can explain how to sign up as a volunteer. If you live outside these 3 counties, contact your ARRL Section Manager (page 12 of the latest QST) and ask to be referred to your county's ARES Emergency Coordinator or RACES Radio Officer.

HAPPY HAMMING IN 2002!