



SEPTEMBER 2006

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

ELECTION THIS MONTH

The annual election for the club board of directors will take place at the membership meeting this month. If you are unable to attend the meeting to cast your vote in person, you may mail your ballot to the club post office box. A ballot is distributed to licensed members along with this newsletter.

The slate developed by nominations chairman **Dennis K3DS** is shown on page 3. Any licensed club member may be a write-in candidate, but before you start a write-in campaign for someone, please get the person's permission first.

There are 3 candidates for 2 Member-at-Large seats. Usually only one Member-at-Large is elected per year. However, **Ted NT3J** will be moving away and can't finish his term. Each candidate was invited to submit a brief personal introduction. They appear on the back of the ballot, if you get a paper ballot, or as an additional page if you receive the ballot as a PDF. The person with the most votes will serve the full 2-year term. The second-place candidate will complete Ted's unexpired term.

MEMBER SURVEY

What do you want for meeting programs? Is the club meeting schedule to your liking? What do you like to do in ham radio? These and other questions about your interests and opinions are included in a survey distributed this month.

The board voted to distribute the survey by postal mail and to include a postage-paid envelope to make it as easy as possible for you to reply to the survey.

The resulting information will be studied by the board to make decisions about program topics and the meeting schedule. There are important decisions to be made about the future of the club. Be sure your opinions are heard.

MEETING FORMAT TO CHANGE WE'LL START AT 7:30 PM INSTEAD OF 8 PM

MARC's meeting format will change, starting in September, to place more emphasis on the program and less on the business meeting. Also, to bring the evening to an earlier close, we will begin at 7:30 instead of 8 PM.

We'll open with refreshments and a social period at 7:30 PM, followed by a brief business meeting at 7:45. The program will begin at 8 PM. We're going to try this for a while and see how people like it. Send your comments to any member of the board.

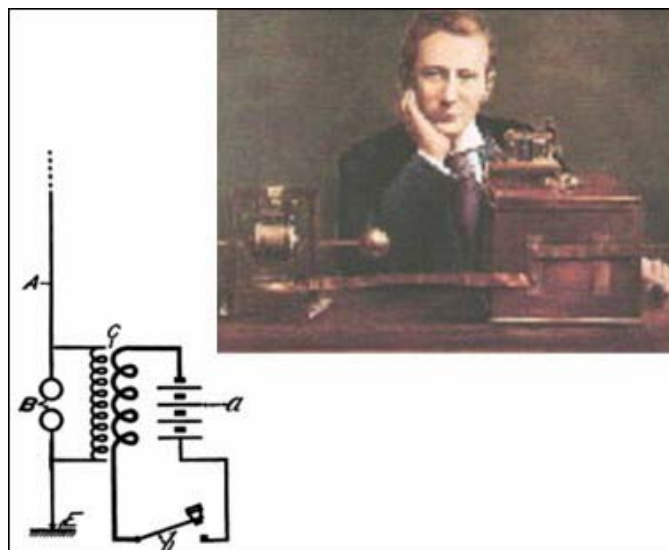
SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING PROGRAM: THE MARCONI CHALLENGE

The Marconi Challenge is a K-12 outreach program that introduces wireless data communication and is suitable for students from junior to senior high school. The Marconi Challenge was originally conceived to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's transatlantic wireless transmission in 2001 and can serve to introduce Amateur Radio.

In 1901 Marconi succeeded in transmitting a radio signal across the Atlantic Ocean. The wavelength of the transmitted signal was approximately 1500 meters, and input power was measured in kilowatts. In contrast, the Marconi Challenge requires that students experiment with the transmission of an infrared (IR) light signal at a wavelength of 940 nanometers and power measured in milliwatts to a receiver at the greatest distance from the transmitter.

The Marconi Challenge offers unique opportunities for experimentation and learning. IR digital data communication is used to provide an educational experience in electronics, the use of Morse Code to represent information, and the optical transmission and reception of IR light. Unlike low power, unlicensed RF transmissions, whose electronic circuitry is more complicated, IR semiconductor components are inexpensive and the circuitry is easy to comprehend, construct and utilize.

Dennis K3DS will demonstrate the Marconi Challenge as the 21st Century equivalent of the crystal radio and as a way to introduce wireless technology. The Marconi Challenge was presented to the national conference of the American Association for Engineering Education in June 2006.



Celebrating Thirty Years of Fun and Service Through Amateur Radio / 1976 - 2006

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesdays, 8 PM, Tredyffrin Township
Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. Guests welcome.
Smoke-free. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Thursdays of even months, 7:30 PM,
Paoli Hospital.

Members may attend as observers.

SYSTEMS

145.13/R, 147.06/R, 224.42/R, 445.675/R
145.13 & 147.06 linked, CTCSS 131.8 Hz
Webmaster: Steve N3ORH (610-327-8666,
smaslin@marc-radio.org)

NETS

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
All nets on linked 145.13/R & 147.06/R
Net Manager: Lou WX3I
(610-630-9146, lou@wx3i.net)
Roundtable, Thursdays, 8:30 PM

DUES

\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)
\$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)
Family rate \$5 per ham after first
member pays full dues.

NEWSLETTER

REMARCS is edited by Kay N3KN
(610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net)

BRING A FRIEND TO A MARC MEETING!

TREASURY REPORT

There was no board meeting in July so as to allow board members to work at the Kimber-ton fair. The treasury report covering the period from the June board meeting date to the August board meeting date is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Income | \$3,964.00 |
| Expenses | (\$803.78) |
| Treasury total | \$15,442.34 |

The hamfest report is as follows:

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Income | \$3,891.00 |
| Expenses | (\$471.15) |
| Profit (loss) | \$3,419.85 |

In the future, treasury reports will be printed in the newsletter rather than read aloud at membership meetings.

VOX

Lou WX3I has been elected treasurer of the Delaware-Philadelphia Area Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. **Bob WA3PZO** will speak to that group this month about ham radio and the weather. **Kay N3KN** and **Carter N3AO** took a European vacation last month. See the related Prefix Fun Quiz on page 5. **Bob W3SA** and **Bart K4BF** are not seeking re-election to the club board of directors. Many thanks to them for their years of service to the club! If you would like information on visiting **Bob W3SA** at Shannondell, please contact **Carter N3AO**. **Ted NT3J** has retired from Exelon and will be moving away soon. We'll miss you!

Ed KB3JGU, please send your current e-mail address to **Kay N3KN**. Mail sent to your arrl.net address bounces back undeliverable.

Steve N3LJZ has been appointed ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer for Montgomery County. Congratulations, Steve. It's a big job and you will do it well.

BOARD MEETINGS CHANGE TO EVERY OTHER MONTH

The club's board of directors has decided to meet every other month, in the even months, rather than every month. Most of the time there is little business to transact, yet board members have devoted an evening every month to meeting whether there is business to do or not.

In light of everyone's busy schedule, the board has decided to try this new meeting schedule until further notice. The board is also looking into teleconferencing services as another meeting option.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

At the August 24 meeting the board discussed future programs, public service events, the hamfest, Field Day, and annual elections. They voted to distribute the membership survey by postal mail, with a postage-paid return envelope, to stimulate a satisfactory response. The web site is due to be revamped using new software. The newsletter will begin appearing monthly. The board voted to permit Chester County ARES/RACES to use the MARC repeaters for a drill on September 17.

Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the club's future. Filling board positions has been a problem in recent years, sometimes because people are unable to attend board meetings. The board decided that until further notice, in-person board meetings will be held every other month rather than monthly. The meetings will be in the even months, starting in October, 2006. Also, teleconferencing will be looked into so that time-sensitive decisions can be made without having an in-person meeting. It is possible that the board may recommend a By-Laws change eliminating the Program Chair position, which has been unfilled for about half of the last ten years, but the board decided not to do so at this time.

The board also discussed the structure and format of membership meetings. Attendance seems to be decreasing somewhat. It was agreed to try beginning the meetings earlier, so people will be able to get home earlier, and to abbreviate the business meeting (see page 1 for the new format) so as to emphasize the program portion of the meeting. Board minutes will be posted on the web site and the treasury report will be published in the newsletter. Other efforts will be made to promote friendship among members and encourage members to be active on the air. Additional changes may be made as a result of information received from the membership survey.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

As you may know, **Carter N3AO** and I were among the thousands of people stranded at London Heathrow airport last month when the terrorist plot was discovered. Our vacation was great but the last 48 hours were a doozy. I have learned that adventures are better when they happen to somebody else.

Did you hear that some airline plans to sell advertising on their barf bags? Tell me, if you were an advertiser how closely would you want people to associate your product with the humiliating experience of throwing up in public?

Barf-bag ads are a new idea whose time probably should not come. On the other hand, trying new things is often worthwhile. The club's board of directors has decided to experiment with some changes that we hope will make the club and its meetings more interesting for members.

One of the changes will be monthly distribution of the newsletter. I switched the newsletter to a bi-monthly distribution schedule over 20 years ago when we had to crank them out on a mimeo machine and mail them at considerable effort for me and expense for the club. Times have changed. We now distribute very few paper copies, so the expense is no longer significant. Putting out a newsletter isn't labor-intensive any more, so doing it monthly is no biggie from that angle, either. I'm going to try a monthly schedule for a while and see how we all like it.

We'll be eliminating the treasury report and reading of the board minutes at club meetings, again as an experiment. We want meetings to be as inviting and interesting as possible and one theory is that people may find the business meetings boring. Okay, maybe so. But one of my old ARRL running buddies used to say that more than one nice ham radio club has been killed by a "let's you entertain me" attitude on the part of members. MARC is a club, not a dog & pony show. Do not for an instant believe that MARC runs by magic or on flies on auto-pilot. Individuals have to take responsibilities and do some work. If MARC turns into merely an evening's entertainment, with members neither knowing about nor participating in the work of leadership, then we will have pretty successfully destroyed the village in order to save it. The turnout of members for Field Day, the hamfest, and the Kimberton fair -- plus the fact that for the second year in a row we have a contested board election -- tells me plenty of MARC members care about the club and are willing to do some work to keep it strong. So let's try the new meeting format and see what happens. Be sure to let the board know what you think. **73 -- Kay N3KN**

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS THIS FALL

We have three public service events coming up soon.

October 14: Penn Wynne Library 5K run
 October 29: American Lung Association / Penn Medicine
 at Radnor run
 November TBA: Vietnam Vets 5K run

These events are interesting, don't take up your whole day, build up your operating skills, assist worthy charities, improve event safety, and do good PR for Amateur Radio. Okay, so they don't prevent tooth decay and won't help you lose weight without exercise or dieting, but apart from that they are really beneficial all the way around.

No previous experience is required. Please contact **Bob N3JIZ** for specifics on each event and/or to sign up. His telephone number is 610-687-4587.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2006

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

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

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

(open)

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2006: Bob Haase W3SA

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

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

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

SLATE FOR 2006-2006 BOARD

PRESIDENT: Steve Maslin N3ORH

VICE PRESIDENT: Kay Craigie N3KN

SECRETARY: Dori Lawson W3IBH

TREASURER: Carter Craigie N3AO

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Joe Ames W3JY

PUBLIC SERVICE: Bob Palin N3JIZ

TECHNICAL: Dennis Silage K3DS

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2 positions):
 Ray Jones KB3NFE
 Lou Ruh WX3I
 Foster Schucker K3FXS

PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY RESULTS

The club competition results for the 2005 Pennsylvania QSO Party were published in mid-July. MARC finished 16th out of 55 club entries, which is usually about where we end up every year. Our club total was 225,458 points. That put us just behind the Reading Radio Club and just ahead of the Columbia-Montour ARC.

The club competition was won by the Frankford Radio Club's 1,336,241 points. FRC beat second-place Murgas ARC by less than 60,000 points. That sounds like a lot of points until you do some math and see that Murgas's average score per entrant was 62,264 points. Just one more entry with an average score, and they would have defeated the mighty FRC! In third place was the Radio Association of Erie with 523,965 points.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Kay N3KN | 117,310 |
| Dieter K3DK | 57,952 |
| W3EOC (N3AO op) | 29,774 |
| Dennis K3DS | 17,320 |
| Steve WA2EAJ | 3,066 |
| William K9NCC | 36 |

Turning to the operating division competitions, we see **Kay N3KN** in 8th place among Eastern PA high-power stations -- well, they classify 200 watts as high power! **Dieter K3DK** was in 17th place among EPA medium-power stations. He had the top score among medium-power single operators in Montgomery County and finished 2nd overall among single ops in MontCo. Kay had the top single-operator score in Chester County. **W3EOC**, with **Carter N3AO** as principal operator, was the top multi-operator single-transmitter entry in Chester County. **Dennis K3DS** finished 5th among single operator entries in Delaware County. Both Dieter and Kay were among the 24 entrants who worked all 67 counties.

Congratulations to everyone who operated in the contest. Every point counts, and when you have fun, that's what REALLY counts.

The 2006 PA QSO Party will be October 14-15. For the first time the contest is expected to permit operation on PSK31 and RTTY modes as well as phone and CW. That's been intensely controversial among the contest's enthusiasts, to the point that some people kinda went off the deep end. Trust me, nobody looks too good with his wig flipped!

If you've never tried competitive operating at HF or just gotten your feet wet at Field Day -- this year literally! -- the PA QSO Party is a good place to start. Operators take the contest seriously but are happy to pause and help newcomers get the hang of things and start having fun. I know that because they did it for me often enough when I was new to contesting.

Questions? Ask anyone whose callsign appears in the scores box on this page.

FIELD DAY MAKES A SPLASH

Dieter K3DK submitted the MARC entry for ARRL Field Day 2006 showing 525 QSOs. We claimed 590 bonus points, too. MARC's W3NWA operation was in class 2A (club portable operation with not more than two transmitters in simultaneous operation). Our total claimed score was 2,220 points.



| BAND | CW | PHONE |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| 80 | 53 | 56 |
| 40 | 105 | 66 |
| 20 | 67 | 69 |
| 15 | 55 | 43 |
| 10 | 10 | 1 |
| Total | 290 | 235 |

Despite the horrendous weather, with heavy rain and thunderstorms, 19 operators took part in MARC Field Day. In the upper photo, **Justin Smith** (left) consults with **Rich WA3FPK** at the phone station. In the photo at right, **Carter N3AO** (foreground) and **Dave K3DAT** work the CW station.



This weather radar screen shot shows the reason why everybody and everything was soaking wet!

Tnx **Lou WX3I** for the photos in this story.

LICENSE TEST SESSION

MARC sponsored a license test session on August 5. Six people earned a Technician license and one person upgraded to Extra. Also, one person passed General theory.

Team captain **Bob W3ZQN** says, "A fellow from Kentucky, only working in this area for three weeks, decided that while he was working here he would get his ham license again. He had been a Novice in the '60s and therefore had code credit. He took all three theory tests and passed. So he became an instant Extra!"

The Volunteer Examiners for the session in addition to Bob were **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Paul NX3Q**, **Dick K3ITH**, **Bart K4BF**, **Ted WT3J**, and **Ned WQ3Z**. As always, the session was dedicated to the memory of **Tom Powell K3YPO** (SK) who originally set us up to test at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church and attended every session we held during his lifetime.

The next MARC tests will be on Saturday, November 4. Details will be in next month's newsletter, or you can contact **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032).

HAMFEST 2006

The 2006 MARC hamfest was financially successful, as shown in the treasury report printed on page 2. We are holding our own in terms of profits, which is not easy to do with a small club hamfest these days. What's even better news is that for the first time in many years we had enough volunteers to get the work done without halfway killing anybody. Shifting to a different weekend drew a better crop of commercial vendors since we no longer conflict with an event in north Jersey.

To everyone who contributed to the hamfest in any way: THANK YOU!

The members and friends of MARC shown in the list at right helped at set-up and on the hamfest day. If you participated but your name didn't get on the list, please contact the editor so we can recognize you in a future newsletter. Hamfest chairman **Mike KF3CD** could not be present at the event this year, but we couldn't have done it without him!

AI N3EA
Alex KA2VLP
Amy (daughter of KB3MAW)
Bart K4BF
Bill KN3EUF
Bill N3NUL
Bob N3JIZ
Bob W3ZQN
Branin N3SAM
Carter N3AO
Cliff W3NNL
Dan K3OU
Dave K3DAT
Dave KB3HOE
Dave WB3JOY
Dennis K3DS
Dieter K3DK
Dori W3IBH
Erin Thompson
Foster K3FXS
Gene N3HG

George N3ORC
Jack KB3GDC
Jeff WA3RIZ
Jon N3VZG
Jonathan (W3NNL's grandson)
Judy N3MBW
Kay N3KN
Lou WX3I
Marvin K3TVI
Miguel KC2HMG
Mitch W2MBH
Natalie Maslin
Ned WQ3Z
Phil KB3MAW
Rick N3AGS
Ron W3ZV
Steve N3LJZ
Steve N3ORH
Susan K3SUE
Walt WA3PPW
Will KB3IEL

PREFIX FUN QUIZ

Carter N3AO and **Kay N3KN** visited several DX countries on their vacation. How many can you identify from their ham radio prefixes without peeking at the answers below?

1. They began and ended their trip in the capital city of the land of OZ. What's the country and the city?
2. Another stop was the capital city of OH. No, not the state west of Pennsylvania! What country's prefix is OH, and what's the city?
3. They also visited the capital city of a small country which used to be under the thumb -- or fist -- of a nearby big country. Its prefix since independence has been ES. What's the country and the city?
4. They spent two days in a city which shares its name with a city on the west coast of Florida. The city is known for its art museum. What's the city and what's the prefix of the country where it's located?
5. Extra credit: We visited this one on a trip in 2002. Now newly-independent, its name means "black mountain." It used to be part of a country with the prefix YU. What is its name?

ANSWERS

1. OZ is Denmark, and the capital is Copenhagen, not the Emerald City.
2. Finland's prefix is OH, and Helsinki is its capital.
3. Estonia (ES) is one of the Baltic countries -- along with Latvia and Lithuania -- that used to be dominated by the USSR. Its capital is Tallinn.
4. There's a good art museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, too, but nothing holds a candle to the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. The prefix for European Russia is UA1 or UA3 - UA8.
5. Extra credit if you know that the new DXCC entity is Montenegro. YU was the prefix for Yugoslavia, which lost its component republics and became just Serbia. Montenegro's new prefix hasn't been announced yet by the ITU. By the way, "Monte-negro" is Italian for "black mountain." Montenegrins call their country Crna Gora, which means the same thing but is harder for us to pronounce. And they do have black mountains. Big ones.

KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY FAIR

Just as our hamfest is our principal fund-raiser, the Kimber-ton Fire Company's annual fair is their big revenue source. In return for supplying volunteer workers for the fair, MARC is allowed to use the fairgrounds rent-free for our hamfest. That is \$900 straight to the bottom line! This arrangement with the fire company is one reason our hamfest continues to show a solid profit, and we are deeply grateful to the fire company for the opportunity. The members and friends of MARC listed below volunteered at the fair and helped both the fire company and our radio club. We also note that there were additional members and friends who were willing to volunteer if someone on the roster had to drop out at the last minute. Thanks to all!

Ned WQ3Z
Bill KN3EUF
Miguel KC2HMG
Erin Thompson
Jon N3VZG
Jeff WA3RIZ
Andy K3JSE
Kay N3KN
Susan K3SUE
Carter N3AO
Bob N3JIZ
Joe KB3FXZ
Ted NT3J
Paulette Jennings

Dave WB3JOY
Dieter K3DK
Stu W3SMC
Steve N1HDP
Mike KF3CD
Floyd KA3OXA
Bart K4BF
Beth KA3GKI
Emmanuel KB3GBW
Lou WX3I
Paul WA3YZL
David Martin
Ron W3ZV
Bill N3NUL

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|----------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| <i>Get on the air and have fun on the ham bands!</i> | | | | | 1 Traffic Net | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Traffic Net | 5 | 6 Traffic Net | 7 Roundtable | 8 Traffic Net | 9 ARRL September VHF Contest this weekend |
| 10 | 11 Traffic Net | 12 | 13 Traffic Net | 14 Roundtable | 15 Traffic Net | 16 South Carolina and Washington QSO Parties this weekend |
| 17 Morning: MARC repeaters will be used by Chester Co. ARES/ RACES for a drill. | 18 Traffic Net | 19 MARC MEETING: "Marconi Challenge" by Dennis Silage K3DS <i>Meeting starts at 7:30 PM!</i> | 20 Traffic Net | 21 Roundtable | 22 Traffic Net | 23 Texas QSO Party this weekend |
| 24 | 25 Traffic Net | 26 | 27 Traffic Net | 28 Roundtable | 29 Traffic Net | 30 |

HAMFESTS

September 9-10: Foundation for Amateur Radio, Gaithersburg, MD. They're back at the fairgrounds and expanded to 2 days.

September 17: Gloucester County ARC, Mullica Hill, NJ. This one used to be in August but it's moved to mid-September now.

October 1: Pack Rats Hamarama, Middletown Grange Fairgrounds, Wrightstown, PA. Same location as Warminster ARC hamfest.

For additional info on hamfests and conventions all over the USA, go to www.arrl.org/hamfests.html.

AREA HAMS WIN ARRL HONORS

Two Philly-area hams are recipients of 2006 ARRL Atlantic Division awards. The "Amateur of the Year" award is going to **Richard "Dick" Moll W3RM** of Abingdon, PA. Dick is a long-time leader in the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club and has been involved in many service activities through Amateur Radio.

The Technical Achievement award is going to **Lor Kutchins W3QA**, the RACES Radio Officer for Chester County and a past member of MARC. He is noted for development of digital communications radio e-mail services in Eastern PA Section and for helping deploy such systems on humanitarian medical missions in Honduras.

The Atlantic Division awards are based on nominations from the field. Congratulations to Lor and Dick for their well-deserved honors.