



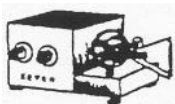
REMARCS



SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER, 1995

MORSE CODE CLASS STARTS SEPTEMBER 6

Morse code instruction for beginners and re-beginners will be held on Wednesday evenings, 8 to 9 PM, starting September 6. There is no charge for the class. The location is the Paoli United Methodist Church, South Valley Road and Devon Road, in Paoli. Students will learn the Morse code characters and pro-signs required for the 5 wpm test, along with CW operating customs and other information they will need to use CW on the air. The principal instructor will be Carter KD3AO, whose main interests in CW operation are rag-chewing and traffic-handling. He will be assisted by Kay WT3P, whose CW operation is mostly DXing and contesting.



MARC members are invited to participate as students and as Elmers. Students should be ready to set aside 15-20 minutes, twice daily, to practice CW. How they practice is up to them. A share-ware computer program will be available free. W1AW code practice schedules will be available. CW practice tapes are also sold by various publishers. If enough students

have multi-mode VHF rigs, we may be able to arrange something on the air.

YOU CAN LEARN THE CODE. This will be the most laid-back, user-friendly, no-pressure opportunity you'll ever have. When the HF bands come back to life, be legal and ready to enjoy using them. If you've let your CW slide but now want to upgrade to General, you can start reviewing now.

First preference will be given to MARC members and their families if the class fills up. Contact Carter at 610-993-9623 for details, and see the map on the outside back cover.

Also needed are Elmers who have a positive attitude about new hams and who genuinely enjoy Morse code. Natural-born know-it-alls, CW-phobes, show-offs, and snobs who look on Technicians as a species of virus should find another place to go on Wednesday nights. Dale Carnegie?

RAIN WALLOPS HAMFEST . . . ON TO PLAN "B"

Remember the movie that came out this summer . . . "Waterworld"? They could have filmed location shots at the MARC hamfest on August 6. Despite pouring rain, over 500 buyers **and** almost 70 tailgaters came to the hamfest. By comparison, we sold 1,256 buyer tickets and 171 tailgate tickets last year. Last year, we netted over \$7,000. This year . . . we didn't. The 1995 net is approximately \$1,700.

First, a huge thank-you to the club members who came out in the rain to work at the event. We also owe a debt of gratitude to all the buyers and sellers who came. Several buyers, who don't even belong to MARC, said they attended because they knew we were in trouble and wanted to support our club. That is class. That is ham radio.

We've had an all-outdoor hamfest in August every year since 1979, and this is the first year the weather killed us. Maybe it was about time for our number to come up, but this is a lottery you'd rather lose. Normally, over 2/3 of club revenue comes from the hamfest and less than 1/3 from dues. This year . . . it won't.

MARC is far from broke. No services will be cut, and at the present time, the Board feels a dues increase is not justifiable.

However, the drastic drop in hamfest revenue is something to be taken seriously. And there's more to the hamfest problem than one year's rain. Nothing we can't solve . . . given your help. Read on, inside this issue of *REMARCS*.

PROGRAMS



The September 21 meeting will be on telephone fraud, featuring Joe Fisher, from Bell Atlantic of PA. One of the company's technical people. Joe is an expert on phone switching, cellular telephone communications, and fraud control. Come and find out how the bad boys get their 'Bells' rung.

On October 19, our very special guest will be Joe Fairclough WB2JKJ, from New York City. A dynamic speaker, Joe has for many years used ham radio in his classroom at Jr. High School 22. His goal is not to produce hams, but rather to use ham radio to motivate young teenagers from the roughest, toughest neighborhoods to aspire to decent, productive lives.



ABOUT MARC

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3rd Thursdays. 8 PM. Memorial Library of Radnor Township, Wayne. Guests welcome. Smoke-free. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS

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

SYSTEMS

145.13/R. 224.42/R (May be cross-linked)
147.06/R
WB3JOE Packet BBS 145.090

NETS

Club Net, Sundays. 8:30 PM, 145.13
Traffic Net, M/W/F. 8:30 PM, 147.06
All members and friends welcome.

DUES

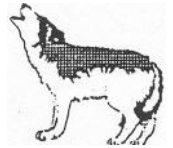
\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)
\$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)
Family rate: \$5 per ham after first member pays full dues.

NEWSLETTER

REMARCS is published in the odd months.
edited by KAY WT3P (610-993-9623,
wt3p@aolcom).

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

*"Say, Zeke, why is your ole dog how/in'?"
"Because he's a-lyin' on a cocklebur."
"Then why don't he git up off the cocklebur?"
"Because he'd a-rather howl."*



There are people who're like Zeke's dog. They enjoy being mad much more than they could possibly enjoy curing the gripe *du jour*. I once said to a particularly persistent sourpuss, "Look, you have to decide whether it's more fun complaining about this problem or fixing it. That's up to you. Let me know when you figure something out." That was several years ago, and I haven't heard back from him. Which was sort of the idea in the first place.

Hmmm. One of the disadvantages of going to college is that it takes you so many words to tell a jerk to shut up. But this way, you do not eat a fist, because you can escape while the guy is still figuring out that you just told him to stuff a sock in his yapper.

You may have noticed that hams seem to have our statistical share of soreheads, airheads, knuckleheads, windbags, wise-offs, horses' behinds, old goats of all ages, and a handful of just plain creeps and weirdos.

However, despite our occasional goofiness and once-in-a-while unpleasantness, hams in general are THE kindest and most generous people in the world. Just look at the attempt to help the ailing Nick UX0ZZ. Please read the story on page 6, and think about making a donation, if you haven't already contributed.

I guess all this is a way of saying that we hams are still in the position of putting our trousers on one leg at a time. See there, I don't need a sociologist to tell ME which way the wind blows! --73 de WT3P

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

On September 9, we will need about 4 or 5 operators for an event at Rose Tree Park in Media. The event benefits Parkinson's Disease. If you can help contact **Sean N3EOG** (610-449-6447) or **Gene WB3FTJ** (610-353-3281).

On October 22, we will need operators for an equestrian event at Thorncroft in Malvern. This is an interesting, enjoyable event that benefits riding therapy programs for the handicapped. Contact **Sean N3EOG** (610-449-6447).

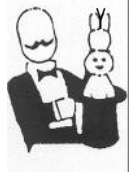
BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



At their July 27 meeting, the Board discussed Field Day results, the treasury, and hamfest plans. Jeff WA3RIZ outlined possible technical projects, including maintenance and improvement on 147.06/R. Formal proposals will be presented after the hamfest. The Boeing Employees ARS has asked

to use 145.13/R for their weekly club net; the group has no repeater of its own. The overall reaction was positive. However, lacking a quorum and because several points require further conversation with the Boeing club, the Board asked Jeff to continue the discussion. Program plans were reviewed, along with the status of the project to raise money for UX0ZZ'S trip to the USA for medical treatment. Seeking a volunteer to be an ARRL VHF awards manager was approved. The treasury balance was \$7,509.63.

At their August 24 meeting, the Board discussed the treasury, results of the '95 hamfest, plans for future years' shows, and nominations for the '96 Board. Guidelines for use of 145.13/R by the Boeing Employees ARS were approved and will be formally communicated to that group for their consideration. Also approved was an arrangement at the '13 site, whereby a remote input for a privately-operated 440 MHz repeater will share our site in return for our use of the same antenna for repeater control purposes. The idea of a dues increase was discussed: it was agreed that the club has enough money to operate for the year, if expenses are controlled, and that a dues increase for next year is not justifiable based on the information available at this time. The treasury balance was \$11,219.83. Hamfest gross revenue was \$3,965, with a predicted net income of \$1,700.



MARC TO THE RESCUE FOR UKRAINIAN HAM IN A JAM

[The following is based on a press release by Bob WA3PZO and Mike N3IRZ.]

It was in May, 1992, when Mike N3IRZ and Nick Bortnik UX0ZZ first met on the ham bands. "CQ North America, CQ North America. This is Nikolaev, Ukraine, calling and listening."

"UX0ZZ, this is N3IRZ in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. How do you copy?" replied Mike. With that exchange, a unique friendship was born between hams 5,000 miles from each other. During the next several months, Mike and Nick repeatedly and unexpectedly ran into each other while working other Amateurs.

"It was uncanny," Mike says. "Even though there is an 8-hour time difference between us, we kept bumping into each other. Something clicked between Nick and me. We found we have a lot in common, and when conditions permit, we talk for hours." Mike became Nick's QSL manager.



Nick, who is 31 years old, married, and the father of a 1-year-old boy, was stricken in late 1994 with a strange illness. He became unable to work to support his family. Although he went to many different hospitals, doctors in the Ukraine were unable to diagnose his illness.

Mike comments, "You have to remember that Ukraine lacks medical technology. Their hospitals are equivalent to what we had in the USA in the 1930's. CAT scans and MRI machines are nonexistent."

Nick's health declined rapidly. In his weekly sked with Mike, he said he feared for his life. "It began to gnaw at me," says Mike. "I wanted to help him, but I didn't know what I could do." Mike explained to Nick that although funds could be raised for air fare to the USA, it would be very difficult to find an American hospital willing to donate testing and treatment services. However, within a few days, medical and hospitalization assistance were obtained. The source of this assistance must remain confidential.

By mid-summer, Nick was going through the arduous process of obtaining a visa to come to the USA. Congressman Jon Fox's office has helped, but the process is maddeningly slow all the same. Mike went to work raising funds for Nick's air fare. MARC's Board of Directors agreed to donate part of the necessary funds from the club treasury and to serve as the collection point for other donations.

"MARC has been great," Mike says. "You really came through for me, just as I was about to give up. A project like this demonstrates the true spirit of Amateur Radio as a world-wide fraternity. I think it's the greatest hobby in the world."



If you would like to make a donation to assist with Nick's expenses, send your check to MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085. For most efficient processing, write "For Nick" in the lower left corner of your envelope. Checks should be made payable to MARC, with the notation "Attn: Nick" on the comment line. Donations are NOT tax-deductible.

F.A.R. SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, a consortium of more than 75 radio clubs in the greater Washington area, has awarded 55 scholarships for the 1995-96 academic year. FAR administers scholarships for a number of organizational and individual sponsors and funds others from bequests and the proceeds of its hamfest at Gaithersburg, MD.

No student hams from the Delaware Valley won FAR scholarships this year. Announcement of next year's awards competition will appear early next year. Watch for it in REMARCS.

INTERNET CALLBOOK LOOKUP SERVICE

There is an easy way to find out about new license grants and other up-to-the-minute callbook information. Two hams from Arkansas have created a nice front end to the FCC database. It's part of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Internet service. I tried the WWW page and found it fast and easy to use. It's said the TELNET route is even faster. Give these a try and see what you think. [info tnx Glenn O'Donnell N3BDA, Carbon ARC]

TELNET: telnet callsign.ualr.edu 2000

WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.ualr.edu/doc/hamualr/callsign.html>

THE DX DEN

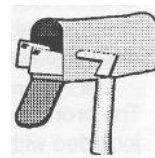
Have you heard of the DXCC Honor Roll? Phil NC3C is just 4 countries away from this prestigious DXing status.

To be on the Honor Roll, you must have a confirmed total among the top 10 of currently-listed countries. For example, if there were 330 current countries, you would need to confirm at least 321 of them. To qualify for #1 Honor Roll, you must have confirmed all countries on the current list. Deleted countries, such as East Germany, don't count towards Honor Roll.

So, you might think, those top guns could meet on a SEPTA bus and have room for a dance floor. Wrong! As of this summer, 49% (or 3,867 people) of the 7,840 active DXCC participants are on the Honor Roll! And 18% (or 1,375) of participants hold #1 Honor Roll status! Good luck, Phil! We're sure you'll make it.

While we're dishing out statistics, the Third Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau, based out in Cumberland County, PA, handled nearly 3 million cards for about 14,000 users in 1994.

That's a total volunteer effort, you know, with no paid staff from ARRL.



The bureau manager says he puts in 3-4 hours a day at the busiest times, and maybe 2-3 hours a week at the slack times. Why does he do it? "I've been licensed 31 years and want to make a contribution back to Amateur Radio." If you use the bureau, cooperation and also the occasional "thank you" would certainly be in order for people who help make confirming DX more fun for us.