



REMARCS



JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1991

1991 KICKS OFF WITH AUCTION PROGRAM

"MARC meets QVC"

Here's your chance to unload your unwanted ham and computer gear and either pocket a few bucks or blow them on somebody else's stuff. Our auctioneer will be BART KC3BP. Here are the ground rules: (1) Ham and computer gear only, (2) only MARC members may offer gear for sale -- no dealers, (3) MARC gets 10% of the sale price of each item. Please tag your stuff with your name/callsign, what the item is (no, it's not always obvious!), and (if any) your minimum acceptable price. Lots of good junk. Lots of laughs.

SLATE ANNOUNCED FOR 1991 BOARD

Several new names appear on the slate for 1991, a healthy sign for the club. The original chairman of the Nominating Committee, CARTER KD3AO, resigned that responsibility (as well as his Member-at-Large seat with a year left on his term), in order to run for President. It should be noted that no other candidates for the presidency had stepped forward or been dragged out by the end of the nominations period. Incumbent President AL W3DZI then named BOB WA3PZO to chair the Nominating Committee. All this Tinkers-to-Evers-to-Chance happened because a Nominating Committee member cannot be a candidate for office, under the By-Laws.

Ballots are enclosed for licensed club members. They must be in the club PO box not later than January 17, 1991 -- the club meeting date -- or brought to the club meeting. At the meeting, the ballots will be counted and the results announced. The 1991 slate looks like this:

PRESIDENT: Carter Craigie KD3AO
VICE-PRES: Ron Kenwood N3HEF
SECRETARY: Kay Craigie KC3LM
TREASURER: Janet Vann KA3VTQ
MEMBERSHIP
SERVICES: Ned Smith KA3EQT
PROGRAMS: Mitch Hyman N3BGA

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Rob Vann KD3UP
PUBLIC SERVICE: Tom Powell K3YPO
TECHNICAL: Al Maslin W3DZI
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Alan Robinson WA3JKB
(2-year term)
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Bob Haase W3SA
(unexpired term)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's time to pay dues again . . . time to remember what MARC provides for us:

Three voice repeaters on 2m and 220 MHz . . . A full-service packet BBS
Monthly club meetings with programs about ham radio or other high tech
Field Day . . . Hamfest . . . Six newsletters a year
License exam opportunities 4 times a year
Club Net . . . NTS Local VHF Traffic Net . . . Public service opportunities
And plenty of good fellowship

Your financial support and volunteer effort make these and many other activities possible. Please renew now, so we don't use up *your* money on reminder messages.

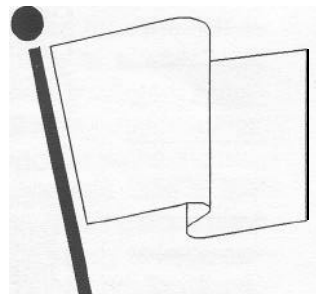


SEND A MARSgram TO KA3KHR IN GERMANY!

Telephone Charles A. “Frenchy” Andrews W3IRS, 356-9299, and address your message to:

**SSGT Daniel E. Milligan
Social Security No. xxx-xx-xxxx
324th MEDSOM, USAMMCE
APO New York, NY 09138**

DO NOT USE ARRL NUMBERED RADIOGRAMS. Keep ‘em short, keep ‘em cheerful. Most of all, keep ‘em coming, until Dan comes home. Be ready to give your own name, address, and phone number to Frenchy to meet MARS requirements.





REMARCS



MAY-JUNE, 1991

FIELD DAY JUNE 22-23

MARC's Field Day, as in previous years, will be in Audubon [see *map* on *back cover*]. BOB W3SA has arranged the site with Bell Atlantic. We don't go to Field Day grimly determined to win some category, with everyone except high-rate contesters made to feel like disease-carrying intruders. We welcome all operators, whether or not they are experienced contesters, whether or not they have ever operated HF before. We offer the opportunity to improve operating skills, give and receive help, build confidence, grow friendships, solve problems -- and have fun at it.

Field Day chairman WES WB2SVF (446-4923) wants to hear from you about how you'd like to contribute to the event. This year, participants can earn an endorsement for their MARC Public Service Award [see *related story on this page*].

Shoes and socks are recommended, since there is some poison ivy, along with your favorite brands of anti-sunburn goop, bug repellent, etc. Your family members and non-ham friends are welcome to visit.

FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION GRANTED

The Internal Revenue Service has approved MARC's application for federal tax exemption as a non-profit organization under section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. This section deals with civic leagues and social welfare organizations. That comes down to doing work that benefits the community. Not just walkathons, but the whole realm of volunteer service hams do that improves life for others.

This status will reduce or eliminate the federal income tax the club pays; in fact, some past income taxes were even refunded to us. **However, all members and friends are advised that dues and contributions to the club are NOT deductible on your federal income tax!**

A number of members contributed to this project, which required many hours of work with figures and reams of documentation in response to instructions written in Old High Gibberish: JANET KA3VTQ, HARRY N3EMX, CAROLE KA3UUQ, AL W3DZI, BOB WA3PZO, and KAY KC3LM (who?).

To continue to qualify for exemption under this section, MARC must maintain a high level of service activity. Your work as a member is important and needed.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

Public Service Chairman TOM K3YPO has announced an award program recognizing members who participate in public service events. The certificate carries four endorsements: MARC Traffic Net, MARC Net Control Station, MARC Field Day, and Community Service. Upon completion of one activity, the certificate will be issued along with the earned endorsement sticker. As other activities are completed, additional stickers will be issued. The starting date for earning credits was April 1, 1991. Information on how to qualify for the award appears on page 4.

MORE NEWS INSIDE...

Public service comm for Thorncroft, May 5 . . . Hamfest date set . . . MARC VE team receives recognition . . . Program topics . . . License test sessions . . . Hamfests in the area . . . Operating fun . . . "The Amateur's Code" . . . Assorted other stuff...

BOARD MEMBERS, 1991

PRESIDENT:

Carter Craigie KD3AO, 993-9623

VICE PRESIDENT:

Ron Kenwood N3HEF, 666-6828

SECRETARY:

Kay Craigie KC3LM, 993-9623

TREASURER:

Janet Vann KA3VTQ, 384-3163

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES:

Ned Smith KA3EQT, 825-5528

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Rob Vann WI3S, 384-3163

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Tom Powell K3YP0, 642-0135

TECHNICAL:

Al Maslin W3DZI, 446-4936

PROGRAM:

Mitch Hyman N3BGA, 539-0281

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Bob Haase W3SA, 293-1919

Alan Robinson WA3JKB, 768-0985

TRUSTEE WB3JOE:

Al Maslin W3DZI, 446-4936

MARC TEST SESSION RESULTS

Next One is August 17

The May 11 test session was staffed by BOB W3SA, BOB W3ZQN, CARTER KD3AO, PAUL NX3Q, WALT WB3BDP, HARRY NS3A, AL WA3JKB, ROB WI3S, BART KC3BP, and ALLEN WG3E. Most of the applicants passed at least one of the elements attempted. ED KA3YGI and JOSY KA3QOO were two of the successful ones.

The next MARC test session will be Saturday, August 17, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive not later than 9:15 AM to take care of necessary paperwork. All applicants must bring positive ID, the original Amateur license and one photocopy, originals of any certificates needed to document current status, and \$5.25 fee for tests beyond the Novice level. For additional information, contact BOB W3SA at 293-1919.

Being a Volunteer Examiner requires a little time, a little work, and a lot of attention to detail and correct procedure. The payoff is the future health of Amateur Radio. Contact BOB W3SA (293-1919) or KAY KC3LM (993-9623) for info on becoming a Volunteer Examiner.

If you have a friend who wants to upgrade, don't "help" by donating an old manual! Use only the newest editions.

Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Therefore: operate QRP [tnx Butler Co. ARA Tell-A-Ham]

PUBLIC SERVICE

Thorncroft Horse Trials

MARC provided safety communications for cross-country horse trials at Thorncroft Equestrian Center in Malvern on May 5. In this event, riders compete by riding one at a time over a timed course of jumps scattered through woods and open fields, across streams, up and down hills. Opportunities for dangerous accidents certainly exist at this event.

Net Control Stations AL WA3JKB and MITCH N3BGA were assisted by BOB WA3PZO, PAUL WA3YZL, BART KC3BP, CARTER KD3AO, JENNY KA3WVD, TOM KB2HT, RON N3HEF, ART W4VRP TOM K3YPO JANET KA3VTQ, ROB WI3S, and TOM PORETT (awaiting call at the time). Communicators were stationed along the course monitoring one or more jumps. In addition to watching out for accidents, they tracked each rider's progress, to make sure that no one was unaccounted for and perhaps in difficulty.

Fortunately, although several riders fell and a few horses got loose, there were no accidents requiring emergency medical or veterinary assistance. A communications critique after the event produced a number of good suggestions for improving operations next time.

"Next time" at Thorncroft will be October 27. We expect to be called upon for communications help. Thorncroft is famous for its unusual program of horseback riding therapy for the handicapped.

If you're not already on the public service call-up list, contact TOM K3YPO (642-0135) to sign up.

HEADACHES OF A NET CONTROL

by JIM KD3NI



How many of you have ever been a Net Control? Not too many, because it drives you crazy, causes you to pull out your hair, kick the dog or cat, nip at the XYL, or bite your fingernails. All of this, and more, can be eliminated if operators will observe a simple procedure that I have heard few check-ins use. First, we will state how it should be done to give the Net Control time to make the proper notes and to eliminate doubling.

When you check in, say, "This is" [pause] "Kilo Delta 3 November India" [pause] "Jim in Devon" [pause] "With traffic" or "No traffic." **With every pause, unkey the mic.**

Now, let's go back and see why all the pause business.

- 1) **"This is" [pause].** The pause will in most cases alert others that you are checking in and will give the Net Control notice that a station is checking in. It also helps eliminate doubles.
- 2) **"Kilo Delta 3 November India" [pause].** This gives the Net Control time to write down your call. PLEASE give your call using phonetics if you do not check in a lot. Even on FM, if we don't use phonetics, most of us sound like we have a mouth full of soda crackers and are running to catch the next train. This helps prevent time-wasting stuff about "Please come again . . . was that N3WAJ or N3WHA?" [Say them aloud, and you'll understand the problem. Use phonetics until you've become a well-known check-in on the net and whenever there's a new NCS at the helm.]

3) **"Jim in Devon" [pause].** This reminds the Net Control of your name and QTH. Again, this avoids time-wasting exchanges of "May I please have your name and QTH for the log?"

4) **"With traffic" or "No traffic."** When the Net Control asks you to list your traffic, give him time to write it down by saying, "Listing traffic for Paoli [pause] Exton [pause] and Swarthmore." Maybe he can't hear very well or write very fast.

To sum it up, the pauses help avoid doubles and give the Net Control time to record the necessary information in an orderly manner. In turn, that saves time and makes it much easier for you to follow Net Control's instructions. Try it. It will make the Net more interesting.

[MARC nets are "directed." Transmitting whenever you feel like it without permission from Net Control should be avoided, even to "help" the NCS. If the NCS wants help, he or she will ask for it. For their part, Net Controls should be clear and firm and avoid making awkward pauses . . . that leave an op guessing whether or not he's supposed to say something. Bothersome on SSB and CW, doubling is really the devil on FM because of the capture effect. Doubling because of poor net discipline and wishy-washy net controlling wastes everyone's time and frays nerves. Good net procedure, on the other hand, allows the net's time to be devoted to what is interesting, worthwhile, and fun. Learning to operate in a directed net is easy. Check into a MARC net this month and find out.]

CALLING NEW RADIO AMATEURS

Here's some good reading for new hams, whether Novices or Technicians, published in the January - July issues of QST:

- "Packet Hardware for Beginners," January, p. 20
- "CW Traffic Nets: Take the Plunge!," February p. 49
- "Making Soldering Safer," March, p. 28
- "Connectors for (Almost) Any Occasion," April, p. 35, and May, p. 34
- "How Many Rigs Can You Hold in One Hand?" [introduction to handie-talkies], April, p. 49
- "Basic Steps Toward Eliminating Telephone RFI," May, p. 22
- "The Amateur's Code in the 1990's," May, p. 47
- "Product Review: QST Compares Dual-Band Hand-Held FM Transceivers," June, p. 36
- "Hand-Held Digital Multimeters," June, p. 19
- "Antenna Here is a Dipole," June, p. 23

"Feeding Dipole Antennas," July, p. 22

"Build a Portable Groundplane Antenna" [for VHF], July, p. 33

"Get Out of the Shack and Into the Action" [introduces public service], July, p. 51



Also check out the monthly "Packet Perspectives," "The World Above 50 MHz," and "FM/RPT" columns. They often have information of interest to the new ham who operates VHF and above.

Take a look, too, at page 8. This is where you will find your area's ARRL officials' names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Most MARC members live in the Eastern Pennsylvania Section of the Atlantic Division. For questions or concerns about ARRL matters, call upon your Section Manager, Vice Director, and Director.



REMARCS



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1991 HAMFEST MONSTER SUCCESS

The '91 hamfest was the biggest ever . . . gorgeous weather . . . lots of money for the treasury. MARC appreciates assistance from Phil-Mont Mobile RC, via JIM SPENCER W3BBB, for use of a public address system; also on the "to be saluted" list is Suburban REACT, whose members supervised the buyer parking area. Prize donors this year included the ARRL, A&A Communications, Ham Radio Classifieds, Hamtronics, The DX Magazine, Varian Eimac, and Worldradio. Special confabs were held by the Rooster Net, traffic handlers, and packet radio system operators.

We had over 1500 paid admissions, including over 200 vendors. That's about 500 more admissions and 60 more vendors than last year! Our gross was \$5,792. Late expenses are still coming in, but we estimate total expenses to be not more than \$1300, which will give a very nice net income on the event.

Everyone who worked on the hamfest, before/during/after the event, has the satisfaction of having made a tremendous contribution to the club. The turnout of member volunteers on August 11 was not quite large enough, however, to manage such a big hamfest without some hassle. Please plan now to be there next year on the second Sunday in August and help for a few hours. It's fun to be part of the event crew.

NOMINATIONS OPEN SOON

The annual search for next year's slate of club officers and committee chairmen will kick off soon. Several members of the Board do not plan to run for re-election. If you are interested in serving on the Board in some capacity, contact a Member-at-Large. All licensed club members are eligible; there are no license class or length-of-membership restrictions.

CALLSIGN BADGES

Prices on the MARC callsign badges from the Sign Man of Baton Rouge will go up in 1992. This, and the fact that the badges are sharp-looking, is a good reason to order yours now. The cost is \$5.00, plus 70 cents for shipping if you cannot pick up the badge at a club meeting. You can order at a club meeting, or mail your order. Make your check payable to "Mid-Atlantic ARC" and state your callsign and name exactly (Robert, Bob, Rob, Bobby, Spaceman Spiff?) as you want it on the badge, to MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085.

FIELD DAY

For the first time, our Field Day QSO total went over 1000, according to WES WB2SVF. Watch QST for the Field Day results, later this fall. Field Day operators are recognized on page 6.

ATTENTION ARRL MEMBERS!

There will be a balloted election in the ARRL Atlantic Division for both Director and Vice Director this fall. Ballots will go in the mail about October 1. Please study the candidates' statements carefully and vote for the most qualified person. Don't think it doesn't matter: it does matter, and not just because your editor is personally involved. If your ballot does not arrive by October 25, contact the office of the Executive Vice President at ARRL HQ (203-666-1541) for a replacement.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT

Communicators will be needed for an equestrian event at Thorncroft in Malvern on October 27. Contact Public Service Chairman TOM K3YPO (642-0135) to volunteer. Great outdoor event. Do it!

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." <i>NOTE: November/December meeting at KD3AO/KC3LM, December 12, 7:30 PM.</i>		
SYSTEMS	145.13/R cross-linked with 224.42/R, 147.06/R, WB3JOE Packet BBS 145.090		
NETS	CLUB NET + BULLETINS SUNDAY	8:30 PM	145.13/R and 224.42/R
	TRAFFIC NET	M/W/F 8:30 PM	147.06/R
MEMBERSHIP	\$15 licensed, \$5 associate (unlicensed) -- Membership year begins March 1. Family membership rate: \$5 per ham after first member pays full dues.		

V O X

Welcome new members: **BRUCE N3JOV (296-8207)**, **ALAN WA2GDQ from NYC (212-285-1985)**, **SCOTT N3KMY and ROGER N3KMX (887-8435)**, **ANDREW N3KFS (265-6465)**, **PHIL N3KDJ (993-9237)**, **RICHARD KA3LEK (534-0859)**, **NORMAN N3KNW and WILLIAM WB3ELW (644-4216)**. It's great to see so many brand-new callsigns in the list.

NED ex-KA3EQT-am-I-making-the-machine took the Gettysburg plunge and now signs WQ3Z. Recipients of recent MARC certificates can thank BART KC3BP, who prints them. HUGH KC3IE (56.50354) coordinates licensing classes for Marple-Newtown ARC. CHARLIE KA3EBC oversees public service event communications for Phil-Mont. HARRY W3FM now wears the coveted DXCC Honor Roll pin. BOB W3SA enjoyed a trip to Scotland. LINK W3IVS and RAY N3BPJ were on nurse-watching duty in September. DUKE K3QWO gave a program on nets at the Marple-Newtown club. BILL W3KRB was heard in the Family Hour DX Net.

Telephone list changes: WALLY N3DIZ (358-3084), DAVID K3NGN (964-8600).

**REMARCS is the bi-monthly newsletter
of the Mid-Atlantic ARC, Inc.
Kay Craigie KC3LM editor
993-9623**

BRING A FRIEND TO A MARC MEETING!

WB3ELA SK

John Bartholomew WB3ELA became a Silent Key on September 28, 1991, at the age of 60. A MARC member for many years, John served as President in 1980 and 1988. He also held other offices, in addition to having been bulletin station and hamfest chairman. John started the WB3JOE packet BBS, which originally operated from his home. In addition to MARC work, John was active in the Rooster Net. The Directors of MARC, on behalf of the membership, express the club's condolences to John's family and many friends in Amateur Radio.

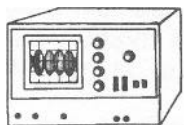
NOMINATIONS FOR 1992 BOARD OPEN NOW



Several members of the present Board do not plan to run for re-election, including the president. Any licensed member of MARC is eligible to run for office, regardless of license class or length of membership. Board members are expected to perform the duties of their offices and to participate in the monthly Board meetings which make financial and policy decisions for the club. If you are interested in finding out about any office, contact one of the Members-at-Large (see page 2 for names/numbers). Ballots will be distributed with the January/February newsletter.

BARGAIN OR BOMB?*New Book Helps Shoppers*

THE ARRL RADIO BUYER'S SOURCEBOOK: Product Reviews Collected from QST (1991, \$15) reprints product reviews for the most popular, available, and best-performing equipment. Not only can you compare the newest, jazziest bank-breaker rigs, but also find out about gear found today on the used-equipment market. You can learn what the rigs' features are, and what their strengths and weaknesses were considered to be when they were new. Chapters cover HF, VHF/UHF



base/mobile/handheld, power amplifiers, and assorted accessories. Five valuable appendices list equipment service and parts info, sources of manuals and information, an index to QST product reviews, equipment bibliographies, and comparative performance charts. There's also a glossary and a rather disjointed introductory section. If you have any interest whatsoever in buying a used rig in the next half-dozen years, this book is a worthwhile investment. Today's whiz-bangs will be tomorrow's hamfest specials.

OPERATING FUN

ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES: CW November 2-4, phone November 16-18. Begins 2100 UTC Saturday, ends 0300 UTC Monday. Operate only 24 hours total. Slow-speed CW windows very active last year. See pp. 103-4, October *QST*.

ARRL 70m CONTEST: December 14-15. See November *QST*, p. 20, for details. KC3LM has entry forms.

CQ WW DX: CW November 23-24. Exchange signal report + CQ zone (05 for most MARC members). Speed + + fast. Great Extra CW exam prep: 20 wpm will sound like 5, after a few hours in this 'test'!

NEW NJ PACKET ORGANIZATION FORMS*Camden/Burlington Packet Radio Association*

CBPRA was formed in August to promote packet radio in Camden and Burlington Counties. However, packeteers from other areas may join -- and there are good reasons to do it. CBPRA plans educational sessions for members, a members' information library including software, a quarterly newsletter, helping new packeteers learn, network development, and network funding. The first *PACKET PROGRESS* newsletter is excellent, including helpful information for new packeteers as well as material (including TCP/IP info) for more advanced operators. Membership in CBPRA is \$15 a year. Write for more information to CBPRA, Box 114, Medford, NJ 08055.

THE CODE OF THE ROAD*Or, How Not to be a Dits Ditz*

The other day, a ham I know honked as he passed me on the Schuylkill Expressway. Spotting his callsign tag, I beeped "HI" in Morse code on my car horn.

That set me to thinking about the codeless Technician and the customs of the road. Many of us who work HF memorize a few phrases in foreign languages, to be polite to the DX ops. It's no big deal to learn to say "bon jour" or "gracias." What is code but a kind of foreign language?

If you don't know code, but would like to know whether the driver honking at you is a friendly fellow ham, or just another demented scum-eating jerk, you only have to learn to recognize a few sound patterns. Here are the most commonly-beeped Morse greetings. A rectangle shape is a long beep (dah). A circle is a short beep (dit).

● ● ● ● ● ●	di-di-di-dit	
	di-dit	= HI
■ ■ ● ● ● ● ■ ■	dah-dah-di-di-dit	
	di-di-di-dah-dah	= 73
■ ● ■ ● ■ ■ ● ■	dah-di-dah-dit	
	dah-dah-di-dah	= CQ

Any of these greetings can be appropriately answered by beeping HI on your own horn. Don't worry, the other ham is not going to launch into a lengthy, incomprehensible ragchew in Morse code on the horn. If that happens, the person is seriously squirrely and also creating a public nuisance. It is prudent to ignore that sort of loony.

Now, what you need is practice. Go get in the car and honk these Morse code expressions several times on your car horn, so you will recognize them later. Yes, the neighbors will think you are nuts, but what do you care? Concentrate on HI, so you will develop a good fist (or is that thumb?) on the car horn.

Having memorized these simple Morse code expressions, any ham can hit the highway with confidence, ready to greet other Amateurs along the way. Happy Honking DE KAY KC3LM.

