



REMARCS



MARCH AND APRIL MEETING PROGRAMS

Power line noise can drive us nuts ... or we can learn what's involved in eliminating it. The March 18 meeting program will be given by **Ralph Rizzo N3ZSB** on "Detection and Elimination of Power Line Noise." Ralph is a power quality technician for PECO Energy Co. He will demonstrate some noise tracking devices used in his work.

Our April meeting is on the 15th (sorry to mention that date!). Drop your tax return in the box at the Wayne post office and

walk around the corner to the club meeting, where you will hear a presentation on "Year 2000 Computer Problems." The Y2K software problem is less than a year away. How vulnerable are we to its effects?

What would you like to have as a future meeting program? Contact **Dennis K3DS** with your ideas and suggestions. Smart dude, is Dennis, but he can't read our minds.

HAMFEST PLANNING NEEDS YOU

The hamfest planning meeting at **Mike KF3CD**'s house on February 7 was productive. People at the meeting included **Bob W3SA**, **David KB3CRY**, **Gene WB3FTJ**, **Judy N3MBW**, and **Bob N3JIZ**. Several other key people could not attend because of schedule conflicts or illness.

Last year's hamfest did not make much money. Hamfests world-wide are shrinking. The MARC members who put on last year's show did a fine job. The underwhelming results were not their fault ... but we have to do better this year.

Here's the short-and-sweet: MARC typically has about 170 members, most of whom pay \$15 dues (family members pay \$5). That's about \$2,500 a year from dues. The club we have come to expect costs a lot more money than that.

To pay for our repeaters, packet BBS, autopatches, news-letter, Field Day, holiday party, equipment and liability insurance policies, training materials, and so on, we have a hamfest. There is no other practical way to get from the "here" of dues income to the "there" of what it costs to run the club.
[Story continues on page 5]

145.13/R MUST LEAVE CABRINI

Work Party Scheduled for April 10 & 11

New Site Needed to Serve Norristown / King of Prussia Area

MARC was notified by authorities at Cabrini College that we must remove the 145.13 repeater because of renovations to the building where the equipment is housed. Fortunately, we were given adequate advance notice by the college.

A work party has been scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 9 AM, to dismantle and remove the equipment at Cabrini. The rain and/or finish-up date is Sunday, April 11. Technical know-how would be nice, but we also need people unafraid of physical work and people with trucks or vans, even if you think a repeater is what happens when you eat too much cabbage.

There will be talk-in to Cabrini on 146.06/R, or you can contact **Carter N3AO** (610-993-9623, n3ao@ar1.net) for directions. Hard-hat, work gloves, work boots ... bring 'em.

Obviously, we need a new site for 145.13/R. The site should provide good coverage into the Norristown / King of Prussia area, where we have many members whose access to '06 is unsatisfactory.

Also, we need something with low or zero rent, because we can't afford much ... certainly not the major bucks charged to commercial users of tower space.

If you have any ideas, please contact **AI W3DZI** (610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net). If you can provide a site's contact person's name, title, and phone number, that's even better. This repeater is important to the life of our club ... we need a good new inexpensive home for it ASAP.

1999 DUES PAYABLE NOW

A lot of people have paid their 1999 dues already, either by mail or at a club meeting. Thank you! The membership year begins March 1, so anybody who hasn't already paid is asked to do it now. A handy form is on page 7 inside.



Paying now means that we won't have to mail a reminder notice in a few weeks. Those "yoo-hoo?" letters use up our club's money for postage. We are not rolling in money, y'know, so please go get your checkbook and do it now.

ABOUT MARC

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

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. Members may attend
as observers.

SYSTEMS

145.13/R and 147.06/R linked
repeater system
WB3JOE packet BBS 145.090
Packet sysop and Webmaster:
Steve N3ORH (610-313-8080,
smaslin@fast.net)

NETS

Club Net, Sundays, 8:30 PM
Traffic net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
All nets on 147.06 + 145.13
linked repeater system.
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

Please join in the condolences to **Ann KA3EIW** and **Beth KA3GKI**, whose son / brother **Roger Lytle** passed away in February. **Kay WT3P** and **Carter N3AO** enjoyed a vacation in KP2-land (U.S. Virgin Islands). **Jenn KA3WVD** went sky-diving and has the videotape to prove it. **Tom N3JMA** exhibited his digital artworks, including an interactive CD, at Silicon Gallery in Old City Philadelphia. **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW** attended the exhibit opening. **Jack N3KCK** upgraded to Advanced. **Mitch W2MBH** is ex-N3BGA. Please welcome returning members **Kevin K3NTD** and **Chip WB3DMC**. Also say hello to new members **Bill Warren**, **Jan Sharp**, and **Foster K3FXS**. **Al W2GPY** celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary ... wow!

FREE MORSE CODE TRAINING STARTS MARCH 2

Informal Morse code classes begin at the home of **Carter N3AO** in Paoli on Tuesday, March 2, 7:30 PM. The goal is to prepare people for the MARC VE tests in May and enable them to enjoy using code on the air. Both beginners and upgraders are encouraged to come and learn / practice code in a friendly, no-pressure, no-"attitude" atmosphere. Contact Carter by e-mail as n3ao@arrrl.net or by phone at 610-993-9623 for information and directions. Yes, you can join the group after the first session. It's all very informal.

LICENSE TEST SESSION REPORT

MARC's February 6 license test session shrank down to just one candidate, though five had pre-registered. Happily, the single candidate passed his exam and upgraded to Advanced. The Volunteer Examiners were **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Bart K4BF**, **Al W3DZI**, **Bob W3SA**, **Dennis K3DS**, **Paul NX3Q**, and **Hugh N3HT**.

E-MAIL @arrrl.net

ARRL members who have an e-mail account can now sign up for a free e-mail forwarding service. You can then use your callsign @arrrl.net (e.g., n3ao@arrrl.net) as your permanent e-mail address. When you change e-mail providers, you just have to register the new real e-mail address with the League ... not inform the dozens of people you correspond with. It's quite a convenience, if you change providers often or if your address is complicated.

Several MARC members have already taken advantage of this service. The best way to sign up is via the members-only section of the ARRL Web site, but you can also sign up via e-mail if you do not have Web access. Details are in QST.

If you decide to use this forwarding service, please let **Kay WT3P** know, so your MARC roster information can be updated.

PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY CLAIMED SCORES

The 1998 PA QSO Party claimed scores are posted on the event's web page. **Kay WT3P** led the MARC group with 137,120 points from Chester County. **Steve K3KFD** had 118,476 in Montgomery County. **Carter N3AO**, QRP solar power portable in Delaware County, posted 26,120 points. That gives MARC a total club score claim of 281,716 points. This won't win anything among the clubs but is a lot better than our 145,000 points last year.

WB3JOE PACKET BBS ... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In January, WB3JOE packet was used by 16 club members, including 2 sysops. The 14 non-sysop members checked in an average of 4 times per month. Two members accounted for nearly half the month's member check-ins. Without them, the average number of check-ins drops to 2.5. Members had an average total connect time of 14 minutes for the month. Is the packet BBS a service that is still desired by members? Whether or not you use the system ... what do you think?

Do you keep your car registration card in the vehicle? If so, you may want to reconsider. Police in our area report that thieves are breaking into cars just to steal the registration cards. Then they use these cards to clone counterfeit registrations for vehicles they have already stolen. Sounds like a lot of fun sorting out the bureaucratic mess, on top of the car break-in. Something to think about if your car is ever parked in unsecured areas.

SHORT CIRCUITS FROM THE EDITOR'S SHACK

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference....

In these days of Zero Population Growth in ham radio, how many new hams decided to drop out of the hobby because they were treated like the Invisible Man or Typhoid Mary? I truly do not think this is a problem in MARC, but all of us could make an even greater effort to extend a warm welcome to new faces, new callsigns.

In his March editorial, QST's **Dave Sumner K1ZZ** talks about the importance of courtesy and friendliness in keeping our hobby healthy. Simple virtues ... but they probably play a greater role than anything else in determining whether or not a newcomer decides to stick with ham radio.

The March CQ editorial raises an issue that has been turning over in my mind for a while now. This has to do with the deep resentment so many hams feel towards "the industry." Equipment manufacturers and retailers, book and magazine publishers ... anybody who receives bucks for ham-related stuff is liable to be vilified as a hybrid of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bonnie and Clyde, and those guys who beat baby seals to death.

Why do so many hams perceive the industry as the enemy? This isn't a rhetorical question. What do YOU think?

In case I haven't stirred up enough dust for one month, let's talk about "Ham radio is not a hobby, it's a *[harrumph!]* SERVICE!" You know, some hams act as if "hobby" were one of those words Pop would have smacked us for saying at the dinner table.

Yes, hams do outstanding public service, sometimes at considerable inconvenience and even danger to themselves. Hams have saved lives and risked their own ... no doubt about it. And yes, in FCC-speak we are officially the Amateur Radio "Service."

But before we get ourselves all confused with the Navy SEALs, let's reality-check. Spectrum regulators call ALL slices of the wireless pie "services." CB is a radio service, broadcasters are a service, and the dozens of other spectrum user groups are services, too, whether the communications they carry are ambulance dispatches or Howard Stern. Fact is, being termed a "service" by the FCC makes us about as unique as bologna on white.

What grates on me is the sour-pussedness of the "We're a SERVICE, not a hobby!" viewpoint. It insists that "fun" and its relatives are words we should never apply to ham radio. I have heard people practically spit the word "enjoyment," with a look on their faces that would make milk turn sour. I guess they got into ham radio because they ran out of lemons to suck.

Ham radio is not my business. It's my hobby. The service angle is a big part of its attraction for me. So, however, is the fact that ham radio is just plain FUN. If this be treason ... make the most of it! – **73, Kay WT3P**

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

At their February 25 meeting, the Board discussed the state of the treasury, plans and philosophy for the 1999 hamfest, and the impending site change for 145.13. The work party to dismantle '13 was scheduled and **Jeff WA3RIZ** reviewed criteria for a new site. Member input will be very important in finding a new site as soon as possible. Public Service chair **Bob N3JIZ** reported on a meeting of Memorial Day Parade organizers. This event is taking shape, and MARC will again provide public service communications. The treasury balance was \$4,108.75. Over 25% of members had renewed to date.

The Board also discussed the WB3JOE packet BBS. Interest in general-purpose packet systems is known to be fading nationwide. **Steve N3ORH** will provide user logs so that the Board can analyze usage of the BBS by club members.

Because the 222 MHz repeater has not been useful for some time and because the rationale for having this repeater has been overtaken by events, the Board voted to do away with this repeater.

LICENSE QUESTIONS

Good questions have come up recently from members about license renewal, license class privileges, etc.

What's the difference between a Technician and a Technician Plus?

This can be confusing, because the license classes have been redefined several times in the last dozen years.

In terms of privileges, the Technician licensee today has all privileges above 30 MHz. The Technician Plus has those privileges plus the same HF privileges enjoyed by Novice class licensees (see box for details).

Novice and Tech Plus HF Bands

80m	3675 – 3725, CW only
40m	7100 – 7150, CW only
15m	21,100 – 21,200 CW only
10m	28,100 – 28,300 CW, RTTY, and data
10m	28,300 – 28,500 CW and SSB phone

In terms of exams taken, the Technician has passed Novice theory (Element 2) and Technician theory (Element 3A). The Technician Plus has passed at least those theory exams plus a Morse code test. It's the CW test that earns the HF privileges.

How do I know whether I'm a Tech, a Tech Plus, or what?

If your license document says "Technician Plus," then the answer is obvious. If your license says "Technician," and you have not passed a Morse Code test, then you're a Technician. However, there are Tech Plus licensees whose license documents say "Technician." How can that be?

When the "no-code" license was introduced in February, 1991, the FCC said their computer system could not accommodate a sixth license class. So they called the new no-code license by the same name as the existing Technician license which, until then, required a code test. Confusing? That's putting it mildly.

So hams began calling the Techs who had HF privileges "Tech Plus," for "Technician Plus Code" or "Technician Plus HF." This folk-speech term rankled the heck out of FCC honchos, who kept griping that there was no such thing as a Tech Plus license class. They went on issuing licenses that said "Technician," whether a person passed the code test or not. The list of Technician licensees who had passed a code test was kept in the private sector by a VEC based in Alabama.

On June 8, 1994, the FCC threw in the towel and officially created the Technician Plus license class. They incorporated the private-sector database into their computer and started issuing tickets that said "Technician Plus."

The private-sector database was imperfect, by the way, so some hams who should be classified as Tech Plus show up in the FCC database today as Technicians. This can be rectified. People should take steps now to make the record show that they passed 5 wpm code, before license class restructuring further complicates everything.

If you were licensed as a Technician any time before June 8, 1994, AND you have passed a code test, then today you're a Tech Plus. If you have not renewed your license, changed addresses, etc., so as to receive an updated license document, then your license document may still say you're a Technician. But you're not. You're a Tech Plus.

In case you aren't mixed up enough already, there are Tech Plus licensees who inherited credit for General theory. Prior to March 21, 1987, there was just one theory exam for Technician and General (Element 3). If you are a Tech Plus who passed the old Tech/General theory test, then you have credit for today's Element 3B, General theory.

How can I renew my license?

If you have no change of address, etc., to report, you can renew on the World Wide Web at www.fcc.gov/e-file/. Scroll down to License Renewal (Form 900). If you have any change of data or you aren't on the Web, you renew using a Form 610. The FCC will not accept license renewal applications far in advance of the expiration date. Thirty days is plenty of time if you do it by mail.

If you have no change of address, etc., to report, you can renew on the World Wide Web at www.fcc.gov/e-file/.

ARRL mails license renewal reminders and forms to League members. You may also receive in the mail from a Texas company an offer to renew your license for you electronically, at a price. Be advised that there is no advantage whatsoever in paying someone several dollars to do something you can do for yourself, for a 33¢ stamp or a few minutes on the Web. It's a free country, though ... you choose.

If you need assistance filling out your license renewal form, any member of the MARC VE team can advise you.

FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO SCHOLARSHIPS



Sixty-six scholarships for student Amateurs are available from the Foundation for Amateur Radio, a non-profit consortium of ham radio clubs based in the Washington, DC, area. The awards range from \$500 to \$2,500.

Licensed hams who are enrolled or accepted for full-time study at accredited colleges, universities, and post-secondary technical schools are eligible to compete for the scholarships for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Additional information and application forms may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 1999.

Send your request to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.

When you're paying for college or tech school, every dollar helps. Please bring this excellent scholarship competition to the attention of the student hams you know.

HAMFEST PLANNING

... Continued from page 1

Assuming that nobody would tolerate a huge dues increase and that nobody can think of a better way to net several thousand dollars and that nobody wants to do away with most of the club activities and services we enjoy ... we all need to get on the hamfest team and do something to help.

"Something" does not mean taking on a job the size of settling the conflict in Kosovo. Many jobs take only a few hours. Key people need back-ups and assistants. Most of these jobs do not require previous experience. If you are alive and more intelligent than a loaf of bread, you can do this.

Please look at the list of jobs and choose at least one you could probably do, and contact **Mike KF3CD** (mpilotti@anroinc.com, 610-935-4429) for more information. This club has over 170 members ... nobody should be over-worked!

Now for some credit where it's due: **Gene WB3FTJ**, **Dennis K3DS**, and **Wojo KB3CXU** volunteered to contact area computer hobby clubs for mailing addresses. **Wojo** is also going to assist **Carter N3AO** at the ARRL publications sales booth. **Russ K3RH** offered to write letters asking for door prize donations. **Bob WA3PZO** researched contact information for radio-controlled model aircraft clubs in the area. **Rick WB3BSA** will work on setting up a table for information on radio and Scouting. **Carter N3AO** and **Branin N3SAM** will back-up whoever volunteers to place and remove direction signs. **Dave N3LHY** worked on hamfest flyer design.

There's Something in This For You!

- Back-up for public address system announcer for **Bart K4BF**
- Back-up for advance ticket sales for **Bill W3KRB**
- Assistant and back-up for club sales table for **Gene WB3FTJ** and **Judy N3MBW**
- Take hamfest flyers to hamfests, other radio club meetings, etc. Flyers must be at hamfests early.
- Take flyers to the Trenton Computerfest (May 1 & 2)
- Provide contact information on special-interest groups: ATV, QRP, QCWA, computer hobby clubs, photography clubs, model railroad clubs, etc.
- Contact small computer and other electronics / hobby stores about placing flyers with them.
- Collect addresses of vendors at other hamfests by picking up their business cards or advertising flyers
- Assist with publicity to non-ham media (cable TV community event lists, public service announcements to broadcast stations, etc.)
- Back-up for talk-in station
- Place and remove direction signs
- Set-up on Saturday, July 10
- Clean-up crew for after the hamfest
- Early-bird parking workers
- Ticket sellers at gates

PHIL-MONT INVITES AREA HAMS TO TOUR KYW'S DIGITAL TV TRANSMITTER

Interested in seeing a new digital TV transmitter? **Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club** has invited other ham clubs to join them for a tour of KYW's facility in Roxborough on Wednesday, April 14. The meeting will begin with refreshments at 7 PM, followed by a tour and demonstration at 7:30.



Here are directions. From the intersection of Ridge Avenue and Domino Lane, go north on Ridge to Dearnley Street, opposite a 7-11 store. Turn left on Dearnley and go 3 blocks to

Manti Street. Turn left on Manti and go 1 block to Culp Street. Turn left on Culp and go 1 block, crossing Wigard Street, and into the KYW entrance road. Continue, bearing right on the newly-paved road to its end at the new KYW-DT building. Park either in the paved parking area or on one side of the entrance road. Please stay off the soft shoulders.

There will be talk-in on 147.03/R and 444.8/R. Thanks, Phil-Mont, for including your neighbor clubs in on this opportunity.

NEWS FROM THE ARRL LETTER

Austrian Red Cross station, **OE7XRK**, has requested Amateurs worldwide to keep clear 3685 and 7085 kHz for emergency relief operations. The request comes in the wake of avalanches in the Alps. In a packet posting February 25 on KITSAT-OSCAR 25, the Austrian Red Cross said those frequencies were being used to coordinate avalanche rescue and recovery operations. — thanks to **HB9JOI** and **WB8IMY**

The FCC has shut down for 120 days the K7IJ repeater facility on Grizzly Peak in the San Francisco Bay area and told the licensee his ham ticket could be in jeopardy. The FCC took the action by modifying K7IJ's license to prohibit repeater operation starting midnight February 28, 1999. The repeater operates on 145.29, 223.78, 440.175, and 441.175 MHz. The FCC also set aside recent license grants of four individuals accused of unlicensed operation on the repeater prior to obtaining their amateur tickets and other behavior. The cases,

the first major VHF/UHF enforcement actions the FCC has taken in recent months, were brought to the Commission's attention by the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary. The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH said that for almost a year, the repeater's control operator "has apparently not only allowed, but encouraged, use of the repeater by unlicensed operators, rebroadcast of cordless telephone calls, playing of music, and profanity and obscenity."

Operators at W4EHW ("Early Hurricane Warning") at the National Hurricane Center in Miami have been honored by the National Hurricane Center. The 30 operators received Certificates of Commendation in late January, presented by NHC Deputy Director Max Mayfield. He expressed his thanks for the operators' commitment and dedication in supporting the Center's staff.

DOING DX

As propagation improves and more people discover or re-discover HF, a few tips on increasing your QSL receipt rate may be in order. There are 3 basic ways to QSL with hams outside the USA: direct, via managers, or via the bureau.

Direct QSLing is usually fast but expensive. You send your QSL directly to the other ham (60¢ postage to most countries) using an air mail envelope. Always enclose return postage and a self-addressed air mail envelope. Return postage can be a couple of \$1 bills, one or more International Reply Coupons (IRC's) purchased at a post office, or the right amount in mint postage stamps of the country to which you're mailing. There are dealers in mint foreign postage for DXers. One is William J. Plum, 12 Glenn Road, Flemington, NJ 08822.

QSLing via a manager is usually fast and possibly less expensive though not cheap. You send your QSL to a person who handles QSLing chores for the DX op. Always enclose return postage and a self-addressed envelope. If you're lucky, the manager lives in the USA, so postage is no big deal. For managers outside the USA, do envelopes and postage as if QSLing direct. Being a QSL manager is a money-losing proposition. Enclose a couple of dollars as a donation, if you can afford it.

QSLing via the bureau is cheap but usually very slow. "Cheap" means you can send about 150 cards for the cost of sending 10 cards by direct mail (not including the return postage). "Very slow" means it takes a year or more to get cards in reply to yours. Instructions are too lengthy to print here. Please contact **Kay WT3P** or check the ARRL Web site for the latest how-to sheets.

Some DX operators and DX QSL managers refuse to reply to QSL cards sent to them via the bureau. If you want the card, you cooperate with the DX's QSLing instructions.

How about QSLing within the USA?

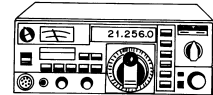
Some special-interest groups of hams operate domestic bureaus for their members. The FISTS CW club and the county hunters' club, for example, have QSL re-mailing services for their members. ARRL has no domestic QSL bureau. This is because after such bureaus became postally legal within the USA, surveys indicated insufficient interest among ARRL members to justify the expense of a system.

So for the most part, QSLing within the USA is by direct first-class mail. QSLs for Alaska and Hawaii may be sent via the ARRL QSL bureau system. However, do NOT send QSLs for the contiguous 48 states to the ARRL QSL bureau ... they won't be forwarded.

Courtesy counts!

When you want a QSL card for a USA contact, courtesy and enlightened self-interest say always to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Why should I expect others to foot the bill for my progress towards some award? If you lived in Wyoming, Delaware, or North Dakota, and got bags of QSL requests, the expense of replying would add up ... and your inclination to say, "Forget this!" would rise, too.

One final note ... if you do not QSL, please be honest about that if someone requests a card over the air. I am still waiting for QSLs promised hand-on-the-Bible for some 1983 contacts when I was seeking my original Worked All States award. And please keep your address updated with the FCC. It is not entertaining to work someone running a rare grid square on VHF, only to find out that his address in the callbook is about as recent as 25¢ gasoline.



Whether you exchange QSLs to earn awards or to create memorabilia of pleasant QSO's, it's better when the process works. Have fun on the air!

ARES AND RACES ... ARE YOU READY TO HELP?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service, sponsored by the ARRL, and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, codified in Part 97 and overseen by emergency management officialdom, are the main groups handling Amateur Radio emergency preparedness in the USA today.

Both are fundamentally organized at the county level. There are significant functional differences between what ARES and RACES can do, but we don't need to get to that level of detail right now.

Ideally, ARES and RACES work together and have cooperative leadership. In some areas there are ham radio turf wars and ego conflicts that don't reflect well on anyone, but that is certainly not the case in the areas where most MARC members live.

Although Delaware County has not shown much interest in working with hams, Chester and Montgomery emergency



management officials encourage ham volunteers and appreciate what we do.

If you live in Chester or Montgomery counties and have not registered with ARES/RACES, what are you waiting for? Some hams say, "I'd help out if the spit hit the fan, but I'm too busy for the organizational stuff."

Look ... when the fan has been hit, you won't know what the heck to do. A real emergency is not a good time to mess around figuring it out, either. Hams should make an "asset" of ourselves, not a shorter word contained within that one!

So, if you live in Montgomery County, contact Radio Officer **Bob W3ZQN** to join ARES/RACES. If you're in Chester County, talk to **Carter N3AO**, who can help you sign up. You'll meet some friendly hams who care about their community and who are eager to help you find a way to contribute, too.

INTERESTING STUFF TO DO

March operating events include ARRL International DX phone contest (March 6-7, see December '98 QST, p. 97, for details), CQ WW WPX phone contest (March 28-29, see March QST, p. 96), and the Bermuda Contest (March 20-21, see March QST, p. 96). Several state QSO parties are in March: Wisconsin, Missouri, Alaska, Virginia, and Ohio will be on the air. See March QST, p. 96. Even if you do not want to keep score, working contests builds operating skills and provides contacts you can QSL for awards.

The Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest at the fairgrounds in Timonium, MD, March 27-28, is the second-largest hamfest in the USA. It's the host of the ARRL Maryland State Convention, too. This year, forums on the program include antique radios, a DXpedition to Easter Island, and ARRL. In the afternoon on Saturday there will be a 3-hour ham radio hands-on demonstration and Scout radio badge session led by **Peter Budnik KB1HY** from ARRL HQ. All Scouts and Scout leaders who come to the hamfest in uniform will be admitted FREE! Scouts can earn their radio badges on the spot at Saturday's forum. Several MARC members are heavily into Scouting and radio ... why don't you guys plan to go down and see how this forum works?

The Penn-Del ARC hamfest, host of the ARRL Delaware State Convention, will be in New Castle on April 25. The program is

still under construction, but we know it will feature a session on lightning protection and grounding by **Ron Cohen K3ZKO**, plus an ARRL forum.

Looking ahead, there will be an ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention this year for the first time in eons. The

Columbia-Montour ARC will host the convention at their hamfest in Bloomsburg on June 12. Bloomsburg, you query? It's easy to get to from I-80, whether you go up the quick way by the Northeast Extension or the scenic route taking the Turnpike west to Harrisburg and then US 15 north along the Susquehanna. It's a beautiful part of Pennsylvania. We have a club member living in Bloomsburg, in fact. **Ed KA3GGV** moved up there some years ago.

Here are some radio-relevant URL's courtesy of **Leo Boberschmidt W3LEO**. Canadian Awards (www.rac.ca/awards2.htm#Maple) ... Australian QRP homepage (www.pcug.org.au/~parkerp/qrp.htm) ... DX information (hamradio.com/web/dx.html/) ... QSL lookup links (www.ac6v.com/page2.html) ... Vanity callsigns already assigned (www.amateur-radio.org/vanity.htm) ... World time zone map with current local times all over the world (www.worldtimezone.com).

Scouts and Scout leaders in uniform admitted FREE to the Baltimore Hamfest!

FIELD DAY is JUNE 26-27... Put it on your calendar now!

MEMBERSHIP FORM – 1999

NAME _____ CALLSIGN _____ () New Member
() Renewal

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP + 4 _____

TELEPHONE () _____ OK to publish phone number? YES NO

E-MAIL _____ OK to publish e-mail address? YES NO

ARRL MEMBER? YES NO LICENSE CLASS? E A G T+ T N None

COMPUTE AMOUNT DUE:

Full Member (licensed ham) @ \$15	\$
Family Member (licensed ham, after 1 st member pays full dues) @ \$5	\$
Associate Member (unlicensed person) @ \$5	\$
Club Logo callsign badge @ \$6.50 (see note below)	\$
Total enclosed with this form	\$

The membership year begins March 1. We do not accept more than 1 year's dues at a time. MARC dues are NOT tax-deductible. Make checks payable to Mid-Atlantic ARC and send to MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085.

NOTE: FOR CALLSIGN BADGE ORDERS, PRINT FIRST NAME AS DESIRED ON BADGE: _____