



JULY / AUGUST 2005

# REMARCS

[www.marc-radio.org](http://www.marc-radio.org)

## MARC HAMFEST JULY 10 KIMBERTON, PA *Set-up is on July 9*

MARC depends on income from our annual hamfest to finance the kind of club we have come to expect. Membership dues are simply not enough to fund all our services, and activities.

Without dedicated leadership and the support of every club member -- including you! -- we can't have a successful hamfest.

A hamfest flyer is part of this newsletter. Please pass it on to someone you know after putting all the information on your calendar. Every member should be talking up the hamfest to every ham you can find. Ours is the only surviving hamfest in the western suburbs of Philadelphia and the only Philly-area summertime hamfest on the Pennsylvania side of the river. That should give us a free ride to popularity, but times are long past the "if you build it they will come" era of hamfesting. Every club member should take it as a personal responsibility to promote the MARC hamfest. Get your friends to plan to buy tailgate spots and sell their stuff, or buy an indoor table if they don't want to risk the July heat.

### ***Set-up on July 9***

Workers are needed to set up the fairgrounds for the hamfest, starting at noon on Saturday, July 9. This will happen rain or shine, so dress appropriately. Wear your work clothes. We will be setting up tables and chairs for indoor vendors, lining the parking area for tailgating, and placing roadside signs directing people to the event. The more workers, the sooner we'll be finished.

### ***Members' gear sales table***

The table will be managed this year by **Dieter K3DK** and **Dennis KA3QOT**. You can drop off your ham radio and ham-related items to be sold while you do volunteer work and enjoy the hamfest. You will fill out a form indicating what each item is, whether or not it works, what the desired price is, and whether you want to receive the proceeds or donate some / all the money to MARC. No commission is charged. All gear that is not sold must be taken home by you on hamfest day. We cannot dump unwanted items at the fairgrounds or hold it for later pickup.

### ***Hamfest volunteer workers needed***

Some major jobs at the hamfest are already under control. **Dori W3IBH** will handle the PA announcements again. **Bob W3LIA** will do talk-in. **Steve N3ORH** is managing indoor table sales. **Carter N3AO** is the money man. But we have important jobs which are not spoken for. Contact **Dick K3IIN** if you'd like to help him collect fees from tailgaters. This is more than a one-person job, for sure. We need a bunch of people to handle the influx of dealers who show up way before sunrise on Sunday morning to set up. Contact **Mike KF3CD** if you're an early riser who can be there for this extremely important logistical task. We need scads

of people to sell tickets all during the day, so no one has to stay out in the heat too long. After we award the main door prize at noon, things wind down quickly. We need a post-event crew to handle clean-up -- collecting trash, taking down the tables, stacking the chairs, checking the restrooms, retrieving the signs from the roads. Contact **Mike KF3CD** if you have any questions about jobs that need to be done at the hamfest.

### ***Features***

We expect to have **West Mountain Radio** as a vendor again this year. They make the popular RigBlaster interface device for doing sound card digital modes and RigRunner power panels, among other products. See their ad on page 22 of July QST. **Giselle Walls K3WAJ**, former proprietor of the Amateur & Advanced store in Delaware, will also be a vendor. We will have the same food vendor as last year.

Door prizes have been donated by the ARRL, CQ Publications, and WorldRadio magazine. In addition, two \$25 gift certificates good for purchase of ARRL publications and merchandise will be given away. The main door prize is a Yaesu VX-5R triple-band hand-held transceiver (retails for about \$200). We got the silver edition that looks way cool.

Tickets for MARC night at the Phillies (August 19) will be on sale at the main table for \$30 each. Tickets will be sold first-come first-served, until they're all gone. This is going to be a great MARC family event, so plan to get tickets for yourself, spouse, date, friend, kids, etc.

Our ARRL Division Director **Bernie Fuller N3EFN** and Section Manager **Eric Olena WB3FPL** will be at the League table as our guests.

**IT'S FUN  
IT'S EASY  
IT EARNS \$900 DOLLARS FOR MARC  
THAT'S NINE . . . HUNDRED . . . DOLLARS**

But it only works if you do . . . At the Kimberton Fire Company Fair, July 28 - 30. Turn to page 3 for details about signing up. Then help give MARC \$900!

## ABOUT MARC

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

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 8 PM, Tredyffrin Township  
Bldg, Wayne/Berwyn. Guests welcome.  
Smoke-free. Handicapped-accessible.

## BOARD MEETINGS

4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 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: Dick K3IIN  
(610-688-0874, k3iin@arrl.net)

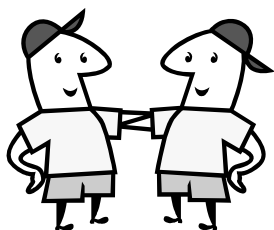
## DUES

\$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 N3KN  
(610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net)

BRING A FRIEND  
TO A MARC MEETING!



## MARC NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

MARC members, our families, and our friends are going to the baseball game. The Phils play Pittsburgh at 7:05 PM on Friday, August 19, at Citizens Bank Park. **Dori W3IBH** reserved a block of seats in a good section on the first base side of the park. Tickets cost just \$30 each.

You can buy tickets at the announcements booth at the MARC hamfest with cash or check payable to the Mid-Atlantic ARC.

Part of the price of each ticket will be donated to our Nick Fund, which benefits **Nick UX0ZZ**, a Ukrainian ham whom the club befriended to help him deal with a seizure disorder that the medical system in Ukraine cannot deal with.

## VOX

Welcome **Joe KB3MGS** and **Harry KC2OJN** to the club. **Steve KD0VA** is moving back to Kansas this summer. **Dick KB3KBC** has moved to Indiana, PA. We wish Steve and Dick all the best in their new homes. In Colorado, **David KA3HBK** and wife **Sherri** have had a baby named **Bryce Thomas Fetter**. David was on the board of MARC as a student in junior high school back when some of us had a lot less gray hair! **Carter N3AO** gave a talk on modern voice message-handling at a meeting of Delaware County ARES/RACES. **Bob KB3FSQ** has resigned as PR chairman for personal reasons.

## FIELD DAY FUN

At the time we have to get the newsletter out to you, we don't have the facts and figures on Field Day. However, **Dennis KA3QOT** gave a quick oral report at the June meeting, indicating that our last year at the traditional site was a lot of fun. A VHF band opening allowed contacts as far away as Texas on 6 meters. One member is already talking about getting equipment to add VHF SSB to the home station. New member **Harry KC2OJN** made a photo album of the event and donated it to the club. Thanks, Harry!

We had some visiting dignitaries, PSK31 operation, a WINLINK 2000 demonstration, and both phone and CW operations. Good food, too. Not everything was perfect, and the event captains are thinking about how -- for example -- to ensure in the future that everyone who wants to operate gets to operate.

Verizon has been thanked by **Bob W3SA** for use of the field, the bucket truck, the generator, and the gasoline to run the generator. In the next newsletter we hope to have a more detailed report about Field Day, but for now let's thank **Dick K3IIN**, **Dieter K3DK**, and everyone who contributed to making MARC's last Field Day at the old site a memorable expedition.

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

The Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade had good weather this year, and a large number of MARC members provided safety communications for the event. Our operators were **Bob N3JIZ** (Net Control), **Ned WQ3Z**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Dieter K3DK**, **Dori W3IBH**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Dan K3OU**, **Beth KA3GKI**, **Steve KD0VA**, **Floyd KA3OXA**, **Will KB3IEL**, and **Roger N3VBZ**. **Carter N3AO**'s car, festooned with flags and MARC banners, was in the parade. Thanks to all who participated.

## MARC LICENSE TEST REPORT

At the May 7 license test session, one person earned a new Technician license and one person upgraded to General. The MARC Volunteer Examiners were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Paul NX3Q**, **Dick K3ITH**, and **Susan K3SUE**.

The next MARC license test session will be Saturday, August 6, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr. Candidates should pre-register, because if no one registers in advance the session will be cancelled to avoid wasting the examiners' Saturday morning. For information, directions, and pre-registration, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032).

Remember that MARC members can participate in one club-sponsored license test session per year free of charge. The club pays the test fee. We do this to encourage members to upgrade.

Hams who are delaying studying for an upgrade to wait and see what the FCC will do about the Morse code requirement and other license structure issues shouldn't hold their breath. The FCC's proposal is not expected before the end of this year. Then there will be months of comments and reply comments. Then the FCC will mull it all over again and announce a decision. Nothing's going to change until some time in 2006 at the earliest.

## KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY FAIR VOLUNTEER WORKERS NEEDED WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN EARN \$900 FOR MARC

The Kimberton Fire Company, owners of our hamfest site, will permit us to use the fairgrounds for our event rent-free if we provide sufficient volunteers for their fair in late July. That means a \$900 expense disappears off the balance sheet for our hamfest.

To earn this trade-off, we have to provide people to sell ride tickets and people to collect parking donations. Ride ticket sellers work sitting down in air-conditioned booths along the midway. You feel very safe in the booths. Every-one who did this job last year said it was fun.

Parking donation collectors smile and poke a receptacle at cars driving onto the grounds. There's no fixed fee, no change to be made. You should wear a reflective vest if you have one, especially at night, and bring a flashlight. We really need a lot of donation collectors, because the fire company does not want cars backing up onto Route 113.

Your non-ham family members can help with both kinds of job because no ham radio communications are involved. One member's spouse is already signed up. You will be given complete information about where and when to report before your first day of volunteering. Here are the dates and time periods for which volunteers are needed:

Thursday, July 28, 6 to 10 PM

Friday, July 29, 6 to 10 PM

Saturday, July 30, 1 to 5 PM

Saturday, July 30, 6 to 10 PM

The following members and friends have already signed up, and the club thanks them sincerely: **Carter N3AO**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Harry KC2OJN**, **John KB3LPE**, **Will KB3IEL**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Jon N3VZG**, **Charlie W3CAU**, **Dolores Higgins** (Charlie's wife), **Bill KN3EUF**, **Andy K3JSE**, **Bart K4BF**, **Dori W3IBH**, **Kay N3KN**, **Ned WQ3Z**, **Gerry W3GER**, and **Floyd KA3OXA**.

Contact **Kay N3KN** (610-993-9623, n3kn@arri.net) to sign up or get more information. People who participated last year had a good time. And helping a local volunteer fire company with their fund-raiser is a worthy cause if ever there was one, especially when it benefits our ham club as well.

### ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

The annual elections for the club's board of directors will take place at the September MARC meeting. Any licensed member of the club may run for any office. **Bob W3SA**'s term as Member-at-Large lasts until September, 2006, so that's not up for balloting this time. The callsign trusteeships are not elective. Besides those 3 positions, all the offices can be sought by club members.

We know at the present time that **Dick K3IIN** is not running for re-election as Program Chairman. Other positions may be open as well, and any incumbent can be challenged. Board members are expected to do their particular jobs and to attend monthly board meetings to consider issues and make decisions for the good of the club.

A nominations chairman has not been named yet. In the meantime, if you may be interested in running for the board, please contact either of the Members-at-Large. Nominations close on the date of the August club meeting. Ballots are distributed when the September/October newsletter goes out. Ballots are counted and the results announced at the September club meeting. The new board takes office on October 1.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005

#### PRESIDENT

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

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Bart Feroe K4BF** 610-367-4288  
k4bf@arri.net

#### SECRETARY

**Dennis DeMarco KA3QOT** 610-935-7954  
dennisd@earthlink.net

#### TREASURER

**Carter Craigie N3AO** 610-993-9623  
n3ao@arri.net

#### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

**Kay Craigie N3KN** 610-993-9623  
n3kn@arri.net

#### PROGRAMS

**Dick Thompson K3IIN** 610-688-0874  
k3iin@arri.net

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

(Open)

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

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

#### TECHNICAL

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

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2005: **Dori Lawson W3IBH**  
610-593-6279, dori@lawsons.net

To 9/30/2006: **Bob Haase W3SA**  
610-293-1919, rhaase@bellatlantic.net

#### CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

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

### MEETING PROGRAMS

**July 26: OPERATING OUTDOORS -- presented by Carter N3AO and Jim W3BG.** If you are into camping and hiking, or would simply enjoy playing radio from the comfort of your deck at home, this program will offer tips on how to go on the air outdoors with fun and safety.

**August 23: ARRL'S LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD -- presented by Kay N3KN.** It's a database of millions of QSO records submitted by hams from all over the world. What's in it for you?

## PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY RESULTS

MARC was 12th among 33 clubs submitting entries in the 2004 Pennsylvania QSO Party contest. Four club members submitted entries totaling 231,079 points.

The top MARC score was made by **Steve K3KFD** with 115,275 points. He also won the Montgomery County single-operator competition and was 4th in the Eastern PA Section Medium Power class. **Kay N3KN** won Chester County single-op with 109,949 points and finished 5th in the Eastern PA Section High Power class. **Dennis KA3QOT** went mobile for the contest and contributed 9,800 points to the club's total.

**Steve WA2EAJ** contributed 2,050 points from Chester County.

Thanks, everybody! Every point counts in the contest.

In the overall club competition, the statewide winner was Murgas ARC from the Wilkes-Barre area with 1.1 million points coming from 25 entries. The top club from Western PA Section was Radio Association of Erie with 776,481 points contributed by 12 entries.

The 2005 Pennsylvania QSO Party will be October 8 and 9. It's a great way to sample competitive operating -- voice and/or CW -- to see if it might be something you enjoy. If you had a good time operating at Field Day, think about trying the Pennsylvania contest in the fall. For more information about the contest, contact **Kay N3KN**.

## JUNE VHF QSO PARTY

Our speaker at the May club meeting, **Rick Rosen K1DS** from the Pack Rats, gave an excellent introduction to the fun hams can have on the bands above 30 MHz using SSB and CW. Now that so many transceivers have 2m and 6m all-mode capability, all we need is antennas. Horizontally-polarized rotatable beams are the best for SSB/CW work, but you can whip up a dipole cut for the lower part of the band and get started. If you have a vertically-polarized beam for FM, just flop it over to the horizontal.

ARRL sponsors a June VHF QSO Party, which I enter on 6 and 2 meters using single-band rigs. I have 150 watts on 6 and 100 watts on 2, with beams for both bands at about 45-50 feet. As VHF stations go, this is modest stuff. Please don't take the following as an ego-trip but rather as an illustration of the fun you could be having, too.

On 6 meters, I worked Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. On 2 meters, I worked Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

On VHF we also hunt grid squares. I worked 17 grids on 6 meters and 16 grids on 2 meters. Six of the grids on 2m were new ones for me. Propagation was not all that good. Back in 2000, for example, I worked 29 grids on 6 meters in the same contest.

Most of the contacts were SSB. However, some aurora propagation showed up on Sunday evening, and it's much easier to work aurora on CW than on SSB. That's because aurora makes CW sound like chuffs of noise or static rather than a pure note, but you can copy it. Aurora makes SSB sound like the other operator is gargling gravel under water, and copy can be a bear.

If you want to learn more about SSB/CW fun above 30 MHz, just ask me and also check out the Pack Rats club web page at <http://members.ij.net/packrats/>. -- **73, Kay N3KN**

## GLOBAL AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Tampere, Finland, hosted the first Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC 2005) in June. Participants from 17 countries and representatives of all three International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) regions gathered to discuss and exchange information on the role of Amateur Radio in emergency communication. A conference statement summarized the value of Amateur Radio to emergency communication worldwide.

"The Amateur Radio Service has the proven capabilities and capacities to serve the international community through its global network of infrastructure-independent stations," the statement concluded. "Such stations are not only most likely to withstand the physical impact of disasters, but their flexibility furthermore avoids the overload all public networks inevitably experience in the aftermath of disasters."

The statement also pointed to the Amateur Service as "an invaluable resource of skilled operators, trained and experienced in maintaining communications under the most adverse conditions." It further concluded that it's essential "to ensure that this resource can be fully utilized in the service of emergency and disaster response providers." Conferees agreed as well that the Amateur Service needs access to "appropriate portions of the shared and limited resource of the radio frequency spectrum." The IARU has submitted the summary as an input document to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), set to take place in Tunisia this November. To maintain the momentum, plans already are being discussed for a second GAREC in 2006.

Major topics included cooperation between radio amateurs and institutional emergency response providers on the national level, and an exchange of experiences from recent events. Presentations showed how hams support emergency responders as skilled volunteer telecommunication operators as well as via their own global networks. Conferees also talked over ways to improve and facilitate the work of emergency communication networks. Participants agreed on the desirability of establishing a "Center of Activity Frequency" for emergency traffic on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters. GAREC-2005 did not put forth specific center-of-activity frequencies, but the proposal did recommend calling them "The Tampere Frequencies."

GAREC 2005 participants expressed their appreciation for the hospitality of Finnish radio amateurs and of Tampere. Because of its association with the history of emergency and disaster communication, the city's name has become nearly synonymous with emergency telecommunication. Among signal events, an experts conference there in 1991 adopted the Tampere Declaration on Disaster Communications. In 1998, the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98) adopted the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations. Effective January 8, 2005, the convention largely eliminates roadblocks to moving telecommunications personnel and equipment across international borders into and within disaster-stricken areas. *[from the ARRL at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)]*

## JOIN ARES/RACES NOW

How many hams have jawboned neighbors to accept their towers and antennas on the grounds that hams do emergency communications? How many hams who've used that speech on the neighbors actually participate in any Amateur Radio emergency-preparedness organizations? How many rationalize their lack of participation by saying, "I don't want to bother with a bunch of nets and drills and meetings, but if something actually happened I'd be happy to help."

Wake up and smell the Starbucks, Elmer!

In today's communications environment and the world post-9/11, we need a great deal more than a ham license and a heart full of good intentions to be of any use whatsoever during a disaster. We need to be organized. We need training, teamwork, and credentials. This is true whether the disaster is caused by nature (a hurricane), accident (a train derailment), or criminal action (arson, terrorism, etc.)

The hobby aspect of ham radio is paid for by the service aspect. We earn the privilege of playing radio by preparing ourselves to serve during emergencies. We get to use billions of dollars' worth of radio spectrum for our personal enlightenment and entertainment.

Isn't that worth some nets and drills and meetings?

Please become an active member of ARES/RACES in your county. The key word in that sentence is "active." ARES/RACES units are not social clubs. They don't want just-on-paper members. They do have roles for volunteers who, for whatever reason, can't operate away from home, so don't let that deter you.

Most MARC members live in Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties. Please get involved with your county's group now. If you live elsewhere, contact your ARRL Section Manager (QST, page 16, shows the list and contact information) to find out the coordinator for your area. Their e-mail addresses are shown in the chart below.

### **Bucks County**

ARES Emergency Coordinator: Kevin Woolard KW3P  
(kw3p@arrl.net)

### **Chester County**

ARES Emergency Coordinator: Carter Craigie N3AO (n3ao@arrl.net)

### **Delaware County**

ARES Emergency Coordinator: Joe Rzucidlo K3CGA  
(k3cga@arrl.net)

## US SENATE VERSION OF AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

A US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 has been introduced with bipartisan support in the 109th Congress. **Senator Michael Crapo** of Idaho sponsored the measure, S 1236, on June 14.

The wording of the bill is identical to the House version, HR 691, introduced earlier this year by **Rep. Michael Bilirakis** of Florida. Joining Crapo as cosponsors of the Senate bill were Senators **Christopher Bond** of Missouri, **Max Baucus** and **Conrad Burns** of Montana, and **Daniel Akaka** of Hawaii. The bill has been referred to the US Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee of which Burns is a member.

ARRL CEO **David Sumner K1ZZ** said the League is pleased that Crapo has agreed to once again sponsor this legislation at ARRL's urging. For more information about the legislation and how to contact your Senators to urge their support, go to the ARRL Web site at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and scroll back to the story dated June 17.

## ARRL WARNS AGAINST SPURIOUS, VIRUS-INFECTED E-MAILS

Some ARRL members have recently reported receiving e-mail messages that purport to be from ARRL. These messages suggest that the recipient's account has been used to send "a large amount of unsolicited commercial e-mail," that their password has been changed or some other action was going to be taken regarding their arrl.net "account."

The e-mail may be signed by "The ARRL Support team" or "The arrl.net team." Some messages also may show up as e-mail bounces from "Postmaster" or "Mail Administrator."

These messages, which include a file attachment, are bogus. They do not originate from ARRL, and recipients of such messages should never attempt to open the attached file. Outside of routine correspondence, the ARRL only sends e-mail to members who specifically request mailings, such as W1AW bulletins and *The ARRL Letter*.

Opening the attached file on one of these spurious messages could unleash a nasty computer virus. As a defense against these kinds of viruses, ARRL strongly recommends installing virus-protection software on all personal computers and updating virus definitions on a regular basis.

## PRESIDENT NAMES SCOTT REDD K0DQ TO HEAD COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER

President **George W. Bush** has again called on retired Vice Admiral **John "Scott" Redd K0DQ** to take on an important assignment. Bush announced June 10 that he was tapping Redd, a well-known DXer and tester, to direct the new National Counter-Terrorism Center. A former commander of US naval forces in the Middle East and a 36-year Navy veteran, Redd, 60, was executive director of the Silberman-Robb presidential commission on US intelligence failures in Iraq.

Redd previously served as deputy administrator and chief operating officer of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, for which he received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. Pending Senate confirmation, Redd will report to National Intelligence Director **John Negroponte**. He'd replace interim director **John Brennan**. The National Counter-Terrorism Center is to be the central organization for analyzing and integrating all foreign and domestic intelligence on terrorism and will carry out "strategic operational planning" for domestic and foreign counterterrorism operations.