



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2005

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

HOLIDAY PARTY

December 13

The annual MARC holiday party will be held at the usual meeting location but not on the usual date. To avoid conflicts with other events during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, the board decided to hold the party on the *second* Tuesday of the month. The starting time remains the same. There will be no meeting on the usual meeting date in December.

The holiday party is purely social. There is no business meeting or technical program. Family members, including kids, are welcome to attend, and dress is casual. There are special refreshments.

The best news of all is that **Natalie Maslin**, who chaired the party last year, will do it again this year. That means outstanding refreshments. Thanks, Natalie!

A fun feature of the MARC holiday parties is display of members' artistic and handcraft creations. In the past we've had such things as photography, wood-turning, and pastel drawings. If your non-ham hobbies include art or handcrafts, bring some samples of your creations to display.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT

MARC has one more public service event on the calendar for 2005. It's the Vietnam Veterans of America 5K run in Norristown on Sunday, November 13. We need to be there at 8 AM. Talk-in is on 145.13/R. We need a lot more volunteers than we have at the moment.

These communications events are interesting, assist worthy charities, and are not difficult to do. No previous experience is required. Contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587) for more information and to sign up.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Get Ready to Write to Santa!

Our program at the November 22 club meeting will be given by **Joe Vilardo K3JV**, who'll bring examples of rigs for sale at HRO in Wilmington. This is just the thing for making up your holiday wish list. Joe's the person who gave the program on home generators, by the way.

No one ran for Program Chairman, so members of the board have to do their own jobs plus arrange programs. We need your suggestions about programs and speakers you would enjoy in 2006. Send suggestions and ideas to a Member-at-Large (*see page 3 for contact info*).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

Special Election Held for One Office

Ballots for the 2005-2006 club board of directors were counted at the September 27 membership meeting. Twenty-four ballots were received. In all cases where there was only one candidate on the ballot, that candidate received all the votes cast. There was no candidate for Program Chairman; one write-in vote for that office was cast for **Miguel KC2HMG**.

In the contested election for Public Relations Chairman, the committee of tellers composed of **Kay N3KN** and **Bob W3SA** found 19 votes for **Dennis KA3QOT** and 5 votes for **Miguel KC2HMG**. Dennis was declared elected.

Just before the meeting, Member-at-Large incumbent candidate **Dori W3IBH**, who ran unopposed, informed the board that she would be unable to serve because of the demands of her new job. To fill the vacancy, the board called a special election. The nominations deadline was October 11 (two weeks after the club meeting) and all members were informed about the special election by e-mail or paper mail, depending on how they get their newsletters.

Two members were nominated for the position. When the votes were counted at the October club meeting, the tellers found 18 votes for **Ted NT3J** and 12 votes for **Miguel KC2HMG**. Ted was declared elected.

FCC SUSPENDS VANITY CALLSIGN PROCESSING: ANOTHER HURRICANE DISASTER EFFECT

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has suspended the processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. A WTB staff member, speaking to ARRL on background, said the FCC halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for hurricane-affected licensees in certain states could adversely impact the vanity system. The WTB staffer pointed out that the filing extensions announced this month also apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period."

"Because these extensions apply to the grace period, it could affect vanity processing," the WTB staffer told ARRL. "We stopped processing when it came clear that some call signs could be affected." The FCC confirmed that it took the action to avoid such potential problems as re-issuing the call sign of an affected individual in one of the designated states whose license has expired but remains within the two-

(Continued on page 2)

Happy 35th anniversary to our
neighbor club, the Philadelphia
Area Repeater Association!

ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

BOARD MEETINGS

4th 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!

VOX

Welcome new members: **Dave KB3MNM**, **Matt KB3MKX**, and **William K9NCC**. **Bob AB3DJ** is the former **WA2CDI**. **Jon N3VZG** went to the Gulf coast disaster area as an EMT. Old-timers in the club will remember **Doc Kroll K3PTQ**, who served on the board in early years of the club. We regret to report that he became a Silent Key in August. Great minds working in similar directions, both **Bob WA3PZO** and **Kay N3KN** sent the ARRL's new broadcast radio public service announcement about hams and Hurricane Katrina to reporter **Mark Abrams** at KYW. Mark, who is **NT3V** in private life, got the announcement approved for use on the station. **Carter N3AO** has qualified for the DXCC Challenge award. **Dieter K3DK** is the one to thank for the interesting DXpedition video that we enjoyed as the program at the September meeting. **Lee K2BIZ** has moved to the Shannondell retirement community. **Dieter K3DK** and **Charlie KB3CO** served as van drivers in the MS-150 bike race in September; well over 100 other hams took part as well. Past member **Bill Denk W3IGU** is 95 now and has been in poor health lately. **Lor W3QA** and **Bob WA3PZO** were speakers at the 2nd annual ARRL Eastern PA Section emergency communications conference in October. **Carter N3AO** and **AI W3AHR** attended the event. **Foster K3FXS**, who gave an outstanding program on satellites at the October meeting, has been working the birds since 1999.

LICENSE EXAMINATION SESSION NOVEMBER 5

The final **Tom Powell K3YPO** Memorial license exam session of 2005 will be held on Saturday, November 5, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church education building. Candidates should arrive at 9 AM to do the required paperwork. MARC members may take part in one club-sponsored test session per year at club expense as a benefit of membership.

Candidates should pre-register for tests, because if no one pre-registers, the session will be cancelled to avoid wasting the examiners' time. For information, pre-registration, and directions, contact **Bob W3ZQN** (rjlees@aol.com, 610-265-6032).

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

The Penn Wynne Library run on October 8 was served by 4 members and friends of MARC. They were **Bob N3JIZ**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Floyd KA3OXA**, and **Ben W3LKI**.

The American Lung Association's Radnor Run on October 30 was served by 8 members: **Bob N3JIZ**, **Carter N3AO**, **Ted NT3J**, **Floyd KA3OXA**, **Will KB3IEL**, **Roger N3VBZ**, **Jeff WA3RIZ**, and **Dick K3IIN**.

Participation on October 8 probably would have been greater had there not been a major Chester County ARES/RACES drill on the same date. Several MARC members had obligations to take part in the ARES/RACES drill.

That being said, it seems to be more difficult than in past years to get enough communicators to help at most of our public service events.

Members' input is wanted on how to promote more participation. What does the club leadership need to say or do to convince more members to take part in public service events? What would it take to persuade YOU? Please send comments and suggestions to the Members-at-Large listed on page 3.

VANITY CALLSIGN PROCESSING SUSPENDED

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year grace period for renewal. No decision has been made on when vanity processing will resume.

On September 1, the FCC extended until October 31 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between August 29 and October 30 for licensees in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 24, it extended until November 21 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between September 20 and November 20 for licensees in Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Rita. In late October, the FCC announced an additional extension -- until December 22 -- for licensees adversely affected by Hurricane Wilma.

In a public notice issued October 25, the FCC made clear that the Hurricane Wilma deadline extension only applies to "affected licensees and applicants in Florida and the Gulf of Mexico." For Part 97 licensees, the extension applies primarily to license modification and renewal application deadlines. According to this week's public notice, the FCC will require affected applicants to attach a "Hurricane Relief Certification" with filings that take advantage of the deadline extensions.

In the meantime, the FCC is encouraging radio amateurs to continue filing vanity applications as they normally would. "Everything will be held in queue," the FCC said. When processing resumes, vanity applications will be processed in the order they were received. [tnx ARRL web site]

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

One early September evening, Carter and I stopped by a fast-food place to grab a bite on the way to an ARES/RACES meeting. Well, the meat was cold, the buns were dried-out, and they'd left off the ketchup. "Yuck," we said (*or words to that effect*), "These burgers are terrible!" Then we looked at each other, remembered the TV pictures of scared, hungry, thirsty people at the dome in New Orleans -- and we decided to just shut up and eat the burgers.

Perspective is everything. Just because another person's problems are worse than mine doesn't make my problems trivial. I paid for a good burger and got a lousy one. That's not right. But keeping things in their proper perspective halts the descent into self-pity, and I'm all for that.

On that note, I received e-mail from a leader of the Jefferson ARC (W5GAD), in Louisiana that makes a person stop and think:

"I was able to get to the clubhouse and I have very bad news. The club had about five feet of water inside the building. It is a complete loss. I have loaded pictures on the w5gad.org website in the photo gallery section, and it's not pretty. It also smelled VERY bad. The antennas on the big tower are also a complete loss. The new rotators we purchased also went under water along with all the antique radios that were donated. The file cabinet also was under water. I was unable to get into the radio room. The door was swollen and I didn't have anything to pry it open. I'm sure everything in there is ruined also. It was very depressing. I'm pretty sure the building will have to be torn down. Somehow we will rebuild along with the rest of Southeast Louisiana and Mississippi. I guess we will have to suspend meetings until Jefferson Parish is open and then maybe we can meet at a library or something. I'll start working on a meeting place somewhere in Metairie...."

This group lost everything but their spirit. The club web site says, "Despite the devastation, we will be back. W5GAD will not be a Silent Key."

MARC has had its ups and downs in the 20-plus years I've belonged to the club. Compared to what the ham clubs on the Gulf coast are facing, though, our club's problems definitely fall into the category of "just shut up and eat the burgers." -- 73, Kay N3KN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2005

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

Dick Thompson K3IIN 610-688-0874
k3iin@arrl.net

TREASURER

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

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

PROGRAMS

(vacant)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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

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

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

A combined November/December board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, at 8 PM at the usual location.

At their September 22 meeting, the board heard reports on public service, the 2006 hamfest, programs, and the holiday party. The treasury balance was \$12,953.91. A technical report noted that information has been received on the Motorola 440 MHz repeater which will allow that repeater to be put on the air. When that happens, the ICOM 440 MHz repeater will be sold. Members' reports were noted that the output on 145.13/R may be diminished. Although the repeater recently tested okay, the reports will be followed up. There may be a problem with the 147.06/R antenna system, and this is being looked into. The board voted

- To change the club's bank account from PNC Bank to Wachovia for the treasurer's convenience and to reduce nuisance fees charged to us; it was also voted to have just a checking account rather than a savings account and a checking account.
- To authorize spending up to \$300 for a device which will permit the 440 repeater to share the same telephone control line as the 145.13 repeater. This will avoid having to pay for an additional phone line for the 440 repeater.

- To allocate \$250 for the holiday party.

At the October 27 meeting, the board received reports on recent public service events. There was discussion about how to get more club members to take part in these events. Program topics for January through April, 2006, were identified. The treasury balance was \$12,054.92. All checks written on the PNC Bank account have cleared. Consequently, this account will be closed as soon as possible, and the balance will be transferred to the Wachovia Bank account.

On the motion of **Carter N3AO** it was voted to move the membership meetings to a different Tuesday of the month in 2006, if the township can let us use the room. In the discussion on the motion, it was brought out that although some members might not be able to attend on a different night, there are also members who can't come on the fourth Tuesday. By shifting the meeting night every few years, different sub-sets of the membership are offered an opportunity to attend meetings. **Bob W3SA** will contact township officials to find out if another evening is available. The November membership meeting is not affected by the proposed change.

FIELD DAY SCORES POSTED

2005 Field Day scores are posted on the ARRL web site for League members to read. In MARC's class -- 4A Eastern PA -- there were 5 entries and we ranked third among them with 3,144 points. Nationwide, we finished 39th of 127 entries in class 4A.

Looking at all Eastern PA Section entries -- including those submitted by individuals such as **AA3B** and **K3WW** who are big-gun contesters -- MARC ranked 14th. If you disregard the one-person scores, MARC moves up to 11th place in EPA. The top club score in EPA was in our class 4A from the **K3YTL** operation of the Murgas ARC. Murgas competes as a club in the PA QSO Party and various VHF contests, so their general contest skill level is probably higher than ours. A total of 54 entries were submitted from Eastern PA Section.

Hats off to everyone who helped make MARC Field Day 2005 an interesting and worthwhile event. If you weren't able to participate this year, there's always 2006.

OPERATING FUN

There are a lot of contests in November and December. Here are some of the biggest and best-known:

- ARRL November Sweepstakes: November 5-7 (CW), 19-21 (SSB). See October QST for information.
- CQ World Wide DX Contest, CW: November 26-27. Rules on line (PDF format) at www.cqww.com.
- ARRL 160 Meter Contest: December 2-4 (CW only)
- ARRL 10 Meter contest: December 10-11
- TARA RTTY Melee: December 3. Rules on line at www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html.

The best on-line calendar of contest information is found at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html.

NEW ARRL ON-LINE COURSE: ANALOG ELECTRONICS

ARRL's newest on-line course is designed for the electronics beginner who has an interest in electronics and has been introduced to the fundamental concepts of electricity and electronic components, such as resistors, capacitors, transistors, etc.

Students will read some simple schematics and learn about the use of instrumentation, Kirchhoff's Laws, diodes, rectifier circuits, bipolar and field effect transistors, various amplifier configurations, filters, timers, op-amps, and voltage regulators.

Most lessons have design problems and optional construction projects. This course has 16 learning units and takes 25-30 hours to complete over a 12-week period.

To find out more about this and other ARRL on-line courses in emergency communications and technical subjects, go to the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education web page at www.arrl.org/cce/. Courses are offered in partnership with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC), a nonprofit organization that specializes in developing on-line courses for Connecticut colleges and universities. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for all ARRL Certification and Continuing Education courses.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND YOU

The role played by Amateur Radio in the Gulf coast disaster has led many hams to become interested in emergency communications for the first time. They're finding out that just having a license -- even an Extra class ticket -- is not enough to make someone a truly useful emergency communicator.

What should you do? First, realize that you need training beyond what you studied to qualify for your license. This is true whether you have been licensed for 6 weeks or 60 years. A good place to start for League members is the ARRL's on-line Emergency Communications Level 1 course. Find out more about it on the League's Certification and Continuing Education page at www.arrl.org/cce/. There you'll find the course syllabus, the registration calendar, and other information. This and other courses are offered in partnership with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium and carry Continuing Education Units.

Next, join and become active in your county's ARES/RACES organization. These groups are not clubs. There are no dues. You join by registering and making a commitment to participate. This will involve training sessions, drills, and sometimes -- though we wish it weren't so -- real emergencies. ARES/RACES groups don't need people who want to be just names on a list. They need people committed to learn, cooperate, and serve.

Also, take part in the MARC traffic nets and public service events. These activities teach you how to behave in directed nets, how to send and receive formal message traffic, and how to participate in tactical communications.

Finally, get on the air and operate, operate, operate. This operating needs to be more than casual chats. Find ways to test your station to its limits and stretch your skills to the point where it feels a little scary. Learn through experience about propagation on the bands available to you and about which modes work well for particular purposes. Experiment with different kinds of antennas for the bands you are allowed to use.

Along the way, think about upgrading. Although much modern emergency comm is done on VHF/UHF, having General-class HF privileges makes a volunteer more versatile. There was plenty of hurricane-related activity on the HF bands. If you're an Extra, you're not off the hook! When was the last time you learned to do something new and different in ham radio, something that would be applicable to 21st century emergency comm?

Hams justify our access to billions of dollars' worth of radio spectrum by pointing with pride to our devotion to emergency communications. Please make that devotion part of your personal ham radio life. Here are club members who can introduce you to ARES/RACES in the 3 counties where most MARC members live. If you live elsewhere, ask your ARRL Section Manager (see QST, page 16) for help.

Chester Co. ARES/RACES:
Carter N3AO (n3ao@arrl.net)

Delaware Co. ARES/RACES:
Dan W3DI (nnn0abp@navymars.org)

Montgomery Co. ARES/RACES:
Bob W3ZQN (rjlees@aol.com)

Amateur Radio Club Holds Annual Event in Lower Providence Township

The Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club (MARC) recently took part in Field Day, the world's largest emergency preparedness drill for amateur radio operators. The club members met – as they have since 1982 – on the Verizon training field on Egypt Road adjacent to Shannondell, testing their skills and socializing with fellow radio enthusiasts.

Over 35,000 operators across the country, including Lower Providence Supervisor Piero Sassu, participated in the annual event, continuing a tradition that started with the first Field Day in 1933. Sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the event tests radio operator's skills during a crisis: Power is out, telephone service has been cut, and amateur radio is the only means of communication. During Field Day, power is only provided by battery, generator or other source that would be used in an emergency.

The first Field Day was held at the height of the Great Depression when many radio schools were forced to shut down or curtail their activities. At the time, other countries were already conducting similar events and the Radio League used Field Day to raise public awareness about the vital role amateur radio operators play in emergency situations.

Today, in addition to showcasing the skills of participants, Field Day continues to serve as an informational event. By observing and talking with the operators, the public and local officials can get a real taste of amateur radio: It can be much more than a hobby, providing a critical service in emergency situations. Field Day is also a social event, allowing club members the opportunity to meet and get to know the fellow operators they've talked to on the air.

MARC first conducted its Field Day exercises in 1977 at a site in Lionville, Chester County. For the first few years,



Pictured from left-to-right at MARC Field Day are Dennis DeMarco – K3JQOT, Bob Weiss – K8JFSQ, Dick Stewart – K3ITH, and Lower Providence Supervisor, Piero Sassu – N3PVS.

Field Day was held at members' homes. In 1982, through the generosity of one of its members, MARC moved its Field Day to the field on Egypt Road in Audubon used for the training of Verizon linemen.

This year marked the end of an era, of sorts, as it was the final time MARC will hold its Field Day at the Audubon Verizon field because of construction. Sassu is helping in the search for a new Field Day home in the township.

More information about the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club can be found at its website, www.marc-radio.org. To learn more about amateur radio, visit the ARRL website, www.arrl.org.

The Lower Providence Township newsletter carried the story at left about MARC's Field Day. [tnx Dick K3ITH via Dick K3IIN]



During the holiday season, remember our service men and women who are in harm's way, and also all the Americans suffering in the aftermath of the hurricanes down south.

6

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP

ARRL SPONSORS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE FOR KIDS IN GULF COAST DISASTER AREA

In the wake of unprecedented hurricane devastation in the Gulf Coast region, the ARRL has announced it will again sponsor a toy drive to brighten the holidays for youngsters who are homeless or displaced as a result of the storms. Country singer and ARRL member **Patty Loveless KD4WUJ** has agreed to serve as the honorary chairperson for the 2005 toy drive. The Salvation Army is partnering with the League to manage the program.

Last year, individual radio amateurs and clubs across the US joined together to collect new toys for youngsters affected by a series of four hurricanes in Florida. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager **Allen Pitts W1AGP** says the 2004 effort was a success beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and there was no question in his mind about doing another toy drive for the latest hurricane victims.

Send toys to ARRL Toy Drive/The Salvation Army, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd -- Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125. Toys should be new and unwrapped and suitable for children aged 1 to 14 years. Plan mailings and shipments to arrive prior to Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 24, for distribution over the holidays.

"Just as we did last year, we are asking the donors to please put

a QSL card into the box with the toy," Pitts added. Non-hams are encouraged to join this effort too.

"Not only can it be done, it really must be done. It is simply the right thing to do," Pitts said. "We are asking hams from all over the country to begin gathering new toys for shipment to Memphis, Tennessee. ARRL Delta Division Vice Director **Henry Leggett WD4Q** has secured a receiving warehouse and is recruiting ham volunteers there."

Once at the warehouse in Memphis, volunteers will sort and stock the gifts. Early in December, the toys will be transported to Salvation Army facilities in hurricane areas that need help the most at that time.

Pitts says he's heard from many Amateur Radio clubs that are already gathering toys together. "Please check with your local club and see if they are planning a mass shipment," he urged. "If not, perhaps you can help organize one for your area."

Cash donations are also accepted to purchase toys and help cover the costs of the project. Send cash donations to ARRL Toy Drive, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

FLEA MARKET

Wanted: Do you have a working laptop computer taking up space, collecting dust, and / or letting its power supply capacitors go soft? Offload it to someone willing to spend a little bit of money for a not-so-new laptop that is still in usable condition. E-mail **Ned Smith WQ3Z** at wq3z@arrl.net.

Members' for sale, trade, and wanted ads for ham radio and related gear are published free. Send yours to the editor for the January/February edition.

2006 MARC HAMFEST DATE SELECTED

The 2006 MARC hamfest will be on Sunday, July 16. We have moved from the second Sunday of the month to the third Sunday to eliminate the collision with the Sussex ARC hamfest in northern New Jersey.

The change will make it easier to recruit vendors for our event. In recent years many vendors chose to go to Sussex, and we came up short. Put the date on your calendar now, so you won't have any conflicts on July 16.

ARRL AUDIO NEWS AVAILABLE AS PODCAST

If you suppose "podcast" is something you do to clean up the dead vegetable garden now that winter is here, you may want to skip to another article.

Or maybe you know that podcasting is a method of publishing audio files -- usually MP3 format -- via the Internet, allowing people to subscribe to the audio feeds of their choice.

It's been possible for some time to download ARRL audio news bulletins as MP3's. Now you can set up your podcast software to get the ARRL audio news for you, so you can play it on your computer or MP3 player.

To get the address to plug into your podcast software, go to www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/, or click on News/Bulletins on the main ARRL page, then select ARRL Audio News.

ARRL OFFICER TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

ARRL Chief Operating Officer **Harold Kramer WJ1B** testified on behalf of the League on September 29 before the US House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Addressing the hearing topic, "Public Safety Communications from 9/11 to Katrina: Critical Public Policy Lessons," Kramer reiterated and amplified comments ARRL President **Jim Haynie W5JBP** delivered earlier this month in written testimony submitted to the House Government Reform Committee.

Kramer, who is ARES Emergency Coordinator for New Haven County, CT, in addition to being a member of the ARRL HQ staff, testified on the Amateur Radio operators who provided communications during the Hurricane Katrina response.

"Amateur Radio was uniquely suited to this task by virtue of the availability of HF communications covering long distances without fixed infrastructure," Kramer pointed out in his testimony.

Kramer noted that there's been a lot of discussion in recent years about public safety interoperability. "The Amateur Radio Service provides a good deal of interoperability communications for first responders in disaster relief incidents," he told the subcommittee. He said ham radio is able to fill this crucial role because even the "interoperability channels" that exist in most Public Safety allocations are useless when the Public Safety communication infrastructure goes down.

"Interoperability, in short, presumes operability of Public Safety facilities," Kramer said. "While some 'hardening' of Public Safety facilities is called for, there is in our view an increasing role for decentralized, portable Amateur Radio stations which are not infrastructure-dependent in providing interoperability communication on site."

In closing, Kramer stated, "The Committee should be aware that this vast volunteer resource in support of Public Safety is always at the disposal of the Federal government and to State and local government. The United States absolutely can rely on the Amateur Radio Service. Amateur Radio provides immediate, high-quality communications that work every time, when all else fails." [tnx ARRL web site]

PPL PULLS PLUG ON BPL, ENDS LEHIGH VALLEY MARKET TRIAL

PPL Corporation will end its Lehigh Valley Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) market trial for residential customers on October 31, 2005, the company announced on October 3.

The locations affected by this decision are Emmaus, Whitehall, Upper Macungie, Hanover Township and north Bethlehem. PPL will fulfill its contractual commitments with institutional customers in south Bethlehem and center city Allentown.

"While our market trials indicate that BPL technology is promising, the combination of a competitive marketplace and the need for significant scale has led us to the decision not to proceed as a retail communications service provider," said David Kelley, president - PPL Telcom.

PPL has notified residential market trial customers in those areas of its decision. The company will give those customers a \$50 credit to ease the transition to another Internet service provider. [from the PPL web site at www.pplweb.com]

There were rumors several months ago that the company was going to drop its BPL plans, but the press release dated October 3 turned the rumors into facts. This is very good news for the hams in the Lehigh Valley and other areas of the state served by PPL.

It's also good news for those of us served by other electric companies. Since this Pennsylvania electric utility tried BPL and decided it didn't make good business sense, perhaps other companies in the state will be influenced by PPL's experience.

SCOTT REDD K0DQ SWORN IN AS NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER DIRECTOR

Well-known DXer and contestor **John S. "Scott" Redd K0DQ** has been sworn in as the first director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). Vice President **Dick Cheney** presided over a ceremonial swearing-in September 12. **President Bush** announced June 10 that he was tapping Redd, 61, to direct the new center. Redd officially assumed his new duties August 1.

A former commander of US naval forces in the Middle East and a 36-year Navy veteran, Redd, who holds the rank of Admiral, was executive director of the Silberman-Robb presidential commission on US intelligence failures in Iraq. Redd earlier 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.

Redd pledged to carry out the mission of the NCTC "with determination, with integrity, and to the very best of my abilities." By law, the NCTC serves as the primary organization in the US Government for integrating and analyzing all intelligence pertaining to terrorism. It also conducts strategic operational planning for counterterrorism activities. A native of Sidney, Iowa, Redd is a 1966 graduate of the US Naval Academy and a Fulbright Scholar.

He's also an excellent operator and -- unless you're a terrorist -- a truly nice guy. If you worked **A92Q** (Bahrain) back in the mid-90's, that was Scott on the other end of the QSO.

QSLing 1x1 CALLSIGNS

Did you ever work one of those special 1x1 callsigns but something jumped the tracks in your record-keeping and you can't send away for the special certificate or QSL card? Maybe you need Idaho for Worked All States, you contact a station out there celebrating National Potato Week, but then you can't find the QSL route information!

QRZ.com usually isn't helpful with these calls. However, there's a Web page where all the 1x1 callsigns are listed with their dates of operation and contact information. It's part of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators Web site. Look for the information at www.ncvec.org/1x1.php.

1x1 callsigns are reissued, so be sure to select the operation that matches the date of your QSO.

TRANSPACIFIC RECEPTION OF CANADIAN AMATEUR LF SIGNALS CONFIRMED

Low frequency enthusiast **Steve McDonald VA7SL** reports that the first confirmed transpacific reception of Canadian Amateur Radio LF (137 kHz/2200 meters) signals occurred October 4, 2005. "The slow-speed (QRSS) CW signals of **VA7LF** were confirmed heard near Wellington, New Zealand, at the Wellington Amateur Radio Club station at Quartz Hill," McDonald told ARRL. "Signals from the **ZM2E** club station were heard in Canada as well, but propagation was not of sufficient duration to enable a QSO to be completed."

Located on South Pender Island, British Columbia, **VA7LF** was operated by McDonald, **Lorne Tilley VE7TIL**, and **Martin MacGregor VE7MM**. At the helm of the Quartz Hill station were **Bob Vernal ZL2CA** and **Mike McAlevy ZL4OL**. Both stations operated on 137 kHz using dual-frequency CW QRSS120, in which elements are two minutes long. **VA7LF** was running approximately 1W ERP, while **ZM2E** was at the 5W ERP level. "Propagation conditions were generally poor during the three-night test period," McDonald said.

The next scheduled transpacific tests will be next spring. **ZM2E** and **UA0LE** hold the current Amateur Radio two-way LF world record at a distance of 10,311 km. The distance between **VA7LF** and **ZM2E** is approximately 11,700 km.

HAMS HELP IN WILMA AFTERMATH

According to the ARRL web page, over 300 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) volunteers are supporting necessary communication in Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma.

Early reports indicate that most of the ham radio volunteers are assisting with communication at evacuee shelters and emergency operations centers in more than a dozen counties. ARES/RACES teams deployed to their assignments before Wilma came ashore, and local amateurs have been able to handle any immediate communication support needs.

MARC MEMBERS ENJOY THE PA QSO PARTY

A bunch of MARC members took part in the annual Pennsylvania QSO Party contest in October. **Dieter K3DK** reports that he worked all 67 counties and heard MARC members **Steve WA2EAJ**, **Carter N3AO**, **Kay N3KN**, **David KB3CRY**, and **Dennis K3DS**. Carter was operating the Chester County ARES/RACES station **W3EOC** in West Chester. **Kay N3KN** also worked all 67 counties. If you operated, be sure to send in your entry and put "Mid-Atlantic ARC" in the club affiliation blank unless you already promised your points to another club.

MARPLE-NEWTOWN CLUB TO HOLD ONE-DAY HAM CLASS

Our neighbors the Marple-Newtown ARC will offer a one-day ham radio license course on Saturday, November 19.

If you know someone who would like to get a license, suggest that they contact Walter Faust N3FXR (walterfaust@comcast.net, 610-622-2200) immediately to register and find out what preparation is necessary. We are aware that studying the current edition of *Now You're Talking* should be done before the class day.

Examinations will be given on the class day following the teaching session.

ARRL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINDOW IS OPEN

The application period for ARRL Foundation scholarships opened on October 1 and will close February 1, 2006.

The ARRL Foundation has announced the addition of the Northern California DX Foundation scholarship to the list of those available. This award will provide \$1000 to a student attending a junior/community college, university or trade school in the US. Preference goes to students showing interest and activity in DXing, but there is no limitation on the field of study. The ARRL Foundation is offering this scholarship for the first time this year, and the initial award will be made in spring 2006. The NCDXF award brings the number of ARRL scholarships to 41.

Following its evaluation of all applications, the ARRL Foundation scholarship committee will announce the 2006-2007 school year ARRL Foundation scholarship recipients next spring. For details about the entire ARRL Foundation scholarship program, go to www.arrl.org/arrrf/scholgen.html.

HamTestOnline™ AVAILABLE FROM ARRL

HamTestOnline™ is web-based online training for the Amateur Radio written exams. It covers all questions and study materials for the Technician, General, and Amateur Extra exams, for a period of 2 years. It is offered for purchase on the League's web site through a joint marketing agreement. To find out more about this approach to studying for license exams, go to www.hamtestonline.com/. Unlike the ARRL's online Technician course, this product does not involve interaction with a personal mentor.

For a full list of license training materials sold by the ARRL, go to www.arrl.org, click on "Catalog & Store" under "Quick Links," and select "Licensing" in the category drop-down list.