



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2003

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

NEW CLUB MEETING LOCATION AND DATE TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP BUILDING FOURTH TUESDAYS, 8 PM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

Starting with our September 23 meeting, MARC will meet at the Tredyffrin Township building, 1100 Duportail Road in Berwyn (some maps call it Wayne), on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 PM. The building is on the edge of the Chesterbrook development. It can be reached easily from the Chesterbrook Boulevard exit of US 202. In fact, the building is visible from 202, if you know when to look to the north. A map and driving directions are on page 4 and on the club's web page.

Our leaving Radnor is not the result of any problem between MARC and the township authorities. We're moving because the Radnor Township building is going to be demolished and rebuilt. We sincerely appreciate the kindness of the Radnor Township Commissioners in permitting us to use their facility free of charge for almost 2 years.

At Tredyffrin, we will use the emergency operations center room. A nice feature of this room is that it opens onto a large terrace at the back of the building. When we want to do a demo, it will be easy to set up an antenna outdoors and run a feedline to it. The room has plenty of electrical outlets where we can plug stuff in when we need to.

The building has ample free parking in a well-lighted lot, and of

course it is handicap-accessible and smoke-free. Next door to our meeting room is an employee break room with a small kitchen, where we can serve refreshments.

Our being permitted to use this room by the Chief of Police is the direct result of **Bob W3SA's** long history of volunteer work with Tredyffrin Township. He is the reason the township authorities know what Amateur Radio is and know that hams are good people to have in the community.

MARC has major population clusters in the Norristown / K of P area and in Chester County. The board believes that the Tredyffrin location will be reasonably convenient for both groups of members.

By the way, Tredyffrin is pronounced "treh-DIFF-rin." It's a Welsh name meaning "place in the valley" -- what we now call the Great Valley, in fact. Tredyffrin Township was formed in 1707 out of a large tract of land William Penn had sold to a group of Welsh Quakers in the 1680's. This is not one of those Welsh names (e.g., Berwyn, Bryn Mawr, Radnor) imposed along the Main Line centuries later by the Pennsylvania Railroad to lure rich folks to resort hotels and eventually grand estates outside the city. It's the real historical deal.

CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS FOR THE FALL SEASON

SEPTEMBER 23 -- **Dennis K3DS** will talk about "Hot Topics from the TAPR / ARRL Digital Communication Conference." This annual conference co-sponsored by the League and Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) defines the cutting edge in ham radio digital communications. Dennis is giving a paper at the conference, by the way.

OCTOBER 28 -- **Owen N3WO** will talk about his experiences at Friedrichshafen, the largest hamfest in Europe -- their equivalent of Dayton -- and more about his summer visit to Germany. You'll probably want to phone your travel agent the next day and make reservations for Friedrichshafen 2004.

NOVEMBER 25 -- **Ray K3RIZ** will discuss "Technologies of the Analog to Digital TV Transition." He'll cover the basics of both analog and digital television and talk about the inductive output tube in high-power UHF TV amplifiers.

Public service event information on page 7!

ELECTIONS FOR MARC BOARD VOTE BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

Election of the MARC board of directors for the 2003-2004 term will take place at the September 23 club meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, you can mail your ballot to the club's post office box. Instructions for voting by mail are printed on the ballot.

Ballots will be counted and the results announced at the September meeting. Thanks are due to **AI N3EA** for developing the election slate. For the first time in years, we have nominees for all offices!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

On July 24, the board heard a report on the hamfest financial results (see page 5). The treasury balance was \$13,132.29. Membership stood at 148 licensed and 5 associate members. The next public service event will be in October. One of the club's TS-520 transceivers has been sold on e-Bay and the

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ABOUT MARC

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

4th Tuesdays, 8 PM, Tredyffrin Township
Building, 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
145.13 147.06 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
Homebrewer Net, Saturday, 9 AM
All nets on linked 145.13/R & 147.06/R
Net Manager: Carter N3AO
(610-993-9623, n3ao@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!

WRC '03 CHANGES REGS: Morse Requirement Optional

The World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) which concluded in Geneva on July 4 made significant changes to the international regs governing Amateur Radio. Some of the changes will facilitate international emergency communications and operation outside one's home country. Each country may now decide whether or not to have a Morse requirement for HF. Some countries have already dropped it, including Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, and the U.K. For a paper detailing the changes and what they mean, see www.iaru.org/rel030703att3.html. It's summarized in a sidebar on pages 42-43 of September QST.

Finally, hams outside the western hemisphere will gain access to 7100 - 7200 kHz in 2009 and international broadcasting will move out of that segment. There's no change at 40m for hams in the western hemisphere.

VANITY CALL FEE RISES SEPT. 9

The fee for a vanity call sign (new or renewal) will be \$16.30 effective September 9.

VOX

Welcome new members **Dori KB3JZN**, **Ed KB3JGU**, **Dave KB3HOE**, **Richard KB3KBC**, and **John W3PEN**. Dori's father is **Bob W3LIA**. Also welcome returning members **Peter N3DXY** and **Tom N3QKV**. **Dick K3IIN** is ex-**KB3IIN**. **Owen N3WO** went to Europe over the summer and attended the Friedrichshafen hamfest, the Dayton of Europe. How do you say "You lucky dog!" in German? **David KA3HBK** is getting married in September in Colorado. **Jenny KA3WVD** is getting married in West Virginia in October. Best wishes to them! **Gail K2BCL** has moved to Florida. In the 2002 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, **Leland N3LJB** won first place in Eastern PA Section for phone-only QRP. In the ARRL International DX Contest, Phone, **Ron W3ZV** placed first in Eastern PA in the single-operator QRP class. Condolences on the death of **Kim KB3COV**'s mother; Kim is not in good health, so please keep her and **Bob WA3PZO** in your thoughts.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER UPDATES

Gail K2BCL - 386-788-2799
Peter N3DXY - 610-265-2137, pewisner@comcast.net
Kurt KB3EJS - kurt.r.richter@att.net
Roger N3GHJ - n3ghj@arrl.net
Bob N9GG - 800-644-4476
Dave KB3HOE - kb3hoe@arrl.net, 610-397-1749
Dick K3IIN - (formerly KB3IIN) k3iin@arrl.net
Ed KB3JGU - noreaster1@msn.com, 267-241-9067
Dori KB3JZN - dori@lawsons.net, 610-524-2548
John W3PEN - w3pen@arrl.net, 610-254-9621
Tom N3QKV - thomas_leber@gmam.com

AUGUST TEST SESSION RESULTS

Five candidates were served at MARC's license test session, 3 of whom earned brand-new licenses: 2 Technicians and 1 Tech + HF. The other 2 applicants did not pass the tests they attempted. The examiners were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Bob W3SA**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Steve KD0VA**, **Susan K3SUE**, **Dennis K3DS**, **Kay N3KN**, and **Ned WQ3Z**. The next exams will be in November. Contact **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com) for information.

MARC members may take exams free of charge at one club-sponsored test session per year, as a benefit of club membership.

The Technician exam question pool changed significantly on July 1. Please don't give outdated study manuals to prospective hams. If you want to help, give them a current book, such as **Now You're Talking**, 5th edition.

MARC SALUTES HAMFEST PRIZE DONORS AND CORPORATE FRIENDS

MARC thanks the donors of our hamfest door prizes:

American Radio Relay League
Baltimore Amateur Radio TV Society
Buckmaster
CQ Publications
Radio Amateur Callbook
Worldradio

Our main prize was purchased from **Giselle Walls K3WAJ** (Amateur & Advanced Communications). MARC thanks ANRO, Inc., for generous assistance in the production of our hamfest flyers. MARC thanks WCOJ radio station (1420 AM) and especially **Gene Mitchell K3DSM** for announcements about the MARC hamfest. Read more about the hamfest on page 5.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Are you wondering what's the fuss about Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) and why the ARRL is asking you to donate money to fight it? Download the ARRL's FCC comments and technical studies from www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/. There's more info at www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/. You need to hear what BPL actually sounds like on a ham rig's receiver. Point your browser to www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/08/2/?nc=1 and scroll down to the link to an mpeg video file of clips recorded in the field.

The noise level is horrifying. Club members who can't download it can ask me for the video on a CD-ROM. It can be viewed on a computer with Windows Media Player or similar software. You don't need a DVD player.

If you want to start World War 3 in a room full of hams, for example, you don't have to bring up politics, religion, or even the Morse code requirement. Just ask, "Is ham radio a hobby or a service?" Then get out of there and run like heck.

I'm well aware of all the arguments that we're a service. Some of the people who line up on this side, however, are just a shade too grim for me. I've seen them spit out the word "fun" as though it referred to something unmentionable in the presence of little children.

It's entertaining to remind such well-meaning sourpusses that in FCC-speak all the categories of spectrum uses (including *gasp!* CB) are called "services." The fact that hams have considerably more right and reason to call ourselves a "service" than some other spectrum-dwellers is no reason to get ourselves confused with the Navy SEALs.

On the other hand, I'm disappointed in hams who blow off the idea of service and won't give something back in return for the privilege of having fun on the air. For them it's all about entertainment and ego, and they wouldn't be caught dead at a RACES meeting or an ARES drill.

They should ponder this: If ham radio is absolutely no different than, say, bowling or collecting Star Trek tchotchkes, then why should we be allowed to take up space on billions of dollars' worth of radio spectrum? Hmm?

When people ask me, "What's your hobby?" I tell them it's ham radio. Because it *is* my hobby, not my job. There usually follows an opportunity to explain that it's an unusual hobby which offers both recreation and the chance to help other people when something nasty hits the fan.

The Amateur's Code says "Amateurs are balanced," meaning that we shouldn't let hamming cause us to neglect our jobs and families. The principle might also guide us towards seeking a good personal balance between the serious responsibility of serving the public interest and the amazing fun of playing radio. -- **73, Kay N3KN**

FIELD DAY RESULTS

MARC operated **W3NWA** in Field Day class 4A this year. Instead of one or two people chairing the event and doing all the work, the event was managed by a committee. The weather cooperated, for once! Fifty participants signed the log-in sheet, up from 34 last year.

Because so many people contributed to the event's success, it's hard to single out any individuals for special thanks, but we're going to do it anyhow. **Leland N3LJB** was the spark-plug who got the rest of us moving. **Bob W3SA** arranged the field and the generators with Verizon, as he has done for the past two decades. **Foster K3FXS** wrangled the logs into shape (a long, hard job) and with **Bob KB3FSQ** (who also did the PR

(Continued on page 5)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2003

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

Bob Haase W3SA 610-293-1919
rhaase@bellatlantic.net

TREASURER

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

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bob Weiss KB3FSQ 215-477-6475
kb3fsq@netcarrier.com

PUBLIC SERVICE

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

TECHNICAL

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

PROGRAMS

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2004: AI Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net
To 9/30/2003: Gene Hoenig N3HG
610-353-3281, n3hg@arrl.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE: AI Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net
W3NWA: Kay Craigie N3KN
610-993-9623, n3kn@arrl.net

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

(Continued from page 1)

other will be re-offered. Full-time linking of the 2m repeaters has been implemented. Following extensive discussion, the board voted to move club meetings to the Tredyffrin Township building, effective in September, and to change the meeting date to the fourth Tuesday of the month.

At the August 28 meeting, the board voted to authorize expenditure of \$1,500 to purchase necessary equipment for the 440 MHz repeater. The final nominating committee report was submitted. Fall public service events were listed. The club's two Kenwood 520 HF rigs have been sold as a result of notices posted on eBay and the funds were turned over to the treasurer. The board unanimously voted to donate \$250 to the ARRL's Broadband over Power Line Special Spectrum Defense Campaign; a list of clubs making donations will be posted on the ARRL's web page later this year. The treasury balance was \$13,090.83

BASIC DIRECTIONS TO TREDYFFRIN TWP BUILDING

GPS coordinates for the township building entrance road: 40° 03.971' North, 75° 28.142' West.

From PA 252 (Valley Forge Rd.) southbound out of Valley Forge park:

At the 2nd traffic light after leaving the park, turn right on Chesterbrook Blvd. Go 1.6 miles to the 2nd traffic light, Duportail Rd. Turn right on Duportail Rd. and proceed 0.4 miles to the township building on the left.

From PA 252 northbound:

Cross Lancaster Avenue (US 30) in Paoli, where PA 252 becomes Bear Hill Road. Go down the hill and turn left at the 2nd traffic light, West Swedesford Rd. (Note: Turning left at this intersection puts you on West Swedesford Road, while turning right puts you on Howellville Road. Nobody said street names around here make sense!) Go to the 2nd traffic light and turn right on Duportail Rd. Proceed 0.4 miles to the township building on the right. Note: the building is not visible from Duportail coming from this direction.

From US 202:

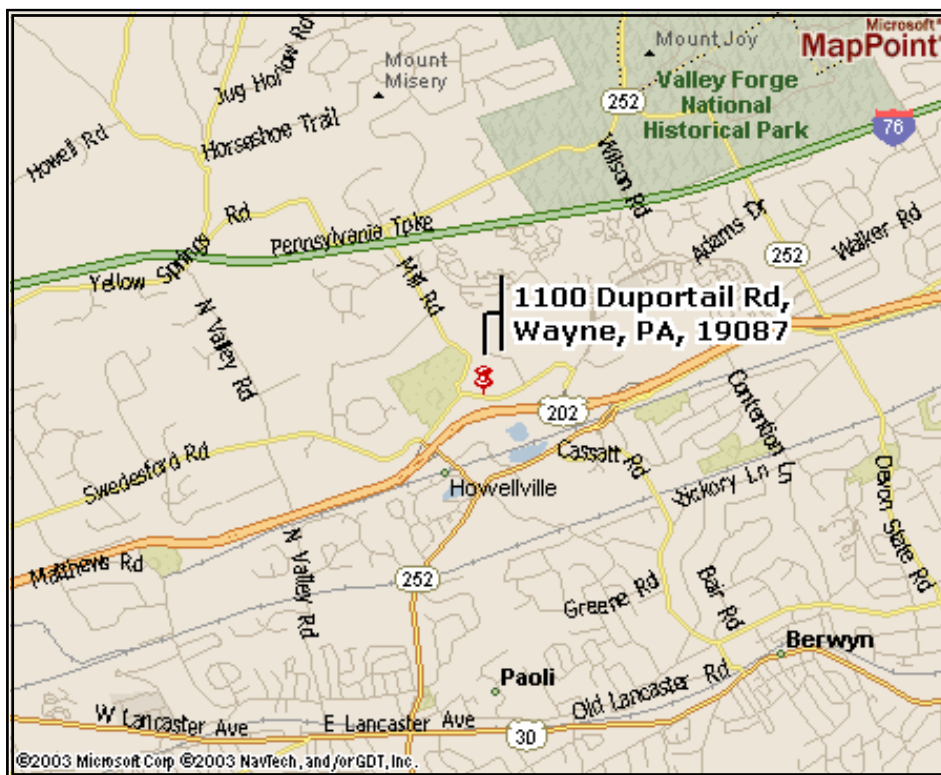
From either the northbound or the southbound direction, take the Chesterbrook Blvd. exit. If you were on 202 south, turn right at the end of the off-ramp. If you were on 202 north, turn left. You are now on Chesterbrook Blvd. At the first traffic light, turn left on Duportail Rd. Proceed 0.4 miles to the township building on the left.

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike:

Take the Valley Forge exit 326 (old exit 24). Follow signs for US 202 south and follow directions above for approaching from US 202 southbound.

Once you're at the township building:

After turning into the township building entrance road, go up the hill. Go past the parking lot in front of the building and past the building itself. Ignore the "Authorized Vehicles Only" signs. Park in the lot behind the building. Enter via the terrace.



INDIVIDUALIZED DRIVING DIRECTIONS

For driving directions to the new meeting location, you can use an on-line service such as . . .

<http://maps.yahoo.com/>
<http://www.mapquest.com/directions/>

Enter your starting point (such as your home address) and the township building's street address, 1100 Duportail Road. Mapquest thinks this address is Wayne 19087. Yahoo will accept either Wayne 19087 or Berwyn 19312. Either way, you get directions and a map.

If you are not on the Internet and need directions, please contact **Kay N3KN** (610-993-9623). The information will be sent to you by U.S. mail . . . assuming you request the help well in advance. As in "now."

ROY NEAL K6DUE, SILENT KEY

Retired NBC News space correspondent, producer, and executive **Roy Neal K6DUE** died August 15 in High Point, NC. He was 82. Having broadcast the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions for NBC, Roy played a key role in persuading NASA to have ham radio on the space shuttles and later on the International Space Station.

His real name was **Roy Neal Hinkle**, and he grew up in Wayne, PA. His broadcasting career began in Philly. Ham radio was better off because Roy was part of the Amateur Radio family.

CLUB QSL SERVICE NEEDS HELP

Is there a DXer in the club who would like to collect members' outgoing DX QSL's, sort them, return any that can't go via the bureau, and send the rest on to the ARRL? MARC reimburses the QSL bureau fee and the postage.

Leland N3LJB, used to handle the outgoing DX QSL service for MARC, has gone to boarding school and can't do the QSL's any more. Contact **Kay N3KN** if you might be interested in picking up the task.

MARC'S HAMFEST HONOR ROLL

Volunteers make the MARC hamfest successful. Chairman **Mike KF3CD** and assistant chairmen **Bob N3JIZ** and **Carter N3AO** sincerely thank all the people who helped before, during, and after the event.

The Chester County Emergency Communications vehicle was on site. MARC thanks **Keith Simpkins** and **Kim Glisson** for bringing the vehicle to the site and providing excellent explanations. Our new food vendor was happy and expects to come back next year. Over two dozen members of the Rooster Net

attended and held a mass crow-in (you had to be there ...).

Members and friends of the club who belong on the 2003 hamfest honor roll are listed below in no particular order. If you or someone you know has been accidentally left off the list, we apologize! Please contact **Kay N3KN** immediately, so we can give due credit in the next newsletter.

Thanks to **Bob KB3FSQ** for gathering much of the information used in this story.

Mike KF3CD	Bob KB3FSQ	Ron W3ZV
Bob N3JIZ	Mark KB3JCY	Dick K3IIN
Carter N3AO	Ed KB3JGU	Bob W3LIA
Steve N3ORH	Ned WQ3Z	Dori KB3JZN
Gene N3HG	Carole KA3UUQ	Alan Blatman
Judy N3MBW	Rob WI3S	Steve KD0VA (and Zelda PO0CH)
Leland N3LJB	Janet KA3VTQ	Foster K3FXS
Dennis KA3QOT	Steve N1HDP	Paul WB3CEZ
Dieter K3DK	Jon N3VZG	Kay N3KN
Steve KB3FSR	John N3RBJ	Susan K3SUE
Rick N3AGS	Mitch W2MBH	Tom N3QKV
Bob W3ZQN	Dan KA3KHR	Dan K3OU
Bob W3SA	Charlie N3NQX	AI N3EA

HAMFEST AND FIELD DAY INCOME / EXPENSES

The 2003 MARC hamfest was a financial success! A report from the treasurer to the board of directors at their July meeting showed gross income of \$4,327.50 -- which includes \$77.50 in donations from members who sold gear at the club table. Expenses, the largest of which were the fairground rent and main door prize purchase, added up to \$1,258.50. This gives a net income of \$3,069.

The treasurer also reported that Field Day this year cost \$111.55. One Field Day pin wasn't sold, in addition to what we spent on food. The field, the generator, and the gasoline for the generator, are provided by Verizon at no cost to the club.

HAMFESTS IN OUR REGION

Details on these hamfests are posted on the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org/hamfests.html

Sept. 13-14	York Hamfest Foundation, York, PA
Sept. 14	Delaware Valley RA, Lawrenceville, NJ
Sept. 14	Kent County ARC, Felton, DE
Sept. 20	Delaware-Lehigh ARC, Schnecksville, PA
Oct. 19	RF Hill ARC, Sellersville, PA

MARC HAMFEST JULY 11, 2004

FIELD DAY REPORT

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work) got the entry sent to ARRL by the deadline. **Janet KA3VTQ** and **Rob WI3S** managed the food. Operators included **Leland N3LJB**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Mitch W2MBH**, **Carter N3AO**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Josy WQ3E**, **Bob WA2POW**, **Dieter K3DK**, **Bob N9GG**, **George N3ORC**, and **Foster K3FXS**. **Mitch W2MBH** operated PSK31 and **Foster K3FXS** provided us with the satellite QSO needed to add bonus points to the score. **Dave K3DAT** was chief trouble-shooter. **Dick K3ITH**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, and **Jeff WA3RIZ** took photographs. Thanks also go to **Paulette Jennings**, wife of **Ted NT3J**, for picking up some extra food items and bringing them over to the field. We were visited by Pennsylvania Senator **John Rafferty** of the 44th Senatorial District. **Randy Brock** of WNPV, Lansdale, provided media coverage.

Help with set-up, tear-down, and equipment transportation has fallen short at some MARC Field Days but not this time. Hats off to hard-working helpers **Steve KD0VA**, **Carter N3AO**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Rick N3AGS**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Dieter K3DK**, **Ron W3ZV**, **Mitch W2MBH**, **Bob W3ZQN**, **Dennis K3DS** and **Bob KB3FSQ**. Thanks to **Bob KB3FSQ** for gathering the info used in this story.

BAND	DIGI	CW	SSB
80	0	26	4
40	0	156	1
20	109	88	138
15	4	21	0
10	0	3	0
6	0	0	45
2	0	0	8
ALL	113	294	196

Claimed bonus points = 1,100

N3KN LOOKS AT HAM RADIO . . . TEN YEARS AGO

Unless you're a younger reader, ten years doesn't seem like such a long time until you think about all the changes in ham radio in a decade. It's fun to look back at what ham radio was 10 years ago, and that's what I did recently thanks to the back issues of *QST* on CD-ROM.

In 1993, VHF packet radio was the hottest thing trotting, and many *QST* pages were devoted to it, both informational columns and advertisements for packet terminal node controllers (TNC's). *PACTOR*, which is still around, was introduced in '93 as was *CLOVER*, an HF digital mode that might have caught on if it hadn't been proprietary and very expensive. Also new in 1993 was *APRS*.

Several *QST* articles talked about getting on slow-scan Amateur TV. Gosh, getting on slow-scan had dropped in price to just hundreds of dollars, because you could use your "blazingly fast" 80286 computer in place of some of the really expensive stuff required for SSTV in earlier years. Now, of course, SSTV is done in software . . . but the programs won't run on that 80286 you have in the basement housing dust and spiders.

A few contesters were already submitting their logs to the League by electronic mail. However, the Internet was still unknown territory to most hams -- we ARRL officials still used (*shudder*) MCI Mail -- and so a *QST* article about packet / Internet gateway stations had to begin by explaining what the Internet was. What it was then bears little resemblance to what it is today. I remember the ARRL

meeting around that time at which one of my colleagues said, "The League ought to get on the World Wide Web." From most of us, myself included, he got a very blank look. In 1993, ARRL had a landline BBS nicknamed "Hiram," from which you could download (at 1200 baud) text files of ARRL info.

Novice license testing, previously carried out privately, was integrated into the VEC system in 1993. The nasty little secret of Novice testing was that FCC spot checks had discovered a number of Novice applications with forged examiners' signatures. It was further suspected that some people were getting Novice tickets thanks to dishonest ham friends who would simply sign the necessary forms and submit them without having administered any theory or code tests. The solution was to bring Novice testing under the VEC's, which had a track record of integrity.

Two years after introduction of the no-code Technician license, the number of new licensees was booming. The FCC took 4 months to issue new licensees their tickets after the exam was passed. The FCC changed their Rules so that electronic filing of applications would be legal . . . but implementation was still a long way off. The ARRL petitioned the FCC to resume issuing club callsigns; there had not been any new club callsigns issued since the 1970's.

In the world of DX, several new countries joined the DXCC list in 1993. Eritrea came back on the list, while Croatia, Slo-

venia, and Bosnia were added after it became clear they weren't part of Yugoslavia any more. 1993 was also the year in which Czechoslovakia was replaced by Czech Republic and Slovakia.

In other news headlines, it looked like hams would get access to some spectrum just below 220 MHz to replace part of what we lost from 220 - 222 MHz. Little did we know that the primary user of that new spectrum would refuse to let hams use it! The two national Amateur Radio societies in Canada, the Canadian Radio Relay League and the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation, put their differences aside and merged to form the Radio Amateurs of Canada. AMSAT officials told us about the future glories of the Phase III-D satellite, which would open the world of the birds to all of us. Sadly, the spacecraft now known as AO-40 did not function as planned after its launch and will never attain the capabilities we read about in 1993.

1993 was the year Hurricane Iniki beat up on Hawaii, and the year when the U.S. Coast Guard ceased watchkeeping on the 500 kHz Morse code distress frequency. Some YL with the callsign WT3P ran unopposed for a third two-year term as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director. You wouldn't think there was that much vice to direct, would you?

What do you suppose the ham radio world of 2003 will look like in retrospect when we're in 2013?

FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Several Philly-area student hams received scholarship awards from the Foundation for Amateur Radio for the 2003-04 academic year. They include:

- Amanda Rodski KB3DTY, Philadelphia
- Eric Marano N3XYZ, Harleysville
- Thomas Reber KB3FCH, Coatesville
- Benjamin Jack N3VYA, Huntingdon Valley

FAR is a non-profit consortium of ham radio clubs in the Washington - Baltimore - northern Virginia area that awards several dozen scholarships to hams every year. An announcement about the next scholarship competition will be in *REMARCS* early next year. For more information about FAR, go to www.amateurradio-far.org/.

LEARN MORSE ON LINE

Though it's possible that the Morse requirement for HF privileges may be changed or dropped altogether by the FCC, the time frame for any such changes is unpredictable. Consequently, if you want HF privileges before the sunspot cycle declines altogether into the dumpster, you should plan on passing the 5 wpm code test ASAP.

A Canadian ham club has a free (bilingual) web site you can use to begin learning the code. The URL is www.9bit.qc.ca/ve2crd/cours/cw_course.html. Another free code study site is at www.aa9pw.com/radio/morse.html.

FLEA MARKET

Wanted: Used dual-band mobile rig. Contact Ned WQ3Z at 215-836-0206.

ARES / RACES OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR AREA

MARC encourages all club members to participate in ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) in their home counties.

MARC offers training in the handling of formal message traffic on our tri-weekly traffic (message-handling) nets. However, to be part of the ham tradition of emergency preparedness, we need to be enrolled, trained, and active in ARES/RACES. As security concerns increase, hams who just show up out of the blue when there is a disaster or emergency may find out their usefulness is limited. They may even be turned away, depending on county security regulations.

If you live outside Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties, please contact your ARRL Section Manager for info about ARES/RACES where you live (see QST, page 16 for the list of SM's).

Nationwide, all ARES/RACES volunteers are well-advised to complete at least Level 1 of the ARRL's Emergency Communications course. The course registration fee may be refundable for those who complete the class successfully. Find out more at www.arrl.org/cce/. To be taken seriously as emergency communicators today, we need to know more than how to work the push-to-talk.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County ARES/RACES is having a membership recruitment drive during September. Montgomery County RACES/ARES will be participating in the Limerick Generating Station's bi-annual emergency drill scheduled for this November. RACES/ ARES is an integral

component of the Limerick Generating Station Emergency Plan that includes a multitude of agencies and services, including the Red Cross, county fire services, police departments and local municipalities.

Bob W3ZQN, who is Radio Officer for Montgomery County RACES and Emergency Coordinator for MontCo ARES in addition to being a MARC member, says it has been his experience that when planning begins for a big event, such as a Limerick Generating Station drill, new volunteers come forward and express interest in becoming involved.

"This year will be somewhat different" he says. "Since our last Limerick drill, working with Montgomery County Emergency Services, we have instituted a new enrollment process to comply with county security procedures. This process will take between four and eight weeks from indication of interest to issuance of a RACES/ARES identification card."

Bob emphasizes that a RACES / ARES ID card is required for access to certain locations that are secured in the event of a major event, such as triage sites, local municipal emergency operations centers, Red Cross shelters, etc.

To learn more about enrolling in Montgomery County ARES/RACES, contact **Ned WQ3Z** (wq3z@arrl.net) or call 215-870-4017. The enrollment form is posted in PDF format on the group's web page at www.montcopa.org/eoc/oep/aces.htm.

Delaware County

Delaware County ARES/RACES has a web site on line at www.delcoares.org/.

Webmaster **Joe W3JY** (who's a MARC member) has given the site many interesting and unusual capabilities. They can actually have on-line meetings! You can request more about DelCo ARES/RACES via a link on the page, and you can enroll on-line, too. The Radio Officer / Emergency Coordinator for Delaware County is **Dan W3DI** (also a MARC member ... you noticing a trend, here?). DelCo ARES/RACES is a relatively new group, so you will find many opportunities to contribute and earn a leadership role. Get involved!

Chester County

Part of Chester County is in the Limerick Nuclear Generating Station zone, so Chester County ARES/RACES takes part in Limerick drills as well as Peach Bottom Nuclear Generating Station drills. ChesCo ARES/RACES also has a well-developed hospital response team system, which is prepared to put ham communicators at the county's hospitals if normal communications should fail or be overloaded during a disaster.

You'll find the home page for ChesCo ARES/RACES at www.w3eoc.org. An additional site at www.w3qa.net/ccar/register.htm describes the group's training activities and provides an on-line enrollment form for ChesCo ARES/RACES.

Two MARC members who are involved in leadership roles are **Carter N3AO** (610-993-9623, n3ao@arrl.net) and **Lor W3QA** (610-431-4227, w3qa@arrl.net). Talk to them to find out more about how you can participate in Chester County ARES/RACES.

MARC PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT Radnor Run, October 26

MARC will communicate for the annual Wyeth/Ayerst Radnor Run on Sunday, October 26. The event benefits the American Lung Association. Meet at 7:30 AM in the Radnor Township administration building parking lot.

No previous experience is required. You need a 2m rig. To find out more about public service events in general or this one in particular, contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587).

These events are not hard to do, last just a few hours, and help you get to know other club members better. Non-emergency events are excellent training for service in ARES/RACES, too.

FUN WITHOUT SUNSPOTS?

As sunspot Cycle 23 ends, propagation on 10, 12, and 15 meters will decrease to the point of uselessness, and 17 meters will be iffy. Hams will crowd onto 20 meters -- think King of Prussia at drive time. How do we get through the sunspot minimum with a minimum of bumping and cussing?

Ward Silver N0AX, in ARRL's *Contester's Rate Sheet*, says, "We all have a perfect right to operate on any frequency we choose, but that's not a strategy for anything but conflict. If you're going to derive the maximum amount of satisfaction ... this year and for the next few years, the most important rule to follow will be the Golden Rule."

Can't say it any better than that! Y'all play nice, now!