



REMARCS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1987

It's time to pay dues again, old darling! Check your newsletter mailing label for your membership expiration date. If it says 1987, we'd like to receive \$10 from you before March 1. You can pay at a club meeting or by mail. No separate renewal mailing is sent. We'd rather spend the club's money on things that are interesting, fun, and/or useful, rather than on mailing tedious reminder notices asking if your dog ate the checkbook. So be a sweetie and save your club some money. Renew now!

ELECT YOUR 1987 OFFICERS

If you receive REMARCS as a club member, your 1987 ballot will be stuffed in the newsletter. If you are, but it isn't, contact KAY KC3LM immediately so a ballot can be sent to you. All positions have the option of a write-in. Your ballot may be turned in at the club meeting, January 15, or sent in by mail. Mailed ballots must be in the club P.O. box on the morning of January 15 to be valid. In any case, do not write your name or call on the ballot itself. Votes will be counted and results announced at the January meeting.

Thanks are due to GENE WB3FTJ for handling this year's nominations, and of course thanks go to all those who agreed to run for office. Several individuals who've been on the Board are not offering for re-election, so let's pause to give them a hat-tip: BART KC3BP (former Secretary and VP), DAVID KA3HBK (former Projects Chairman), GENE WB3FTJ (former Policy Chairman), PETER N3DXY (former Technical Chairman), CARTER KA3IME (former Public Service Chairman, Policy Chairman, and President). It's worth noting that 3 of the nominees have not served on the Board before.

PACKET BBS ON THE AIR

The WB3JOE-9 packet BBS went on the air in November. Effective January 1, its call sign changes to plain old WB3JOE. JOHN WB3ELA has kindly brought the board up temporarily on his own computer while we await delivery of an IBM clone. Now here's the pitch. The Board has authorized \$400 towards purchase of this \$800 computer. GENE WB3FTJ has generously advanced the money for the computer. If the membership contributes the remaining \$400 through voluntary giving by February 1, the computer becomes MARC's. If not, it will be Gene's computer and he can do with it as he wishes. Plant an avocado in it, maybe, or toss it off the Walt Whitman. The Board felt that this was the fairest method to pay for a system that relatively few in MARC are currently interested in using. The suggested contribution is \$25. If you want to be part of this expansion of MARC's activities and services into the digital realm please contribute -- whether you are now on packet or not. The membership renewal form on page 5 includes a line for your packet contribution.

The next club meeting dates are January 15 and February 19. Program topics are not known at this time, but you can bet it's something interesting. Be sure to come and bring a friend. Please remember to welcome visitors at the meetings and not leave them standing around like unplugged lamps.



TRAFFIC TRADITION CONTINUES

Holiday traffic from Bryn Mawr Hospital, a long MARC tradition, was relayed on December 21. Stations at the hospital were CARTER KA3IME, RAY N3BPJ, CAROL AD1P, HARRY WBKCD, BART KC3BP, and JIM N4IQR. Stations taking traffic at home were TOM KA3FXX, ANDY N3AZW and EPAEPTN Net Manager JIM WA3EHD. Thanks to excellent cooperation this year by the hospital, we moved about 200 pieces of traffic -- compared to 38 last year, that ain't liverwurst! We used both club repeaters and 220 MHz simplex. Our main problem area was having enough stations at home with HF traffic experience to take and move the messages. An improvement at the BMH station end would be knowledge of how NTS is organized, so that messages can be grouped for transmission by NTS area, region, and section. This will make HF relay stations' lives vastly easier. To learn what the NTS areas and regions are, look at the cover of the ARRL Net Directory. You know, the Directory is more than a list of nets. It also contains basic instructions on traffic handling. The Directory costs \$1 and can be purchased at nearly any hamfest and many radio gear stores.

Everyone is welcome to check into the Sunday ARES nets and the tri-weekly traffic nets. These nets are a good chance to meet others, learn a little about formal traffic handling, and become better prepared for emergencies. MARC's nets are local affiliates of the National Traffic System. MARC is known all over the Delaware Valley as the premier traffic handling club. Even if you aren't sure you want to do traffic yourself, check into a net this month just to be sociable!

If you are on packet and like to handle traffic, here are some BBS commands you should know about. LT causes the BBS to list NTS traffic. In the "to" field, you may see "NTSEPA," meaning NTS traffic for Eastern PA Section. In the message title field, you will see something like "QTC 1 HAVERTOWN, PA." This means 1 piece of traffic for Havertown. If you can deliver or relay Havertown traffic, use the R command to read the traffic, capturing it to disk or on your printer. To zot the message now that you've taken it, use the KT command: kill traffic. To send formal NTS traffic, use the ST command. Put NTS + the destination ARRL Section in the "to" field and describe the traffic in the message title field: how many pieces for what town. Don't mix towns in one message. If, say, you have 2 for Chicago and 1 for Milwaukee, put them in separate messages, not glopped together because they're all west of Pittsburgh.

MARC MEMBERSHIP FORM

() Licensed = \$10 () Associate = \$5

Contribution towards the MARC packet bulletin board computer (\$25 suggested). Contributions are not required for membership.

*** Amount contributed: \$ _____

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____ HOME PHONE () _____

Okay to publish phone in club directory? () Yes () No

ARRL member? () Yes Expiration date _____ (N o)

Checks payable to MID-ATLANTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. Send to P. O. Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085. The membership year begins March 1. Please renew promptly. Thanks!