



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2005

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

HAMFEST 2005 PUTS MONEY IN THE BANK

Thanks to hard work by many volunteers, the MARC hamfest was profitable. We had gross receipts of \$3,470, expenses of \$372, and a profit of \$3,098.

By comparison, in 2004 we had \$4159 gross, \$142 expenses (the main door prize was donated), and a profit of \$4,017.

The volunteers who gave so much thought, time, and effort to the hamfest deserve everyone's sincere thanks. Without what you do, this club as we know it would cease to exist.

That being said, we were understaffed this year. For example, roadside direction signs didn't get put up, because there was no one to do it. If we'd had a huge influx of buyers and sellers early on Sunday morning, we'd have been in the soup because there were few people on site to handle ticket sales and direct the traffic flow. We all benefit from the hamfest, so please -- please -- in 2006 be part of the show. Just a few hours' help from a lot more people would have made a big difference.

Dori W3IBH was a big hit again on the public address system, reading the announcements that were prepared by **Kay N3KN**. **Bob W3LIA** handled talk-in. Treasurer **Carter N3AO** says his job handling the cash was a lot easier this year thanks to help from **Natalie Maslin**, **Steve N3ORH**'s wife. Managing the members gear sales table for the first time were **Dieter K3DK** and **Dennis KA3QOT**, and they did a great job. **Dick K3IIN** and **Bob N3JIZ** were among the key people at set-up on Saturday.

The following members and friends of the club are known to have helped with the hamfest. If your name should be on this list but isn't, please contact **Kay N3KN** now so we can properly recognize your effort in the next newsletter:

Mike KF3CD (chairman), **Dieter K3DK**, **Carter N3AO**, **Kay N3KN**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Dick's daughter Erin Thompson**, **Bob W3LIA**, **John KB3LPE**, **Steve N3ORH**, **Natalie Maslin**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Al N3EA**, **Bob KB3FSQ**, **Charlie W3CAU**, **Mitch W2MBH**, **Steve N1HDP**, **Jon N3VZG**, **Allen KB3MNJ**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **Dori W3IBH**, **Gene N3HG**, **Judy N3MBW**, **Phil KB3MAW**, **Phil's daughter Amy**, **Dan K3OU**, **Cliff W3NNL**, **Will KB3IEL**, **Bill W3KRB**, **Bob W3SA**.

A story related to the hamfest appears on page 4. Having a successful hamfest requires year-round effort, not just work on a single weekend of the year.

ELECTION FOR 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS *One position is contested*

Licensed members of MARC will receive along with this newsletter a ballot for the 2006 board of directors. If you receive the newsletter electronically, your copy will contain a ballot as the final page of the document. If you receive it on paper, a ballot is enclosed.

If you have more than one licensed club member in the household, please make a copy of the ballot for each member. Do not put your votes together on one page. That will cause your ballot to be void and not counted. Do not write your name or callsign on the ballot.

Vote for only one candidate for each office. If you change your mind, make sure it is absolutely clear for whom you wish to vote.

Any licensed club member may be written in for any office listed on the ballot. Before starting a write-in campaign for someone, however, please get that person's consent and be sure he or she is willing to serve if elected.

Ballots may be cast in person at the September 27 club meeting or mailed to the club's post office box. Mail will be picked up from the post office box on September 27 so all ballots can be counted at the club meeting. Please do not put other correspondence for the club in your ballot envelope, because the envelopes remain sealed until the officer presiding at the September meeting names a committee to count the ballots. The club's by-laws do not permit voting by e-mail.

The new board will take office on October 1.

There is no candidate on the ballot for Program Chairman, since no one offered to run. For the first time in many years, we have a contested position. Two members are running for the unoccupied position of Public Relations Chairman.

According to our By-Laws, the Public Relations Chairman's duties are to "send news releases pertaining to Club activities to local news media." The chairman is expected to "carry on other appropriate publicity activities concerning the Club and Amateur Radio." The PR chairman has to write effective press releases and announcements, distribute them so as to meet publications' deadlines, and speak in

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MARC HAMFEST DOOR PRIZE DONORS AND CORPORATE FRIENDS

Hamfest door prizes were generously donated by the following businesses and organizations: American Radio Relay League, CQ Publications, WorldRadio, Amateur & Advanced Communications, Workman Electronics, and a friend of the club who wishes to remain anonymous. We are especially grateful to the ANRO company for their kindness to us over the years.

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

Congratulations to recent upgrades **Steve N1HDP** (Extra), **Joe KB3MGS** (General), and **Will KB3IEL** (Tech+HF). Welcome **Alan KB3MNJ** to the club. His dad **Steve N1HDP** and brother **Jon N3VZG** are members, too. Condo-lences to **Bill KN3EUF** on the passing of his father-in-law and to **Lou WX3I**, whose mother passed away. **Carter N3AO** co-authored an article about Chester County ARES/RACES that appeared in *Emergency Number Professional* magazine. **Dieter K3DK** visited Alaska this summer. **Kay N3KN** and **Carter N3AO** celebrated their 30th anniversary with a trip to Nova Scotia. Hollywood honchos fired the actor who's been playing **James Bond**, but **Dick K3IIN** looked drop-dead handsome in a tux as father of the bride. He may be getting a phone call inviting him to take up a second career in the super-spy flicks.

Are you interested in working operating events such as the Pennsylvania QSO Party or November Sweepstakes but unable to do it because you have no HF station -- maybe because of antenna restrictions or because gasoline is so expensive you can't save up the bucks to buy HF gear? **Dennis K3DS** has raised the possibility of MARC members activating the Temple University station, **K3TU**, for operating events. Contact Dennis to talk about it.

It looks as though there will be no Program Chairman for the club in 2006. This makes it particularly important for members to suggest speakers to the board Members-at-Large. MARC members are involved in many different interesting ham radio activities and also in a variety of high-tech and electronics things. Could you give a program at a club meeting? Do you have a friend -- MARC member or not -- who could present an interesting program on ham radio or a high-tech topic that would interest hams? Talk to one of the Members-at-Large and give as much information as possible about your idea.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

MARC has three public service events on the calendar for the rest of 2005. 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. The times shown below are when we need to be there, not when the event begins.

Saturday, October 8: Penn Wynne Library 5K Run, 8 AM

Saturday, October 30: American Lung Association / Penn Medicine at Radnor Run, Radnor Township, 7 AM

Sunday, November 13: Vietnam Veterans of America 5K Run, 8 AM, Norristown

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At their July 21 meeting -- the date had been shifted to permit board members to volunteer at the Kimberton fair -- the board formally accepted the resignation of **Bob KB3FSQ** as PR chairman. They heard reports on programs, Field Day, technical matters, and MARC night at the Phillies. **Kay N3KN** reported on the status of the hamfest and what must be done to keep the event profitable in the future. **Dennis K3DS** has suggested that MARC members might operate the Temple University station **K3TU** for operating events such as the Pennsylvania QSO Party and November Sweepstakes. **Dennis KA3QOT** was named to be nominations chairman for the 2005-2006 board elections. The treasury stood at \$13,380.19.

At the August 25 meeting, the board heard reports on programs, public service, election nominations, and MARC night at the Phillies game. It was noted that there may finally be some progress towards getting the 440 repeater into shape so it will be useful to members. The treasury balance was \$13,095.40

AUGUST LICENSE TEST SESSION REPORT

The August 6 license test session served 7 candidates. The results were 1 upgrade to Extra, 2 upgrades to General, 3 new Techs, and one upgrade to Tech Plus.

The Volunteer Examiners who worked at the session were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Susan K3SUE**, **Dick K3ITH**, **Bob W3SA**, **Walt WA3PPW**, **Paul NX3Q**, and **Bob KA3NIQ**.

Three club members took advantage of the free test session benefit of MARC membership.

The next MARC test session will be held on Saturday, November 5.

MARC NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES

The weather was damp and the Phillies lost miserably, but the MARC gang had a great time together anyhow.

We'll probably do it again next year, but earlier in the summer when fewer people are away on vacation. Hats off to **Dori W3IBH** for organizing this event.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

September 27

Clipperton Island DXpedition video. Did you ever wonder what it's like to go on one of those DXpeditions to an island on the other side of the world? What it's like to throw your callsign out on the air and have thousands of hams come back to you simultaneously? Clipperton Island is a coral atoll in the Pacific Ocean about 1,600 miles west of Nicaragua, and it's 12 km in circumference. It was named for a pirate, is a possession of France, and (as the FO prefix suggests) is administered for France by French Polynesia. In 2000, an international group of hams went there and operated as FO0AAA, making over 75,000 contacts. Their web site is still up, at www.qsl.net/clipperton2000/ so you can read up on the background before you see the video, kindly loaned to us by **Dieter K3DK**.

October 25

Foster K3FXS will present a program about Amateur Radio satellite communications. From Technician to Extra, every class of license allows us to use the Amateur Radio satellites now in orbit. If you don't have HF privileges, getting on the satellites is a great way to make contacts all over the world and -- because no Internet relay link is involved -- these contacts are valid for major operating awards. I know some Extra class hams who get their major kick from working the birds. Before Foster's program you might want to check out AMSAT's web site at www.amsat.org. AMSAT is the nickname of the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation.

BOARD ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

person and over the phone with public officials and representatives or the media.

The candidates for PR Chairman are **Dennis DeMarco KA3QOT** (dennism@earthlink.net) and **Miguel Ramirez KC2HMG** (nylatinsoundsdj@comcast.net). Members who wish to do so may contact them via e-mail to ask questions about their qualifications.

KIMBERTON FIRE COMPANY FAIR VOLUNTEERS

MARC is sincerely grateful to all the volunteers who helped the club earn our hamfest site rent-free again this year by working at the Kimberton Fire Company fair. Volunteers included both hams and non-ham family members. We particularly appreciate the non-hams for pitching in on behalf of ham radio and our club.

Thanks to the fair volunteers, our hamfest profit is \$900 larger than it would have been -- not a trivial amount of money!

The volunteers this year were **Bart K4BF**, **Carter N3AO**, **Owen N3WO**, Owen's brother **Ellis**, Owen's mother **Vivian**, **Kay N3KN**, **Gerry W3GER**, Gerry's wife **Therese**, **Floyd KA3OXA**, **Andy K3JSE**, Andy's wife **Jackie**, **Will KB3IEL**, **Dori W3IBH**, **Joe KB3JGS**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Dick K3IIN**, **Bob N3JIZ**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **Ned WQ3Z**, Ned's son **Justin**, **Jon N3VZG**, **Charlie W3CAU**, Charlie's wife **Dolores**, **Steve N1HDP**, **Harry KC2OJN**, **John KB3LPE**, **Jenny KA3WVD**, and Jenny's husband **Greg**.

The work is fun, not difficult, and benefits both MARC and the fire company. We know that several more people would have helped out but circumstances made it impossible this year. Well, there's always 2006! If the fire company offers us the chance to save \$900, you can bet we'll take them up on it.

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

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

TREASURER

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

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

PROGRAMS

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

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

TOWER & HF BEAM TO GIVE AWAY

Jack N3KCK has a 48' Rohn tower with a rotor and a Hy-Gain three element beam for 10/15/20 meters which is free to anyone wishing them and willing to come to his house and dismantle them.

The tower has been in place for approximately 15 years and the system is working fine. The base section is anchored in cement and isn't removable, so the new owner would have to get a new base section. If you're interested, contact Jack by e-mail at smith_23877@msn.com.

BADGE PRICE INCREASE

MARC callsign badges now cost \$10. Our engraver held the same price for many years, but their costs continue to rise and eventually they had to pass along some of it to customers.

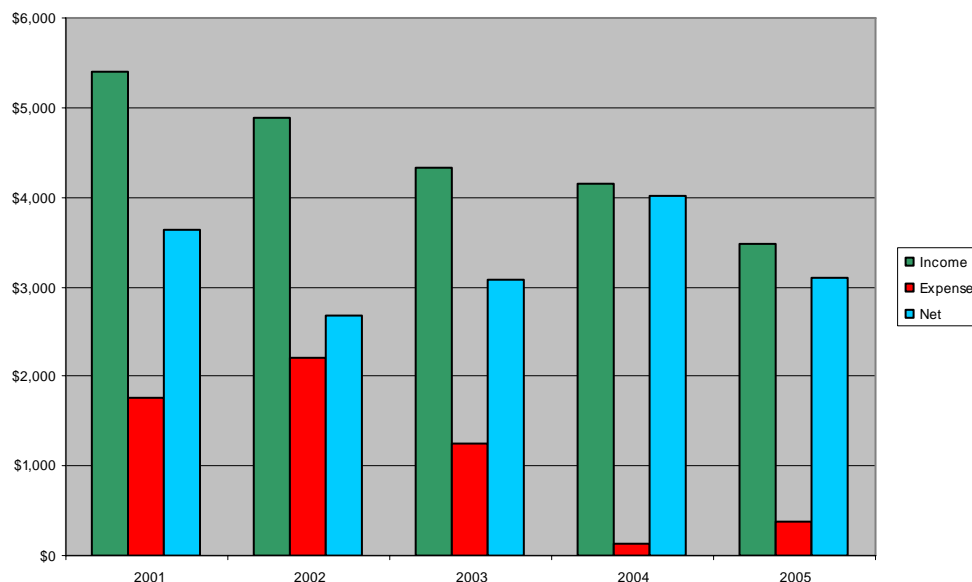
They're great-looking badges, well worth what we have to pay for them.

THE FUTURE OF OUR MARC HAMFEST -- 2006 AND BEYOND

This is a wake-up call to people who care about MARC.

First, some background. We are able to have the club that we've become accustomed to because of hamfest income. There is no way we could do it on the \$15 a year dues that members pay. At the present time we're in good shape. We have money in the bank -- enough so we can self-insure the repeater equipment and not pay sky-high annual insurance premiums on the gear. But one of these days we will take a lightning strike, or equipment will reach the end of its lifespan, and the club's financial reserves will be called upon. Someday we may have to pay rent for a meeting site or a license test site. With a profitable annual fund-raiser -- the hamfest -- we can have the money we need to maintain the club's programs and services.

Hamfest Income/Expense



Nationwide, hamfests do not present an cheerful picture. While the biggest ones are still big, they are nowhere near what they were ten or fifteen years ago. The pool of vendors who go to hamfests is shrinking. In 1990 it was hard to make a profit as a commercial vendor at hamfests. In 2005 with web sites, eBay, and crazy gasoline prices, it's a miracle people even try. Another reason for the smaller vendor pool is that few computer dealers go to hamfests any more. Many hams used to grumble about all the computer stuff for sale at hamfests. I hope they're happy now! Computer hobby dollars were just as green as hams' dollars. Now hamfests don't get the former and get a whole lot less of the latter.

The pool of buyers is shrinking, too. In the early 1990's people were flocking into ham radio after the Morse code test was dropped for the Tech license. In the 1980's and early 1990's lots of hams -- especially new hams -- went to hamfests even in terrible weather, just because it was fun to do. Today there are vastly fewer new hams, the FCC has refused to create a new entry-level license attractive to 21st-century Americans, you can buy ham gear using 800 phone numbers and on the Internet, and hams no longer seem as interested in the social side of ham-festing as they used to be. With computer vendors not going to hamfests, computer buyers aren't going, either.

The small-to-medium hamfest like MARC's may be in a slightly better survival position than some of the biggies. That's because our profit expectations are modest. Tiny hamfests that are more of a shmooze than a fund-raiser will survive as long as they're breaking even. MARC needs to do a lot better than break even, but on the other hand we haven't grown dependent on profits with 5 big digits to the left of the decimal point.

What's the story on MARC's hamfest? Over the past 5 years, our profit has ranged from a high of \$4,017 in 2004 to a low of \$2,673 in 2002 (serious rain that year). The average profit has been just about \$3,300. It's not a bad-looking graph, when you factor in the rain in 2002.

Our gross, on the other hand, has trended steadily downward.

We grossed \$5,399 in 2001 but only \$3,470 in 2005. Even on the rainy day in 2002 our gross was \$4,878.

How have we kept the profits okay despite the declining gross? We cut costs. The largest cost was printing and postage for publicity flyers, and that was reduced dramatically. Lucky for us, the fire company offered us the deal to get the rent forgiven, and we've done that thanks to member support.

Now, however, there aren't any more costs that can be chopped. Now we have to turn to the harder task of increasing our gross -- or at least slowing the decline -- in an era when hamfests in general are not thriving. Here are recommendations I've made to our board for addressing that challenge:

1. *Begin an aggressive program of recruiting vendors.* We need a group of MARC members who like to attend hamfests to organize themselves, get to all the events in the region, collect vendors' business cards and advertising flyers, and contribute the mailing and e-mail addresses to a vendor recruitment database. We can't just do this once. It has to be an ongoing activity, year after year, because vendors come and go and their addresses change. Some members have already stepped forward to hit the computer shows in our areas, in case some of those vendors could be persuaded. Who wants to help do the hamfest vendor recruitment visits? We need a group, not just 1 or 2 people! How about you?
2. *Increase distribution of hamfest flyers at hamfests and other clubs' meetings.* We need a group of volunteers who will take flyers to hamfests and to meetings of ham radio clubs -- and to meetings of other high-tech hobby clubs (astronomy, computers, model trains, model aircraft, etc.). We have had wonderful support from some neighbor ham clubs and the local ARES/RACES organizations, but other clubs have not given us much of a hand on publicity. We need MARC

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HAMFEST'S FUTURE

Continued from page 4

members going to other ham clubs' meetings with some flyers to hand out. How about you?

Can you contribute some time to those projects? Please contact hamfest chairman **Mike KF3CD** (pilottfamily@yahoo.com, 610-496-0921) now to get on the list.

We should start collecting vendor information at the RF Hill and Pack Rats hamfests in September and October this year!

No one can say to a mathematical certainty that we can keep MARC's hamfest adequately profitable forever. I do believe that without pursuing these recommendations, our principal fund raiser will be in serious trouble sooner rather than later. There's a lot about the hamfest business that we in our club cannot control. However, we can resolve to work on the issues which are within our grasp.

The board can provide leadership on building up the hamfest, but the membership has to follow by contributing time and effort. Our hamfest has survived when some other local ones didn't, but we could go down the drain, too.

As they say, if we snooze, we lose. Let's wake up, work together, and build up our hamfest. -- **73, Kay N3KN**



ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION ELECTION COMING THIS FALL

If you are an ARRL member living in the Atlantic Division -- and most MARC members are -- you will receive a ballot sometime after October 1 for the offices of Division Director and Vice Director. Along with the ballot will be an information page with brief statements from each candidate.

ARRL Directors are the people who make policy for the organization. Many people suppose it's the ARRL president or **Dave Sumner K1ZZ**, or some undefined entity called "Newington" that determines the organization's policy positions. That's not true. The 15 Directors elected by the membership are the policy-makers. Only they -- not the staff, not the officers -- can vote in ARRL Board meetings. For each Division there is also a Vice Director, whose job is to cooperate with the Director and be prepared to step up if the Director cannot complete his or her term.

Directors and Vice Directors are elected separately. There are no tickets or running mates as such, though it's not uncommon for Director and Vice Director candidates to endorse someone running for the other office.

Does it matter who is Director and Vice Director? Your editor held both positions for the Atlantic Division in the past and promises you that it makes a great deal of difference. When the ballot arrives in your mailbox, don't toss it aside as junk mail. Open it, study the candidates' qualifications, and then exercise your ARRL membership right to vote for the candidates you consider best qualified.

PACK RATS ANNUAL VHF CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 24 AND HAMARAMA SEPTEMBER 25

Our neighbors the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, better known as The Pack Rats, will hold their annual VHF conference on Saturday, September 24, at the Marriott Courtyard hotel in Bensalem, PA.

The conference program features a number of nationally-known speakers on technical and operating subjects at VHF and above. This is *not* a conference about FM and repeaters.

There is a \$79 charge for the entire conference which includes conference registration, a copy of the proceedings, Friday evening hospitality, Saturday morning coffee break, Saturday lunch, door prize chances, auction participation, Saturday evening banquet, and a free ticket to the Hamarama hamfest on Sunday. That's a lot for \$79.

The Hamarama hamfest is held at the Wrightstown Grange Fairgrounds in Wrightstown, PA. General admission for the hamfest by itself is \$6. It's a good hamfest, and we encourage MARC members to support our neighbors' event.

For additional information about the conference and the hamfest, go to http://members.ij.net/packrats/Hamarama/Hama_05.html.

AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC AWARENESS DAY EMERGENCY POWER OPERATING EVENT SET FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Amateurs will participate in a 15-hour operating event on emergency power. On that day, amateurs make contacts with others who are also using only emergency power to demonstrate preparedness for emergency communications for the public.

Emergency power can be any source that is completely separate from commercial mains: solar panels, generators, storage batteries, alternators powered by bicycles, battery packs in HTs, and wind power, for examples. Operation can be from home or field. Mobile rigs don't operate from the commercial mains, either, so mobile operations count.

Times: 9 AM Eastern (6 AM Pacific) on Saturday, September 17, 2005, until 12 AM Eastern (9 PM Pacific). All bands and modes included. The exchange is up to the individual operators but can include the traditional signal report, location, and the type of emergency power being used, for examples.

W1AW will be QRV on generator power. A special QSL card will be available to those stations using emergency power that contact W1AW. Please include an SASE with your card request, and please indicate the power source that was used (if applicable). See page 49 of September QST or the ARRL web site story dated August 20 for more information.

If you take part in this operating event -- any band, any mode of your choice -- please do two things: Tell your ARES/RACES leadership officials about your operation (you DO belong to ARES/RACES, right?), and let us hear the story for a future issue of REMARCS, too.

This is not a contest. It's an opportunity to operate off the grid, as they say, and see what your station can do without an assist from PECO.

FIELD DAY FIGURES

Now it can be told! **Dieter K3DK**, our Field Day numbers champ, sent the club's report to the ARRL on time. He did it via the Web, which earned us 50 bonus points. In the boxes at right you see the band/mode breakdown, the totals, and the claimed bonus points.

We can't thank **Dieter K3DK** and **Dick K3IIN** enough for all their work in organizing Field Day and following through to the last detail. Many people don't realize there's a lot of work to be done after the event time period ends. Preparing the entry for submission requires time and care, even in these days of computerized logging. The numbers still don't crunch themselves.

Not a new issue for MARC Field Day is the fact that too few people were present when the time period ended, to help take the stations down, clean up the field, and move the club-owned stuff back to the storage locker. It is not fair to the event captains to just pack up our personal stuff and boogie on home. Please, in 2006, plan to be part of the take-down & clean-up crew!

Although relatively few people got on the air for MARC this year, we are aware there were cases when people who wanted to operate didn't feel they had the chance to do so. We need to do a better job next year of being willing to get up from the chair and let someone else take a turn. Newcomers are often hesitant to ask to operate. We have to notice their existence and say, "Hey, want to operate for a while? I'll give you a hand getting started."

LOCAL COAST GUARD AUXILIARY PLANS SPECIAL EVENT STATION AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Coast Guard Auxiliary members, local Amateurs, and their guests are invited to attend a special event station on Saturday, October 1. You can help with set-up, operation, and logging for the station, which will be on the air from 10 AM to 5 PM at the home of **Dan** and **Edwina Amoroso** in Media. Dan is **W3DI** and a member of MARC.

Dan wants to know how many people plan to come, so everyone who wants to get on the air can be scheduled for a chance to operate. Please contact Dan as soon as possible (610-566-2187, nnn0abp@navymars.org) for information and sign-up.

ICE IS NICE

Not the sort you plop in a gin & tonic, ICE in this case stands for "In Case of Emergency." Because so many people carry wireless phones these days, we can set up a number on our phones to help emergency responders help us. Pick an emergency contact number -- a family member, a friend -- and put it in your phone under the name ICE.

That way, if you are unable to speak and tell them how to contact a friend or family member, emergency personnel can find the ICE entry in the cell phone you're carrying and call it.

In fact, **Carter N3AO** and I have two ICE numbers in each of our cell phones. On my phone, ICE 1 is our home number and ICE 2 is our daughter's home number.

ICE is no substitute for carrying ID and emergency contact info in other forms, but it's a good idea. Think about it. By the way, the story that ICE entries spread a costly cell phone virus is a total hoax. Don't fall for it.

<u>Band</u>	<u># CW QSOs</u>	<u># Phone QSOs</u>
160 Meters	0	0
80 Meters	79	79
40 Meters	106	62
20 Meters	44	398
15 Meters	0	21
10 Meters	0	0
VHF (6 M)	0	19

Totals

QSO Points = 2,074

Bonus Points = 1,070

Final Claimed Score for W3NWA = **3,144 points**

Claimed Bonus Points

The numbers in brackets are the relevant Field Day rules.

1. Emergency Power [7.3.1] **400 Points**
2. Media Publicity [7.3.2] **100 Points**
3. Public Location [7.3.3] **100 Points**
4. Public Info. Table [7.3.4] **100 Points**
5. Message Origination to ARRL Section Manager (WB3FPL - Eric) [7.3.5] **100 Points**
6. Site Visitation by Elected Official (government) [7.3.11] **100 Points**
7. Site Visitation by Rep. of Agency (such as Red Cross/Law Enforcement) [7.3.14] **100 Points**
8. Web Submission [7.3.14] **50 Points**
9. Field Day Participant @ 18 years of age or younger -- (at least 1 QSO required) - **20 Points**

Our under-18 op was **Owen N3WO**, who actually made most of our CW contacts this year.

AUTOPATCH OPERATION CHANGE

For reasons best known to itself, the autopatch on the MARC repeaters now requires us to dial "1" before the area code and phone number. We didn't intentionally program it to do that, but it does!

Otherwise the access procedure remains the same. If you need a copy of the autopatch codes and guidelines, please contact **Kay N3KN**. This information is provided only to licensed members of the club.

AUTUMN OPERATING FUN

The chart shown here is just a small sample of the operating events held in September and October. There's a handy on-line calendar showing the whole year's calendar and -- even better -- a calendar showing what's on in the following 8 days, complete with exchange information and links to sponsors' web sites. This calendar is found at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html. Check it out!

ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 10 to 0300Z, Sep 12
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 24 to 2400Z, Sep 25
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 24 to 0200Z, Sep 25 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 25
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 1
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 1 to 2200Z, Oct 2
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 8 to 0500Z, Oct 9 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 9
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 29 to 2400Z, Oct 30

The Pennsylvania QSO Party is -- despite what Californians say -- the biggest and best of the state contests. You do not have to be a hard-core contester to participate and enjoy it. In fact, the PAQP is a great opportunity to sample competitive operating to see if you like it.

Several MARC members do the contest seriously, and the club takes part in the club competition. Contributing your score to the club total does not prevent you from competing as an individual. All you have to do is write "Mid-Atlantic ARC" in the entry form box for club affiliation. Do not just write "MARC," because there are several clubs with that abbreviation in Pennsylvania.

If you'd like to know more about the Pennsylvania QSO Party and how to operate in it, contact **Carter N3AO** or **Kay N3KN**. The official contest web site is www.nittany-arc.net/paqsq.html.

The CQ Worldwide DX Contest is an excellent chance to work all sorts of DX stations. Friday night is bedlam, not recommended for any but the eats-raw-meat contester, but on Saturday and Sunday your 100 watts will work plenty of nice DX. Most MARC members live in the eastern USA, and our exchange for the contest -- what you say to the other operator -- is "5 9 0 5." That's the signal report (always 5-9) and our CQ zone, which is 5, said as "oh five" to make things clear. Contesters in other countries often use Logbook of the World, so if you're signed up for that service you can confirm a lot of your CQWW contacts without spending too much money on postage and bureau fees.

A note about CQ World Wide contests: Casual operators who do not plan to submit an entry should avoid calling stations in the USA except for Alaska and Hawaii, which are fair game. It has to do with the rules and scoring and stuff you don't care about. Suffice it to say that CQWW contest ops in the lower 48 states are not interested in working you. They *can*, under the rules, but they'd rather not. Don't waste their time.

In the ARRL International DX contests, held in February and March, contacts between operators in the lower 48 states are not allowed, period, so if you call a domestic station you may be ignored or actually snapped at. In any contest with "DX" in the title, you want to concentrate on stations located outside the lower 48 states of the USA.

VANITY CALLSIGN FEE RISES

The application fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign rose to \$21.90 effective for applications received on or after Tuesday, August 23. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a new Fee Filing Guide spelling out fees for services it regulates.

In a Report and Order and Order On Reconsideration in the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 released July 7, the FCC raised the vanity application fee for FY 2005 from \$20.80 to \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The FCC said it had adjusted FY 2004 "payment units" for each service to better reflect expected FY 2005 payment liabilities.

The fee went up from \$16.30 to \$20.80 a year ago. A re-evaluation in the number of anticipated vanity call sign applications -- or "payment units" -- accounts for this latest fee hike. The FCC says it anticipates 7600 vanity applications, up only slightly from a year earlier. More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site at www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html.

The first vanity callsigns issued when the present vanity program came into being will begin to come up for renewal in the summer of 2006. For reasons that make no sense whatsoever, the FCC will require the same fee for renewal of a vanity call that it's requiring for new applications. In other words, if your vanity callsign is due for renewal next summer, you'll be paying \$21.90 to renew it.

The FCC claims there are additional expenses involved in renewing a license having a vanity callsign, but they've never been willing to say what those expenses are. In your editor's opinion they charge the fee for renewing vanity callsigns because they can, not because there is any additional expense compared to renewing a license with a non-vanity callsign.

ARRL INTRODUCES ARES E- NEWSLETTER

The ARES E-Letter is an electronic monthly newsletter about Amateur Radio emergency communications. League members can have it delivered by e-mail at no charge. It's also posted on line at the ARRL web site after subscribers receive their e-mail copies.

To find out more, go to www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/. There you can read back issues and get information on how to subscribe for e-mail delivery of future issues.

SAVE \$\$ ON ARRL'S ON-LINE RFI COURSE

Those who take advantage of early bird registration for ARRL's on-line Radio Frequency Interference course (EC-006) will save \$10 off the regular tuition. Students must sign up by Monday, September 26, to qualify for the special rate. Registration closes Sunday, October 2, and class begins Friday, October 14. Course mentor and coordinator **Terry Dettmann WX7S** says RFI is a problem, and the ARRL RFI course is part of the solution. Read the ARRL web site story dated August 23, and see the course syllabus at www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec006.

MID-ATLANTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 2154
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ELECTION BALLOT FOR 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vote for only one candidate for each office. Any licensed member of the club may be written in for any office. Ballots may be cast in person at the September 27, 2005, meeting of the club, or they may be mailed to the post office box address shown above so as to arrive by September 27. Votes will be counted and the results announced at the club meeting. Households with more than one licensed club member may copy this form so that all members can vote, and may return the ballots in a single mailing envelope. Do not combine several members' votes on a single ballot sheet, as that will cause the ballot to be void. All members are on our honor as Radio Amateurs to vote only once.

PRESIDENT

_____ Steve Maslin N3ORH

_____ Write-in: _____

VICE-PRESIDENT

_____ Bart Feroe K4BF

_____ Write-in: _____

SECRETARY

_____ Dick Thompson K3IIN

_____ Write-in: _____

TREASURER

_____ Carter Craigie N3AO

_____ Write-in: _____

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CHAIRMAN

_____ Kay Craigie N3KN

_____ Write-in: _____

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

(no nominee)

_____ Write-in: _____

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

_____ Dennis DeMarco KA3QOT

_____ Miguel Ramirez KC2HMG

_____ Write-in: _____

PUBLIC SERVICE CHAIRMAN

_____ Bob Palin N3JIZ

_____ Write-in: _____

TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN

_____ Dennis Silage K3DS

_____ Write-in: _____

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Term expires 2007)

_____ Dori Lawson W3IBH

_____ Write-in: _____