



REMARCS



JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1993

JANUARY 21 CLUB MEETING -- LET'S MAKE A DEAL!

Once again, it's time to clean out the shack and trade the junk . . . er, stuff . . . for dollars. Here are the ground rules:

Your own ham radio and ham-related equipment only.
Only MARC members may offer items for sale -- no dealers.
MARC receives 10% donation of the sale price of each item, or \$10, whichever is less.
Tag items with your name/callsign, what it is (no, it isn't always obvious), and (if any) your minimum acceptable price.
Take home anything of yours that is not sold.

Please bring some small bills or a checkbook to handle the 10% donation. All items are sold as-is. MARC gives no warranties or guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding items offered for sale. The club and the auctioneer will not be liable for any problems arising from sales at this event. Kindly limit the amount of stuff you bring in. Everyone deserves to have a chance in the time available. Please refer any questions to President AL W3DZI (446-4936).

VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN

It's election time! Nominations Chairman BOB W3ZQN developed a slate with two contested races. If you are a licensed member, a ballot is enclosed with this newsletter. Ballots may be cast in person at the January 21 meeting or mailed to the P.O. box so as to arrive not later than the club meeting date. Do not put your name or callsign on the ballot. Statements of qualifications were invited from the candidates in contested races; responses are printed 'on the back of the election ballot.

1993 DUES NOW ACCEPTED (GLADLY!)

Membership dues are being accepted between now and March 1, the official renewal deadline. Dues can be paid by mail or at the club meetings. Prompt renewal makes life easier for the treasurer and membership chairman. It also saves our club money when we don't have to send out yoo-hoo? mailings, MARC dues are not tax-deductible. Because MARC had 188 licensed members and 9 unlicensed members at the end of 1992, the record-keeping task is no joke. For that reason, we appreciate receiving a membership form for each member in your household. Thanks for your cooperation. Please don't enclose your dues with your election ballot -- something might get lost in the pile-up.

BIG STORM HITS DELAWARE VALLEY -- MARC HELPS!

The storm that began on Thursday, December 10, produced blizzards, high winds, and flooding in the northeastern States. Here in the Delaware Valley, a major problem was power failures caused by falling trees and branches. JIM KD3NI, in Devon, was without electricity for over 24 hours . . . but he was one of the lucky ones! Some residents of Delaware and Chester Counties were without power much longer. On Friday evening, the American Red Cross contacted Delaware County ARES Emergency Coordinator AL N3GTK, who in turn called Public Service Chairman STEVE K3KFD, for communications assistance at shelters being set up for people whose power wasn't coming back any time soon. SEAN N3EOG and DAN KA3KHR responded to Steve's call for communicators at Ithan School and were on the spot within an hour of Al's call to Steve. Steve intended to help at a shelter planned for Welsh Valley Middle School that was canceled before it actually started up. During the Friday traffic net, information was exchanged with the team at the Ithan School shelter. Because the shelter had no customers, the Red Cross closed it down. NED WQ3Z was prepared to help later in the evening, had he been needed.

Communications were on 14513/R. The '06 machine was off the air because of a lengthy power failure at Cabrini College. As late as Monday the 14th, traffic was snarled (and snarling) on Route 30 because traffic lights were on blinker, and some people were still without electricity. Some fun! We're glad MARC members were able to help the Red Cross during this emergency.

ABOUT MARC

MEETINGS

3rd Thursday each month at Memorial Library of Radnor Township, Wayne (near the Post Office), 8 PM. Guests welcome. Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD

Meets 4th Thursday each month, 7:30 PM, Paoli Hospital, Meeting Room "6."

SYSTEMS

14513/R cross-linked with 224.42/R, 147.08/R, WB3JOE Packet BBS 145.090

NETS

CLUB NET	SUNDAY 8:30 PM	147.06/R
TRAFFIC NET	M/W/F 8:30 PM	147.06/R

DUES

\$15 licensed, \$5 associate (unlicensed) -- Membership year begins March 1.
Family membership rate: \$5 per ham after first member pays full dues.

V O X

MARC's sincere condolences to DAVE KA3FVB, whose wife passed away in December. BOB W3SA was one of a select few Pennsylvanians honored by GOV. CASEY in 1992 for outstanding service to Town Watch. New Year's wish for LINK W3IVS is to get healthy -- no more hospital stuff, okay? Same goes for TIM WZ3Y, who suffered a stroke in late '92. We hope STEVE N3WZ's recent back operation takes him off the "ouch" list for good. CARL WA3ZZU writes from medical school in Kirksville, MO, that there's one 2m repeater in the area and zilch on the higher VHF/UHF bands. DAVE WB3EHS had a big signal in the November Sweepstakes; KAY WT3P missed a "clean sweep" by one multiplier. STEVE K3KFD reports a good run in the ARRL 10m Contest. SEAN N3EOG should have been credited as one of the communicators at the 10k run last fall.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

Nearly ten years ago, a very new ham called up the president of MARC and said, "If you ever need a new newsletter editor, I'd like to try it." Five minutes later, KA3KPW (*who?*) had the job. About 3 years afterwards, the ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager was looking for somebody to create a Section newsletter, and my name was mentioned. I accepted that challenge and was appointed an Assistant Section Manager. A few years later, I ran for Section Manager, and today I'm Vice Director of the ARRL Atlantic Division. It all began with that one phone call. Who knows where it will end?

Well, maybe you don't want ham radio to mutate into an unpaid almost-full-time job involving thousands of miles on the road and in the air every year! Okay. The point is that if ham radio has you feeling like a wallflower at the high school dance, it doesn't have to be that way. *In 1993, as in 1983, the best way to feel included is to get involved.* When volunteers are called for, do it. Come observe a MARC Board meeting. Try something new . . . and who knows where it will end? -- **73 de WT3P**

LICENSE TEST SESSION REPORT

At the November 7 test session, 4 candidates were served. One earned Technician, one Technician + HF, 1 upgraded to General, and 1 passed Extra theory. The Volunteer Examiners were PAUL NX3Q, HUGH KC3IE, WALT WB3BDP, ROB W13S, BOB W3SA, BOB W3ZQN, BOB KA3NIQ, NED WQ3Z, HARRY NS3A, and AL W3DZI.



The next MARC test session will be Saturday, February 13, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Arrive by 9:15 AM to complete paperwork.

Bring positive ID, plus the original and 1 photocopy of your license. Bring originals of any certificates needed to prove your current status. Also bring **\$5.60** test fee (*note increase*), payable to ARRL/VEC, if taking a test above Novice. If you bring cash, have correct change. For further information and directions, contact BOB W3ZQN (2656032).

MARC BULLETINS QRT?

As of the end of December, the Sunday night club net no longer opens with bulletins. Bulletin station HUGH KC3IE wanted to step down, and no replacement has come forward. Members who would be willing to give short local-interest bulletins on the Sunday nets should contact Net Manager BART. KC3BP (367-4288) or Membership Services Chairman NED WQ3Z (825-5528). Otherwise, a long-standing club service is finished. How about some newcomers to the club forming a bulletin team, so no individual is over-burdened?

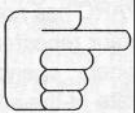
**REMARCS is the bi-monthly newsletter
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Kay Craigie W13P editor
993-9623**

THE PACKET POCKET

OPERATING TIPS

Tired of WB3JOE's long message when there are more than 19 messages to list if you don't want a pause or the long message, just type **L0**. After an **L0**, type **LTIME NOW** to update your counter.

When sending a packet message to a ham at a distant BBS, help the sysops by giving the complete hierarchical address. If WB3JOE doesn't know where N7QRU BBS is, your message won't move. If you address your message to KA7PAL @ N7QRU.ORG.USA.NA, it'll head right off towards Oregon.



When you get that new TNC on the air, do everybody a favor: **DON'T BEACON!** Beacons

was OK when there were 5 people on packet in the Delaware Valley. Today, home station and personal mailbox beacons are channel-choking digital doo-doo. Get da picksher?

SMOOTH SALE-ING

But seriously (*who, me?*), let's review what the FCC's Rules permit in sale and wanted announcements. The Rules apply as much to a voice swap net as to packet. A ham may "inform other amateur operators of the availability of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, including such apparatus for sale or trade. This exception is not authorized to any person seeking to derive a profit by buying or selling such apparatus on a regular basis" [§97.113(a) (2)].



Common sense indicates what apparatus (*English = stuff*) is normally used in a modern Amateur station. It certainly is not football tickets, bicycles, computer

games, accounts receivable programs, or cocker spaniel puppies. The last sentence of the Rule prohibits dealers from doing business on the ham bands.

If an improper sale/wanted bulletin appears on WB3JOE, it is deleted by a sysop. If it began at 'JOE, the originator will receive a notice of the deletion. Any questions about what flies and what dies at WB3JOE should be referred to the callsign trustee, AL W3DZI (446-4936).

THE FUNETIC ALPHABET

adapted from the original by MIKE MORROW AB6NN
[tnx Binghamton (NY) ARA "BARA Facts"]

The letters B, C, D, E, G, P, T, V, and Z and the number 3 sound quite alike over the air. The letters A and K and the number 8 all sound alike, too. Some help is often needed to make sure the listener gets the correct letter. That is the reason for the standard phonetic alphabet.

But the previous standard phonetic alphabet is out of date. For example, the

word for 'F' is 'Foxtrot.' No one knows how to do the foxtrot any more, and the listener might think you were asking for this dance, which is silly as there is no music playing.

With that in mind, this updated alphabet is submitted for your approval. Your rate of communication is sure to climb, and all will appreciate the higher level of understanding and time savings this can provide.

[The ozone hole's getting a little larger over 6-land, eh?]

A Aisle	N Neoconservative
B Bilharziasis	O Oedipus
C Cue	P Phlox
D Djinn	Q Queue
E Ewe	R Ratiocination
F Flocks	S Sea
G Gnome	T Tsar
H Honor	U Umiak
I ideogramatically	V Valetudinarian
J Junta	W Why
K Knob	X Xylophone
L Llama	Y You
M Mnemonic	Z Zwieback

BRYN MAWR MESSAGE EVENT



MARC members went to Bryn Mawr Hospital on December 19 for the annual radiogram event. This year, there was some kind of communication problem with the hospital, because only about a dozen messages were waking to be transmitted. Thanks to other messages submitted by RAY N3BPJ, participants didn't waste their Saturday morning.

Operators taking part in the event were STEVE K3KFD, CARTER KD3AO, CHARLIE KB3ABV, WALT WB3BDP, TED KA3QKV, BART KC3BP, JIM KD3NI, JOE N3LMV, NORM N3KNW, NED WQ3Z, and CAROLE KA3UUQ.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY PLANNED FOR 1993

A survey of the membership's opinions and interests is planned for later this year. We have added many new members since the last time this was done. The idea is to find out what kind of club activities you want to take part in, what directions you want your club to take, etc. it's not a "how can the few entertain the many?" production, but rather an effort to find out what the members themselves want to do.

WINTER OPERATING TIPS

In the worst winter weather months, please make an extra effort to operate courteously on the repeaters. Leave pauses between transmissions for motorists in trouble to jump in. Never ask a breaking station to "stand by" while you finish your gabfest about SWR. Finally, monitor the repeaters during winter storms, in case there's a call for help.

If you're the driver during bad weather, use common sense. Pay attention to the road, not a QSO, and avoid taking a hand off the wheel or eyes off the road to fiddle with the radio. Keep a current **ARRL REPEATER DIRECTORY** in your car, if you travel outside the local area, so you can find a repeater in case help is needed. If you break down, be aware that some repeaters do not permit calls to garages or AAA on their autopatches under any circumstances. MARC does allow such emergency calls, by the way.