



MARCH / APRIL 2004

REMARCS

www.marc-radio.org

DUES DEADLINE IS MARCH 1

This is the last issue of *REMARCS* that will be sent to members whose 2004 dues are not paid. Please renew now, because the club needs and values all our members.

A renewal form in PDF format is posted on the club's web site at www.marc-radio.org. Just "Click here for your 2004 membership form." If you get *REMARCS* on paper, a renewal form was enclosed with the last issue; if we didn't receive your dues by the newsletter mailing date, another copy of the form is enclosed with the issue you're reading now. The PDF version has a renewal form included.

If you have paid your 2004 dues, thank you for staying with the club and paying promptly.

Starting this year, the old wallet-size membership cards have been replaced by a postcard acknowledging your renewal and indicating your membership expiration date. These are easier and cheaper to produce and mail than the old format.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

MARC's public service communications activity for 2004 starts in April. These events do not take all day, are not difficult, and no previous experience is required or expected. They're excellent training for ARES/RACES ops in addition to your usual nets and drills. Please contact **Bob N3JIZ** (610-687-4587) to sign up or get more information about what's involved in helping at these events:

- April 17 (Saturday): Mothers of Multiples 5K Race, 8 AM. Starts at Kerr Park, Downingtown. Talk-in on 147.06/R.
- April 25 (Sunday): Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon, 8 AM, West Goshen Park. Talk-in on 147.06/R.
- April 25 (Sunday): This one's tentative. March of Dimes Walkathon, 8 AM, location to be announced.
- May 31 (Monday): Memorial Day Parade, Wayne. More info in the next newsletter.

GOING TO SPRING HAMFESTS?

MARC hamfest flyers need to be taken to spring hamfests. We need volunteers who're going to the hamfests to put some flyers on the information tables at the events. That's all you have to do! The hamfests and their dates are Baltimore ARC (Timonium), March 27-28; York, April 18; Warminster, May 2; Fredericksburg (Lebanon County), May 8; Murgas (Wilkes-Barre), July 3; Harrisburg, July 4. This is vital hamfest publicity work. If you can help, contact **Mike KF3CD** (610-935-4429, mpilotti@anro.com) to arrange to get some flyers.

ANNUAL JUNQUE AUCTION MARCH 23

The annual Junque Auction will take place at the meeting on March 23. If you're new to the club, the auction is a wintertime chance to sell the ham and ham-related stuff that's been taking up space in your shack and buy the stuff that's been taking up space at somebody else's house. Small items and bargains usually sell the best -- save the big-ticket gear for the MARC hamfest on July 11. Even if you don't want to buy or sell anything, auctioneer **Bart K4BF** will make sure you are entertained. Invite your friends from other radio clubs to attend as buyers. We'll take their money, too.

The ground rules are these: (1) Ham and ham-related equipment only. (2) Only MARC members may offer items for sale. No dealers, please. MARC receives 10% of the sales price or \$10, whichever is less. (4) Tag items with your name and callsign (if any), the minimum acceptable price (if any), and what the item is. (5) Take home any unsold items. **NO DUMPING AT THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING!** (6) 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(s) will not be liable for any problems arriving from sales.

There is no limit on the number of items you may bring to sell. If you are disposing of estate equipment that belonged to a ham who was not a MARC member, that's okay.

Bring some small bills, because we have very limited ability to make change. We can't guarantee that sellers will accept personal checks.

APRIL PROGRAM: THE ROUTE 202 PROJECT

Back in the 1980's, Upper Merion and Tredyffrin Townships carried out a study on what to do about increasingly-congested US 202. That led to the recently-completed 202 corridor reconstruction project, which gave us fits for years but now makes life much easier -- or will once I memorize which lanes to get in to go where at the new King of Prussia interchange.

Our April program will be presented by **Rex Mackey**, PennDot Senior Assistant Construction Engineer, speaking on the Route 202 project from conception to completion. This is civil engineering rather than electrical engineering, of course, but design and construction of such a major project is a technical undertaking all the same.

Everybody who ever operated toy dump-trucks in a pile of dirt in the back yard or secretly yearned for one of those cute little front-end-loaders you see at the job sites will enjoy this program. I have, and I'm a girl, so you might as well admit it, too, Buster. See you there!

Stay aware of club activities, license exams, public service events, meeting program topics, etc. On the MARC Web page, click on Upcoming Events and explore the options, including a comprehensive calendar of events.

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
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
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!

LICENSE EXAMS

Next tests are on May 1

MARC's Volunteer Examiners gave tests on February 7 to 4 candidates. One person earned Technician + HF privileges, and another did a paper-work upgrade to General. Two candidates were not successful in passing the tests they took.

The examiners were **Bob W3ZQN**, **Paul NX3Q**, **Bob KA3NIQ**, **Bob W3SA**, **Steve KD0VA**, **Ted NT3J**, **Dick K3ITH**, and **Dennis K3DS**.

The next MARC license exams will be on Saturday, May 1, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. Applicants should arrive by 9:15 AM to complete the paper-work for their tests. Pre-registration with **Bob W3ZQN** (610-265-6032, rjlees@aol.com) is essential, because if nobody pre-registers the session will be cancelled to avoid wasting the examiners' Saturday morning.

MARC members may take part in one club-sponsored test session per year free of charge as a membership benefit. To qualify, you MUST have paid your 2004 dues!

VOX

Welcome new member **William W3UAX** and returning member **Russ K3RH**. Congratulations to **Richard KB3KBC**, who upgraded to General. **Richard K2RSJ** is now a General and has moved back to Pennsylvania from New Jersey. **Kay N3KN** ranked 640th -- quit laughing, it's in the top 50%! worldwide -- on the 2003 ARRL DXCC Challenge award list. **Carter N3AO** earned DXCC on 40 meters. Take a good look at the table of contents in the April QST -- you may see a familiar name among the authors. A south Jersey local paper published a feature article about **Miguel KC2HMG**, describing his work as a DJ, his day job with the Philadelphia Early Childhood Collaborative, and another project -- an organization fostering creativity among gifted minority children. And he has time for ham radio, too! **Bob W3LIA** and **Dick K3IIN** enjoyed a PSK31 QSO between Pennsylvania and Florida. **Rich KC2EFA** has been ill -- we hope he's improving steadily. The club's "Pennsylvania 67" award was earned by **Edward Erickson W2CVW** of South Amboy, NJ.

If you know any hams in the area who don't have a home radio club, we have information sheets about MARC that can be sent to them. We can send one to you to relay, or we can mail it directly to the person you have in mind. Contact **Kay N3KN** for help.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

At the January 22 meeting, the board received reports on future programs, membership recruitment, public relations activity, future public service events, and progress towards establishing a 440 MHz repeater. A letter has been written to Verizon requesting use of the Field Day site. The treasurer's report for the period since the last board meeting on December 4 indicated expenses of \$562.51, income of \$717.18, and a balance of \$11,599.70.

At the February 26 meeting, the board noted that permission to use the Field Day site has been received. Reports were given about future programs, public service events, and membership renewal. Only about 1/3 of the members have renewed, partly owing to cancellation of the January meeting. The treasurer's report showed expenses of \$1,068.52, income of \$760.65, and a balance of \$11,079.84.

FIELD DAY SITE OK'D FOR 2004

Bob W3SA has secured use of the usual site in Audubon, PA, for Field Day. Now we need people to express interest in organizing the event. If you'd like to be part of the leadership team, contact one of the board Members-at-Large (see the box, page 3) as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

As an ARRL Special Service Club, MARC has the privilege of nominating an HF Awards Manager, who can check Worked All States applications, and a VHF Awards Manager, who can check VHF-UHF Century Club applications. Our HF Awards Manager is **Steve K3KFD**. The person who used to be our VHF Awards Manager hasn't been a MARC member for years. If any MARC member who is an ARRL member is interested in becoming our VHF Awards Manager, please contact **Kay N3KN** for a copy of the new guidelines. (*Which, by the way, she co-wrote.*)

The January meeting had to be cancelled because of ice and snow. The program by Joe Vilardo K3JV on selecting and setting up an emergency home generator has been rescheduled for the club meeting in May.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX

One of our members reports being chewed out on another group's repeater because of something he said. Did he curse, swear, tell a smutty joke, utter an ethnic slur, or take in vain the name of **Richie Ashburn**? Nope. He merely used the Morse code expression "QRT" on voice, which brought out some Slang Nazi to rip his head off. Not one of those nut jobs who likes being bullied, our MARC brother says in the future he'll leave the users of that machine to their own companionship.

One reason I like MARC is that we have never provided a friendly environment for unfriendly behavior. As we go through the coming months of controversy about ham radio licensing privileges and requirements, I am sure MARC members will maintain our club's custom of expressing ourselves respectfully about others' opinions no matter how strongly we believe in our own.

Just when you think you have put the socks on the octopus . . . Last year I wrote about an e-mail screening program that allows you to bounce spam messages back to the senders. This kind of software may just be getting on the nerves of the spammers. Lately some spammers have learned to forge e-mail headers to make it seem like you sent the spam to yourself, so you can't bounce the message back at them. As the old western folk proverb says, "There was never a bronco that couldn't be rode / And never a cowboy that couldn't be throwed."

Several times in the past few months Carter and I received QSL cards for a number of other hams included in return envelopes we had sent direct to operators in other countries. It's a pain in the neck. When I can find e-mail addresses for the recipients, I ask them if they want the cards. Some reply promptly, but others do not have the courtesy to answer. I could throw away their cards, but I don't. I toss them in a pile with the ones for people who don't seem to have e-mail. When I have a bunch, I send them to the incoming QSL bureau and make it somebody else's problem.

Who likes feeling taken advantage of? But then there was the Bulgarian ham whom Carter and I helped out several years ago, fully realizing he might be playing us for chumps. Time went by, we wrote it off to good intentions, but then one day a box arrived from Bulgaria with two bottles of wine inside. The white should have been labeled "oven cleaner," but the red was really pretty good. I kept the bottles. They're picturesque and also remind me that sometimes when you cast your bread upon the waters, you end up with more than soggy bread. -- **73, Kay N3KN**

MORSE GROUP QSO'S WITH NEW HAMPSHIRE CODE CLASS

Carter N3AO has been meeting with a group of club members who have passed their Morse code tests but want to improve their sending skills using paddles. Regulars have been **Dick K3IIN**, **Ted NT3J**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, and **David KB3CRY**, with old-hand **Bob W3SA** observing. Carter set up a system on his dining room table so each person has a set of paddles attached to an old MFJ Super Keyboard serving as a keyer.

After the group practiced copying and sending code for several weeks, Carter arranged a sked with friend **Jim Cluett W1PID**, who's teaching a code class in New Hampshire. Carter brought his Elecraft K2 transceiver into the room and ran a feedline out to the antenna. Carter and Jim had a brief conversation to start things off. Jim's students are total beginners with the code and don't know all the characters yet, but they were able to send their names over the air. Some of the hams at Carter's house sent code back to the NH guys.

Word is that the New Englanders, though rank beginners, were able to copy most of what our guys sent and that our guys got high marks for having good fists. "Morse" and "Castor Oil" aren't synonyms! This was fun!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2004

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smaslin@marc-radio.org

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PUBLIC SERVICE

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To 9/30/2004: Al Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

To 9/30/2005: Gene Hoenig N3HG
610-353-3281, n3hg@arri.net

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE: Al Maslin N3EA
610-446-4936, amaslin@earthlink.net

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

TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

As part of their community outreach and crime prevention effort, the Tredyffrin Township Police Department offers a Citizens' Police Academy program each fall. The course meets once a week for 10-11 weeks and introduces people to the fundamentals of community law enforcement.

Officer **James Mutter**, who presented our February meeting program on terrorism awareness, mentioned the citizens' academy program to your editor after the meeting was over and said that it's possible to participate even if you don't live in Tredyffrin Township. First, though, check and see if your local police department offers a similar kind of program.

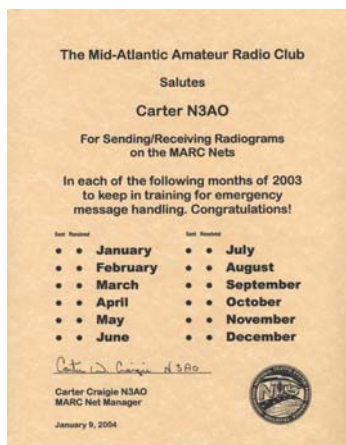
To see the course outline and bookmark where to watch for announcement of dates later this year, go on the Internet to www.tredyffrin.org/departments/police/crime/programs.aspx.

TRAFFIC NET CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

MARC sponsors the oldest VHF traffic (formal message) net in Philly's Pennsylvania suburbs. Only one other local club, RF Hill ARC, sponsors a VHF traffic net. Although formal message relay is not the be-all and end-all of ham radio emergency communication as it was many years ago, the skill is still important because hams are expected to know how to do this by some served agencies. It isn't something you can learn to do from reading a book. You have to learn and practice it on the air.

To encourage participation in the MARC traffic nets, we offer certificates recognizing operators who send and/or receive at least one radiogram on the MARC nets. The certificates are endorsed for each month that you send/receive a message.

The MARC nets do not encourage the generation of spam -- identical messages sent to long lists of people, especially long lists of people the sender does not know personally. Rather, we like net participants to send meaningful messages to friends, family, and fellow hams.



Operators who have qualified for certificates from January 1 - February 16, 2004

Carter N3AO
Ed W3BNR
Raymond N3ESS
Bill KN3EUF
Bob KB3FSQ
Gene N3HG
Dori W3IBH
Ray KB3IGL
Dick K3IIN
Ted NT3J
Mike KB3JFO
Andy K3JSE
Bob WR3K

Reg N3KAS
Bob W3LIA
Dave W3QMR
Cliff W3NNL
Dana AA3QN
Steve KB2RTZ
Gene WB2UVB
Mike N3VJN
Jean N2VQA
Ned WQ3Z
Bob W3ZQN

If you don't usually read the "Public Service" column in *QST*, you might want to start. Some time later this year you may find a story . . . Well, you'll just have to keep reading the column each month and see what turns up!

ESTATE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Past MARC member **Roy Bonsall W3GXR** became a Silent Key last August, and his daughter is now disposing of his ham radio equipment. **Harry W3FM** and **Jim W3BG** researched the prices on line. Some of the equipment may be at the MARC auction; other gear may be offered for sale at the hamfest. Private sales are also possible. Most items have their instruction manuals. The equipment is as follows:

- Kenwood PS 52 power supply (13.8V, 16A) - \$160
- Kenwood HF Transceiver TS-805S with Instruction Manual and External Control Instruction Manual - \$175
- Kenwood Micro Dynamic Mic w plug cord (impedance 600) - \$20
- Preceding 3 Kenwood items as a package - \$325
- Micronta 12 Volt power supply (1.75A) - \$25
- MFJ Deluxe Electronic Keyer Model MFJ-407B - \$42
- MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II Model MFJ-949C - \$70
- Sony Headphones MDR CD 10 - \$5
- Panasonic AC Adapter Model #RP-85A and Longines Symphonette AC Adapter (both 6V 200mA DC out) - \$4/pair
- Hand key (metal) - \$20
- MFJ Bandswitched HF Dip Meter Model MFJ-203 - \$60
- Dynascan Volt-Ohm-Milliammeter - \$40
- Archer Universal AC Adapter (300 mA DC out) - \$8
- Barker & Williamson 52 OHM Low Pass Filter - \$10
- MFJ I2/24 Hour Dual LCD clock - \$10
- 1994 ARRL *Antenna Book* & software - \$10
- 2000 ARRL *Handbook* - \$10

If you may be interested in purchasing some of these items, please contact **Linda Bonsall**, 610-695-0956, lbonsall@juno.com.

Smile -- You're a Radio Amateur!

ARRL ON-LINE COURSES

The League offers Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) courses on the Internet. The course subjects at the present time are emergency communications (3 levels), antenna modeling, HF digital communications, RFI, VHF/UHF beyond repeaters, and antenna design/construction.

Each on-line course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities, and quizzes. Courses are interactive and include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor and other students. Mentors assist students by guiding them through the course.

This spring, an on-line Technician license course will debut. This will be great for people who want to become hams but haven't been able to take an in-person class or find a suitable local Elmer (mentor) to help them study for the exam.

To find out more about the ARRL's courses, go to www.arrl.org/cce/, where you'll find course descriptions, syllabi, and information about fees and registration. For those of us who don't know it all, these courses are a great way to learn more.

FLEA MARKET

Free: 1999 ARRL Periodicals (*QST*, *NCJ*, *QEX*) on CD-ROM. Can be used on Windows computer or Mac. Somehow I wound up with 2 copies and this one could become yours! Contact **Kay N3KN** (n3kn@arrl.net, 610-993-9623)

MID-ATLANTIC QSO PARTY ANNOUNCED

The first Mid-Atlantic QSO Party will take place May 8-9. The contest was invented as a result of discussion among participants in the Pennsylvania QSO Party.

Mid-Atlantic states for the purpose of this contest are Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Complete information about the operating event is posted on the Web at www.qsl.net/maqso.

The Mid-Atlantic QSO Party is not sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club. A former member of MARC, **Allen Huber WG3E**, is one of the contest organizers, however.

Some wise-guy remarked that in the sixties, people took LSD to make the world seem weird. Now, the world really is weird and people take Prozac to make it seem normal.

BEWARE OF FINANCIAL SCAMS ABOUT EBAY, PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS, ETC

If you don't know that people who e-mail you offering to give you a zillion dollars for helping them launder money from some third-world country actually intend to take YOU to the cleaners, you are probably still in deep denial about the Tooth Fairy.

Other on-line financial scams are slicker and easier to fall for. According to a story on the ARRL web site, Amateurs who use the eBay auction site should be on the lookout for e-mail messages appearing to be from eBay or PayPal that request recipients to update their billing information or face account termination. Such e-mails are bogus, eBay says. "The people who send these e-mails hope that unsuspecting recipients will reply or click on a link contained in the email and then provide sensitive personal information."

That information could include passwords, Social Security numbers and even credit card numbers. "Just because an e-mail looks like it's from eBay or PayPal -- and even includes links to a site that appear to be eBay or PayPal -- it doesn't mean it really is," the auction site says. The eBay Web site offers a "Spoof Email Protection Tutorial" that includes on-line safety tips.

This story is right on target. Be suspicious of any unsolicited e-mail that says to click on a link in the message to update bank records, credit card account information, etc. The scammers try to alarm you into acting before you think. We must be our own watchdogs in these matters!

For example, I received an e-mail threatening to close my PayPal account if I didn't click on a link and update my information. The catch was -- I didn't have a PayPal account! I received another e-mail telling me to click on a link to update credit card account information. Instead, I contacted the bank that issued the credit card to ask if the message were genuine. It wasn't.

On-line commerce is convenient and has a high-tech attractiveness to us hams. Be sure your bovine manure sensor is set on "high" when you read your e-mail, and beware of directions in any unsolicited e-mail to reveal information that could be used to steal your money or even swipe your identity!

AREA CLUBS HELP PROTECT SPECTRUM

The ARRL's list of ham radio clubs which have donated to the Spectrum Defense Fund that supports the research and lobbying effort against BPL includes a number of clubs from our region. Here are some names you may recognize:

Anthracite Repeater Association

Baltimore ARC (*sponsors March hamfest at Timonium*)

Delaware County ARA

RF Hill ARC

Lehigh Valley ARC

Mid-Atlantic ARC

Nittany ARC (*sponsors the Pennsylvania QSO Party*)

Phil-Mont Mobile RC

Pottstown Area ARC

South Jersey RA

MARC is proud to be on the honor roll of clubs supporting the defense of our frequencies. If you haven't made a personal donation, please think about it. It's tax-deductible. For the full updated list of clubs that have donated, and links to information about making your own donation, go to www.arrl.org/development/bpl-thanks.html

BITS & PIECES

Planning a summer vacation and wondering what's involved in operating ham radio outside the USA? ARRL has information for you at www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/.

License exams are given monthly in Pottstown by the Pottstown Area ARC. For information and pre-registration, contact **Alan Gooding AG3T** (ag3t@arrl.net, 610-369-3783). Pre-registration is required for these exams.

If you know a person with disabilities who wants to become a ham, a good resource for your mentoring work is the Handi-Ham organization's web page at www.handiham.org/.

Sometimes we come into possession of old ham gear that has parted company with its manual. There are some on-line sources for vintage-equipment manuals. One of them is www.w7fg.com/. Another is www.manualman.com/.

Congratulations to ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager **Eric Olena WB3FPL**, elected without opposition to another 2-year term of office.

Would you like to help someone who's most comfortable reading Spanish to find out about ham radio in the USA? The Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League has a very good intro page at <http://prarl.org/ORIENTACION.html>. If you'd like to revive your Spanish language skills in a ham radio context, go to the club's main page at <http://prarl.org/> and roam around.

I always thought St. Helena (ZD7) was pronounced with the stress on the first syllable of "Helena" -- Saint HELLena -- but I worked a ZD7 on 15m phone this winter and he pronounced it with the stress on the second syllable -- Saint HeLEEna. In case you are desperate for conversation material at a really dull party, now you know.

NEW SERVICE FOR CASUAL CONTESTERS

Just-for-fun participants in contests who want to submit their logs have been stymied by sponsors' requirement that electronic logs be submitted in a special file format called Cabrillo. These people don't own a contest logging program that can generate a Cabrillo-format log file.

For the ARRL-sponsored contests this is no longer a problem. A web-based applet is now available to generate and email ARRL contest logs in the required Cabrillo file format. The applet, while intended for smaller log submissions, can be used for submissions of any size. It will be available free of charge.

Bruce Horn WA7BNM is developing templates for each ARRL contest, which will allow operators who log on paper, or those whose logging programs will not generate a Cabrillo file, to create electronic logs for submission to the League. Bruce has set up a page at www.b4h.net/cabforms/ where links will take users to the various contest templates.

The applet guides you to fill in the required information and will even automatically e-mail the completed Cabrillo file to the correct contest-specific address at ARRL HQ.

Cabrill-who?

Cabrillo is a text file format specially designed to be processed by contest-scoring computer programs called robots. The robot analyzes and cross-checks logs, spots duplicate and messed-up contacts, computes the scores, and prepares reports for entrants showing their logging mistakes and associated score penalties. Cabrillo files can also be further processed for upload to ARRL's Logbook of the World database. Use of robot software and the Cabrillo format has provided better service to contesters and has saved a great deal of money and employee work hours for contest sponsors such as ARRL and CQ. The League does not require Field Day entries to be in Cabrillo format. Field Day requires lists of callsigns worked, not logs.

OUTGOING QSL BUREAU ADDS TO LIST OF COUNTRIES NOT SERVED

When you prepare outgoing DX QSL cards for the bureau, make sure to remove any cards going to countries that the bureau cannot serve. Recently it has been necessary to add some countries to that list because their national bureaus have stopped functioning. Countries that do not have bureaus are

A3	Tonga	KH9	Wake Is.
A5	Bhutan	KP1	Navassa
A6	U. Arab Emirates	KP5	Desecheo
CN	Morocco	P2	Papua New Guinea
D2	Angola	P5	North Korea
E3	Eritrea	PZ	Suriname
J5	Guinea-Bissau	S0	West. Sahara
J8	St. Vincent	S7	Seychelles
KH0	Marianas	S9	Sao Tome
KH1	Baker/Howland	T2	Tuvalu
KH4	Midway	T3	Kiribati
KH5	Palmyra/Jarvis	T5	Somalia
KH7K	Kure Is.	T8	Palau
KH8	American Samoa	TL	Cameroon

DX NOTES

Dieter K3DK says he worked Mexico and the Austral Islands on 10 meters in January. He comments, "Always good to briefly tune around 10 meters once in a while, and check it out when you get a chance. There will still be some occasional openings." That's an excellent point. Despite the usually pitiful conditions on 10 meters at this time in the sunspot cycle, don't assume!

The ARRL International DX Contest, Phone, is the weekend of March 6-7. Local time, that's 7 PM Friday, March 5, to 7 PM Sunday, March 7. If you have no interest in competing for a score, you can still use the contest to log some nice DX contacts. The exchange is signal report and state for stations in the contiguous 48 states and Canada, signal report and power for other stations. For example, I would send "59 PA" or "59 Pennsylvania" and from a British station I might receive "59 400." In this contest, Alaska and Hawaii count as DX, not as states. Here's an important tip: In this contest, USA stations cannot work each other (again, except for Alaska and Hawaii) or Canadians. Please don't call USA or Canadian stations who're in the contest. They won't log you and you won't get a QSL card. Another tip about contests is to avoid chit-chat. Contest stations don't want anything from you except the required exchange. If that doesn't include your name, the local weather, your rig and antenna, when you graduated from high school, and an inventory of your socks drawer -- then don't say it. If you want to stay away from the contest, this is the weekend to work a non-SSB mode and/or use 12, 17, and 30 meters, where contesting is not practiced.

THE "SKIRMISH" DIGITAL PREFIX CONTEST

The "Skirmish" Digital Prefix Contest will take place on April 17 from 00:00Z - 24:00Z -- that starting time is 7 PM on April 16, Eastern time. The event is sponsored by The Troy (NY) ARA.

Contacts may be made on 160m - 6m, excluding 12, 17, and 30 meters. We can use PSK, MFSK, RTTY, Hellschreiber, Throb, Packet, ASCII, SSTV and MT63. The exchange is name and prefix. For example I would send "KAY N3" as my exchange.

Your score is the number of QSO's multiplied by the number of prefixes times a power multiplier. Each digital mode is scored separately and reported separately. For details, see the Web page at http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html.

TJ	Cent. African Rep	3C0	Pagalu
TN	Congo	3C	Equatorial Guinea
TT	Chad	3W	Vietnam
TY	Benin	3X	Guinea
UK	Uzbekistan	5A	Libya
V6	Micronesia	5R	Madagascar
VP2E	Anguilla	5T	Mauritania
VP2M	Montserrat	5U	Niger
XU	Kampuchea	7O	Yemen
XW	Laos	7P	Lesotho
XZ	Myanmar (Burma)	7Q	Malawi
YA	Afghanistan	8Q	Maldives
ZA	Albania	9N	Nepal
ZD9	Tristan da Cunha	9U	Burundi
ZK1	N&S Cook Is.	9X	Rwanda
3B	Mauritius	9Y	Trinidad/Tobago

NEWS FROM THE ARRL WEB SITE

News is updated daily at www.arrl.org

FCC Proposes Rules for BPL Systems. The FCC has released its *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The 38-page *NPRM* -- in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37 -- proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO **David Sumner K1ZZ** says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrowband emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead. Read more on ARRL's Web site at www.arrl.org.

SATERN net assisting with Haiti traffic. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) Net has activated on 20 meters to assist with health-and-welfare traffic for the troubled nation of Haiti. The net convenes on or near 14.265 MHz. **Jim Adams WA0LSB** is coordinating net control operators for the activation, while **Quent Nelson WA4BZY** is the health-and-welfare team leader. SATERN National Director **Pat McPherson WW9E** says SATERN members are encouraged to monitor the frequency and to assist in relaying traffic as needed. SATERN also offers a health-and-welfare link (<http://qso.com/satern/emailfrm.htm>) on its Web site, for use by those seeking information on family and friends who may be affected by the crisis in Haiti.

Forget your CORES/FRN password? It's possible to reset your CORES/FRN (Commission Registration System/FCC Registration Number) password via the FCC Web site for electronic application filing. This might come in handy if you have forgotten your password, need to change it to another password or were automatically registered for CORES through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator and don't know your password. Visit the secure "Forgot your Password" web site and complete all the required fields. You will need to supply your FCC Registration Number (available via ULS or through many on-line call sign servers, such as ARRL's) as well as your Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), typically your Social Security number. Applicants also will need to supply name, e-mail address and telephone number.

Amateur Radio represented at National Hurricane Conference. The 26th annual National Hurricane Conference this year will again feature a training session involving Amateur Radio. The National Hurricane Conference is the nation's forum for education and professional training in hurricane preparedness, and programs are scheduled April 5-9. The Amateur Radio session will be Tuesday, April 6, at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Amateur Radio operators may attend the Amateur Radio session at no charge and without registering for the full conference. ARRL section leadership from Northern Florida, Southern Florida and West Central Florida will be among the guest speakers to explore the role of Amateur Radio in hurricane communications. Representatives from **WX4NHC**, the Amateur Radio Station at the Na-

tional Hurricane Center, and the Hurricane Watch Net will be on hand. ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager **Dan Miller K3UFG** will represent the League at the session, and, for the first time, an ARRL Amateur Radio booth will be included with other displays on Wednesday and Thursday of the conference. Thanks to a federal grant to the ARRL from the Corporation for National and Community Service, hams will be present to answer questions and provide information about the benefits of Amateur Radio in emergency communications.

NTIA Initiates Spectrum Management Inquiry. Apparently not to be outdone by the FCC's Spectrum Policy Task Force (SPTF) and resulting proceedings, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has initiated its own spectrum management *Notice of Inquiry*. The NTIA administers spectrum used by the federal government and advises the White House in telecommunications matters. Comments on the *NOI* -- which carries the somewhat unwieldy Docket No 040127027-4027-01 -- are due by March 18. Some in the amateur community believe the *NOI* represents a threat to Amateur Radio. ARRL Chief Technology Officer **Paul Rinaldo W4RI** says the League is taking a hard look at the NTIA *NOI* and its potential impact on the Amateur Radio Service and will comment formally by the filing deadline. Read more about this on the ARRL's Web site at www.arrl.org.

Hamvention planning, preparations going full tilt. Hamvention General Chairman **Gary Des Combes N8EMO** reports all is going smoothly as the 2004 show approaches. Hamvention will take place Friday through Sunday, May 14-16, at Hara Arena in Trotwood, near Dayton, Ohio. The theme for the 53rd Hamvention is "The Year of the Contact." Des Combes says all forum slots have been filled, and about two-thirds of the inside exhibit spaces have been spoken for -- which, he points out, is ahead of last year. Advance ticket sales and flea market sign-ups appear to be strong. "We are compiling data now, but demand is very high," he said. Hamvention has another mailing in the works in an effort to attract additional exhibitors. Des Combes also notes that the Hamvention Web site has been upgraded and now provides for on-line, credit card ticket purchases. "Things are going well, and my team is outstanding," Des Combes said in summing up Hamvention's preparations to date. "I really am fortunate to have the best volunteers in the world." Under the banner of its Great Lakes Division, the ARRL will offer a forum, "How Grassroots Action Gets Lawmakers' Reaction," at Hamvention on Friday, May 14, 12:15 PM. Moderated by ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director **Dick Mondro W8FQT**, the forum will feature an introduction by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director **Jim Weaver K8JE** and participation by ARRL General Counsel **Chris Imlay W3KD**, who will discuss "How to Influence Congressional Representatives," ARRL New England Division Vice Director **Mike Raisbeck K1TWF** on "Getting State Legislators to Work with Us" and ARRL President **Jim Haynie W5JBP**, who's titled his remarks "ARRL: Tighten that Cinch, and Go Do It!" The annual ARRL Forum gets under way at 8:30 AM on Saturday, May 15. Check the Hamvention Web site at www.hamvention.org for additional details.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The membership year begins March 1. We do not accept more than one year's dues at a time. Please send your check payable to MARC to Mid-Atlantic ARC, PO Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399-2154.

NAME		CALLSIGN	
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP + 4
TELEPHONE		OK to publish phone?	
E-MAIL ADDRESS		OK to publish e-mail?	
Newsletter delivery via: E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Download from Web <input type="checkbox"/> Paper mail <input type="checkbox"/> (Please see note below.)			
License Class:		ARRL Member?	
Please compute amount due:			
Full member (licensed ham) @ \$15		\$	
Family member (licensed ham, after 1 st member pays full dues) @ \$5		\$	
Associate member (unlicensed person) @ \$5		\$	
TOTAL DUE WITH THIS FORM		\$	

Newsletter delivery note:

There are two forms of electronic newsletter delivery.

- (1) Newsletters can be provided as e-mail file attachments. To receive the newsletter this way, members need an e-mail provider which allows file attachments. The file size is typically less than 200k.
- (2) The newsletter is posted on the web, and members are sent an e-mail notice that the issue is ready to be downloaded at the member's convenience.

For either option, members must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software version 3 or later (comes with many software packages and available as free download from www.adobe.com). Members are encouraged to choose electronic delivery, because it saves the club a great deal of money on printing and postage, reduces the editor's volunteer work load, and gets the newsletter to you faster. The e-mail version looks exactly like the paper version and can be printed on paper or read on the screen. If you would like to try a sample electronic copy before making your choice, please make a note in the space below, and the editor will contact you to arrange it.