



[www.marc-radio.org](http://www.marc-radio.org)

PO BOX 2154  
SOUTHEASTERN, PA  
19399-2154

# REMARCS

January/February 2009

## VOX

Please welcome back returning MARC member **Gerry Cechony W3GER!**

**MARC** will shut down the 224.420 MHz (1.25 Meter) repeater in Bryn Mawr. This is because very few hams use this repeater and the repeater is unreliable. The 220 Net is also cancelled.

We reported earlier, in December 2008, that **Lou WX3I** participated in the annual Skywarn Recognition Day event and activated the Mt Holly, NJ National Weather Service office for the event. A nice picture of the HF operation from this NWS office was taken by Lou and can be found in the [February 2009 issue of CQ magazine](#) on page 49.

**MARC Hamfest** – July 12th, Sunday.

**Kimberton Fair** – July 23rd - 25th, Thurs, Fri. & Sat.

Please contact Mike Pilotti if you can help with these events – [kf3cd@arrl.org](mailto:kf3cd@arrl.org) or 610 935-4429.

## SKYWARN TRAINING

On March 7th (Saturday), there will be two Skywarn training classes offered at the Lower Providence Township building. The first class begins at 10:00 AM and is a basic Skywarn course for beginners. The second class is an advanced course and it begins at 2:00 PM. You must contact **Lou WX3I** ASAP if you plan to attend either class. This is necessary so they can make proper arrangements to accommodate those that will be attending. Lou may be reached at [wx3i@marc-radio.org](mailto:wx3i@marc-radio.org) or 610 630-9146.

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## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MARC MEMBERSHIP!

Annual membership dues are now due. You may mail in payment or, see **Lou WX3I** our MARC Treasurer and pay in person at the next club meeting if desired.

There is a membership renewal form enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience. A final reminder will be sent out in mid-April. If you have already paid your dues, you may ignore this notice. Thank You

Membership dues are necessary to keep MARC running and pay for various bills such as: liability insurance, storage locker fees, MARC PO Box, postage, phone lines (for repeaters), repeater maintenance and various club activities. Renewing members are also eligible for one free amateur test session during the year.

Our 2 Meter linked-repeater system will be replaced in the very near future with new equipment. This is an expensive but necessary process.

When shopping around for components for a repeater, it quickly becomes obvious that "standard components" (such as an amplifier) won't suffice. Commercial grade components that cost more, must be used and be carefully installed and configured to ensure a reliable and effective repeater system.

Membership dues are critical for funding all of the above items. Even though MARC hosts a hamfest, it alone doesn't bring in enough revenue to pay for all of the expenses that the club incurs annually.

## KIT BUILDING CLASS

**Mike KF3CD** and **Dennis K3DS** are interested in holding some kit building classes, possibly on a Saturday morning. Do you have a temptation to heat up a soldering iron and get back into building? Or, if you're a beginner, would you be interested in trying to build a kit for the first time?

It's a great learning experience and very satisfying to use a piece of hardware that you've built and tested.

Mike and Dennis are also interested in receiving input on what kits you may want to build. The preference is to keep things low cost and simple (no Elecraft K2's please).

Here is their contact information: Mike KF3CD - [kf3cd@arrl.org](mailto:kf3cd@arrl.org) or 610 935-4429, Dennis K3DS – [k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org) .

## MARC HOLIDAY PARTY!

Not everyone attended the MARC Holiday Party that we held last December and that's a shame. For 2008, we decided to hold this party at the McKenzie Brewhouse Pub in Malvern and it was a very nice place to celebrate and catch up with fellow club members!



(l-r) Dennis K3DS and Jim W3DCL enjoying a game of pool.

If you had signed up and attended, you would have had a lot of great food to "dig into"...



**The MARC Holiday Buffet – Great food, and plenty for all!**

It was a very relaxed and nice party atmosphere. All that attended informed yours truly that they would "do it again"!

There were many others around to keep you company as well and plenty of fun games available.

We hope that you can make it for next year!



(l-r) Lou WX3I, Tom KB3TQS, Sam WA3LGL and Dennis KA3QOT at the MARC Holiday party.



(l-r) Two brothers – Bob N3JIZ and Bill N3NUL starting a game of pool.

## WINTER FESTS

**March 13-14th – Kulpville, PA – Winter SWL Festival**

**Location:** The Inn at Towamencin, 1750 Sumneytown Pike.  
**Info:** 215 368-3800 – <http://swlfest.com>

**March 28-29th – Timonium, MD – BARC Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest**

**Location:** Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road  
**Info:** 443 590-1444 - <http://www.gbhc.org>

## MARC INFO

[wb3joe@marc-radio.org](mailto:wb3joe@marc-radio.org)  
<http://www.marc-radio.org>

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS -

3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 PM  
Tredyffrin Twp. Bldg. – Community Mtg. Room  
Berwyn, PA – Guests Welcome  
Smoke Free, Handicapped-accessible.

### BOARD MEETINGS -

2nd Tuesdays of even months, 7:30 PM  
Paoli Hospital, Willistown Meeting Room  
Members may attend as observers.

WB3JOE REPEATERS (CTCSS or PL = 131.8 hz) -  
145.130 - / 147.060 + / 445.675 -  
The 2 meter repeaters are linked.

### WEBMASTER -

Foster Schucker K3FXS  
[k3fxs@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3fxs@marc-radio.org) 302-363-7347  
Dennis Silage K3DS  
[k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org) 610-353-4829

### 2 METER NETS -

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM  
Traffic Net, Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 PM  
Roundtable, Thursdays, 8:30 PM  
These nets occur on linked 145.13 - R / 147.06 + R

### NET MANAGER –

Sam Mitchell WA3LGL  
[wa3lgl@marc-radio.org](mailto:wa3lgl@marc-radio.org) 215-530-2151

### DUES – Now due in March 2009

\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)  
\$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)  
Family rate \$5/ham - after first member  
pays full dues

### NEWSLETTER -

The REMARCS editor is Dieter K3DK  
610-489-1920 [k3dk@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3dk@marc-radio.org)  
Do you have anything for REMARCS?  
Please let me know.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

Please contact our Public Service Chairman **Bob Palin**  
**N3JIZ** at 610 687-4587 or [n3jiz@marc-radio.org](mailto:n3jiz@marc-radio.org) if you can  
assist with these events.

1. **Multiple Sclerosis 5 K Race – April 26, Sunday**  
Volunteers Assemble at: 8:30 AM  
Location: East Goshen Park – West Chester
2. **Radnor Memorial Day Parade – May 25, Monday**  
Volunteers Assemble at: 8:00 AM  
Location: Micro Center Parking Lot – Radnor

## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**March 17th – ARRL Field Trip - Dennis KA3QOT** will narrate and show slides and video of our field trip to ARRL Head Quarters and W1AW that we did back in October 2008. Get the pop corn!

Note: Postponed from January meeting, due to bad weather.

**April 21st – MARC Junque' Auction!** - We will be holding the annual "Junque' Auction". Please bring ham radio related items and leave the kitchen sink and high-end equipment at home.

Our auctioneer will once again be **Dennis Silage, K3DS**. Please see the auction rules below and start getting your equipment together!

## AUCTION RULES

The following rules pertain to the upcoming Junque Auction:

1. Ham and ham-related equipment only. No limit on the number of items.
2. Please tag all items with your name and callsign, a description of the item and your minimum acceptable price.
3. Only MARC members may offer items for sale. If you are selling items for a non-MARC member, that's ok. Non-MARC members can attend and buy (no dealers please).
4. MARC receives 10% of the sales price or \$10, whichever is less.
5. All items are sold "as-is". MARC gives no warranties or guaranties, implied or otherwise, regarding items offered for sale. The club and auctioneer(s) will not be liable for any problems arriving from sales.

Please bring coins and bills smaller than \$20's because we have limited ability to make change. Be prepared to pay in cash since we can't guarantee that sellers will accept personal checks. Unsold items may **NOT** be left behind.



W1RT Rover at the Pack Rats Hamfest on Sept. 28, 2008



## C - O - N - T - A - C - T !

Sun Spot Cycle 24 is currently underway. However, the number of sun spots is somewhat dismal to say the least. What to do? Get on the HF bands anyway and see what DX you can still work! You may be surprised.

Below is a chronological listing of DX contacts that some MARC members have recently made on the HF amateur bands. Yes, it is still possible to make contacts over long distances on HF, even under these conditions.

Have you worked any DX lately on the HF bands? If so, please send your contact information (limit - 2 contacts/ham) to Dieter K3DK at [k3dk@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3dk@marc-radio.org) or 610 489-1920. We hope to grow this list further and continue to seek input from MARC members on their new DX contacts; starting from February 16th – April 15th for the next listing of: **C - O - N - T - A - C - T !**

Name - Callsign	Date	Time (UTC)	DX Station Worked	Signal (RST)	Band	Mode	Power	Antenna	Location
Steve KD3WK	Jan 01	20:35	ZD8UW	57	20 M	SSB	750 W	Force 12 C4	Ascension Island
Steve KD3WK	Jan 10	18:12	8R44USA	59	20 M	SSB	750 W	Force 12 C4	Guyana
Josy WQ3E	Jan 22	21:27	5K0CW	599	20 M	CW	100 W	G5RV	Colombia
Yak N3MQM	Jan 31	17:04	EI9HX	55	17 M	SSB	100 W	104 ft. Doublet	Ireland
Yak N3MQM	Feb 01	19:41	E73M	59	20 M	SSB	100 W	104 ft. Doublet	Bosnia Herzegovina
Carter N3AO	Feb 02	21:33	KH6BGB	579	17 M	CW	100 W	BigIR Gnd Mtd. Vertical	Pearl Harbor, HI
Carter N3AO	Feb 04	21:55	XE3DX	599	20 M	RTTY	100 W	BigIR Gnd Mtd. Vertical	Mexico
Josy WQ3E	Feb 08	13:28	H6VA	599	20 M	CW	100 W	G5RV	Nicaragua
Dieter K3DK	Feb 08	19:09	ZS6BQI	539	20 M	CW	100 W	140 ft. OCF Dipole	South Africa
Susan K3SUE	Feb 13	19:59	K5D	59+	17 M	SSB	200 W	StepIR 4 ele. Yagi	Desecheo Island
Bob WB3T	Feb 15	21:25	VO2FF	589	30 M	CW	2 W	Hombrew Gnd Mtd. Vertical	Labrador City, Newfoundland
Dieter K3DK	Feb 15	09:04	3D2OU	519	40 M	CW	100 W	140 ft. OCF Dipole	Fiji Island (Nadi)

Note: Bob WB3T reports that he was able to break a CW pileup to Newfoundland with only 2 watts by adding /QRP to his callsign. You don't hear a VO2 call every day so getting through can sometimes be a challenge due to other stations calling.

### Assistance Needed For Repeater Work

Our Technical Chairman **Dennis K3DS**, will need some assistance with installing the new repeater hardware in the near future. Do you have some time and energy to spare? Some extra hands are required for lifting and holding hardware in place so that it can be bolted securely in the equipment racks at the Paoli and the Newtown Square repeater sites. Dennis may be reached at [k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org).

### Nick – UX0ZZ

Some of you may be familiar with **Nick UX0ZZ** in the Ukraine. Nick is a friend of MARC and some of us have had the pleasure of contacting him via the HF amateur bands. Unfortunately, he is affected by a medical condition that requires medication and there isn't much available in his country regarding his situation. In the past, MARC had established a separate fund to assist with providing needed medication for Nick and this has significantly improved his quality of life. While there is still money in this fund, it has run down somewhat. Any contribution that you can make would be greatly appreciated. Please make payable to MARC and note "Nick Fund", send to: MARC, PO Box 2154, Southeastern, PA 19399-2154.

# MARC Board Meeting Minutes

By Sam Mitchell WA3LGL

## Meeting Started at 7:30 PM

**In Attendance:** Dieter K3DK, Sam WA3LGL, Dennis K3DS, Lou WX3I, Jim W3DCL, Miguel KC2HMG, and Phil KB3MAW. No regular members were present this month.

Dieter K3DK opened this month's meeting. The 145.130 repeater is not working because the power amp went bad. We lost our 440 duplexer. Jim W3DCL will investigate its disappearance.

We will have the 2009 holiday party at McKenzie's Brew House again. Per Mike Pilotti's request, we discussed if anyone wanted to run a QRP kit building class. We talked about the VE testing location and we'll let Bob W3ZQN

## MARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

### PRESIDENT

Dieter Hauer K3DK

[k3dk@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3dk@marc-radio.org) 610-489-1920

### VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Oswald W3DUB

[w3dub@marc-radio.org](mailto:w3dub@marc-radio.org) 267-241-9067

### SECRETARY

Sam Mitchell WA3LGL

[wa3lgl@marc-radio.org](mailto:wa3lgl@marc-radio.org) 215-530-2151

### TREASURER

Lou Ruh WX3I

[wx3i@marc-radio.org](mailto:wx3i@marc-radio.org) 610-630-9146

### PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ

[n3jiz@marc-radio.org](mailto:n3jiz@marc-radio.org) 610-687-4587

### TECHNICAL SERVICE

Dennis Silage K3DS

[k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org) 610-353-4829

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Jim Biddle W3DCL

[w3dcl@marc-radio.org](mailto:w3dcl@marc-radio.org) 610 353-0880

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2009 -

Miguel Ramirez KC2HMG

[kc2hmg@marc-radio.org](mailto:kc2hmg@marc-radio.org) 856 534-8120

To 9/30/2010 -

Phil Cauffman KB3MAW

[kb3maw@marc-radio.org](mailto:kb3maw@marc-radio.org) 610 286-8961

### CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

- WB3JOE

Dennis Silage K3DS

[k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org) 610-353-4829

- W3NWA

Dieter Hauer K3DK

[k3dk@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3dk@marc-radio.org) 610-489-1920

search for the best place to have the testing. We will have our Hamfest on July 12, 2009 and our annual auction in April.

Dennis K3DS discussed and made various recommendations about purchasing new repeaters for the club - the Kenwood TK-750/850 repeater base units. Also, we need hefty power supplies and power amps. He purchased a new modem and needs to get the pre-amp repaired for the 440 repeater system.

Lou WX3I stated that there was over \$17,000 in the treasury and all our bills are paid. Also, the annual dues are due. The dues are still \$15.00 this year. On March 7th there will be a Sky Warn training session at the Lower Providence township building.

The board voted to purchase two new repeater systems. The first repeater is to be installed at the 145.130 site (Paoli Hospital) and then, the 147.060 site (Newtown Square). The board also voted to shut down the 220 repeater sometime soon. The 220 repeater is old and not always working properly. WA3LGL will still continue running the 220 net until the repeater is shut down.

## Meeting Ended at 8:45 PM

## FROM THE EDITOR'S SHACK

On February 11th two satellites collided, about 500 miles above Siberia. One was a communications satellite owned by Iridium and the other was a defunct Russian military satellite. The Iridium satellite weighed 1,235 lbs and the Russian satellite about 2 tons. This nasty crash in outer space resulted in the contribution of more "space junk" that will also need to be tracked, along with the 17,000+ other pieces of debris and satellites that circle planet Earth.

I hope that our OSCAR satellites remain unscathed. As time progresses, it won't be surprising to see more collisions as the skies above us get filled up with more man-made projects.

This situation illustrates that there is still a very important need for terrestrial radio stations of all flavors. Recently, our repeater failed when the power amplifier burned out. Dennis K3DS responded to the situation and after obtaining the correct parts, he was able to drive to the Paoli site, do a repair and restore operation of the repeater. Now, imagine repairing a satellite! That's a LOT more expensive and dangerous too.

Many of us are dependent on satellites for our GPS equipment and some have Direct TV and XM-Sirius radio. Imagine how you may be affected if some of these satellites failed. Do you have a backup plan?

Several years ago, a pilot was flying across the Pacific when his plane experienced electrical problems and his GPS was rendered ineffective. He made careful, manual calculations, used a bit of dead reckoning and made it back to the US. The alternative would have been catastrophic.

Technology is great, but sometimes, a simple approach with a bit of practical application can go a long way. Think about it. Are you prepared?

73, Dieter K3DK



## Oklahoma Hams Warn of Oncoming Tornadoes

(Feb 12, 2009) – From ARRL HQ

-- A rare winter tornado struck Oklahoma around dinner time on Tuesday, February 10. According to various news reports, Oklahoma officials credited Amateur Radio operators with spotting the tornadoes and relaying the information to the National Weather Service.

ARRL Oklahoma Section Emergency Coordinator Charles Goodson, KC5UEG, told the ARRL that the Southern Oklahoma ARES® group ([SOARES](#)) and other Amateur Radio operators from the Ardmore area served as SKYWARN® storm spotters. "After the tornado passed Lone Grove and Ardmore, several hams went back to the Lone Grove area," Goodson said. "One ham went to the Red Cross building and set up a communication command post from the Red Cross radio room. It was amateur operators who had the first visual contact with the tornadoes. They started reporting the tornado to Neil Mayo, KC5AMX, the Emergency Coordinator for Murray County and our Net control for severe weather events; he in turn reports to the National Weather Service in Norman via Amateur Radio."

The town of Lone Grove, population 4600 and located about 100 miles south of Oklahoma City, bore the brunt of the storm, with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) reporting eight deaths and more than 100 homes destroyed. Two other tornadoes hit the Oklahoma City metro area and the north-central Oklahoma region late Tuesday. No serious injuries were reported in the Oklahoma City storm, but at least six homes were destroyed and businesses were damaged there, ODEM officials said.

ARRL Oklahoma Section Public Information Coordinator Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, told the ARRL that his Ardmore home survived the tornado, but they are without power, water and other services. Other homes in his neighborhood were completely destroyed. Oklahoma Gas and Electric reported about 6000 customers are currently without power, with 3461 in Lone Grove.

Well-known contesteer Tim Duffy, K3LR, told the ARRL that he lost 40 percent of his home as a tornado blew through his town of Edmond, a suburb of Oklahoma City: "We lost all the doors and windows in the house, all the power, just everything. The damage is amazing. The cell phone system is still 'on tilt' with emergency services taking most of the channels. We're making big progress on getting things sorted out here. We will rebuild and make it better than it was before. With the house in complete disrepair, we'll be staying in a hotel for a while."

Duffy said that National Weather Service officials told him that the wind speed at his home was more than 150 MPH. While the family dog, a golden retriever, made it through the storm okay, Duffy said their pet cat is still missing. According to emergency management officials in Edmond, six homes were destroyed in the storm.

This storm took many by surprise because even in tornado-prone Oklahoma, February twisters are rare. According to the NWS, since 1950, only 44 twisters have touched down in the state during the month of February. The Lone Grove tornado was the third to cause multiple fatalities in the state since March 2007, when a Panhandle couple became the state's first tornado deaths in almost six years.

## The PA QSO Party

The Nittany ARC hosts the PA QSO Party annually, in October. It is the "Friendly Contest".

Here are the scores from the 2008 PA QSO Party for MARC members that participated. Below that are the scores from 2007.

### 2008 PA QSO Party Scores:

**Charlie KB3CO 125,238 \***  
**Jim KB3MIC 3,328**  
**Kay N3KN 14,608 (out-of-state participant)**  
**Carter N3AO 315 (out-of-state participant)**  
**Steve WA2EAJ 5,673**  
**Mid-Atlantic ARC [Club Score] 23,924**

**Charlie KB3CO** and friend **Joe KQ3F** participated as a mobile in the contest and activated 24 counties. **Carter N3AO** and **Kay N3KN** operated from Virginia as out-of-state participants. **Jim KB3MIC** activated Berks County and **Steve WA2EAJ** activated Montgomery County.

Note: Out-of-state participants don't enjoy the section multipliers that in-state participants have, so their scores will typically be lower. The scores for 2008 are preliminary and subject to change if Nittany ARC deems appropriate.

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\* - Did not submit score on behalf of MARC.  
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### 2007 PA QSO Party Scores:

**Charlie KB3CO 156,633 \***  
**Jim KB3MIC 2,139 \***  
**Dieter K3DK 54,115**  
**Kay N3KN 10,322 (out-of-state participant)**  
**Carter N3AO 7,263 (out-of-state participant)**  
**Bob WB4PWZ 2,436**  
**Dennis KA3QOT 821**  
**Steve WA2EAJ 3,480**  
**Mid-Atlantic ARC [Club Score] 78,437**

**Jim KB3MIC** activated Berks County. **Dieter K3DK** and **Steve WA2EAJ** activated Montgomery County while **Dennis KA3QOT** and **Bob WB4PWZ** each activated Chester County. **Carter N3AO** and **Kay N3KN** for the first time participated from out-of-state (from Virginia). **Charlie KB3CO** and **Joe KQ3F** operated as mobile and activated 22 counties.

MARC welcomes membership applications. The membership year begins on March 1. Dues paid by new members between January 1 and March 1 are credited through March 1 of the following year. We do not accept more than one year's dues at a time.

To join the club, please print this membership form and send it with your check to the club post office box. Thanks and 73!

<b>MID-ATLANTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB</b>		
<b>PO BOX 2154, SOUTHEASTERN, PA 19399-2154</b>		
NAME		CALLSIGN
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP + 4
TELEPHONE		OK to publish phone number? Yes No
E-MAIL ADDRESS		OK to publish e-mail address? Yes No
RECEIVE NEWSLETTER via <input type="checkbox"/> Paper mail <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail as Adobe PDF file attachment		
LICENSE CLASS E A G T+ T N None		ARRL Member? Yes No
Please compute amount due:		
Full member (licensed ham) @ \$15		\$
Family member (licensed ham, after 1st member pays full dues) @ \$5		\$
Associate member (unlicensed person) @ \$5		\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED WITH THIS FORM Please make checks payable to "MARC"		\$

Mid-Atlantic ARC  
P O Box 2154  
Southeastern, PA 19399-2154

