



PO Box 2154
Southeastern, PA 19399-2154

www.marc-radio.org

REMARCS

March 2007

ATTENTION MARC MEMBERS

There are currently several open positions on the MARC Board of Directors. We need volunteers to serve on the Board and could really use your assistance and expertise. The Board only meets once a month, on even months at Paoli Hospital (Willistown meeting room).

There are 5 other board members currently serving. Please contact Lou Ruh WX3I (610 630-9146) or Foster Schucker K3FXS (302 363-7347) if you would be interested in serving on the Board for the remainder of 2007 (til September 2007). The following positions are open:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Public Relations Chairman

MEMBERSHIP DUES -

Yearly membership Dues are due this month. You may mail in payment or, see Dieter K3DK [MARC Treasurer] and pay in person at the next club meeting if desired. A final reminder will be sent out in mid-April. Thank You

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

MARC's annual **Junque Auction** will be held this coming April 17. This is your opportunity to sell items that you don't need and to buy items that may compliment your shack. Please bring only ham or ham-related items for auction. Keep the expensive, high-end equipment for sale at the hamfest or EBay. Unsold items must be removed by the sellers (no dumping). **Please see "AUCTION RULES" on page 5.**

Our highly esteemed and energetic auctioneer will again be **Bart Feroe K4BF**. Folks, if you've never been to a MARC auction, it's time to marc' your calendar and see Bart in action. If Bart was an auctioneer for Barrett Jackson, they'd sell those old hot rods and exotic cars in half as much time for twice the price!

The May meeting will feature a presentation by **Ray Kiesel K3RIZ** on the radio equipment and antennas at a Navy Communications Station in Iceland in 1971. This may be of special interest to those with a military background.

VOX

Please give a warm welcome to new members, **Allan (ex WA4REM)**, **Sam WA3LGL** and his daughter **Jenn**. Also, welcome to returning members **Bill N3XOD**, **Yak N3MQM** and **Bill N3ETC**. Congratulations to **Dori W3IBH** on achieving her master's degree as a nurse practitioner and passing her board exams! **Foster K3FXS** is our new webmaster and **Lou WX3I** is handling membership services. **Bob W3LIA** installed a big dipole and is enjoying the 160 meter band. **Charlie KB3CO**, **Ron W3ZV** and **Dieter K3DK** recently worked YW0DX Aves Island in the Caribbean. **Susan K3SUE** now has 325 DXCC entities confirmed. **Phil KB3MAW** is enjoying 10 Meters. **Bill KN3EUF** is now at home and recuperating from surgery – get well soon. Thank you for your service and good bye to **Steve N3ORH**, **Carter N3AO** and **Kay N3KN** – we hope that you'll stay in touch.

HAM BURGLERS

Ray KB3NFE, **Miguel KC2HMG**, **Phil KB3MAW**, **Russ W3GGY** and **Joe K3UYK** met for a Sunday brunch and eyeball QSO at McDonald's in Phoenixville.

Could this become a monthly occurrence? Inquiring minds and empty stomachs want to know.

USEFUL WEBSITES

A nice ham website with interesting links and downloads:

www.hamwave.com

Here's a great website with lots of links to other sites for manuals and user guides. Many of the manuals are in .PDF format.

<http://bama.sbc.edu/free.htm>

THANKS N3UD!

MARC sends a special thank you to **Paul Tabatschkow N3UD** for the informative presentation and demo that he gave on Icom's D-Star radio technology at our March 20th meeting.

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS

Bob Lees W3ZQN reports that all 5 applicants passed their exam elements at the February test session (one element exam was for CW). The following licenses were granted: 2 Technician, 1 General and 1 Extra.

In addition to Bob, the following Volunteer Examiners assisted with this test session: **David N3ZG, Susan K3SUE, Ron W3ZV, Bob KA3NIQ, Dick K3ITH, Walter WA3PPW and Paul NX3Q.**

You MUST schedule in advance if you want to attend the next test session on May 5 at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Otherwise, there may be no one there to give a test.

Current MARC members, are eligible for one free test session per year. Please contact Bob Lees W3ZQN at 610 265-6032 to schedule.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

As you know, MARC provides critical radio communications regarding logistics and safety for various public events such as parades, walk-athons and races, etc. Assisting for these events generally doesn't take much time. Basic communications skills and an HT are usually required.

Bob Palin N3JIZ could really use your help and will need volunteer hams to assist with the public service events listed below. Please contact Bob directly at 610 687-4587 if you can assist. Thank You.

- 1. Multiple Sclerosis 5 K Race – April 29, Sunday**
 - Volunteers Assemble at: 9:00 AM
 - Location: West Goshen Park
- 2. Radnor Memorial Day Parade – May 28, Monday**
 - Volunteers Assemble at: 8:00 AM
 - Location: Micro Center Parking Lot – Radnor

MARC HAMFEST & KIMBERTON FAIR!

By Mike Pilotti KF3CD

It's not too early to sign up to help at the hamfest and Kimberton Fair!

MARC HAMFEST -

Set up for the MARC Hamfest starts on Saturday, July 14th at 12 noon. Jobs include setting up tables, laying out the parking and tailgate areas and putting out signs.

We need even more help on hamfest day, Sunday, July 15th. Jobs include selling tickets, directing cars, helping with talk-in etc. We especially need a lot of help early in the morning, starting at 6 am.

We also need people to help clean up after the event, which begins shortly after 12 noon.

KIMBERTON FAIR -

MARC is committed to providing volunteers at The Kimberton Fair on Thursday July 26th, Friday July 27th and Saturday July 28th.

We exchange our volunteer services for the rental of the facilities and this saves our club \$900.00! All fair volunteers receive a free meal ticket.

We need people to sell ride tickets and collect parking donations. Adult and teenage non-ham family members are welcome to help but young children are not. Keep in mind that selling tickets on the late shift may run a little longer because you stay until the fire co. says you can leave, which is after 10 pm.

Selling tickets is easy. You sit in an air conditioned booth with another person and sell tickets for the carnival rides. Collecting parking donations is also easy, you stand along the entrance road and collect voluntary donations in a bucket and keep the traffic from backing up onto Rt 113. Money from ticket sales and parking is regularly collected by the fire co.

If you volunteer to help at the fair, it is very important that you arrive on time. The times we need to fill are as follows, we need to supply 4 ticket sellers and at least 6 parking people for each time slot below.

THURSDAY JULY 26th

Parking 6 to 10 pm

FRIDAY JULY 27th

Parking 6 to 10 pm
Ticket Sales 6 to 10 pm+

SATURDAY JULY 28th

Parking 1 to 5 pm
Parking 5 to 10 pm
Ticket Sales 1 to 5 pm
Ticket Sales 5 to 10 pm+

If you have never been to The Kimberton Fair, there's lots of good old fashioned fun to be had.

So, if you volunteer, you may want to arrive early or stay late to spend some time walking the fairgrounds.

In addition to the rides, there is a large midway with many games, great food and homemade donuts to die for (get them early, they always sell out!). They have many nightly contests and prizes including livestock judging, a baby contest and a pie eating contest.

Visit www.kimbertonfair.org for more info. and an event schedule.

If you can help with either the MARC Hamfest and/or Kimberton Fair, please contact Mike Pilotti, KF3CD at kf3cd@arrl.net or 610 935-4429 now!

FROM THE EDITOR'S SHACK

By Dieter Hauer K3DK

"Hello!... who's up there?" Response, "just me, I'll be down in a few minutes." "Okay, just be careful up there!"

That exchange took place between my mother and I almost thirty years ago. I was 14 at the time, an active SWL and was up on the house roof stringing up a 75 foot long wire antenna.

It was fun and dangerous to climb around on a steeply pitched slate roof at 50+ feet [the "coffin zone" according to most climbers] and, the view of Lebanon County was unobstructed from that height!

Once installed and connected, the antenna worked quite well and shortwave signals from everywhere flooded the receivers front-end nicely.

A year later...I graduated to transmitting as well as receiving, on the Amateur shortwave bands after receiving my Novice ticket [WB3JWU]. My elmers were a big help in getting me started in this wonderful hobby and service. I can't thank them enough.

Today, most new hams get their start on VHF instead of HF. And, the radio equipment is a lot smaller, more sophisticated and usually contains more than one microprocessor. We also have more frequency bands and communications modes to play around with. How times have changed...

However, the basic style and exchange of information for a contact remains unchanged, even after thirty years. Hamfests remain pretty much the same and are usually a nostalgic trip down memory lane for me – always good to see the same old faces.

Sure, the modern ham shack is somewhat different these days, especially with the addition of the PC, Internet and various digital communications modes. Some shacks have a PC as the main focal point and use it to control the transceiver, rotate the beam, pick up DX listings off of the Internet and log the contacts.

But... you still need an operator to initiate and complete those contacts.

One ham that I know is a real audiophile and spends much of his time on 20 Meter SSB phone and, AM phone on other bands. His transceiver is buried behind the studio quality microphones, equalizers, processors, cabling and other audio equipment. Another is an expert in EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) communications on VHF. To each, their own.

Yet, what do most hams have in common? They have assembled their own station that can communicate with other hams that have also built their own, similar station.

Whether you have a super contest station or an HT, are you getting on the air?

- 73 Dieter K3DK

MARC CLUB

[HTTP://WWW.MARC-RADIO.ORG](http://www.marc-radio.org)

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

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

BOARD MEETINGS:

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

REPEATERS (PL 131.8 hz):

145.130 - / 147.060 + / 224.420 - / 445.675 -
The 2 meter repeaters are cross-linked.

WEBMASTER:

Foster Schucker K3FXS 302-363-7347
k3fxs@arrl.net

MARC BOARD:

PRESIDENT - vacant
VICE PRESIDENT - vacant
SECRETARY - vacant
PUBLIC RELATIONS – vacant

TREASURER

Dieter Hauer K3DK 610-489-1920
dhauer@gis.net

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL

Dennis Silage K3DS 610-353-4829
silage@temple.edu

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2008 -
Lou Ruh WX3I lou@wx3i.net 610-630-9146

To 9/30/2007 -
Foster Schucker K3FXS k3fxs@arrl.net 302-363-7347

NETS

- Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM
- Traffic Net, M/W/F, 8:30 PM
- Roundtable, Thursdays, 8:30 PM
Net Manager: Lou WX3I lou@wx3i.net 610-630-9146
Nets occur on linked 145.13 R / 147.06 R

DUES

\$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 dhauer@gis.net
Do you have anything for REMARCS? Please let me know.

HF TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

With the recent FCC rule changes, many hams may now take advantage of their new HF privileges. Are you getting ready to operate on HF and enjoy State-side and World-wide contacts? If so, here are some tips that may be useful.

1. Always ask if the frequency is in use before calling CQ ("Is the frequency in use?" – "Is the frequency busy?").
2. Novices and Technicians may operate phone on 10 Meters, from 28.300–28.500 MHz. However, remember that your transmitted SSB signal is about +/- 3 kHz wide. So, stay about 3 kHz away from the designated band edges (i.e. okay to transmit between 28.303–28.497). If you use filters that tighten up the transmitted bandwidth of your signal, then you could possibly get a little bit closer. But, keep in mind that the FCC or an official observer station may become unhappy if your signal bleeds above or below the edges'. Avoid over-modulating on the audio side.
3. There are two basic methods for making a contact – 1) "search and pounce" or 2) find a clear frequency and start calling "CQ". Also, Listen, Listen, Listen...
4. The same rules for identifying your station still pertain to HF operations – just like on VHF/UHF. Use standard phonetics.
5. Q codes are used a lot by CW operators, whereas most phone operators just "say it". However, learn the Q Codes anyway because it'll come in handy. There is no real need to learn the QN codes, unless you're going to get involved with a CW traffic net (that's another horse').
6. Make sure that you have a basic understanding of the RST system so that you can rate the other stations signal. Obviously, the "T" portion of the RST rating normally does not apply to phone stations (stick with just "RS" rating).
7. 10 Meters can be a finicky band. It can go dead very quickly and QSB (signal fading) can occur as on any HF band. Albeit unusual, sometimes, you can experience asymmetrical propagation. The other station may copy you better than you can copy them – or, vice-versa. Get a pair of headphones.
8. A half-wave dipole is ok. But, a beam or some other gain antenna is better. Getting the antenna at least a quarter wavelength off of the ground is helpful for attaining a low angle of radiation (preferable for working DX stations). This is particularly true for horizontally polarized antennas. As with any antenna, it is good to get the antenna above major obstacles in your general area – such as buildings, etc.
9. Avoid installing any antenna that could come in contact with a power line if it became damaged or fell (I emphasize this because HF antennas are usually a lot larger than the typical VHF or UHF antenna).
10. If you have a Novice or Technician license, you are limited to 200 watts PEP. Refer to the new frequency chart for further details on frequencies, communication modes and power limitations.
11. Become familiar with "split-frequency" operation on your HF rig. If you hear a DX station that is operating split-frequency, you may not be able to work them if you don't know how to properly listen to the station's calling frequency and then transmit up or down (as directed) from their calling frequency.
12. Never tune up on someone's QSO. Pick a clear frequency & reduce power before tuning up. Automatic antenna tuners can be a good thing.
13. You never know when the band may be open. 10 Meters is generally open during the day time (if the sunspots/conditions are decent). As the sun spots pick up, propagation will increase and some amazing DX can be worked with a very modest station.
14. A decent ground connection should be established for your rig and antenna tuner.
15. Frustrated by a lack of openings on 10 Meters? Take that "dead air" time and convert it into studying for your General class ticket. That'll really open up a LOT more HF bands for your use! The ARRL study guides are excellent.
16. Buy a DX World map from the ARRL. It will be invaluable when you hear those foreign call signs with unfamiliar prefixes.
17. If you have a PC, install a logging program. You'll be glad you did. Talk to other hams and search thru www.EHam.net for reviews and sources on logging software. Join ARRL's Log Book Of The World (LOTW).
18. Send some SASE's (self addressed stamped envelopes) to the Incoming QSL Bureau. Some hams may send a QSL card to you via the Bureau, even if you didn't request one. Follow the Bureau's instructions. Always ask before QSLing'.
19. Have fun!

Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike Ride

The MS-150 is a 150 mile, round-trip, bicycle riding event that occurs over a two day period. This charity event will be held on September 29 and 30 (Saturday & Sunday).

Multiple radio clubs are involved because this event requires assistance from more than 150 radio operators. **Carmen KE3QB** is the Event Communications Coordinator and **Lou WX3I** is the Assistant Coordinator.

The bicycle riders will start from the Cherry Hill, NJ Woodcrest PATCO station and pedal their way over to the Civic Center in Ocean City, NJ on Saturday. On Sunday, they will return via the same route to Cherry Hill, NJ.

This large charity event involves 6,000-7,000 bicyclists and generates about \$3.5 Million in pledges for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Chances are that you may know someone that suffers from MS. Volunteering to provide ham radio communications is an excellent and fun way to assist with this massive and well organized event.

You can volunteer to assist on Friday (setup), Saturday or Sunday. Or, you can help out for more than one day. In some instances, you may not be needed for the entire day, depending on the station where you are placed.

Will you assist? Please contact either of the following individuals for further details:

- **Carmen KE3QB** at my3gumbas@verizon.net
- **Lou WX3I** at lou@wx3i.net

See the following link:

<http://groups.msn.com/MS150CITYTOSHOREBIKERIDE>

NET CONTROL OPS NEEDED

MARC has a need for more hams to act as Net Control operators for some of our repeater nets.

Are you organized? Do you have a reliable VHF rig with PL tones and are you within range of either 2 meter repeater?

If so, any assistance in this area would be appreciated. If you can help, please contact our Net Manager **Lou WX3I**.

HAMFEST SCHEDULE FOR 2007

Date:	Location:
March 31/April 1	Timonium, MD
April 15	West Windsor, NJ
April 22	York, PA
April 28	Mountain Top, PA
May 6	Hagerstown, MD
May 6	Wrightstown, PA
June 3	Manassas, VA
June 9	Bloomsburg, PA
June 17	Frederick, MD
July 1	Wilkes-Barre, PA
July 4	Bressler, PA
July 15	Kimberton, PA *
July 22	Howard County, MD
August 19	Westminster, MD
Sept 16	Mullica Hill, NJ
Sept 30	Wrightstown, PA
Oct 21	Sellersville, PA

- - MARC Hamfest - Will you be there?

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. Please be prepared to pay in cash since we can't guarantee that sellers will accept personal checks.