



Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

www.marc-radio.org

P.O. BOX 557
EAGLEVILLE, PA
19408

REMARCS

Next Meeting: Mar. 20, 2012 at 7:30 PM

Mar/Apr 2012

MARC Merges with DCARA

The Board of Directors of MARC approved a proposal at their February 2012 meeting to merge with the Delaware County Amateur Radio Association (DCARA). The DCARA was founded, as was MARC, in 1977 and served the Amateur Radio community in southern Delaware County and southern New Jersey. For routine and emergency communication, especially at the Philadelphia International Airport, DCARA's Darby repeater system is a valuable asset for Amateur Radio preparedness.

The DCARA owned a combination of three linked repeaters at the Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Darby, PA. Although the MARC and the former DCARA repeater systems are not linked together, the Darby repeaters will complement the coverage of the MARC repeater system. The DCARA repeaters have coverage extending north to Bucks, Burlington and Mercer counties, while the MARC repeater system extends to the south into the state of Delaware and east and north into Chester County.

MARC will now operate the former DCARA repeaters. MARC now operates a total of seven repeaters providing wide area coverage of southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and northern Delaware.

The 147.36 MHz repeater uses a +600 kHz offset and a PL tone of 131.8 Hz. The 224.5 MHz repeater uses a -1.6 MHz offset and PL tone of 131.8 Hz. The 444.050 repeater uses a -5 MHz offset and a PL tone of 131.8 Hz. The 147.36 MHz, 224.50 MHz and the 444.050 MHz repeaters are linked and can operate on the emergency generator power system of the Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital.

The newly expanded MARC repeater system is open to all Amateur Radio operators and newcomers to the Amateur Radio fraternity are most welcome!

VOX

Steve WA2EAJ and **Al N3EA** recently returned from a very successful mini-DXpedition to the Bahamas. Steve operated as **C6AAJ** and Al operated as **C6AEA**. Between them, they had about 1900 QSOs. Al used CW and Phone while Steve used Phone, PSK and RTTY. Steve was able to work the following MARC members: **Jim K3RTU** (8th overall contact), **Brenden W3VD**, **Marc N3ZAN**, **Alan K3WWT**, and **Carter N3AO**. He also worked **Howard AE3T** (our speaker a few months ago on EME). Al worked **Josie WQ3E**, **Carter N3AO** and **Kay N3KN**.



MARC welcomes new members **Martin AA3A**, **Richard K1RJH**, **Bill K2GFY**, **Milton K2MXF**, **Stephen KB3WNK**, **Jeremy N2ZLQ**, **Charlie N3JCC** and **David WB3EHS**.

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General Membership Meetings

March 20, 2012 7:30 PM – Ed Nymus, from Hakko Products presenting "Soldering Tools and Techniques", Community Meeting Room, Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building (use the front entrance)

April 17, 2012 7:30 PM – Annual "Junque" Auction

MARC usually meets the third Tuesday of the month in the Community Meeting Room (in the front) of the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building, 1100 DuPortail Road, Berwyn, PA 19312-1079. If unavoidable changes in the date or location of the MARC meeting is anticipated, the details will be announced on the Nets and posted on the Calendar.

Beginning at 1930 and following a short round of introductions, announcements, Club reports and business a lively technical program is provided. See the Calendar on the MARC website for details.

The schedule of Club meetings is interrupted in June because of Field Day and in December with a joyous MARC Holiday party. The current schedule of Club meetings and the topic of discussion is announced on the weekly MARC Nets.

Letter From the MARC President

Dear Fellow MARC Members:

2012 has started off as another great year for MARC.

- 2012 Technical presentations
 - In January, **Chet Thayer, WA3I** – gave a presentation on Antennas, and
 - In February, our own **Bob Caverly, WB4PWZ**, gave a presentation on Solid-State RF Linear Amplifiers



- In March, we will have a presentation on soldering techniques by Ed Nyhus, factory representative for American Hakko Products
- In April, we will hold our annual equipment auction
- At the February Board meeting, a decision was made that MARC absorb the remaining members and

MARC Info

wb3joe@marc-radio.org
<http://www.marc-radio.org>

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS -

3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM)
Community Meeting Room (in the front) of the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building, 1100 DuPortail Road, Berwyn, PA 19312-1079.
Guests Welcome, Smoke Free, Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS -

2nd Tuesdays of even months, 7:00 PM
Paoli Hospital, Willistown Meeting Room, Paoli, PA.
Members may attend as observers.

WB3JOE REPEATERS (CTCSS or PL = 131.8 hz) -
145.130 - / 147.060 + / 224.420 - / 445.675 -
The 2-meter repeaters are linked.

WEBMASTER -

Dennis Silage K3DS
k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

2-METER NETS -

Club Net, Sundays and Wednesdays, 8:30 PM
Roundtable Net, Thursdays, 8:30 PM
These nets occur on linked 145.13 - / 147.06 + Repeater

NET MANAGER -

Brenden McNeil W3VD
w3vd@marc-radio.org 302-319-3536

NET CONTROL OPS -

Alan K3WWT, Bob N3JIZ, Steve N1HDP, Miguel KC2HMG, Yak N3MQM, Rob KB3WIR, Brenden W3VD, Mike WB2UQV and Bob WB3T

DUES - Payable at the March Meeting

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

NEWSLETTER -

The REMARCS editor is Steve WA2EAJ
610-662-2768 wa2eaj@marc-radio.org
Do you have anything for REMARCS?
Please let me know.

assets of the Delaware County Amateur Radio Association (DCARA). This includes the linked repeaters of W3UER/R at 147.36, 224.50 and 444.05 but not the amateur television equipment.

- We have continued our tradition of holding Saturday breakfast get togethers. We meet at 9 AM on the second Saturday of the month at the Country Squire Diner at 2560 West Chester Pike, Broomall. It's a lot of fun and purely social. It's a good way to spend some time with your fellow club members in a very informal setting.
- Field Day this year is June 23 and 24. The venue will again be the Lower Providence Fire Company grounds at Ridge Pike and Mount Kirk Avenue in Eagleville. **Steve Ikler WA2EAJ** has agreed to be our Field Day Captain this year but he is going to need your help. Please contact Steve at wa2ej@arrl.net and let him know how you would like to participate. This includes equipment you could bring, your willingness to help set up and/or take down antennas and times you could operate. We hope to involve both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in this year's event.
- **Ned Smith, WQ3Z**, has been formulating ideas and plans for a new contest and award that would be sponsored by MARC. Ned made a presentation about this at our February general membership meeting and we hope to hear more from Ned in the coming months.

In order to keep our club going strong, we need all of you to continue your membership and hopefully also attract new members. Our membership year begins March 1. Many of you have already renewed. For those of you that have not yet renewed, please mail in your dues to our Post Office Box (MARC, PO Box 557, Eagleville, PA 19408),

Thanks to all of you who continue to support MARC in so many ways. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and events.

**73/Steve
KD3WK**
President/Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

MARC is Now on Facebook



Thanks to the efforts of **Lou Ruh WX3I**, MARC now has a presence on Facebook. Here is the URL:

www.facebook.com/MARC.HamRadio

There is not much there yet. You may have to be logged onto

MARC Board of Directors 2011-2012

PRESIDENT

Steven Werner KD3WK

kd3wk@marc-radio.org 610-574-6836

VICE PRESIDENT

Stephen Ikler WA2EAJ

wa2ej@marc-radio.org 610-662-2768

SECRETARY

John Callahan K3JDR

k3jdr@marc-radio.org 610-291-6976

TREASURER

Lou Ruh WX3I

wx3i@marc-radio.org 610-630-9146

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ

n3jiz@marc-radio.org 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL SERVICE

Dennis Silage K3DS

k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Allan Glaser AB3FN

ab3fn@marc-radio.org 610-687-0928

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Jim Biddle W3DCL

w3dcl@marc-radio.org 610-353-0880

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Richard Russo KB3VZL

kb3vzl@marc-radio.org 610-539-2999

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2012 -

Doug Wilkens NE3U

ne3u@marc-radio.org 610-692-6819

To 9/30/2013 -

Brenden McNeil W3VD

w3vd@marc-radio.org 302-319-3536

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

- WB3JOE

Dennis Silage K3DS

k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

- W3NWA

Dieter Hauer K3DK

k3dk@marc-radio.org 610-489-1920

Facebook to access the page.

Our preliminary page received the required 25 "likes" so we received a shorter, friendlier URL. Right now Lou is the only administrator, but we can add more folks. If anyone is interested, let Lou know.

The posting security options are:

- "People can write or post content on the wall"
- "People can add photos and videos"
- "People can add tags to photos by Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club"

Right now, the first two options are active; the third is not (tagging means selecting a portion of a photo and associating a Facebook user's name with that spot). The page can be geographically limited, age limited and can also filter words/phrases out of posts.

Let Lou know of any other ideas you may have for this page.

Thanks to everyone who made this possible. Please pass the word to all interesting in MARC.

Stay tuned ... By the end of the month, Facebook is changing how pages look so the page will soon look more like the "timeline" format that Facebook is migrating to.

MARC Board Meeting of February 29, 2012

Board Members Present:

- KD3WK Steve Werner**
- WA2EAJ Steve Ikler (phone)**
- W3VD Brenden McNeil**
- K3DS Dennis Silage**
- K3JDR John Callahan**
- KB3VZL Richard Russo**
- NE3U Doug Wilkens**
- W3DCL Jim Biddle**
- WX3I Lou Ruh**

Board Members Absent

- K3DK Dieter Hauer**
- AB3FN Alan Glaser**
- N3JIZ Bob Palin**

President **Steve KD3WK** called the meeting to order 7:05 PM.

Minutes from December 2011 board meeting were approved.

Lou (WX3I) submitted the treasurer's report.
Lou (WX3I) will make \$100 donation to Lower Providence Fire Company.
The report was approved unanimously.

Issue #1:

Dennis (K3DS) made a motion for MARC to absorb the Delaware County Amateur Radio Association (DCARA) and

its assets – excluding the Amateur TV equipment. The motion was passed unanimously.

Issue #2:

Dennis (K3DS) made a motion to decommission MARC's Bryn Mawr 220Mhz repeater station. MARC will acquire another 220Mhz repeater from DCARA. The motion was passed unanimously.

Issue #3:

Steve (KD3WK) collected comments for the Aware Program proposed by **Ned (WQ3Z)**.
Steve (KD3WK) will communicate board's comments back to Ned (WQ3Z).

Issue #4:

Dennis (K3DS) requested reimbursement of \$137.00 to renew MARC web and email services. The request was granted unanimously.

Issue #5:

Steve (WA2EAJ) was appointed Field Day Captain for 2012. Field Day this year will be held on June 23-24 at the Lower Providence Fire Company, Ridge Pike and Mount Kirk Avenue, Eagleville, PA.

Issue #6:

Steve (KD3WK) drafted a response to the Feb. 28th SPAM email and submitted it for comments to the board.

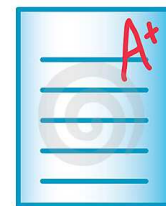
Issue #7:

Rich (KB3VZL) has arranged a presenter for the March 2012 general meeting. It will be Ed Nymus, from Hakko Products presenting "Soldering Tools and Techniques".
Dennis (K3DS) will update the website with details.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Callahan K3JDR, MARC Secretary

MARC Sponsored VE Test Sessions



The regularly scheduled VE Test Session was held February 4, 2012 at the First Presbyterian Church, 113 East Airy Street in Norristown, PA.

Technician earned	0
General earned	1
Extra earned	1
Passed an element but did not upgrade	0
Did not pass an element	0
Total candidates served	2
Total elements administered	3

No MARC members took advantage of the free test session.

The following VE's took part in the session: **W3ZQN, NE3U, WQ3E, K3ITH, K3DS**

The next session will be on May 5, 2012.
73, **Bob W3ZQN**

MARC 2011 Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Lou Ruh, MARC Treasurer

Opening Balance \$ 10,264.16

Income

Dues Received \$ 1,245.00

Hamfest \$ 2,682.10

Auction \$ 81.00

Total Income \$ 4,008.10

Expenses

Spaceman Storage Locker \$ 254.40

Tech Committee \$ 327.66

Nick Fund \$ 35.50

Holiday Party \$ 139.30

Meeting Expenses (DVD) \$ 23.00

Field Day \$ 269.08

Public Service \$ 53.00

Total Expenses \$ 1,101.94

Ending Balance \$ 13,170.32

Operating HF Bicycle Mobile My Quest for Bicycle Mobile DXCC By Mike Pilotti, KF3CD

In 2009, I made a contact from my car with Dave Starkie, G4AKC, when he was operating bicycle mobile in Blackpool, England. After looking at his webpage at g4akc.co.uk, his info on QRZ.com and his YouTube videos, I immediately knew I had to try this mode!

I already had a small portable HF radio I could use; a 20 meter MFJ 9420 Travel Radio (10 watts) and a ham stick antenna. I had used this minimalist setup in the past to operate "Pedestrian Mobile" (I worked 8 DXCC entities with 10 watts the very first time I tried Pedestrian Mobile, including Algeria and Revilla Gigedo!) so the radio and ham stick antenna went on the bike and I immediately started working DX. After working my first dozen or so entities and a bunch of states with this little radio, I started to get a little frustrated with my lack of power and inability to get through any pileups or to anyone whose signal was less than about 55. About a year ago, I decided to take my Yaesu FT-100 out of the car and I installed it on my bike. Now I was able to operate on more than one band and vary my power as needed. Now I was really cooking and working new countries nearly every time I went out for a ride!

At the time of this writing (early Feb.), I have 91 DXCC entities and 36 states worked from my bike, all with 50 watts or less (I usually operate at 35 watts). Hopefully by the time this is published, I will have surpassed my initial goal of working 100 countries for a Bicycle Mobile DXCC. (*EDITOR'S NOTE: As of March 13, 2012 Mike has 102 countries so he has reached his initial goal. Congrats, Mike!*) I operate on and have ham sticks for 10, 17 and 20 meters and my farthest contacts so far from the bike are Australia, Falkland Islands and Russia. A few of the somewhat rarer DX contacts I have made from my bike include Market Reef, Malpelo, Oman, Svalbard Island, Isle of Man, Orkney Islands, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Guantanamo Bay. I have worked most of the common countries in Europe and South and Central America. Every contact I make is surprised and amazed to find out that I am operating from a bike and nearly everyone tells me that they have never worked a bicycle mobile station before. That really makes it fun!



Figure 15 - Yaesu FT-100 control head remotely mounted on handlebars, with iPhone monitoring DXwatch.com and LED light for night-time logging.

My bicycle mobile station is really very simple. The bike is a Trek Antelope Mountain Bike (a gift from my brother Scott, KB3RBU...thanks Scott! ;-)) and the transceiver is mounted on a small rack on the back, along with an 8 ah gel cell that I keep trickle charged when not in use. On one battery charge, I am able to get several hours of casual operating time before the voltage starts to drop off and distort my signal. The mount for the ham stick is just behind the battery. Many people ask about my ground system but I have no special ground system. The mount provides a good ground to the bike frame and it works very well. The control head for the transceiver is remotely mounted on the handlebars next to a mount that holds my iPhone so that I can monitor the dxwatch.com cluster as I operate. An MFJ speaker mounted on the bar between my legs gives me much better audio than the speaker that's built into the FT-100. I also have a small flexible LED light on the handlebars so that I can log contacts in the dark and I have created a mini log book, printed on 3x5 cards, that fits in my pocket and holds up well for outside use.



Figure 24 - Antenna mount and battery. The transceiver body is between the battery and the back of the seat.

All but one of my bicycle mobile contacts so far has been on SSB. I recently connected my little Paddlette key to the transceiver just so I could work a new one from the bike, 6V7S in Senegal. I got through on the second or third call. Although the Paddlette has a mount that straps to my leg, I have to admit that I was not "in motion" and riding for this contact. However, I do try to actually be on the bike and riding while in QSO whenever possible. My most memorable QSO has to be with VP8LP in Stanley, Falkland Islands, as I was riding around my neighborhood, in the dark, on a warm summer night, trying to find just the right spot that would peak my signal, which I eventually did. I was thrilled to make that contact and Bob was very surprised to learn that I was bicycle mobile and said "Start pedaling south Mike! I'll put the tea pot on and it will be ready when you get here!" Sorry Bob, I don't know if I could even make it out of PA!



Figure 24 - Bicycle mobile station at a favorite operating spot, St. Agnes Cemetery in West Chester, one of the highest points in Chester County. It's an easy ride to and from my home and it's downhill all the way home!

I would encourage anyone that's thinking about operating bicycle mobile to give it a try. It's a great way to get outside and get some exercise and fresh air, even if you just take a short ride to a favorite spot to operate, as I sometimes do. If you live in a restricted antenna area, operating bicycle mobile might be a possible option to stay on the air and if you don't want to or can't ride a bike, you could put the bike with antenna outside and run the coax inside to your transceiver!

For more info, visit The Bicycle Mobile Hams of America website at <http://www.bmha-hams.org/>. There's no cost to join, they have an active online forum and have guest speakers at Dayton. There has been some recent talk on the forums about starting some awards for operating bicycle mobile. Hopefully that will spur more hams to try this fun mode.

From the Editor's Shack

As you probably already read in the VOX column, I recently returned from a successful hamming trip to the Bahamas. Because of that trip, this issue of REMARCS is coming out a little later than usual. Thanks to those MARC members who contacted me on the air while in the Bahamas. If you are interested in reading more about my adventure, I created a website with pictures and a daily blog. You can access that website at: <http://sites.google.com/site/wa2eaj/>.

Since the last issue, MARC has had a couple very informative meeting programs. In January 2012 **Jeff Thayer WA3I** presented "Antennas - What are they?" In February, our own **Bob Caverly WB4PWZ** gave a presentation on Solid-State RF Linear Amplifiers. Thanks to Jeff and Bob for excellent presentations.

MARC's breakfast get-togethers are continuing on the second Saturday of the month at Country Squire Restaurant, 2560 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA. **Steve KD3WK, Jeremy N2ZLQ, Jim K3RTU, Jim W3DCL, Martin AA3A, Lou (WX3I), and Doug NE3U** attended the March breakfast (seen in picture L-R).



At the last Board meeting I was appointed to be this year's Field Day Captain. That means I will coordinate this year's

effort. In order to do that, I will need your help. I hope to have us on the air with two HF stations and a VHF station all running emergency power, the same as last year. Food will be provided. We'll see if we can get a GOTA (Get on the Air) special station operational as well. This year, Field Day will be held 1800 UTC Saturday, June 23 through 2059 UTC Sunday, June 24. MARC's Field Day site is at the Lower Providence Fire Company, located at Ridge Pike and Mount Kirk Avenue, Eagleville, PA. All members and non-members are welcome to participate. If you, a ham friend or a non-ham friend would like to participate, please drop me an email with your name, callsign, and what you want to do (setup, take-down, operate, transport equipment, or anything else). My email is wa2eai@arrl.net. MARC will appreciate all you can do to help.



www.arrl.org

Check out the schedule of upcoming meetings and programs. There is probably something for everyone.

Thanks and 73,

Steve WA2EAJ

MARC VP, Newsletter Editor and 2012 Field Day Captain

New 60 Meter Privileges Now In Effect

(From The ARRL Letter on March 8, 2012)

As of March 5, US amateurs have new privileges on the 60 meter band. In addition to an increase in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, hams can now transmit CW and PSK31 on the following channel-center frequencies:

- Channel 1: 5332.0 kHz - Channel 4: 5373.0 kHz
- Channel 2: 5348.0 kHz - Channel 5: 5405.0 kHz
- Channel 3: 5358.5 kHz

- Amateurs can also transmit USB voice and PACTOR III on the following suppressed carrier frequencies (the frequencies typically shown on transceiver displays):

- Channel 1: 5330.5 kHz - Channel 4: 5371.5 kHz
- Channel 2: 5346.5 kHz - Channel 5: 5403.5 kHz
- Channel 3: 5357.0 kHz

For more information, please see 60 Meter Operations -- New Privileges and Recommended Practices

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Recommended_Practices_for_60_Meters%20-%20Version%206_4.pdf, published

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-publishes-new-guidelines-for-60-meters> by the ARRL HF Band Planning Committee. A revised ARRL band chart is also available. Watch for the article "New Privileges on 60 Meters" by ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, in the April 2012 issue of QST.

Updates to MARC's Website

Check out the recent changes to MARC's website. We have added a new Archive page that currently contains a listing of past presidents and information about our original 147.06 Repeater (with photo). The Calendar page is always updated with new information about MARC meetings and events. The Membership page is updated regularly with the current MARC membership list.

You can find the website at: <http://www.marc-radio.org>. Our website is maintained by **Dennis Silage K3DS**.

Hamfests and Contests

The following hamfests and contests will be held in the next two months.

Hamfests

Fairless Hills, PA - Penn Wireless Assn, Auction & Meeting

Date: March 19, 2012

Location: Falls Township Community Building, 188 Old Lincoln Highway, Fairless Hills, PA (near Oxford Valley Mall)

Website: <http://www.pennwireless.org/>

Sponsor: Penn Wireless Association, PO Box 224, Morrisville, PA 19067

Opens: 7:30 pm, Auction starts at 8 pm

Cost: Free; Sellers pay \$2 per item/box lot; if sold, seller pays 10% commission less \$2 fee up to \$35 max charge

VE Testing*: Starts at 6:30 pm

Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computer Fest & Maryland State Convention

Date: March 31 (Saturday only)

Location: Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, I-83 to Exit 17, Padonia Rd East

Website: <http://www.gbhc.org/>

Sponsor: Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 120, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136

Opens: 7 am to 3 pm (Saturday only this year); Vendor setup 5pm to 11pm Friday, 5 am Saturday

Cost: \$8 in advance, \$9 at gate; Vendor rates: Basic \$20 per space, Flea Market is \$30 a space, Commercial \$75 a space

VE Testing*: Crowne Plaza Hotel, register by 9:00, for info contact John Creel, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124 or e-mail creewb3gxw@aol.com

DXCC, WAS and VUCC card checking 9am - 12pm

Wrightstown (Bucks County), PA - Warminster ARC (WARC)

Date: May 6, 2012

Location: Middletown Grange Fairgrounds, 576 Penns Park Road, Wrightstown (Newtown), PA, just south of junction of Rt 232 & Rt 413

Website: <http://www.k3dn.org/>

Sponsor: Warminster ARC, PO Box 113, Warminster, PA 18974

Opens: 7 am (vendors at 6 am; Saturday setup after 4 pm)
Rain or Shine

Cost: \$5 (ULS/kids U13 free) at gate; Vendors: Tailgate \$10/Table \$15, plus admission

VE Testing*: 10 am; call Larry Abbot, WA3ELQ, at 215-443-7521 for more info

WAS Field Checking of QSL cards

Contests

Russian DX Contest
1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18

Find Rules at:

<http://www.rdxo.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp>

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25

Find Rules at:

<http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest
1200-1800 local, Apr 7

Find Rules at:

<http://www.podxs070.com/31-flavors>