



www.marc-radio.org
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FIELD DAY EDITION

REMARCS

May/June 2009

VE AMATEUR TEST SESSION

Our Volunteer Exam Coordinator **Bob Lees W3ZQN** reports that 2 candidates were served at the last amateur test session that occurred earlier on May 2nd. Both candidates passed their exams. One Technician and one Extra class license were granted. One of the applicants was a MARC Member, and took advantage of the test session for a free test.

The following VE's were present and assisted with the testing: **Bob W3ZQN, Dennis K3DS, Susan K3SUE, Paul NX3Q, Ron W3ZV and Sam KF3G.**

The next amateur test session will be held on August 1st, 2009 and you must contact Bob W3ZQN to schedule for a test if interested. He may be reached at 610 265-6032 or RJLees@aol.com. Current MARC Members are eligible for one free test session during their year of membership. Please see www.marc-radio.org for additional information.

MARC MEETINGS

July 21st, Post Field Day Meeting – Discussion and some pictures regarding the new Field Day site that we recently operated at. Do you have ideas or questions regarding the new site? Please come to the meeting and let us know.

August 18th, TBD

DONATIONS

A donation was recently made to MARC in memory of **Bob Haase, W3SA** (SK), by his son Bob Jr. N1RH.

A donation was also made to MARC in memory of **Dick Thompson K3IIN** (SK) by his wife and family.

MARC is thankful for these recent donations.

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VOX

Thanks to **Josy WQ3E** for distributing our MARC hamfest flyers at the Warminster hamfest in May. **Doug N3ENU** is now **NE3U**. Good bye to **Steve W3AHL** as he has moved to North Carolina. Welcome back to **Steve N3LJZ**. **Carter N3AO** says that he will be at the MARC hamfest on July 12th.

Note: Two positions still remain open on the MARC Board. One is for Public Relations and the other is for Program Chairman. If you are interested in serving on the MARC Board, please notify any of the Board members. Thank You

MARC BOARD POSITIONS AND UPCOMING ELECTION, SEPT. 2009

As you know, the MARC Board is comprised of current club members in good standing. All of the positions listed below will be up for election, this coming September, with exception of the one Member-At-Large position that is currently held by **Phil KB3MAW** (Phil will be entering the 2nd year of a 2 year term).

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- SECRETARY
- TREASURER
- PUBLIC SERVICE CHAIRMAN
- TECHNICAL SERVICE CHAIRMAN
- PROGRAM CHAIRMAN *
- PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN *
- MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CHAIRMAN
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2 YEAR TERM)

* Position is currently open.

If you are a current, full member or, an associate member (with documented proof of having qualified for an amateur radio license) in good standing; you are encouraged to run for any of the above positions. Each term is for 12 months, from September 2009 - September 2010, with the exception of the Member-At-Large term which is for 24 months, from September 2009 - September 2011. The election will occur on September 15th, 2009.

If interested, please notify any of the current Board members of your intentions by no later than August 18th, 2009. Contact information is listed for these Board Members on page 3 in this issue of REMARCS. MARC is a volunteer organization so it's future is directly dependent on volunteers that are willing to serve and contribute some of their time and effort on behalf of the club. All inquiries are appreciated and will be considered.

MS WALK AT EAST GOSHEN PARK APRIL 26TH, 2009

The following hams assisted earlier with communications for the MS 5K Run and Walk at East Goshen Park in West Chester: **Sam WA3LGL**, **Dieter K3DK** and Public Service Chairman **Bob N3JIZ** (Net Control).



(left-right) Dieter K3DK, Sam WA3LGL and Bob N3JIZ

FROM THE EDITOR'S SHACK

"You're kidding me.... They said no? Okay, thanks for your time and effort. We're sorry at this end that we won't be able to do Field Day 2009 at the training facility in Audubon"...

The above was a bit of a gut wrenching call that I had concluded with Verizon, and with less than a week before the Field Day event was to begin.

Another discussion had occurred earlier, at the previous MARC Board meeting where we realized that we may have to use a different site to host Field Day 2009. Stuff happens and changes in working conditions, personnel and management brought about this situation. When this happens unexpectedly, you make the best of the situation and scramble on to "Plan B".

I should add that Verizon had graciously provided a free site where we were able to perform Field Day exercises for over 25 years and, they had also provided 2 trucks gratis (thanks to Bob Haase, W3SA - SK). Can't complain there and who knows, we may return some day. In the meantime, it was on to "Plan B".

At least three of our MARC members are volunteers at the Lower Providence Fire Dept. in Eagleville and it was suggested that we should check out their Fair Grounds, located on a nice hill, behind the Fire House, on Ridge Pike in Eagleville. On Wednesday, June 24th, Dieter K3DK met with Lou WX3I at the proposed location, examined the area, facilities and made a determination that this site would probably work well for MARC's Field Day event.

Now... on to contacting the Fire Department and checking to see if we could hold Field Day at the Fair Grounds...

MARC INFO

wb3joe@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, Willistown Meeting Room
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.

WEBMASTERS -

Foster Schucker K3FXS
k3fxs@marc-radio.org 302-363-7347
Dennis Silage K3DS
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 215-530-2151

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 k3dk@marc-radio.org
Do you have anything for REMARCS?
Please let me know.



Sign posted at old Field Day site, to redirect hams.

MARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT

Dieter Hauer K3DK

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Oswald W3DUB

w3dub@marc-radio.org 267-241-9067

SECRETARY

Sam Mitchell WA3LGL

wa3lgl@marc-radio.org 215-530-2151

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

Jim Biddle W3DCL

w3dcl@marc-radio.org 610 353-0880

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2009 -

Miguel Ramirez KC2HMG

kc2hmg@marc-radio.org 856 534-8120

To 9/30/2010 -

Phil Cauffman KB3MAW

kb3maw@marc-radio.org 610 286-8961

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

- WB3JOE

Dennis Silage K3DS

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

- W3NWA

Dieter Hauer K3DK

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

MARC Board Meeting Minutes June 9th, 2009

By Sam Mitchell – WA3LGL

Meeting started: 7:30 PM

Board members present: Dieter K3DK, Sam WA3LGL, Dennis K3DS, Phil KB3MAW, Miguel KC2HMG, Bob N3JIZ, Jim W3DCL, and Ed W3DUB.

K3DK opened the meeting. Dieter sent a letter to Verizon in early May requesting the use of the training field for our field day site. He is still waiting for a response from Verizon. Bill

KN3EUF offered to be our safety officer this year. We were thinking about offering free admission to Marple Newtown club members if they were to assist with our hamfest and if they volunteered to help with the Kimberton Fair.

We will be holding a kit building night sometime in the fall.

Sometime in November we might get involved with getting the girl scouts interested in amateur radio by having a demonstration. There will be more info to follow on that demonstration.

Bob N3JIZ stated that all the spring public service events are finished. Bob will check into info for the Live Strong event in August. Also, Bob talked about this years MS150 event that will occur in October.

K3DS said that we might get to share the use of a weather radio hooked up on the 147.060 repeater. The 220 repeater is still on the air but no nets are currently running there. Dennis suggested waiting til the end of August or September to install the new repeater on 145.130 MHz. Also, the 440 repeater will be hooked up then and be linked to the two meter repeaters.

Meeting ended: 8:35 PM

FROM THE EDITOR'S SHACK – CTD'

Lou WX3I contacted Ron W3ZV with our request and Ron worked with the Fire Dept. to see if we could gain access to the Fair Grounds and some of the facilities with such short notice. No problem! A small fee was requested for the two days that we would be there and proof of liability insurance was required.

We were able to meet their requirements and Field Day was "back on the calendar" for MARC!

The next step?... Time to check on the status of MARC's storage locker. We had received notice about 2 months earlier that SpaceMall was moving our club storage locker to a new site that was about a 1/4 mile away from the old site. Unfortunately, they had moved our locker and its contents about 3 weeks earlier than planned and the locker number had also changed.

A phone call to them on Thursday and a quick follow up trip to their office cleared up any confusion. Next, a brief drive to the storage locker and examination of the contents showed that everything appeared to be complete and in good order. Our stuff had been professionally moved as designated earlier.

Was MARC's 2009 Field Day event a success? Well, you'll have to read the MARC Field Day article and see for yourself.

- 73 Dieter, K3DK

RADNOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE MAY 25th, 2009

MARC provided radio communications for safety and logistics, for the Radnor Memorial Day Parade. The parade officials were glad to have MARC once again help out with the parade. Our Public Service Chairman, **Bob Palin N3JIZ** headed up communications and was Net Control for the event. Thanks to our volunteers below.



(left – right) Volunteer Communicators for the 2009 Radnor Memorial Day Parade - Dennis KA3QOT, Ned WQ3Z, Beth KA3GKI, Bob N3JIZ (Net Control Op.), Floyd KA3OXA, Dieter K3DK and Bob W3ZQN.

Below are a few of the Memorial Day parade entries... Maybe we can talk **Floyd KA3OXA** into entering his shiny SUV in next year's parade as the MARC float!



The Memorial Day MARC Float



All original – 1966 Dodge Polara Police Cruiser with 383 Big Block



Any self-respecting ham **MUST** Take a picture of the Motorola Motrac'

FIELD DAY 2009!

If you read the editorial in this issue of REMARCS, you'll note that this year's Field Day event was hosted by MARC at a new location in Eagleville. We set up and had Field Day on the Fair Grounds, behind the Lower Providence Fire Dept.

The new site was about 250 feet higher in altitude when compared to the old one and that not only translated into a better position for propagating radio signals, but also provided a nice cool breeze that was pleasant for all and negated the use of any fans that were brought on site. We also had the fortune of being able to operate from a pavilion with a large, open area and picnic tables. Consequently, we didn't have to pitch tents or assemble the awning as required in years past.



MARC Field Day Site – Operations occurred under the pavilion roof. 3 element HF yagi on center-left and 6 meter quad on center-right. – Photo by WX3I

This also lightened up our load when hauling club items from the storage locker in nearby Oaks.

Our emergency power came from a portable 8 KW generator that was graciously supplied by **Susan K3SUE**. **Yak N3MQM** brought his new pop-up camper and again cooked on the grill for hungry volunteers and visitors. He also supplied delicious meatballs and sausage that he had prepared in advance.

Bill KN3EUF was our safety officer. He and Yak stayed over night and maintained the site. **Dieter K3DK** served as Field Day Captain and provided the necessary paperwork and information to the operators.

As a club, MARC operated a 2-Alpha configuration, under emergency power. We had one HF station on CW and one HF station on SSB. A third, free station was allowed on VHF, so we assembled one for 6 meters. Thanks to **Dennis KA3QOT** for providing his Kenwood TS-570 which covered 6 meters.

Various members tried their hand at making contacts and the following antennas were used, a G5RV dipole for HF low-bands & 3 element yagi for 10, 15 & 20 meters. The 4 element quad was assembled for 6 meters and mounted on a push up pole like the HF yagi. No bucket truck, but we managed quite well.



Our Field Day Operating Position: (left-right), Bill KN3EUF, Phil KB3MAW operating HF phone, Dan KA3KHR (standing) and Bob N3JIZ operating 6 meter phone. Photo by WX3I

Although the number of hams and visitors that showed up was slightly less than in previous years and some were conspicuously absent, we still had a nice showing and 25 people signed in at our public information table.



Assembly of the 6 Meter Quad can be tricky since it is a 3 dimensional antenna, Lou WX3I (standing) kept things together as Susan K3SUE and Dan KA3KHR untangled the wire-loop elements. Photo by KA3QOT

A local ham, **Charles N3CRT** visited the site and made some 20 meter phone contacts for us. The Fire Chief for Lower

Providence Fire Dept, **Bryan McFarland** also visited and that added 100 bonus points to our Field Day score.



(left – right) **Matthew KB3PNA** and father, **David KA3RYS** were a big help at MARC's Field Day event, and assisted with antenna assembly and layout. Photo by **WX3I**



(left – right) **Josy WQ3E** makes HF CW contacts while **Bob N3JIZ** assists with logging duties.

Many others helped with assembly, cleanup and tear down of the site and transporting of club items to and from the storage locker, such as: **Bob N3JIZ**, **Dennis KA3QOT**, **Lou WX3I**, **Ron W3ZV**, **Susan K3SUE**, **Phil KB3MAW**, **Josy WQ3E**, **Yak N3MQM**, **Dan KA3KHR**, **Bill KN3EUF**, **David KA3RYS**, **Matthew KB3PNA**, and **Dieter K3DK**.

Ron W3ZV brought along his EZ-Hang slingshot and was able to get the G5RV dipole up, over 50 above ground, between two towers. This helped our low-band efforts a lot. Susan's 8 KW generator operated flawlessly and was strategically located to minimize any noise pollution to the

surrounding area. We refueled the generator once during Field Day operations and restarting the generator was uneventful. **Owen Pearl** scored 20 bonus points as a youth operator. **Jim W3DCL** submitted a notice to local newspapers and that earned MARC 100 bonus points.



Mounting the HF Yagi was a team effort, and the results were worth it. Photo by **WX3I**

The Fair Grounds had decent facilities and about 3-4 times more land area when compared to the old site. So, the possibilities for putting up a wide variety of other interesting antennas is something further to ponder.

The weather could not have been much nicer and enhanced the event for all. If you missed out on MARC's Field Day 2009 event, we hope that you can make it for next year.

Please see our scores below for **W3NWA**. Although we didn't catch any openings on 6 meters, there were contacts to be made and the HF bands were in decent shape.

Special thanks go out to **Ron W3ZV** and **Lou WX3I** for helping MARC to get this site on such short notice.

<u>BAND</u>	<u># Phone QSOs</u>	<u># CW QSOs</u>
80 M	3	42
40 M	9	61
20 M	51	10
15 M	37	0
10 M	5	0
6 M	16	0
Totals =	121	113 (x2 CW multiplier)

Total QSO Points = (121 + 226) x2 (multiplier) = 694

Bonus Points = 770

FINAL SCORE = 770 + 694 = 1,464 Points for FD 2009

Note: Our 2008 FD score was 1,990 points

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

Here is a listing of DX that MARC members have recently worked on the HF bands. If you've worked some new DX on HF, from June 16th – August 15th, please send your contact information (limit - 2 contacts/ham) to Dieter K3DK at k3dk@marc-radio.org or 610 489-1920 by August 20th.

Name - Callsign	Date	Time (UTC)	DX Station Worked	Signal (RST)	Band	Mode	Power	Antenna	Location
Dieter - K3DK	Apl 23	04:36	LY7M	579	40 M	CW	100 W	140 ft. OCF Dipole	Lithuania
Steve - WA2EAJ	May 17	02:12	ZL3RG	599	20 M	PSK31	40 W	Hamstick Dipole @ 15 feet	New Zealand
Steve - KD3WK	May 9	16:27	UA3SAQ	59	20 M	SSB	800 W	Force 12 C4	Ukraine
Dennis - KA3QOT	May 9	18:48	PI4DMX	59	20 M	SSB	100 W	Hamstick 1/4 wave mobile ant.	Netherlands
Steve - WA2EAJ	May 7	22:43	JY4NE	599	20 M	PSK31	40 W	Hamstick Dipole @ 15 feet	Jordan
Dieter - K3DK	Jun 5	04:23	ZK2V	569	30 M	CW	100 W	140 ft. OCF Dipole	Niue Island
Steve - KD3WK	Jun 7	21:41	TF8GX	59	20 M	SSB	800 W	Force 12 C4	Iceland

Note: Although not an HF contact; **Dennis KA3QOT** reported that he worked **K5SHY** in Norwood, LA on 6 Meters (VHF), from his mobile with 100 watts on SSB using a 1/4 wave Ham Stick antenna on June 12th at 17:25 UTC. You never know when there may be an opening on that magic band! Hmmm... maybe we are getting a few more sunspots.

Mystery Transmission

A Car Horn Contact in Oakland, California

By Denis "Doc" Franklin, W6EW

w6ew@arri.net

From ARRL HQ – June 19, 2009

A fast key makes contact with a parked car.

When I tell this story to friends who are not hams all I get is a blank look, but I know you will understand why the event left me feeling amazed and disoriented. It started out mundanely enough. I was cruising the neighborhood of Oakland, California's Rockridge Café, a favorite grill of mine in which to have a burger or some soup at lunchtime.

As I motored slowly along Forest Street, a block or two before College Avenue I began to hear Morse code, just slightly faster than I can copy in my head, but definitely Morse. Rolling down my window to hear a little better I realized it was a car horn, sending at 20-some words a minute. When I drew abreast of the car sending the code it was completely empty. I could clearly discern that each and every group of dits and dahs was a letter and not just some random making and breaking of a short in the horn circuit.

Shaking my head in puzzlement I continued looking for a parking space and, finding none, I turned right on Lawton and went around the block. Arriving back on Forest I discovered that the car was still sending what sounded like the middle of a long

ragchew. Pulling up next to the car I stopped, looking all around to see if someone was playing a trick on passersby, but there was no one in sight.

Now here's the bizarre part, and at the same time the thing that gave me a clue as to the explanation of the mystery. Going along with what I assumed was a joke, I expressed my appreciation by sounding out HI HI HI on my own car horn. Instantly the sending stopped, then, after a long pause, resumed.

Aha. Suddenly I realized what must be going on. Somewhere within earshot of my horn was a ham with an indoor antenna (I had already looked around for exterior ones). And, in a one-in-a-million chance, there happened to be a car parked near his house with a defect in the horn circuit, perhaps some corrosion, that was rectifying the RF and somehow shorting the horn. Or perhaps the rectification was occurring in some solid-state component of the horn circuit. This notion was corroborated by the fact that the CW was sounding at a much faster rate than one can send Morse using the horn button itself.

I had a good laugh envisioning the operator, startled in the middle of his ragchew, who suddenly hears someone outside his house sending HI HI HI on his car horn. If he heard my car horn why didn't he hear the original car horn? Well for two reasons I can think of: Going at such high speed the tone was pretty light and tentative — not very loud. And it would have coincided with and may have been masked by his CW sidetone.

Finally finding a parking space, I went on to have a good lunch at the Rockridge. Later my only regret was that I didn't think to send a QRZ (Who is calling me?) with my own car horn and sign "de W6EW." If I'd had time to dig out a pencil I might even have been able to read the mail (listen in.) and copy his call when he signed during his exchanges. Perhaps I could have enticed the operator to come out to the street so I could meet him or her.

If anyone knows the ham living near the corner of Boyd and Forest in Oakland, he or she might find this story amusing if you will be kind enough to pass it along.

Denis "Doc" Franklin, W6EW, has been a ham for 42 years who, since his retirement from medical practice in 2000, has written several previous QST articles on the use of HF Winlink2000 on oceanographic research ships and Winlink HF/VHF/UHF in emergency and disaster communications applications.

Though proud of his non-ham children, a college professor, a helo pilot, a trial lawyer and a digital production manager for Hollywood films, Doc is especially hopeful that the two grandchildren who have expressed an interest in ham radio will develop an early proficiency in and enjoyment of CW, a skill at which he feels he missed out by skipping over the Novice step when first licensed. He now struggles daily to "get over the hump" and copy high speed Morse by the word instead of by the letter.

**Mid-Atlantic ARC
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