



Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

www.marc-radio.org

P.O. BOX 557
EAGLEVILLE, PA
19408

REMARCS

Next Club Meeting: November 22 at 7:30 PM

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

Presidents Message

Wow, it's hard to believe that 2016 is almost gone! It's been a great year for MARC, with a lot of great events and activities.

I've been honored to step into the position of President, now that Steve, KD3WK, has moved on to the next phase of his life in Florida. He's left some big shoes to fill, and I hope to maintain the great trajectory he has established for the club.

Field Day and the Hamfest were both successful events. Field Day is always a great opportunity for club members to get together, and to showcase our skills and interests in a very public way. In addition to our on-air and off-air activities at Field Day, twenty-four Boy Scouts also received their Radio Merit Badge; to my knowledge this is a "high water mark" for this program.

Our Hamfest revenues were slightly up from last year, proving that while the "golden days" of big payoffs might be behind us, the Hamfest is still a solid fundraiser for the club, and more importantly, a great opportunity for outreach to the larger amateur radio community, as it's something that really "puts us on the map" in the Mid-Atlantic region. After 20 years faithfully leading our Hamfest efforts, Mike Pilotti, KF3CD, would like to take a step back and allow other club members to take the reins. For next year we plan to have a club Committee to run the Hamfest, given how much work it is to get this event off the ground. For all his tireless efforts on the Hamfest and other endeavors, we really owe Mike a great debt of gratitude.

This year we have also expanded our reach into social media. In addition to our public MARC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MARC.HamRadio>), we now also have a members-only Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WB3JOE/>). If you have not already done so, please join the Facebook group, where we hope to have some lively discussions and timely dissemination of information.

Finally, we plan to cap off this year – MARC's 40th – with our annual Holiday Party, to be held on December 10th at the Chicago Uno grill in Newtown Square. This year, our Holiday Party will also serve as our 40th Anniversary celebration, so we plan to make this an "extra special" party.

I hope that the remainder of 2016 treats you all well, and here's to an excellent 2017!

73 de N2ZLQ Jeremy



VOX

MARC's annual holiday party and 40th Anniversary Celebration will take place starting at 12 noon on December 10 at Uno Pizzeria & Grill, 3910 West Chester Pike in Newtown Square. This is a wonderful gathering of club members, spouses, and friends. MARC subsidizes this event and the cost to members is only \$10, which includes a lunch entree. For non-members the cost is \$20. Uno Pizzeria & Grill provides us with a separate room with a fireplace and a flat screen TV for a college football game. We hope to see you there!

MARC membership dues for 2017 are \$20.
Dues can be paid now.

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For the past 2 plus years, I have had the pleasure of serving as the editor of REMARCS. This is my last issue as editor, MARC is going to transition to social media as its primary form of communication so be sure to frequently stop by MARC's Members Only Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WB3JOE/>

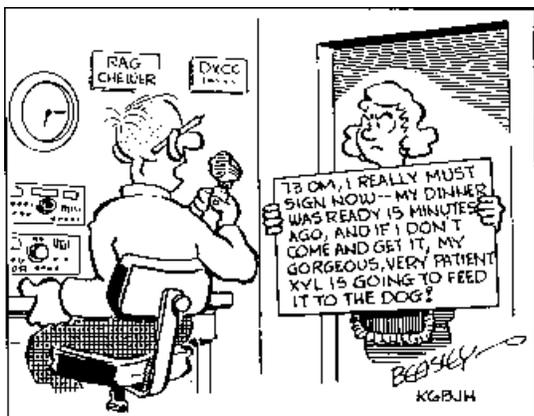
Thank you to everyone that shared their stories. I think it has helped us to get to know each other a little better, allowed us to share many practical ideas and maybe even given us a few laughs.

As MARC celebrates its 40th anniversary, I think of all the great friends I have made by being a MARC member for the past 25 plus years. Ham radio has enriched my life in so many ways but for me, the best part of our hobby has been making new friends, within MARC and all over the world.

As a newly licensed Novice back in the mid 80's, I quickly became frustrated. I had a lot of questions, continual problems with my first rig and I knew very few other hams to turn to for help. Joining MARC was the best thing I did and I should have done it sooner! I quickly made new friends and received help and guidance from some very helpful MARC members. You have probably heard me say this before but because of this, I have always thought of MARC members as being especially welcoming, friendly, and helpful. We can all do our part to keep this proud tradition alive by going out of our way to welcome and get to know newcomers at club meetings and events, as well as on our repeaters.

Wishing all of you a joyous holiday season, a healthy and happy New Year and another 40 years of continued prosperity to MARC!

73 de Mike Pilotti, KF3CD



-73 O.M., I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW--



MARC Info

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 PM
 (Doors open at 7:00 PM) at The Newtown Public Library,
 201 Bishop Hollow Rd. in Newtown Square.

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 + / 147.360 + / 224.420 - / 224.5 -
 /445.675 - /444.050 -

The 145.13 and 147.06 2-meter repeaters are linked. The
 147.36 MHz, the 224.50 MHz and the 444.050 MHz
 repeaters are linked.

WEBMASTER:

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

2-METER NETS:

Club Net, Wednesdays, 8:30 PM

These nets occur on linked 145.13 - / 147.06 + Repeaters

NET MANAGER: Todd Tew, K1TEW

NET CONTROL OP: Todd Tew, K1TEW

DUES:

\$20 Full (licensed Amateurs)
 \$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)
 Family rate \$5/ham - after first member
 pays full dues

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 5 at 9 AM
VE Test Session
Lower Providence Township Building
in Eagleville. To register, contact Dick Stewart
at k3ith@verizon.net

Saturday, November 5 at 8 AM
Vietnam Veterans 5k Run
Norristown Farm Park, Germantown Pike at North Wales Rd.
This is a rain or shine event. Talk in on the Paoli Repeater 145.130.
To sign up to help with communications, contact
Bob Palin, N3JIZ at 610-420-1535.

Saturday, November 12 at 9 AM
Breakfast Meeting, 9 AM
Newtown Squire Diner in Broomall

Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 PM
Club Meeting- Elections

Saturday, December 10 at 11 AM
Board Meeting
Uno Pizzeria & Grill, Newtown Square

Saturday, December 10 at 12 noon
MARC's Holiday Party
Uno Pizzeria & Grill, Newtown Square

Visit the calendar on MARC's website or stop by our Facebook page for details and for events beyond December.



"Here's a message from Milwaukee"

This thought is well known that the moment has been made in an Schlitz the reception is good. For Schlitz has a very good taste that becomes an advantage to wish with a high frequency. Taste Schlitz yourself. You'll soon know why.

Schlitz tastes so good to so many people,
it's first in sales in the U.S.A.



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The Beer that made Milwaukee Famous

MARC Board of Directors 2016 – 2017

PRESIDENT

Jeremy Carlo N2ZLQ

n2zlq@marc-radio.org 917-612-2163

VICE PRESIDENT

Rich Russo KB3VZL

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Bob Palin N3JIZ

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

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Jim Biddle W3DCL

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PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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

Jim Smith K3RTU

k3rtu@marc-radio.org 610-494-5897

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

WB3JOE- Dennis Silage K3DS

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

W3NWA- Dieter Hauer K3DK

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

BOARD MINUTES

October 11, 2016

In attendance: Jeremy Carlo N2ZLQ, Rich Russo KB3VZL, Michael Lebrun N3OMR, Dennis Silage K3DS, Jim Smith K3RTU, Lou Ruh WX3I, Bob Palin N3JIZ, Doug Wilkens NE3U

- 1) Approval of minutes of August 23, 2016 Board Meeting - Approved
- 2) Treasurer's Report from Lou
 - a. Current account balance - \$8,801.97, recent \$100 donation to Lower Prov FD, \$43 for PO Box, upcoming \$505 for liability insurance due December 1, 2016. We discussed the possibility of changing to ARRL liability insurance for \$200 or \$250 – Lou Ruh will investigate and report to the Board.
 - b. Paid membership status – 86 paid to date
- 3) Elections 2017 – Rich Russo, KB3VZL – update on progress? – Rich sent call for nominations to all members via email. Nomination / election information also to appear on web site.
- 4) Hamfest
 - a. Picked a date – Saturday, July 8, 2017 – no change
 - b. Update on Hamfest planning, committee. – no change
 - c. Members so far: Brian Kelly, Todd Tew, Michael Lebrun, Doug Wilkens, Mike Pilotti to provide guidance/advice – Jeremy to forward documents from Mike Pilotti to committee.
- 5) Social Media -We now have a Facebook public Page and a members-only Group. Update from Jeremy / Michael. – up and running, Jeremy to make Michael a moderator.
- 6) REMARCS Newsletter - Mike Pilotti will step down from newsletter. At the last meeting the decision was made to focus on other avenues for outreach. - Facebook group and page will replace newsletter, newsletter archives will be kept on web site.
- 7) Outreach activities
 - a. Dennis, K3DS has proposed a “Marconi Challenge” for teens at the Newtown Square Library. Any updates? Library will post registration on their web site for dates of Nov 5 and 12.
 - b. Michael Lebrun, N3OMR, has suggested that we could have a small-scale outdoor operating activity, perhaps as a “mini Field Day,” at Ridley Creek State Park. Any updates/suggestions? – Too late to plan a mini Field Day this year, Doug Wilkens suggested supporting JOTA but too late for this year. Review next spring.
- 8) Ensuring Redundancy of Capabilities
 - a. It is vital that no important task is able to be accomplished by only one person. Amateur radio is all about “When All Else Fails.” What important tasks right now are solely in the hands of one person, and what can we do to combat this? – Dennis expressed interest in having a Technical Committee “second in command,” and will familiarize Michael with procedures concerning Paoli and Newtown Square repeaters. Jeremy will assist with updating of website.
 - b. A few examples: Website, Bank Account, Repeater, FD Equipment, Insurance / Legal Docs, Site Reservations / Community Contacts – A central location for all contact information for all the club's activities needs to be compiled. Each board member is to send Jeremy a list of contact information in their possession, i.e. Paoli meeting room, library meeting room, contacts at repeater locations, etc... Each board member should copy the others whenever communications are transmitted that pertain to the club's activities. FD equipment being managed by Jeff DeKonty (Jeremy has a key to the shed), bank account to be accessible by both Lou and Jeremy.
- 9) Update on Nets
 - a. Net Control Manager Todd Tew, K1TEW, states there is little activity on the drive-time net. Jeremy told Todd to concentrate on the 8:30 net, since the drive-time net was started as an experiment to see if that was a more popular time. – Drive-time net to be discontinued, and efforts focused on Wednesday 8:30 PM net.
- 10) Reservation of FD site for 2017 – Jeremy will confirm with Ron Kenwood – already reserved but will reconfirm.
- 11) Upcoming General Meeting Programs
 - a. Schedule for 2016
 - i. October – Rich Russo (KB3VZL) Home Brew – Rich will email reminder to members.
 - ii. November – Elections – Need presentation (possibility for WT Jones, TBD) – still TBD
 - iii. December – Holiday Party / 40th Anniversary – Michael to email three reminder notices at intervals.
 - b. Progress on finding 2017 speakers / new Programs Chair? – no change
- 12) Old Business
 - a. Holiday Party/40th Anniversary - update from Dennis? Date set as Dec. 10, 2016. - \$10/member, \$20/spouse or friend.
 - b. Donation to Lower Providence FD – Board has approved donation of \$100 and authorized Lou Ruh to cut the check. - Done
 - c. Club dues have been raised to \$20 for the upcoming year. – Done, Michael will send out email reminder. Website has been updated to reflect new pricing. Associate/Family membership remains at \$5.
 - d. Newtown Square Repeater Upgrade – any other updates? - Done
 - e. Storage of Field Day equipment – Jeff DeKonty, AB3WM has provided a space at a shed at his home, and has provided a key to the President. Inventory to be conducted at a later date. – Inventory date TBD.
- 13) New Business
 - a. There currently is only a 220 repeater at Bryn Mawr Hospital. It has some issues.
 - b. Total of 2 dual band Fusion repeaters (VHF/UHF) are planned for Paoli.
 - c. 1 dual band Fusion repeater is planned to replace one current Darby repeater.
 - d. Time to renew equipment insurance \$1.40/\$100 premium.
 - e. All existing board members except Chris Ruhl have indicated a willingness to be nominated for their current positions.
 - f. A trip to ARRL headquarters was proposed, to be considered for Spring 2017.
 - g. Bob discussed two upcoming Public Service events. Facebook will be used to solicit more volunteers.

How I Became a Ham by Bob Lees, W3ZQN



My first exposure to ham radio came in 1949 at the age of 10 when a friend showed me his ham station. He was a few years older than I, but had his license and using army surplus gear (there was a lot of it around in those days), talked around the country using voice and Morse code. A couple of years later I began to listen at night for far-off stations on the AM broadcast band and built a simple crystal set radio that received a couple of local AM broadcast stations.

I had a paper route and one Christmas my customers were very generous. I used some of the money to buy a shortwave receiver, a Hallicrafters S-38C. As I began to listen to foreign stations from around the world, I soon discovered that the radio could also receive ordinary people who chatted with one another using transmitters and receivers (no transceivers in those days) in their homes. I was hooked! I wanted to be able to do that.

It took a couple of years but I studied radio theory and Morse code and, in August 1954, passed the theory and 5 wpm code tests for my Novice License, the entry level license at that time. That license was only good for a year and was non-renewable so within a year I took the theory and 13 wpm code tests to upgrade to a General Class license. (By the way, the theory and code testing for all of my licenses was administered by the FCC at the Custom House in Philadelphia.) Now I had the privileges that allowed me to talk to other hams from all over. My gear was the S-38C plus a crystal controlled Heathkit AT-1 transmitter that I had built. My antenna was a simple 80 meter half wave wire dipole fed with 300 ohm TV twin lead. It was only about 15 feet high but it worked. I could only work two frequencies because that was how many crystals I had and I was limited to using Morse code. Later I added a Heath VF-1 VFO and I built a modulator from scratch so I could use AM voice. The modulator worked, but when running only about 15 watts, out code always got me more distant contacts, so I usually stayed with it. To this day the code is my favorite operating mode.

Following high school, time for radio was at a premium as I attended college, began a career as an Electrical Engineer, got married, had a family and so on. I kept my license current and always had at least one radio running but got on the air little.

By 1980 there was more time and money and I became "radio-active" again. I passed the tests to upgrade my license to Extra and discovered the joy of short range communication with other local hams on VHF FM. I earned the WAS, DXCC and WAC awards from the ARRL. All this was done using CW, less than 50 watts and simple wire antennas that were never more than 25 feet high. I was active on six meters single sideband and put up a five element beam and earned the VUCC award. The beam was atop a 24 foot extension ladder attached to the side of my house. I was proud that I could lower this "tower" during wind storms and could even climb it easily when necessary. (I have never had an HF beam or a conventional tower.)

I joined MARC and served in several elected positions including President. I also ran the MARC VE test sessions for many years and regularly checked into the MARC two meter nets. I also began to acquire a desire to serve my community as a radio volunteer and joined the local emergency communications group in my county. I served as Montgomery County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer for seven years beginning in 1985 and held appointments as an ORS and OES.

My radio activity declined as I accepted more responsibilities at my church and as I gradually became a caregiver for my wife. Following her death I moved into a retirement community near Lansdale where I manage to get on the air with a 66 foot end fed wire through my window out to a tree and an indoor VHF/UHF vertical. My station is in a spare bedroom that I use for a den, office, computer room, radio room and workshop.

Today my second wife and I split our time between homes in the Pocono Mountains and the retirement community. I do have a station up in the mountains but am not nearly as active as before. I do try to check in regularly to the weekly Montgomery County Emergency nets using HF, VHF, UHF, Echolink, NBEMS, D-Star and Winlink.



Bob's shack in 1957- Heath VF-1 VFO, Heath AT-1 Transmitter, with a Heath tuner on top, Hallicrafters S-38C Receiver with a home brew modulator on top.



Bob's shack today- Desk surface - Ten Tec Eagle Transceiver with MFJ tuner on top, Bencher paddle with a home assembled Logikey Keyer on top. Middle shelf - Kenwood dual band VHF/UHF Transceiver. Top shelf - Astron 20 Amp Power Supply and a Radio Shack Scanner



Top 100



Below is the current DXCC “Most Wanted” List. How many do you have in your log?

Source: <http://www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

Rank	Prefix	Entity Name	Rank	Prefix	Entity Name
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)	51.	VP6	PITCAIRN ISLAND
2.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND	52.	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND
3.	FT5/W	CROZET ISLAND	53.	KH8/S	SWAINS ISLAND
4.	KH1	BAKER HOWLAND ISLANDS	54.	CY9	SAINT PAUL ISLAND
5.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF	55.	E3	ERITREA
6.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND	56.	VK9W	WILLIS ISLAND
7.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS	57.	3D2/R	ROTUMA
8.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND	58.	ZK3	TOKELAU ISLANDS
9.	VK0M	MACQUARIE ISLAND	59.	XX9	MACAO
10.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND	60.	S2	BANGLADESH
11.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND	61.	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS
12.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND	62.	VU4	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
13.	SV/A	MOUNT ATHOS	63.	T5	SOMALIA
14.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND	64.	FT5Z	AMSTERDAM & ST PAUL ISLANDS
15.	YV0	AVES ISLAND	65.	ZD9	TRISTAN DA CUNHA & GOUGH ISLANDS
16.	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	66.	EP	IRAN
17.	VP8S	SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS	67.	E5/N	NORTH COOK ISLANDS
18.	VK0H	HEARD ISLAND	68.	JX	JAN MAYEN
19.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD & MARION ISLANDS	69.	1S	SPRATLY ISLANDS
20.	EZ	TURKMENISTAN	70.	HK0/M	MALPELO ISLAND
21.	KH5	PALMYRA & JARVIS ISLANDS	71.	FO/C	CLIPPERTON ISLAND
22.	FT/J	JUAN DE NOVA, EUROPA	72.	C21	NAURU
23.	KH4	MIDWAY ISLAND	73.	5U	NIGER
24.	VP8O	SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS	74.	T2	TUVALU
25.	JD/M	MINAMI TORISHIMA	75.	9U	BURUNDI
26.	PY0T	TRINDADE & MARTIM VAZ ISLANDS	76.	7O	YEMEN
27.	VP8G	SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND	77.	R1F	FRANZ JOSEF LAND
28.	PY0S	SAINT PETER AND PAUL ROCKS	78.	A5	BHUTAN
29.	YK	SYRIA	79.	AP	PAKISTAN
30.	FK/C	CHESTERFIELD IS.	80.	4W	TIMOR-LESTE
31.	H40	TEMOTU PROVINCE	81.	H4	SOLOMON ISLANDS
32.	VK9M	MELLISH REEF	82.	TN	REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
33.	TI9	COCOS ISLAND	83.	FO/M	MARQUESAS ISLANDS
34.	VP6/D	DUCIE ISLAND	84.	CE0Z	JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS
35.	3C0	ANNOBON	85.	D6	COMOROS
36.	ZL9	NEW ZEALAND SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS	86.	VK9X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND
37.	KP5	DESECHEO ISLAND	87.	Z8	REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
38.	FT/T	TROMELIN ISLAND	88.	VK9C	COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND
39.	XF4	REVILLAGIGEDO	89.	KH8	AMERICAN SAMOA
40.	3D2/C	CONWAY REEF	90.	9N	NEPAL
41.	3B7	AGALEGA & ST BRANDON ISLANDS	91.	YJ	VANUATU
42.	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	92.	TT	CHAD
43.	KH9	WAKE ISLAND	93.	FO/A	AUSTRAL ISLANDS
44.	KP1	NAVASSA ISLAND	94.	FW	WALLIS & FUTUNA ISLANDS
45.	4U1UN	UNITED NATIONS HQ	95.	ZL7	CHATHAM ISLAND
46.	CY0	SABLE ISLAND	96.	VK9N	NORFOLK ISLAND
47.	5A	LIBYA	97.	T30	WESTERN KIRIBATI
48.	T33	BANABA ISLAND	98.	V8	BRUNEI
49.	XZ	MYANMAR	99.	S0	WESTERN SAHARA
50.	TL	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	100.	JD/O	OGASAWARA

Amateur Adventures by Kevin Perrot, K3NTD

Foreign radio stations fascinated me as a toddler with one of those old Philco radios and then I grew up with SWL. My Elmer who was tutoring me in math, helped me become a ham. Being rock bound as all novices were, we learned to savor Morse Code. Advancing to General only expanded my use of code to work DX, preferring to chat in CW. If you are brave enough to attempt to 'speak' in a foreign language you don't have to be concerned with errors in pronunciation. There are other advantages with CW which include the narrower bandwidth versus other modes, and filtering to improve readability.

The '599' QSOs have their place, and I have had my share, but feel that we may learn more about each other if we had a broader exchange of ideas. How do you initiate this type of QSO? After contact has been established, you give a report, QTH, name, and then one other piece of information like the WX. My new friend is thus coaxed to give the basic three & his WX which he might not otherwise be prone to do. On the next go around one could expand with the xmtr & antenna, plus when you were first licensed or your age or both. Hopefully this will encourage him to respond in like manner. Some hams want to know your county and maybe he will add something else. The conversation can be expanded to include your work, hobbies & if your XYL is also a ham.

The Times Atlas of the World features the cartography of John Bartholomew with an index of over 200,000 cities showing page references plus latitude & longitude coordinates. As my new friend gives me his location, I try to find it in the atlas & then ask him if he is near some town that I see is near him. When a Finish operator gave me his town, I looked it up in the atlas & saw he was on the shore of a small lake in the middle of nowhere. I asked him if he was anywhere near an equally small town on the other side of the lake. He was surprised that anyone ever heard of this town (I was also surprised). This started a conversation about the local color of Finland, that I would never have gleaned if I just gave him a 599. Also, K3CHP's DX QSL Guide has 12 sentences in 54 languages which is indispensable for adding that personal note on your QSL cards.

In another QSO with a Danish ham on Sint Eustatius Island, we exchanged the basic signal report, and then I proceeded to use Danish for name & town. One thing led to another & he said no one ever uses Danish on the radio. He was so impressed that any foreigner, especially an American would learn his language, that he invited me down to his island. If I went, it would have taken mere seconds to use up my entire Danish vocabulary!

I am 'more' fluent in French but still not fluent. I can rattle along in French a little slower than English because all the familiar word endings, that we have in English, are missing, so tempo suffers. But one must try! A QSO in French went over thirty minutes, when my new friend wanted to sponsor me in the UFT 'Union Française des Télégraphistes, a French radio organization which predates the ARRL. WOW!! He was so impressed that any American would attempt to speak in french!

We are so lucky because English usage is so wide spread, we tend to forget that most of our non - English speaking friends have had to learn English so they could have a QSO with us. I am just trying to give back what so many of our DX cousins have done in English; and they appreciate the attempt. In my previous article concerning the cocoa coming to Hershey, my Czech friend kept repeating "I am shocked... I am shocked that anybody in America knows Cesky"

In 'reading the mail' with two Russian hams on SSB, where one was located in Moskva & the other in Vladivostok, guess what language they were speaking? English! Another time, contact was made with PA0CEZ, Jacques Platenkamp who lives in Vlaardingen five miles west of Rotterdam, he was a teletype operator for an oil company in the day & then would work DX on his amateur radio at night. My Dutch was soon eclipsed and we used English; however the door was opened to what would become over forty schedules in the ensuing years. The Dutch have reclaimed land from the sea and are constantly aware that the 'sea' wants it back.

We don't appreciate how well we have it in the USA. Holland has power restrictions which we would find intolerable, in the range of only 40 watts, maximum. Holland is flat as the sea they reclaimed. Erecting towers requires a special permission, lots of luck!! Heights of antennae pose more problems, as do living accommodations. In the USA, we could have two people and a cat live in a 16,000 square foot home but not in Holland. After petitioning 'the powers that be' a Dutchman may be granted ample but not excessive space based on his needs. Jacques was fortunate he lived in an apartment with a steel balcony on the 6th floor. He rigged sort of a horizontal inverted "V" dipole off his balcony using a bamboo support staff. This gave him one of the most powerful Dutch signals in our direction. Rotating the apartment house would prove to be 'problematic'.

We had what appeared to be a Dutch painting of a shore scene with Dutch sailboats, signed by what appeared to be a Dutch person. I asked Jacques if he knew anything about him. He went to the Riks Museum in Amsterdam and learned that he was not Dutch. 6146 tubes were very popular transmitter tubes in the past, and even though they were manufactured in Holland, they were very expensive there, but they were very cheap here. So I sent Jacques a lifetime supply of 6146's as a Christmas gift. His father sent me a special edition of Dutch stamps. Jacques had a buddy Folkert, PA2FOL, who lived in Schiedam a couple of miles closer to Rotterdam. His house was at ground level but he had a 20' mast for his dipole but had never worked the USA. A schedule with me was arranged for him. Even with my yagi at 70', good conditions, a dedicated frequency, spotter help from Jacques, and patient listening, it was all I could do to pick him out of the background noise with the Collins KWM380 140 Hz filter. His signal report was embarrassing but enough for him to get a treasured QSL from the USA.

My XYL, Alexandra N3DZG went to Aalsmeer, Holland ten miles south west of Amsterdam, to the wholesale flower market, because she is from a florist family. So I radioed Jacques that she would be in Amsterdam on a certain date. Jacques was happy to travel by train from Den Hague to meet her in Amsterdam (35 miles) to show her the sights from a 'native's perspective'. His train would go past the seaside town of 'Scheveningen'. The name of this town became important in WW II as a password because it was so difficult to pronounce correctly, only natives could pronounce it.

I never had any German in school, my extent of the German language was limited to that used in Hogan Hero's. I had purchased "The Radio Amateur's Conversation Guide by OH1BR and OH2BAD, which has 147 sentences in fourteen languages composed primarily of conversations related to ham radio. In the back of the book there are additional words which can be substituted to expand on the original 147 sentences. One such expandable sentence is (#115): my wife is an amateur radio operator- in German: mein Frau is auch funkamateuer. This is expandable to include other members of the family such as mother, father, brother, sister, husband. You can always fall back on the emergency phrase: (#78) tut mir leid, ich habe nicht alles verstanden which is "Sorry, but I did not understand completely!"

Along with the Finish (OH) book are cassette tapes, spoken by native hams in the country specified. By rearranging 37 sentences, a plausible conversation could be developed to be used in a German QSO. The original tape would read the sentence by a native German first slowly and then at normal conversational speed. By listening to this 'native' German conversation while reading the English script, on round trip train rides to work (with earphones) for a week, some fluency was established. On Saturday I called on SSB in German: "Allgemeiner Anruf auf dem zwanzig Meter Band, hier ist Konrad drei Nordpole Theodor Dora mit CQ und geht auf Empfang. German phonetics were used as they are all different than English phonetics. A German replied in German, upon which my XYL who was doing some artwork in the shack, said: "You're in trouble now!" All was fine as we exchanged the report, QTH, name, WX, age, equipment, etc. and stayed within my thirty seven sentences. Then Alexandra got on and he asked her in English how many children she had. Having no children, thinking she was so clever to use the word none in German, which he mistook it for the English word number nine! Well we had a good laugh over that. Thank goodness he was fluent in English!

Another DX adventure was with Sean EI7CV in Dublin. Having an Irish first name helped break the ice, to be sure. Generations ago, my Irish relatives came from an area thirty miles north, north east of Cork, called Knockmealdown. When Sean learned that, he said that is where his relatives were also from. It turned out that the last names of our ancestors were only off by one unimportant letter. Could we somehow be related? Over several years, we would have over fifty schedules, with a rendez-vous in CW at 14.020 MHz and if conditions warranted, to QSY to SSB. If we lost each other we would meet again on 14.020 MHz. If CW can't get through, nothing can!

Sean was an engineer for the "Electricity Board" the power utility in Ireland. They had a lot of engineers and the 'Board' encouraged them to take a sabbatical and seek employment elsewhere. Sean was able to snare a contract to install high voltage equipment in Saudi Arabia -HZ-. He convinced the Saudis that he personally had to purchase the necessary parts to complete the job. This meant visiting the manufacturing plants around the world to inspect the parts. Once he told me he was coming to Stowe PA to visit one of these plants that made a fitting to attach a cross beam to a pole. Being a world traveler, I told Sean that Stowe was in Vermont. He politely told me there was a Stowe, PA not twenty miles away from me. "Surprise!" for me. So I invited Sean to stay with us when he came over. He said he would be accompanied by his friend Desmond. So I said he is welcome too.

We got the chance to savor a taste of Ireland through our house guests Sean and Desmond, an experience none of would ever forget. He went around the world visiting factories that were near many of his ham friends that he met on the air. The next stop after us was Montana because the vice governor was a ham friend. We kept up our schedules and a few years later he snared a similar job in Lesotho, -7P8-a land locked mountainous kingdom surrounded by South Africa. He wanted me to be his QSL manager for this 'rare DX' country. He told me he was planning another trip to the USA and an invitation was extended to him to stay with us again. He was bringing his family and had made reservations in Intercourse, PA. He could not wait to send post cards to "the lads" back home from Intercourse, PA. He did stop off with his family on the way west for a memorable visit.

A truly notable experience occurred when my XYL Alexandra, informed me that my parents wanted to take the 'girls' (daughters-in-law) to visit Ireland. Dublin and Killarney were the destinations. Sean's shack was adjacent to his dining room. Without telling Alexandra, I arranged with Sean (on a scheduled QSO) that he would invite all to lunch. He would leave his receiver on, tuned to our favorite SSB frequency. At precisely 13:00 GMT I would call EI7CV. Alexandra exclaimed "that's Kevin's voice"! We all had a wonderful QSO.

These are just a few memorable moments that I have experienced with our friends around the world, many of them, I am sure, would never have occurred absent my feeble attempts to use their language or to ask one more question, resulting in a truly Amateur Adventure.

73 Kevin Perrot, K3NTD

65 Great Things About Ham Radio

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1. It works when nothing else does
2. It makes you part of a worldwide community
3. The opportunity to help neighbors by providing public service and emergency communications
4. Some of the nicest people you'll ever meet
5. Some of the smartest people you'll ever meet
6. Some of the most interesting people you'll ever meet
7. Some of the most generous people you'll ever meet (along with some of the cheapest!)
8. Lifelong friendships
9. Friends around the world (including those you haven't met yet)
10. The opportunity to go interesting places you might not otherwise go to
11. The opportunity to do interesting things you might not otherwise get to do
12. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of geography
13. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of earth and space science
14. Practical uses for high school math
15. Practical uses for high school physics
16. A good way to practice a foreign language
17. A good way to keep in touch with faraway friends and relatives
18. A good way to get driving directions when visiting someplace new (with or without GPS)
19. A good way to find the best places to eat when visiting someplace new (with or without GPS)
20. Finding "non-touristy" off-the-beaten-path places to stay, eat, visit, etc.
21. A good way to learn about virtually any topic
22. A good way to bridge the generation gap
23. A good way to keep tabs on elderly/infirm people
24. People named Joe (Walsh, Rudi, Taylor)
25. How many of your non-ham friends have actually talked to someone in some remote place such as Cape Verde or the Seychelles?
26. How many of your non-ham friends might have talked to an astronaut aboard the space station?
27. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a satellite uplink station in their basements—or in the palms of their hands?
28. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a TV studio in their garage?
29. What other hobby group has designed, built, and had launched its own fleet of communication satellites?
30. Where else can you play with meteors?
31. Moonbounce
32. Informal way to improve technical skills
33. Informal way to improve communication skills
34. Introduces a variety of career paths
35. Offers unparalleled opportunities for career networking
36. Opportunities for competition in contesting and foxhunting
37. A good way to collect really cool postcards from around the world (despite the growth of electronic confirmations)
38. Nearly endless variety of different things to do, on and off the air
39. Hamfests
40. Dayton
41. Field Day
42. Working DX
43. Being DX
44. DXpeditions
45. Contesting
46. Award-chasing
47. Double-hop sporadic-E
48. Worldwide DX on 6 meters (once or twice every 11 years)
[The current extended sunspot minimum has shown that mechanisms other than F2 propagation can offer intercontinental DX on the "magic band" at any point in the solar cycle.]
49. Tropospheric ducting
50. Gray-line propagation
51. TEP, chordal hops, etc.
52. Getting through on CW when nothing else will
53. Unexpected band openings
54. Building your own gear
55. Using gear you've built yourself
56. Operating QRP from some remote location
57. Experimenting with antennas
58. Working DX while mobile or while hiking
59. Experimenting with new modes and new technology
60. The opportunity to help build an internet that doesn't rely on the internet
61. DXing on your HT via IRLP and Echolink
62. Contributing to scientific knowledge about propagation
63. Keeping track of other people's GPS units via APRS
64. Ham radio balloon launches to the edge of space, and as always...
65. Reading CQ!

How the Telegraph Helped Lincoln Win the Civil War by Tom Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler is the author of *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War* (HarperCollins, 2006)

“What became of our forces which held the bridge till twenty minutes ago...? The President of the United States telegraphed a colonel in the field during the Civil War Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run) in 1862. Abraham Lincoln was using the new medium of electronic communications in an unprecedented manner to revolutionize the nature of national leadership.

When Lincoln arrived for his inauguration in 1861 there was not even a telegraph line to the War Department, much less the White House. Storm clouds were brewing, but when the US Army wanted to send a telegram they did like everyone else: sending a clerk with a hand written message to stand in line at Washington's central telegraph office. That unwieldy situation changed rapidly, however, as wires were strung to the War Department and other key installations. The White House, however, remained without any outside connection.

The national leaders were like their constituents in their understanding of electronic communications. While an interesting and growing technology, the telegraph's potential was still widely underappreciated and it certainly had never been tested in a time of crisis. This reality makes Lincoln's subsequent embrace of the new technology even more remarkable. Without the guidance of precedent, and in the middle of a battle for the nation's survival, Abraham Lincoln used the new electronic communications to transform the nature of the presidency. The telegraph became a tool of his leadership and, thus, helped to win the Civil War.

Four months into his presidency Lincoln sat with his generals and waited while the thunder of cannon could be heard from the battlefield at Manassas, just 30 miles outside the capital. Their lack of activity was almost surreal. The General-in-Chief, Winfield Scott, was so accepting of the tradition of being unable to communicate rapidly with the front that he took a nap during the battle. The president found it necessary to awaken his top commander as the battle raged.

A young Pennsylvania Railroad supervisor named Andrew Carnegie had been given the responsibility of extending a telegraph line into Northern Virginia. The task was incomplete by the time the two armies clashed; the line stopped ten miles short of the battlefield. In a hybrid of the old and new, messengers from the field galloped to the end of the telegraph line. “Lincoln hardly left his seat in our office and waited with deep anxiety for each succeeding despatch [sic],” recorded the manager of the War Department's new telegraph office.

The telegraph was beginning to change the executive's relationship with his forces in the field. While General Scott napped, the new president consumed the electronically delivered updates. Thirteen months later, when the armies battled again along Bull Run, it was a different story in the telegraph office. No longer was Lincoln content to sit idly by and await information, he was actively in communication with the front.

During Second Manassas (Bull Run) the Confederates cut the telegraph connections with Washington. Unable to communicate with his key generals, Lincoln opened a telegraphic dialog with a subordinate officer that continued for several days. The telegrams between the president and Colonel Herman Haupt were at one point the national leadership's best source of information. The telegraph office became, as Eliot Cohen identified, the first White House Situation Room where the president could be in almost real time communication with his forces while at the same time participating in strategic discussions with his advisors.

Throughout the entire history of armed conflict, the ability to have a virtually instantaneous exchange between a national leader at the seat of government and his forces in the field had been impossible. As a result, field commanders had been the closest things to living gods. Cut off from the national leadership, the unilateral decisions of the generals determined not only the fate of individuals' lives, but also the future of nations. It was for this reason that heads of government, such as Henry V at Agincourt or Bonaparte in Russia, had remained with their troops to combine both national and military leadership.

The American democratic experiment was different, however. American wars had always been fought with the head of government removed from the scene of battle. When General Scott decided to march on Mexico City in 1847, for instance, the nation's leaders learned of the attack days after the event.

Had the traditional model of generals divorced from speedy interaction with the national leadership persisted during the Civil War the results could have been quite different. Lincoln used the telegraph to put starch in the spine of his often all too timid generals and to propel his leadership vision to the front. Most importantly, he used the telegraph as an information gathering tool to understand what was going on in the headquarters of his military leadership.

When General Joseph Hooker floated a trial balloon at the start of the Gettysburg Campaign in 1863, Lincoln used the telegraph to reinforce his strategic redirection away from the acquisition of real estate to the destruction of the enemy. Hooker saw the Confederates' move north as an opportunity to move against their capital. Lincoln responded succinctly, reminding Hooker of his objective, “If left to me, I would not go South of the Rappahannock, upon Lee's moving North of it...I think Lee's army, and not Richmond, is your true objective point.” Of course couriers could have carried these messages back and forth, but the immediacy of electronic messages put the president in his general's tent, capable of a rapid-fire back-and-forth exchange almost as if he were physically present.

The year before his exchange with Hooker, during Confederate General Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Lincoln had done more than simply counsel on strategy; he used the telegraph to take command. As Jackson threatened Washington, the president telegraphed direct orders to generals in the field, moving men around as though on a chessboard. That the orders did not produce the desired result is more of a reflection on their poor implementation than on the president's strategy and tactics. When Lincoln and the nation finally found the general they deserved in Ulysses Grant the president continued to evolve his use of electronic messages. The wire became a way for the president to stay informed and assert himself.

After reading a message from Grant to Chief-of-Staff Halleck which fretted that quelling the draft riots of 1864 might deplete the force at the front and thus affect his operations, Lincoln intervened directly. "Hold on with a bull-dog grip, and chew and choke, as much as possible" he wired Grant. It was as good as walking into Grant's headquarters, sizing up the general's state of mind, and responding through conversation. As he put down the president's telegram, Grant laughed out loud and exclaimed to those around him, "The President has more nerve than any of his advisers." Grant was, of course, correct in his observation. More important, however, he had just held in his hands the tool Lincoln used for reinforcing his resolve and making sure that neither distance nor intermediaries diffused his leadership.

The slightly fewer than 1000 telegrams Abraham Lincoln sent during his presidency also provide us with an insight that his other writings cannot. Because Lincoln kept no diary we must rely on his correspondence and speeches for insights into the workings of his mind and the nature of his interactions with others. In this regard, however, Lincoln's telegrams can be the next best thing to a transcript. Whereas Lincoln's letters were well thought out précis designed to stand on their own, many of his telegrams are spontaneous responses to a specific stimulus. Thus they constitute the closest we will ever get to a tape recording of Lincoln's interaction with his generals. Read in tandem with the messages he received, these telegrams are like eavesdropping on a conversation with Abraham Lincoln.

The story of Abraham Lincoln and the telegraph is perhaps the greatest untold story about this great man. Through these messages it is possible to watch Lincoln's confidence grow and in turn to observe his growth as a leader. What is most remarkable, however, is that Abraham Lincoln applied the new telegraph technology in an absence of precedent. Without the guidance of text, tutor, or training Lincoln instinctively discerned the transformational nature of the new technology and applied its dots and dashes as an essential tool for winning the Civil War.



Photo 1: Civil War era Telegraph Wagon: Telegraphers could send and receive this code very fast. The problem was that everyone could read everyone's messages. Ciphering/secret codes were developed using updated and changing code books throughout the war. This worked well for the Union, but Union cipher-operators were very good at de-ciphering Confederate messages. Cipher-operators either operated in a building or traveled around in wagons to set up at the battle front. This was very dangerous work.

Photo 2: Men installing telegraph lines near a Civil War Camp. The Union army established the U.S. Military Telegraph Corps (U.S.M.T.C.) in 1861, which was run by Andrew Carnegie. During the next year, the U.S.M.T.C. trained 1,200 operators, put up 4,000 miles of telegraph wires and sent over one million telegraph messages to and from the battlefield.

Photo 3: Civil War Era Telegraph Field Office