



**COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB
NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL, 2007**
<http://www.qsl.net/cm-arc/>

CMARC WEBSITE HAS NEW LOOK

Matt, KB3JKU, has been very busy working on our club website. Just click on the link above to see it!

The website is a work in progress; it is not finished. If you have suggestions about our club website, please email your suggestions to Matt: kb3jku@verizon.net

If you have done some exploring of the CMARC website, you have found the links section has very few links. We asked club members to suggest links, and the response was fantastic! Matt will be adding the links that were suggested in the near future. Here are the links that have been suggested so far:

WEBSITES WITH LOTS OF LINKS

www.ac6v.com

Good all around site with links to everything "ham radio"

<http://www.alex.com/browse?&CategoryID=236>

Many links to ham radio categories

<http://ham-links.k1dwu.net/>

Over 4500 links to Ham Radio sites

www.eham.com

Good all around site with equipment reviews by hams. Great resource if looking at getting a new piece of equipment.

<http://www.w7fg.com/manuals.php?find=l>

Manuals for radio equipment – lots of them here

<http://www.mods.dk/>

A good source for FREE Schematics and operator manuals for ham equipment.

UNUSUAL WEBSITES

www.qsl.net/oe3mzc/receivers.html

On line receivers from around the world. Every wonder what your signal sounded like? Here's the place!

www.ke5rs.com/sstv/

"Live" Slow Scan TV sites from around the world

ORGANIZATIONS

www.arrl.org

American Radio Relay League

<http://mysite.verizon.net/tattoo4/>

Berwick Amateur Radio Society Website

<http://members.aol.com/kc2aup/>

Nutley, NJ, Amateur Radio Society – There is a neat explanation of the origin of the term “ham” here.

<http://www.qsl.net/k3ytl/>

Murgas Amateur Radio Club, Wilkes-Barre, PA

AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITES

www.amsat.org

Amateur radio satellite info

<http://www.heavens-above.com/>

Info for tracking the earth satellites.

QSL INFORMATION

http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/dx_ss_routes.html

Find addresses for DX stations and U.S. stations from many sources

www.eqsl.cc

On-line QSLing

www.qrz.com

World-wide callsign look up

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fcclook.php3>

ARRL website U.S.A. callsign lookup – FCC database

<http://hamcall.net/call>

World-wide callsign look up

<http://www.ik3qar.it/manager/>

QSL manager lookup

www.hfradio.org/wb8rcr

QSL Maker - QSL Cards can be made and printed - Free

<http://www.df3cb.com/bv/index.html>

QSL Management and label printing

DX CLUSTERS

<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>

Spots from amateurs around the world. Find out where DX stations are operating now.

<http://www.benlo.com/dxmon.html>

DX Monitor program – fantastic program to monitor the DX Clusters - Shareware

DIGITAL MODES PROGRAMS

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/hteller/digipan/>

Digipan PSK program - Free

<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/mmtty/>

MMTTY Baudot Radioteletype Program – Free

<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/mmsstv/>
Slow-Scan Television Program – Free

<http://xoomer.alice.it/aporcino/>
Several programs of digital modes, including MSFK16 and Hellschreiber – Free

<http://n1su.com/windrm/download.html>
Digital Audio Program - Free

<http://www.irfanview.com/>
Digital SSTV Program to go with the Digital Audio Program above – Free

www.mixw.net
Multi-mode digital communication program – Not Free

<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/>
Source for SSTV, RTTY, etc freeware.

LOGGING PROGRAMS

<http://www.writelog.com/>
Program for Contest Logging – Not free, but it is FANTASTIC!
Sends and receives CW, RTTY and PSK

<http://www.n1mm.com/>
Program for Contest Logging – Free

<http://www.logger32.net/program.html>
General Logging Program – Free
This program does a lot more than just log!

<http://www.dx4win.com/>
General Logging Program – Not Free, but great program

<http://www.n3fjp.com/>
Both General Logging and Contest Logging programs – NOT Free

<http://www.eqf-software.com/>
General Logging Program – NOT Free

DX WEBSITES

www.dx-central.com/
Good one stop for DX spots and info

<http://www.dxlabsuite.com/>
DXLab - Lots of DXing programs available here – Free

<http://www.geocities.com/n6ed/>
Lots of links to DXpeditions and DX info here

<http://users.net1plus.com/ryoung/index.HTM>
A source for DX stamps. You can send a SASE using return postage from another country.

DX BULLETINS

<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>
The Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin

<http://www.425dxn.org/>
The 425 DX Bulletin

PROPAGATION PROGRAMS

<http://www.dxatlas.com/HamCap/>
Fantastic Propagation Program – Free

<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/index.html>
Propagation data

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

www.varaces.org
Virginia RACES Website

www.pa-sitrep.com

Pennsylvania Situation Report Website – Very useful information about Emergency Communications in our state.

www.pema.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Website

www.pgh-net.com/oes/indexx.html

Lots of ARES links and info on this page

www.emcomm.org

Emergency Communications website

www.hwn.org

Hurricane watch net

www.erh.noaa.gov/er/ctp

National Weather Forecast Office – State College, PA

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

Website for people who wish to do volunteer work

<http://www.satarn.org/>

Ham radio operators helping the Salvation Army

<http://www.reactintl.org/>

Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams

<http://www.skywarn.org/>

Sever Weather Information – neat one-hour weather map

<http://training.fema.gov/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency training website

PRACTICE EXAMS FOR TECHNICIAN, GENERAL AND EXTRA VE TESTS

www.kb0mga.net/

This one is a good site for practice tests.

VINTAGE RADIOS

www.home.earthlink.net/~kf6gk

This is a good vintage radio site with great photos.

MARS (MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM)

<http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/>

Army MARS Website

<http://www.pamars.org/>

Pennsylvania Army MARS Website

<http://www.milaircomms.com/>

Military Communications

FCC WEBSITES

<https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>

FCC Registration

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=transaction&type=weekly>

FCC Universal Licensing System

BATTERY INFORMATION

<http://www.powerstream.com/tech.html>

Information about batteries

COMMERCIAL WEBSITES

<http://www.peaksys.co.uk>

Some radio stuff for sale here; note Amateur radio Packet program called WinPack here.

<http://www.hamtronics.com/>

VHF and UHF equipment for sale

<http://www.wr6wr.com/>

World Radio Magazine Website

INFO FOR NEW HAMS

<http://www.netwalk.com/~fsv/CWguide.htm>

Lots of info for new hams – written from CW standpoint, but still lots of info good for SSB

ECHOLINK

<http://www.echolink.org/>

Use the Internet to QSO other hams

APRS

<http://www.ui-view.org/>

Great Free APRS Program

REPEATERS

<http://www.arcc-inc.org/arc-dbas.html>

All coordinated repeaters in EPA and SNJ sections

METEOR TRAIL PROPAGATION

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>

CONTROLLING YOUR RADIO USING A COMPUTER

<http://www.ham-radio.ch/guides/hrd/hrd.html>

Some links were suggested by several members. No suggestions for links were dropped, and at present, all listed links are active. Have fun and explore!

STATION IN ENGLAND CHECKS INTO LOCAL ARES NET

People checking into our ARES Net on our two-meter repeater got a big surprise on March 20th. A station in Birmingham,

England, checked into the net. How is that possible? In a word, Echolink! Dave, WC3A, had connected to G1CQF over the Internet using the Echolink program. Dave allowed the English station to check into the net. It was really neat to hear! Echolink is available to all amateur radio operators. Just click on the link in the list above for more information on Echolink.

NEW CMARC HAMFEST ACTIVITIES

Our club will hold its annual hamfest on June 9th at the Bloomsburg Fire Department. Here is the location of our hamfest information: <http://www.qsl.net/cm-arc/hamfest.htm> Jim, KB3ICM, is our new Hamfest Chairman. Jim has taken over the post previously held by Dave, WC3A. Jim, Dave and yours truly, Bob, K3QIA, are planning some new activities for our hamfest. In the April 2007 edition of QST, the article on pages 48-49 gives some great ideas for increasing the fun at hamfests. We are working on some of the suggested ideas for activities, and we're working on some of our own ideas. We are also looking for people to give demonstrations of different operating modes (SSTV, PSK, APRS, SATELLITES, etc.). Your demo would not have to be very long and we would help you with materials or set-up.

Do you have any suggestions that would make our hamfest better? Email your suggestions to our Hamfest Chairman, Jim: jhancock1@epix.net

HAMFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will need a lot of help in order to make our hamfest a success. Mark your calendars to now for June 9th! One need is for groups of two members to be gate greeters. The gate greeters collect the \$5 entrance fee from each ham, and welcome them to the hamfest. We need two people to act as gate greeters for each of these one-hour periods:

6-7

7-8

8-9

9-10

10-11

All times are for the morning of June 9th. If you can help, pick a time and email Jim: jhancock1@epix.net

FIELD DAY IS COMING

Our club will once again be holding its Field Day activities at the Kulp Church Grove near Slabtown on June 22-24. Make your plans now; it will be here before you know it!

SATELLITE OPERATOR NEEDED FOR FIELD DAY

We are in need of an operator to make at least one contact using the amateur radio satellites on Field Day. If you have worked with the satellites or you are willing to learn how to do it, please send me an email. You need two meter/ 440 MHz capability, and a lap-top computer would be a really asset (to compensate for the Doppler shift and aid in tuning).

YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE A SATELLITE QSO ON FIELD DAY IF YOU NEVER DID IT BEFORE. YOU NEED TO MAKE SOME QSOS ON THE SATELLITES BEFORE ATTEMPTING A FIELD DAY SATELLITE CONTACT. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO DO IT, PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL: rlfoster1@verizon.net

PAUL, W3EGL, TAKES FIRS PLACE IN TSA

Paul, W3EGL, is a high school student; he attends Warrior Run High School. Recently there was a competition for high school students in the Regional Technology Student Association (TSA). There were several categories in which to compete. Paul placed first in the TSA in problem solving. In another event, the Technology Bowl, he was given a series of 50 questions related to technology and parliamentary procedure in TSA. Paul knew the answers to several questions because he had learned them studying for his ham radio licensing test. With the knowledge he gained from his experience in ham radio he scored high enough to advance to the State Competition. Congratulations, Paul! Good luck at the state competition!

ANDY, N3OMA, ASKS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Andy asked to have the following message included in this newsletter:

Anyone who has applied for and received membership in Satern should advise me and anyone who is interested in Satern should either contact me or visit the Salvation Army Satern website at www.satern.org where they can find membership information.

They may contact me via email at maxfax@cris.com. If we get at least 3 members we can start a local branch and get training for field duty.

73,
Andy
N3OMA

DO YOU HAVE YOUR RACES BADGE?

Many amateurs in our club have been certified by Columbia County officials as members of RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service). You need not be a club member to take part in RACES. RACES members provide communications during times of actual emergencies and during emergency drills. In order to become certified, and take part in RACES (and we need all the RACES operators we can get), make sure your name is on the RACES list. I keep the list. You can Email me at: rlfoster1@verizon.net with your name, call, address and phone number. After you are sure your info is on the list, telephone Jim Cunningham at the Columbia County Emergency Center (389-5934). Jim will schedule you to come to the Emergency Center and have your picture taken and issue you a RACES badge. When you are certified, you will be covered by county insurance when you are involved in communications for the county.

At present, we have 42 amateurs on the RACES list, and 31 have been certified. If you did not get your badge yet, please make that phone call to Jim!

VE TESTING UPDATE

Our VE Testing Chairman, Jim, KB3ICM, reminds us that our VE team is ready to give amateur radio licensing exams at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Shiloh Bible Church in

Almedia. If you know of anyone who wishes to be tested, please let Jim know: jhancock1@epix.net

Jim needs to know in advance if there will be candidates to be tested. The VE team will not show up unless you notify Jim in advance.

Friday Evening Coffee Meetings

Jim, KB3ICM, reports that the informal meetings at Dunkin' Donuts in Berwick every Friday evenings regularly have around ten amateurs. The meetings start around 8 p.m., and continue to around 10 p.m. Hams come and go as they please. Here is what Jim says about the informal gatherings:

All are welcome to attend and share in the fun. Why not stop by and meet some of your radio friends in person?

NET CONTROL STATIONS NEEDED

In order to be prepared to carry on emergency communications when needed, we have an ARES Net on our CMARC repeater, 147.225 +, tone 203.5. The net is activated every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. local time. We need amateurs who will act as net control stations. So if you want to have some fun and be a net control station, send an E-mail to Jack, N3EUM: jlmccorm@jlink.net

Jack is an Assistant ARES Emergency Coordinator, and he is our Net Coordinator who schedules the net control stations. He will provide a script for you to read when you act as net control.

Please keep on checking into the net, and encourage others to check in, too!

Jack has about eight people who act as net control stations, so the job of actually being a net control only comes around every eight weeks or so. The more people we have, the less frequently each person has to be net control, and the more people we can involve in emergency communications.

ARRL DX QSL SERVICE

If you are a member of both CMARC and ARRL, we will forward your DX QSL cards to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. Just make sure I get the cards (you can give them to me at a meeting or drop your cards at my home), and as soon as I accumulate a pound of cards (about 155 cards), I will forward the cards to the bureau. There is no charge to you for this service, but I must have your ARRL membership number in order to forward your cards.

CMARC collects and sends to the bureau about eight shipments of one pound each of DX QSL cards per year. About ten club members use this service at present. The ARRL has increased the rate from \$8 per pound of QSLs to \$10 per pound. Aren't you glad we offer this service?

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE "CMARC MEMBERS ONLY" EMAILS????

At the same time this newsletter was sent over the Internet, another message was sent titled "CMARC Members Only – December". This message is only sent to people who have paid their CMARC dues. If you did not get the "CMARC Members Only" message, it means you have not paid your dues. What is in the "CMARC Members Only" Email messages? The message contains the minutes of the last meeting and a complete roster of all members of CMARC. These "Member Only" messages are sent out monthly.

In many cases, people have forgotten whether they have paid their dues. For the present time, everyone who was a member last year will receive the "members only" for the first few months of 2007. Please take a few minutes and send in your dues now! The next two articles describe how you can join CMARC. We would love to have you as a member!

Thanks to everyone who have already sent in their dues.

Don't wait! Send in your dues now! Read the next article on how to become a member!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2007

The membership drive for 2007 is underway! To become a member of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club, send in your membership dues of \$10. Remember it is \$20 if you wish to have autopatch and make telephone calls through the repeater. The rate for children of members is half the adult price for basic membership (\$5). If the parent has phone patch then the child is free. Students whose parents are not members get their dues half price (\$5) as well. To become a member, please send a check to our Membership Chairman:

Dave Schack
6020 Fort Jenkins Lane
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

When you send in your dues for 2007, please include the following information: Name, Call, whether you want autopatch, whether you are an ARRL member, your E-mail address, and your regular U.S. Postal Service address.

Please note that many people have had address changes caused by the State of Pennsylvania changing from RR and RD addresses to the new 911 addresses. Please give Dave your new address!

Please state whether you qualify for a discount because you are the child of a member or if you are a student. Our membership chairman, Dave, WC3A, will appreciate this very much.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2007

President – Bob Foster, K3QIA
Vice President – Jere Vietz, W3JLV
Secretary – Linda Daring, KB3ERH
Assistant Secretary – Jack McCormick, N3EUM
Treasurer – Dave Schack, WC3A
Activities Director – Jim Hancock, KB3ICM
Trustees – Jack McCormick, N3EUM

All officers have been elected to serve a one-year term except for Jack McCormick, who will serve a three-year term. All Trustees serve a three-year term. The other Trustees are Jim Hancock, KB3ICM (elected to serve until December 2008), and Linda Daring, KB3ERH (elected to serve until December 2007).

EDITORIAL – AN EXCITING TIME FOR AMATEUR RADIO

Amateur radio is changing and changing rapidly. Most changes have been good for our hobby. The dropping of the Morse code test for amateur radio licensing has brought many newcomers into amateur radio. The many new computer programs have made exciting new digital modes with reach of many amateurs. In the April edition of QST, three articles about free new computer programs really caught my eye. The first was the article about digital voice and slow-scan television on pages 38-40. I downloaded the programs and tried them. I've found that very strong signals are required to get the system to work. I also plan to try the program using meteor trails on pages 45-47, and the Ham Radio Deluxe program described on page 56 sounds great, too. If you try any of these programs, please email me your impressions. My email address is: rlfoster1@verizon.net

HAVE FUN!

73, Bob, K3QIA

President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club