



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER, 2007

<http://www.qsl.net/cm-arc/>

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008 TO BE ELECTED AT DECEMBER MEETING

During the regular November club meeting, nominations were made for the 2008 CMARC Officers. Those nominated for the 2008 club officer positions are:

President – Bob Foster, K3QIA

Vice President – Jim Hancock, KB3ICM

Secretary – Linda Daring, KB3BD

Assistant Secretary – Jack McCormick, N3EUM

Treasurer – Dave Schack, WC3A

Activities Director – Andy Shecktor, N3OMA

Trustee – Linda Daring, K3BD and Sam Dalious, K3EAU

Only one Trustee will be elected. Two other trustees who are not up for re-election are:

Jack McCormick, N3EUM (term expires Dec 2009)

Jim Hancock, KB3ICM (term expires Dec 2008)

Trustees serve a three-year term, and one trustee is elected each year.

Nominations may also be made at the December meeting for club officers. Voting will take place during the December meeting. All officers elected in December will begin serving in January, 2008.

Although he is not technically an elected officer, we should mention our excellent webmaster, Matt Lunger, KB3JKU. Matt does a fantastic job with our club website. Many thanks, Matt!

TONY, KA3BPN, PRESENTS EXCELLENT PROGRAM ON WEAK-SIGNAL VHF

Tony, KA3BPN, presented an great program at our regular November meeting. Tony described how he worked a number of stations using meteor scatter. The signals are very weak, so a special computer program was utilized. Using the same program, Tony worked a station in Russia using moonbounce. If you are interested in the computer program, it is free and available from:

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

Thanks to Tony for presenting the terrific program!

CMARC COORDINATES RUN FOR THE DIAMONDS

The Chairman for this club project is Dave, WC3A. Here is Dave's report on the very successful event.

CMARC ran the communications for the 98th running of the Berwick Run for the Diamonds race on Thanksgiving Day.

Our primary job is to be there for any emergency traffic that may arise for the runners. We also do logistical information collection for the Race Committee.

This year there was 1,190 runners who competed and not one injury. I'm sure there were quite a few blisters but we don't hear about those. The weather was warm and the roads dry so the runners were really flying around the course. The Race Committee kept statistics and one that I heard was that the runners were doing about 5 minutes between miles posts and that was running uphill.

I want to thank Bill, K3WJH and Paul, W3EGL for bringing their travel trailer over so that we had a comfortable place to have Net Control.

Next I want to thank the following radio operators for their

participation and help during our annual event.

Net Control - Bill, K3WJH

Mile 2 - Randy, N3JPV and Terry, N3XTS

Mile 3 - Bob, K3QIA and Paul, W3EGL

Mile 4 - Dennis, N3VMM, and Jim, KB3PNI and Jay, KB3PNJ

Mile 5 - Jim, KB3ICM and Larry, KB3JMS and Scott, KB3JMQ

Mile 6 - Matt, KB3JKU and John, N3XJZ

Mile 8 - Randy, N3JPV doing double mile posts

Thank you one and all for a job well done.

Dave, WC3A

FIELD DAY RESULTS

The Field Day results were published in December 2007 edition of QST. Our CMARC group operated in class 4A, and there were a total of 126 entries in our class. We placed number 22; that placed us in the 83rd percentile. Just think, we did better than 83 percent of the entries in our class!

There were a total of 2,333 groups that submitted entries for Field Day in all classes. We placed number 280 out of the 2,333 entries. That means we placed in the 88th percentile. Wow! That means that we did better than 88 percent of the other groups operating Field Day.

That is quite an accomplishment! Thanks to everyone who took part in this fun activity! Mark your calendars now for our next Field Day, which will be June 28-29, 2008.

DAVE, KB3PWE, APPOINTED EC FOR MONTOUR COUNTY

Many thanks to Andy, N3OMA, who sent us the following announcement from Eric Olena, our EPA ARRL Section Manager. The abbreviations used in the following announcement include:

EPA = Eastern Pennsylvania
EC = Emergency Coordinator
DEC = District Emergency Coordinator
DEC (4) = Emergency Coordinator of District 4
To All EPA Personnel,

Congratulations to David M. Torrey, KB3PWE. Dave is a very new Ham and has volunteered to take over the EC position in Montour County. Dave is experienced in the emergency field working at the Geisinger Medical Organization. With the able assistance of our newest DEC (4), Andy, N3OMA, Dave was able to prepare for his new duties. Dave will be a great addition to District 4 and to the EPA Section not to mention the Montour County Amateurs.

Congratulations again and Thank you for taking on the EC position. AND Many Thanks to Andy, N3OMA, for his assistance. The newest EC - DEC additions are reflected on the EPA map at www.epa-arrl.org .

Editor's note: If you have not visited the website for our EPA ARRL Section (noted above), try it! It is a great website for our EPA section.

ANDY, N3OMA, HAS FREE DESKS AVAILABLE

Andy Shecktor, N3OMA, has free to anyone for the asking as long as they last, several brand new, unbuilt computer desks (good for computer or radio equipment) and a couple of light duty (ie: light weight) 2 drawer file cabinets. Anyone interested should contact Andy at 752-2534

INTERFERENCE PROBLEM SOLVED

You will recall a problem that Andy, N3OMA, has been having with high-level interference covering a 4-block radius. Turns out the problem was generated by a missing DSL filter on a FAX machine! Once the filter was placed the noise level on 75M dropped by 30 DB. There is still a little bit of noise present, but it is tolerable. The noise presented itself as a high-pitched whine on SSB - just like an AM carrier. The only difference was that on AM the noise seemed to disappear. The noise was present in harmonics all the way up to the 6M band. Dave, KB3PWE, assisted Andy in locating this problem by disconnecting the phone lines outside the house, then by

disconnecting one phone device at a time. Hopefully, this will help someone else in a similar situation. Noteworthy is the span of the interference caused by this one device - covering over 3/4 of a square mile solidly!

NEW ID BADGES TO BE ISSUED BY COLUMBIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Our RACES Officer for Columbia County, Randy, N3JPV, has some important information for us.

New I.D. cards are going to be issued to RACES operators by Columbia County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). Only those RACES operators who have completed two emergency operations courses, IS-100 and IS-700, will be issued a new I.D. card. If RACES operators do not get a new I.D. card, they cannot take part in the drills or actual emergency communications.

For RACES operators who have not completed the three courses, the courses may be taken on-line. The info is on our club website:

http://www.gsl.net/cm-arc/ARES_RACESDOC/2007%20Required%20RACES%20Training.pdf

Notice that if you are taking a course on-line, you must complete the course without interruption. That is, you cannot stop part way through. If you do, you must begin at the beginning once again.

Some RACES operators have completed the two courses. The operators who have completed the two courses must have copies of their certificates on file with Columbia County EMA in order to be issued the new ID badges.

If you have any questions regarding this, contact Randy, N3JPV. Randy's email is n3jpv@arrl.net and his cell is (570) 441-1896.

OUR CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

CMARC

% Robert Foster

1586 State Route 93

Berwick, PA 18603

VE TESTING UPDATE

Our VE team is now a "Field Stocked Team". This is a higher level of VE team since we will now automatically receive all testing materials and updates without making a request. This status was achieved due to our monthly testing schedule and Hamfest activities. We are currently the only ARRL VE testing team in our immediate area and have tested Hams from as far away as Lock Haven. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers, we have maintained a monthly testing schedule and give tests almost every month before our club meetings.

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:

jlmcorm@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.

Here is the roster for the net control stations:

| DATE | PRIMARY | CALL | BACKUP | CALL |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 11/27/07 | SAM | K3EAU | LINDA | K3BD |
| 12/4/07 | JIM | KB3ICM | PAUL | W3EGL |
| 12/11/07 | DAVE | WC3A | DENNIS | N3VMM |
| 12/18/07 | BOB | K3QIA | JIM | KB3ICM |
| 12/25/07 | NO NET | | | |
| 1/01/08 | NO NET | | | |
| 1/8/08 | DENNIS | N3VMM | JACK | N3EUM |
| 1/15/08 | LINDA | K3BD | DAVE | WC3A |
| 1/22/08 | PAUL | W3EGL | SAM | K3EAU |
| 1/29/08 | BILL | K3WJH | JACK | N3EUM |
| 2/5/08 | JIM | KB3ICM | BILL | K3WJH |
| 2/12/08 | DENNIS | N3VMM | SAM | K3EAU |
| 2/19/08 | JACK | N3EUM | LINDA | K3BD |
| 2/26/08 | SAM | K3EAU | BOB | K3QIA |
| 3/4/08 | PAUL | W3EGL | BILL | K3WJH |
| 3/11/08 | DAVE | WC3A | DENNIS | N3VMM |
| 3/18/08 | JACK | N3EUM | DAVE | WC3A |

3/25/08

BOB

K3QIA

PAUL

W3EGL

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 2008

The membership drive for 2008 is underway! To become a member of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club, send in your membership dues:

Regular Membership ----- \$20
Senior Membership (65 years of age or older) - \$15
Student ----- \$10
Associate Member (unlicensed) ----- \$5

If you are a family member of a person with regular membership, the dues are \$5 less than the primary family member (or if the family member is a student, use the student membership rate).

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 2008, please include the following information: Name, Call, whether you are an ARRL member, your E-mail address, and your regular U.S. Postal Service address. Remember that there is no more phone patch.

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.

For your convenience, a membership application has been attached to this newsletter. People on our mailing list will receive the attached application.

EDITORIAL – IMPORTANT ITEMS NOT COVERED

We had two major club items that were not covered in this newsletter. They are our Operation Santa and acquisition of equipment from the estate of Fred, WB2YTA. These items will be covered in the January edition of this club newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any items to add to the January edition, please email them to me. Thanks!

73, Bob, K3QIA

President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club