

# **COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 2007**

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

## **ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2007**

Elections for club officers for the year 2007 were made during the regular club meeting on December 12, 2006. Those club members who were elected to offices in 2007 are:

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).

At the meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>, a motion was made and passed to have the three trustees select people who will run for office for the year 2008. Club members may make additional nominations.

## **RUN FOR THE DIAMONDS COORDINATION**

The Run for the Diamonds race was held in Berwick on Thanksgiving Day. The run started at 10:30 a.m. Thursday morning and was finished at about 12 Noon. As usual, Dave, WC3A, did a terrific job organizing the ham radio operators who coordinated the race. Here is Dave's report on the race:

Hi All and thanks for all your help during the Run for the Diamonds race in Berwick. Without each of you, it would not have come off as well as it did. There were no injuries so all we had to do was pass race traffic. The Race officials thanked us for another job well done. One race official even went so far as to say “We couldn’t do it without the hams!”

A big thanks to Bill Hoops for bringing his mobile home from Watsontown! We used Bill’s mobile home as the net control location. We also gave out the race T-shirts from his mobile home.



The following people participated:

Bill – K3WJH

Randy – N3JPV

Bill – N3JIX

George – N3TQK

Bob - N3VWL

Paul – W3EGL

**Jim – KB3ICM**

**Terry - N3XTS**

**John - N3XJZ**

**Bob - K3QIA**

**Matt – KB3JKU**

**Joanne - N3ZSG**

**Lou - N3VIP**

**Many thanks to all that helped coordinate the race.**

**Dave, WC3A**

**Bob, K3QIA, (yours truly) was on mile marker three with Paul, W3EGL, during the Run for the Diamonds Race. As we watched the runners go by, we were surprised to see one runner with a cooked turkey hat on his head; he was wearing a shirt that said “BASTE ME”. You never can tell who will run in this Thanksgiving Day Race in Berwick.**



We also got some great publicity from WNEP-TV, Channel 16, for coordinating the race.

Here is a picture taken from the TV set showing our group at mile marker one (note the one in the road):



Beginning on the left, the people are Bob, N3VWL, a non-ham race timer, George, N3TQK (partially hidden) and Randy, N3JPV.

## **OPERATION SANTA**

As we have done in previous years, we conducted Operation Santa this year. Dave, WC3A, is Chairman for this event, and Dave made all the arrangements with the hospital. You will recall this club project involves taking a two-meter rig to the Janet Weis Children's Hospital (part of the Geisinger in Danville). Club members enter the room of a sick child and ask the child if he/she wants to talk to Santa Claus. The child usually does, and the child tells "Santa" on the radio what he/she would like for Christmas. Then "Santa" on the radio tells the child that he has sent the child some gifts, and we club

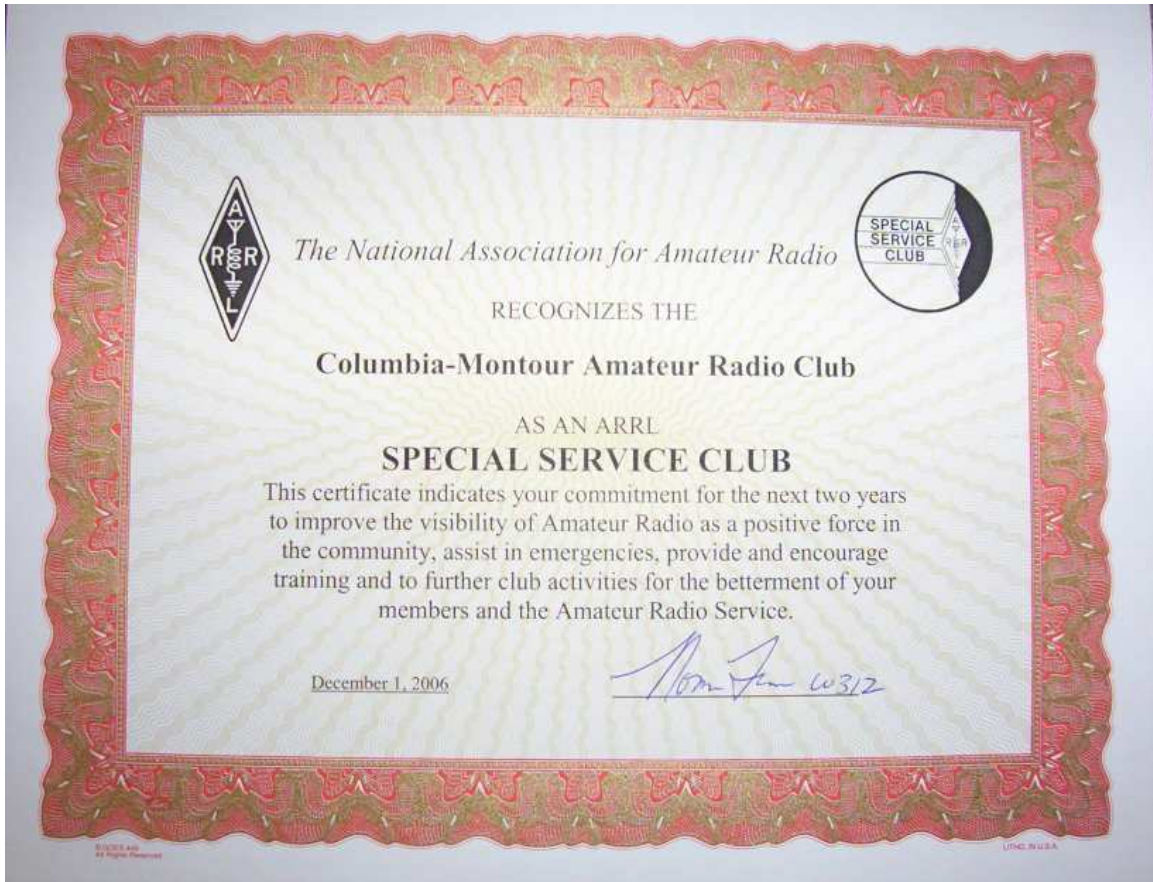
members give the child coloring books and stuffed animals. It really brightens up the day of a sick child.

Those amateurs taking part in the actual radio operations at the Geisinger were Dave, WC3A, Bill, K3WJH, Paul, W3EGL, and Bob, K3QIA. As usual, Pete, NQ3G, played Santa, and he did a wonderful job. Pete makes playing Santa seem easy!

We would like to thank people and organizations for their generous donations to our Operation Santa project. The donations are used to buy the coloring books, crayons and stuffed animals that we gave to the sick children in the Children's Hospital. Here is a list of the very generous donors: Bob Beattie (N3VWL), BARS (the Berwick Amateur Radio Society), Bill Hoops (K3WJH), Jim Hancock (KB3ICM), and Jerzy Gizowski (N3FIP). In addition, Mike Hoover (N3BUD) and Jere Vietz (W3JLV) donated stuffed animals. Many thanks to the donors who make Operation Santa possible!

## **CMARC EARNS SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB DESIGNATION**

Our club, the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club, earned the Special Service Club distinction from ARRL the month of December. The attractive recognition notification was received in the mail, and here is a photo of our certificate:



In order to earn this recognition, CMARC has to be a very active club. Some of our activities that earned this certificate included offering VE testing, having a hamfest, sponsoring a 4H club, taking part in Field Day, operating in other contests like the PA QSO Party and the 10-Meter Contest, coordinating the “Run for the Diamonds” Race, and sponsoring “Operation Santa”. CMARC had to fulfill other criteria as well; not all clubs earn this recognition. Well done, everyone! Be proud of this achievement!

## **10-METER CONTEST – DECEMBER 9,10**

We had three club members (that I know about) take part in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. The three club members submitting logs for working the contest are: Skeeter, WA3IIA, Jere, W3JLV, and Bob, K3QIA. The contest was fun, but it was difficult to work because of all the QSB. Signals would fade in, and then fade out, at a surprising rate. One minute, a signal was very strong, the next minute, the signal had dropped into the noise level. It was quite a challenge to pull QSOs out of the noise.

ARRL requires at least three entries from a club in order to enter a contest. Because we have three, we are able to enter as a club.

## **NEW FCC RULES FOR AMATEUR RADIO BANDS**

The phone bands were dramatically expanded on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The new frequencies the various licensees may operate may be found at:

[http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3\\_color.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3_color.pdf)

## **FIELD DAY RESULTS PUBLISHED IN QST**

Our club, along with 2,169 other groups, took part in ARRL's Field Day this past June. Field Day is by far the most popular ARRL event, with 32,506 participants this year. Our CMARC group participated in class 5A (we had five transmitters on-the-air simultaneously, and operated from generator power). There were 80 entries in our class, and we placed number 17. That means we placed in the 79<sup>th</sup> percentile; that means we did better than 79 percent of those entries in our class. Well done! Congratulations to everyone who took part, and there were lots of people!

## **VE TESTING UPDATE**

Our VE Testing Chairman, Jim, KB3ICM, brings us up-to-date with the latest news about our VE team:

If you know of anyone that would like to test we can schedule a test session at 6 PM before the regular club meetings. Club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Shiloh Bible Church in Almedia, PA. Special test sessions can also be arranged to help any person with special needs. These could even take place at their home.

Want to help? It's easy to get VE certification. All you need is a General or Extra Class license and pass an open book review about testing procedures. All the information is on the ARRL web site under "Exams" or contact me at [KB3ICM@arrl.net](mailto:KB3ICM@arrl.net).

**Jim**  
**KB3ICM**  
**Club VE Liaison**

## **SNAPSHOTS TAKEN AFTER MEETING**

**After our club meeting in December, we had several members stay for informal discussions about ham radio. Here are some snapshots I took after the meeting:**





**Our club meetings are fun! Plan to attend the next one, on January 9, 2007.**

### **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](mailto: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. This month, ARRL 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. If you did not receive the other Email message, 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 two articles, please!

## **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.

## **EDITORIAL – NO MORE CW TESTING REQUIRED FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES**

Like a number of other hams, I enjoy working CW. Morse code is fast becoming a dying art, with the FCC no longer requiring passing a Morse code test to earn any class of amateur radio license. The FCC also has drastically increased the phone bands in size, especially on 80 meters. In our club of about 50 members, only four use CW: KA3BPN, WA3IIA, N3BUD and K3QIA. You can add a fifth, N3JPV, who has been known to switch to CW to work a new grid on VHF when the signals are weak. That is the great advantage CW has over phone modes; you can work stations on CW that are too weak to work on SSB.

I know there are those ham radio operators who will now shout “Hooray!” and be very happy, but there is something to be said for allowing the use of Morse code on the ham bands. That something is that in addition to being able to work stations whose signals are too weak to work on SSB, Morse code is fun to operate. Once a person earns his ham radio license, he can select the mode he wishes to operate. If you only like SSB, use it exclusively. If you like RTTY, use it. And, yes, if you enjoy Morse code, use it. However, in the best spirit of amateur radio, let’s not look down on someone who uses a different mode. There are lots of new modes coming on the scene: PSK, MFSK16 and MT63 are examples. Perhaps these new modes will take the place of CW. If you wish to use CW without knowing any Morse code, there are computer programs that allow you to both send and receive Morse code.

In a recent Email, I believe Skeeter, WA3IIA, summed up his feelings on Morse code (and I feel the same way):

**I am glad that I got into ham radio when I did. Just think of all of the hams that will miss out on the fun of CW.**

**For those of you who might be unfamiliar with CW, the greetings of the season would be abbreviated when sent using Morse code. Merry Christmas is simply “MRY XMAS”, while HAPPY NEW YEAR is sent as “HNY” and the word AND is abbreviated “ES”. So I would like to wish everyone a very**

**MRY XMAS ES HNY**

**73, Bob, K3QIA**

**President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club**