



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

JUNE IS VERY BIG MONTH FOR CMARC

Are you ready? This month we have our two biggest projects of the year, Hamfest on June 9th and Field Day on June 22-23-24. Field Day actually covers three days. Mark your calendar now for these fun activities! Want more info on these events? Read the next articles!

CMARC HAMFEST, ALIAS THE BLOOMSBURG HAMFEST

Our Hamfest Chairman, Jim, KB3ICM, tells us that our Hamfest needs people to help set up on Friday, June 8th, at the Bloomsburg Fire Hall at the corner of 9th and Market Streets. We should begin the setup around 3:00 p.m. We have a few people already said they could be there. If you can be there, too, please let Jim know; his Email address is:

jhancock1@epix.net

The day of the Hamfest, Saturday, June 9th, we will need club members to help running the event. The day of the event hams begin arriving very early, around 6 a.m. The cook advises that breakfast will be ready for us at 6 a.m.

There are a number of jobs at our hamfest. We need people to work an hour or so at the gate greeting people and collecting \$5 from each ham coming to the Hamfest. At the gate, it is important to be friendly and helpful; after all, we want people to enjoy themselves at our Hamfest.

We also need club members to help with the VE testing sessions. If you are a club member and have VE certification, please consider helping our VE Chairman, Jim Hancock, KB3ICM, give the licensing tests. If you are not certified to be a

VE, Jim could use your help to greet people and hand out some paper work. His Email address is:

jhancock1@epix.net

We also need some help at the club table. At the club table, we again greet the people coming to our Hamfest, and provide a pen for them to fill out their ticket stubs. They place their stubs in the big container, and during the Hamfest, we draw stubs for door prizes. At the end of the Hamfest (around 1 p.m.), we draw the big door prize from the container. All money from the gate and tailgating is brought to the club table, too. We also need help selling 50/50 tickets at the club table. In past years this has been an important duty because we have been making about \$150/year on the 50/50 drawing. So the club table is an active place.

The jobs are not difficult, and we hope you will have some fun while doing the jobs. We hope to have our members work an hour (or maybe two, if you are so inclined), and take the rest of the time to enjoy the hamfest. Our Hamfest usually ends around 1 p.m.

So circle Friday, June 8th, and Saturday, June 9th on your calendar. Plan on coming to our Hamfest to support your club, working a little, and taking the rest of the time for having fun!

HAMFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will need a lot of help in order to make our hamfest a success on 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 K3WJH and W3EGL

7-8 W3JLV and KB3JKU

8-9

9-10 WC3A and

10-11

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

HAMFEST SEMINAR

Matt, KB3JKU, will be giving a seminar on computer networking for your home and shack. It will start at 8:30 in the meeting room and will cover some of the basics on networking computers. There will be about 20 minutes of demonstration and about 10 minutes for a question and answer session.

HAMFEST TRIVIA QUIZ

After the VE testing at the hamfest, about 10 a.m. or so, we will be having a ham radio trivia quiz with a prize. We have not determined the prize yet, but it will be a good one. Demonstrate your ham radio knowledge and win a prize!

FIELD DAY

Field Day is sponsored by our national ham radio organization, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Field Day is one way hams prepare to carry on emergency communications. Beginning Friday, June 22nd, thousands of groups of hams will leave their homes and take radio equipment to other locations to simulate a communications emergency situation. Emergency power (in our case, a generator) is used at the new location; our club will be located in the Kulp Church Grove near Catawissa.

How to get to our Field Day site:

Take route 42 through Catawissa. Continue on Route 42 for about five miles, and watch for two "DO NOT ENTER" signs on the left. The signs are there to warn you not to turn into the wrong lane. Turn left into the correct lane at the signs. Drive about half a mile, and you will pass a trailer park called Ideal Park. Just past the park turn left onto Creek Rd. The road is narrow and has many sharp curves. Go about 2 miles to the

next intersection which will be Old Reading Rd. Turn right onto Old Reading Rd. and Kulp Church will be about two miles ahead on the left.

A very critical time begins around noon and continues until sunset on Friday, June 22nd. This is the time we put up our antennas. I HAVE THE ANTENNAS, BUT I NEED LOTS OF HELP PUTTING THEM UP. WE HAVE HAD LOTS OF HELP THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND BELIEVE ME, WE NEED HELP AGAIN THIS YEAR. So if you can help out, please come to the Field Day site and give us a hand. You are welcome anytime between noon and sunset at the Kulp Church Grove to help with the antennas.

The simulated emergency communication begins at 2 p.m. EDT on Saturday, June 24th and continues for 24 hours. The Field Day groups will try to communicate with as many of the other Field Day groups as possible during the 24-hour period.

When we contact another group, we give our class and our ARRL section. Class is the number of transmitters we have on the air (last year, five) and a letter designating the type of power being used (last year, generator). The designation for generator is the letter A, so the complete exchange we would give another station is "Five Alpha, Eastern Pennsylvania". The other station then responds with its class and section.

Stations worked must be logged. We need to submit a list of stations worked to ARRL for credit. We will be using computer logging, so each station at our Field Day site must have a computer to log. This logging system prevents dupes (working the same station more than once).

As usual, our CMARC group will try to get as many of our members involved as possible. We hope to get many operators on-the-air on the HF bands; even persons who are not licensed for those bands will be able to operate with a control operator present. We will have one station designated as a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. At the GOTA location, inexperienced operators will have a control operator (having a general or higher license) present. This station is especially designed to

help persons new to amateur radio gain some operating experience. We plan to have similar situations at the other operating stations at times.

On Field Day, we can earn bonus points performing certain amateur radio tasks. We are looking for people to perform the following tasks: copy the Field Day bulletin sent on HF by W1AW, work a satellite QSO, and send messages on phone to our Field Day site. We also need people to demonstrate the following: packet radio, APRS and SSTV. If you can do any of these tasks at our Field Day site, please send me an Email message. My address is: rlfoster1@verizon.net

Field Day is a fun time! It is a chance to meet new people, renew friendships, learn some new things about amateur radio and have fun. We eat very well on Field Day thanks to our head chief, Fred, WB2YTA (with help from Dave, WC3A and Linda, KB3ERH). So mark your calendar now for June 22, 23 and 24. Hope you can make it to our Field Day!

TAKING A STATION TO CMARC FIELD DAY?

If you are planning to take a rig to our CMARC Field Day, be sure to do two things. First, be sure to let me know, because I am responsible for organizing the antenna-raising group and planning the station locations.

My Email address is: rlfoster1@verizon.net

Second, please be prepared to share your station with other operators; you may need to be a control operator for a time. As mentioned in the previous article, we would like to get as many people on-the-air on HF as possible. Another consideration is bands on Field Day. During most of Field Day usable bands are 80, 40 and 20 (and maybe 15). That means three SSB stations (perhaps four if 15 opens). I hope to have some stations on CW, and one on PSK, too! We had five stations last year. We shall see!

Please do not show up at the Field Day site with a rig without letting me know about it several weeks in advance.

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

BILL, K3WJH, REPORTS ON ALABAMA CONFERENCE

The Disaster Relief Roundtable was conducted April 23-26, 2007 in Talladega, Alabama. FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, ARRL, Icom had representatives at the Roundtable. I was representing the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, which is the second largest Disaster Relief organization in the country.

The Southern Baptist Convention has 23 Command Center/Communications trailers. Most of them are located in the southern part of the country, although we could get one if we had the need. Most of them are RV trailers that are pulled behind a pickup on a ball type receiver. They have taken the sofa and kitchen table out to make room for the "shack". The remainder of the trailer is left alone (kitchen, bedrooms, bathroom) and can be used by the radio operators, especially if they are mobilized to an area that does not have living quarters available. Each one has come up with its own version of home brew antenna farms.

Icom did a great presentation on D-Star (Digital Repeaters). D-Star works on 2 meters, 70 cm, 23 cm (voice - slow speed data), and 23 cm high speed data. The advantage is that with a hand-held radio you can emulate Nextel walkie-talkie when Nextel and everything else is down. The repeater is feed into a satellite dish that is pointed to the equator. You can type in a call sign to someone in San Jose, California on the hand held radio and talk to them in digital quality because the computer program remembers which D-Star repeater each radio last transmitted from. The problem is if the person you are talking to gets on an airplane and flies somewhere the computer does not know he has moved until he transmits the next time. The radio also work the analog repeaters most of the country currently has. It appears FEMA has funded several D-Star repeaters in the hurricane prone areas. Pennsylvania has two D-Star Repeaters, one in Pittsburgh and one in Chester. Only Texas, Arizona, California and Washington State has D-Star repeaters west of the Mississippi River. The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has a mobile D-Star Repeater that can be set up anywhere as long as you have a line of sight to the satellite over the equator. The down side of D-Star is that none of our ham clubs will be able to afford to put up a D-Star repeater with initial costs in excess of \$10,000.00 without FEMA grants. The other down side is only select Icom radios are D-Star equipped. Kenwood has some in Japan, but does not sell them in the United States.

All of the Southern Baptist Communications units are equipped with the Kenwood Sky Command System. With a Kenwood D-7 handheld one can simplex the Kenwood D-700 mobile dual band radio, which will be connected to the TS-2000 HF. The D-7 can then remotely operate the TS-2000. A great feature if you are the only form of communication in a disaster stricken area. I actually called into a net in Atlanta, Georgia, from Talladega Alabama on 7.260 MHz from Paul's (W3EGL) 2 meter handheld radio on 2 watts. It is a great system and has great potential for the disaster relief segment, but unless you want to talk on HF from your back porch on a handheld (which is entirely possible) I am not sure what potential it has in everyday amateur use.

It was a great trip. I learned a lot. I met a lot of people who can help me with my position as the Director of Emergency Communication for the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Southern Baptists.

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 – YOU AND YOUR CLUB

President Jack Kennedy said in his inaugural address, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”. This month, June, 2007, our club has two of its biggest projects of the year. Both are fun projects; they are Hamfest and Field Day. The club needs as many members as possible to help with these projects. Please mark your calendar NOW, and plan to take part in our projects. As I said before, both involve having fun!

73, Bob, K3QIA
President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club