



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

ON-THE-AIR MEETING OF OUR CLUB

Our club meets the second Tuesday of each month. The second Tuesday of February fell on February 13th, and something else fell then – snow! Rather than try to travel through the snow to the Shiloh Church in Almedia (where we usually meet), we decided to have a general membership discussion on-the-air using our club repeater. We had an excellent net right before our on-the-air discussion, and Dave, WC3A, and Randy, N3JPV, illustrated the proper ARRL message-handling techniques. Our club secretary, Linda, KB3ERH, then took the minutes of our first ever on-the-air discussion that replaced the actual meeting. Here are Linda's excellent minutes:

**Minutes of the CMARC On the Air Discussion
February 13, 2007**

Due to the snowstorm in progress at this time Bob, K3QIA, opted to conduct a General Membership discussion via the repeater system in lieu of an actual meeting. Members were requested to participate in a general discussion beginning at approximately 7: 40 p.m.

Bob, told everyone that he had worked his 107th DXCC entity on 160 meters, but was waiting for confirmation on a few. Some of the topics brought to the group were from Tony, KA3BPN, who told everyone the PEMA Eastern station was back on the air and had made some long distance contacts. Sam, K3EAU, checked into the meeting with a snow accumulation at his QTH.

Linda, KB3ERH, told the group how Rich, KB3EUR had been able to assist a local Ham who was stranded by working with a CB'er who lived nearby. They were able to have the Ham's car fixed and have him back on the road in a short time.

Rich, said how they had been preparing for the expected snow and trying to stay warm.

Jim, KB3ICM, spoke about a VE testing session for February 24th. The time and location has still not been established for the test. Hamfest work yet to be done includes sending invitations to people who may be interested in attending. Bob asked if the ARRL has been contacted to list the Hamfest. Jim stated that it would be beneficial for Bob to continue to make that contact as he has in the past.

Paul, W3EGL, stated that funding for a radio club in the Warrior Run school district may not be needed. Bob, told Paul that the cell phone may be the problem. It seems that most people feel cell phones fill their needs. Bill, K3WJH, has sent some ideas to Bob that may be useful in future club presentations.

Mike, N3BUD, stated he is looking forward to their new home and establishing new antenna setups.

Ed, KAFTG, is enjoying working with people in the Luzerne county area.

Randy, N3JPV, announced that a Skywarn, PEMA Exercise on March 15th would be held on the repeater.

Skywarn reporting in the winter looks for ice accumulation, and severe snow accumulation (inches/hour).

Randy requested that anyone who has not received certificates from Columbia County EMA to please notify him. He also stated that there was an exercise called "Operation Deep Freeze '07 ". This was an exercise with Amateur Radio and the MARS group participating. The exercise was held to hone their skills in case of a winter blizzard that would paralyze a large area.

Matt, KB3JKU, reported that he has 4 inches at his QTH. He is making progress with the club website. When members see the website improvements please send comments to Matt so he can improve the site further. Bob explained what steps are needed for him to list the Hamfest with the ARRL. He is able to do this now that Matt has put the necessary information on the website.

Jack, N3EUM, stated that he has been making corrections to the ARES Member List and the Net Control Roster. He is also rewriting the preamble and will bring copies to the next club meeting in March.

Mike, N3IRN, spoke about his recent experience with Echo link. He spoke further about the “ Operation Deep Freeze ‘ 07”. He also stated that Eric Olena, WB3FPL, was inquiring about the CMARC Hamfest date.

John, N3XJZ, explained that the fire departments he is involved with are usually busy during snow events but tonight it is quiet. He also stated that he needed a new roster list for the year.

Dennis, N3VMM, stated that he has books for APRS but due to computer failure he will not be able to give a presentation. He returned later with the name of the instructor requested by Chris.

Dave, WC3A, stated that he has been checking on Licensure renewals for club members and everyone seems to be up to date. Bob complimented Dave on his message that he passed for the Traffic Net.

Jere, W3JLV, felt that the meeting on the air was a good idea. He also said he was participating in a Coastal Carolina Emergency net at the same time he was trying to listen to the CMARC session. Bob requested information about the Coastal Carolina Emergency Net and others to put in the next Newsletter.

Chris, KB3MZR, told Randy he needed the name of someone who may be helpful in assisting locate some lost items.

Andy, N3OMA, made comments about the MARS group that created the “ Operation Deep Freeze”. Also, anyone interested in working on the SATERN unit please let him know. Andy returned later with information about a stealth antenna.

Emre, WA2CPM, commented on the professionalism of those involved with passing traffic this evening. He stated that he has attended a few Hamfest’s held by CMARC and enjoyed them. He lives in Buffalo Township.

Terry, N3XTS, asked if anyone has an idea for an indoor antenna for 75 or 80 meters that he plans to operate from Florida.

Bob, explained he had over 300 QSO’s from his operations in Florida on a wire he was able to erect at his location.

Larry, N3EZX, lives in Muncy and stated he was not a member of the club but heard the discussions and wanted to check in to say hello.

Vic, WA4THR, stated he enjoyed having the meeting on the air. He's been busy on the farm

John, W3FMF, spoke about an antenna that could be erected flat on a roof that may be helpful to Terry.

Jack, N3EUM, requested some clarification on some members who checked into the meeting.

Bob closed the meeting on the air at approximately 9 pm

Respectfully, Submitted
Belinda Daring, KB3ERH, Secretary

For the on-the-air discussion/meeting, we had a total of 26 participants:

Jack, N3EUM	Sam, K3EAU
Linda, KB3ERH	Rich, KB3EUR
Jim, KB3ICM	Randy, N3JPV
Bob, K3QIA	Dave, WC3A
Jere, W3JLV	Terry, N3XTS
Mike, N3IRN	Matt, KB3JKU
Tony, KA3BPN	Dennis, N3VMM
John, N3XJZ	Bill, K3WJH
Paul, W3EGL	Mike, N3BUD
Chris, KB3MZR	Vic, WA4THR
Andy, N3OMA	John, W3FMF
Ed, KA3FTG	Fred, WB2YTA
Emre, WA2CPM	Larry, N3ZEU

This on-the-air discussion/meeting went so well we need to consider if we want to have regularly scheduled such activities on the repeater! What do you think?

NO SKYWARN NET ON MARCH 15th

The RACES Officer for Columbia County, Randy, N3JPV, informs us that the Skywarn net originally scheduled for March 15th has been cancelled. Columbia County officials have made the change. Randy says that there will be a table-top exercise that day at the emergency center, and he will attend.

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 41 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!

NEW FCC RULES GIVES ALL AMATEURS ACCESS TO HF

Yes, this includes all Technician licensees, but there are limits. If you want to see the new band plans, check the sheet opposite page 49 in the March, 2007 QST (it is a tear-out sheet). The new frequencies the various licensees may operate may also be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>

Download and print the version that is easier for you.

VE TESTING UPDATE

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

February marked one year of VE test sessions sponsored by the Columbia-Montour ARC. We gave tests to 39 candidates at 9

test sessions during the year. The most successful test session of the year was on Saturday, February 24, when we tested 10 people for upgrades and new licenses. This was a special event because of new rule changes by the FCC which eliminated Morse code testing as of February 23, 2007. The previous record for a CMARC test session had been 9 people at the Hamfest last June. Due to the interest shown in a Saturday testing session, the VE group may make Saturday testing a quarterly event.

Thank you all who helped make CMARC VE testing a success this past year.

Jim
KB3ICM

Those VEs who gave the February 24th test were: Jim, KB3ICM; Dave, WC3A; Jere, W3JLV; Matt, KB3JKU; and Bob, K3QIA. A picture of the people who took the test is shown below.



Some of the people came from as far away as Reading, but some were locals. Do you recognize anyone?

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 – IS MORSE CODE DEAD?

The answer to that question is a resounding NO! Morse code is no longer required as part of VE testing for amateur radio

licensing, but Morse code is certainly allowed on the ham bands. In fact, it is allowed everywhere except on the 60-meter band. Yes, it is allowed in the phone bands, too! Those amateurs who wish to learn Morse code certainly may do so, and enjoy the fun of working stations on CW. David Sumner, K1ZZ, the ARRL Chief Executive Officer, wrote the following in his February 2007 QST editorial:

“The best reason for developing Morse code proficiency is that it makes Amateur Radio more rewarding and more fun. If one’s sole motivation for learning Morse is to get past a 5-WPM exam, it’s unlikely to be either rewarding or fun – or ever to result in real fluency. If on the other hand the driving force is a real desire to use CW on the air – a desire that those of us who love CW can supply – then that a horse of a very different hue.”

I agree with K1ZZ wholeheartedly! In a very ironic twist, the new rules issued by the FCC have given ALL TECHNICIAN LICENSEES CW privileges on segments of the 80, 40, 15, and 10-meter bands. All technician licensees have to do is learn Morse, and technicians are on-the-air on HF NOW! Also what may be of greater interest is that ALL TECHNICIAN LICENSEES may operate these modes on the following frequencies:

28.000-28.300 MHz = CW, RTTY and data

28.300-28.500 MHz = CW and SSB

HAVE FUN!

73, Bob, K3QIA

President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club