



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER, 2007

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

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008 TO BE NOMINATED AT NOVEMBER MEETING

During the regular November club meeting, nominations will be made for the 2008 CMARC Officers. The present 2007 officers are:

President – Bob Foster, K3QIA

Vice President – Jere Vietz, W3JLV

Secretary – Linda Daring, K3BD

Assistant Secretary – Jack McCormick, N3EUM

Treasurer – Dave Schack, WC3A

Activities Director – Jim Hancock, KB3ICM

Trustees – Jack McCormick, N3EUM (term expires Dec 2009)

Jim Hancock, KB3ICM (term expires Dec 2008)

Linda Daring, K3BD (term expires Dec 2007)

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!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome our two new members. A big welcome to Ken Lewis, KB3PSP, who lives in Stony Brook Circle, between Bloomsburg and Orangeville! Another big welcome to David Torrey,

KB3PWE, who lives in Danville! Listen for their signals on our club repeater, and be sure to say hello to our new members. Both passed their license exams within the past two months, and so both are new to amateur radio.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS WHO UPGRADED

Congratulations to Jim Magill, KB3PNI, and Jay Leiby, KB3PNJ, who have upgraded to General Class amateur radio operators. Well done, Jim and Jay!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL, W3EGL

Paul, W3EGL, was inducted into the National Honor Society. Paul is a student at Warrior Run Senior High School, and Paul holds a general class amateur radio license. Only students with excellent grades qualify for induction into the National Honor Society. Congratulations, Paul!

PA QSO PARTY

This fun contest was held on October 13 and 14. We had eight club members participate in the contest this year. The results that have been reported so far are in the table below. Note that there are asterisks after the calls in the table. Here is what they mean:

SSB only = *

SSB + CW = **

CW only = ***

CALL	NAME	QSOs	CTY	SEC	DX	W3P	POINTS
WC3A*	Dave	59	8	21	0	1	1,911
KA3BPN**	Tony	257	49	41	1	5	32,668
KB3ICM*	Jim	51	13	24	0	0	1,887
K3QIA***	Bob	497	48	59	1	2	95,170
W3EGL*	Paul	22	12	9	0	1	662
K3WJH*	Bill	12	2	11	0	0	156
N3BUD**	Mike	730	56	68	1	9	110,350
K3BD*	Linda	133			1	2	9,512
Total number of points =							252,316

Our club participation this year was great. Thanks to all who took part in this fun contest. By the way, the number of points scored should place our club about the middle of the participating clubs, hopefully well above the median.

4H CLUB NEWS

Our 4H Club advisor, Linda, K3BD, informs us about the activities of the 4H members at the Bloomsburg Fair.

Linda told everyone that the 4 - H members entered their projects at the Bloomsburg Fair. Tyler framed his General License and displayed it along with his General book. Hayley displayed her crystal radio, and Sarah entered her UTC clock and a world map that showed clocks with the time difference around the world. Each of the 4 - H er's were awarded Blue Ribbons for their entries.

CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN PPL DRILL

On October 11th, many club members participated in the PPL emergency drill. Members were located at six different municipal buildings and the Columbia County Emergency Center in Bloomsburg. Over 28 amateur radio operators took part in the drill.

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 the first three emergency operations courses, IS-100, IS-200 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.qsl.net/cm-arc/ARES_RACESDOC/2007%20Required%20RACES%20Training.pdf

Some RACES operators have completed the three courses. The operators who have completed the three courses must have copies of their certificates on file with Columbia County EMA in order to be issued the new ID badges. At the present time, I do not have a list of the operators who have their certificates on file with Columbia County EMA.

Here is some additional information from Randy:

No new Columbia County Races ID cards will be issued unless the member has met the ICS and NIMS entry-level training requirements.(is 100 incident command system & is 700 NIMS National Incident Management system) All training was to be completed by Sept 2007.

Columbia County EMA as agreed to be a fully NIMS complaint. CCEMA will have four primary roles in this new "Total Visibility Resource Management System".

- 1. Identify and Directing Resources**
- 2. User Management**
- 3. Data Management**
- 4. ID Card Administration**

This is all part of NIMS resource typing. Not all users of the new system will have access to all functions.

Data entered in the system will allow for Bar Code entries on your new ID card and identify Races operators with the current training requirements.

This appears to be a long process endorsed by the East Central PA Counter Terrorism Task Force and PEMA.

Unfortunately, if you don't have the training, no new id card will be issued and you will be dropped from the Races list of operators (this will exclude you from all drills and actual events); (this appears to be only one of many changes forthcoming).

This will not exclude you as a ham radio operator under public events or ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services)

As your RACES Radio Officer N3JPV Randy

P.S. I don't wish to remove anyone from any list, if you have any questions please email me at n3jpv@arrl.net or call my cell phone at 441-1896.

STRANGE INTERFERECE SIGNALS NOTED

The following information is from Andy, N3OMA:

I have completed a final evaluation of the RF interference issues in the Berwick area.

First, it seems that there is more than one intermittent RF interference source that seems to be present only during certain late afternoon to early evening hours and affects primarily 3870.0 KHZ and 3987.0 KHZ in the 75-M band. This shows itself as a buzzing or whirring noise. I read about 20 over 9. I am not quite sure how we could go about tracking this down, as it comes and goes.

Second, and more critical to the Army MARS program, is a constant source that obliterates from 4032.0-4040.0 KHZ just above the 75-M band. This sounds like a very strong AM carrier, but I can find no signal on AM. Also, it only occurs around the Berwick/Briar Creek area. The primary Army MARS frequency is right in this range, and I am virtually unable to use this frequency. This appears to be a continuous signal and is 30+ over 9 at my location.

I am asking for any assistance from local/club hams to try and pinpoint this interference so I can work to resolve the problem. If anyone can assist, please have them contact me at their convenience. I know that this is not strictly a ham radio issue, as the frequency in question is above the ham bands, but then again, most MARS operators must be ham radio operators first. I have exhausted my resources in attempting to resolve this.

Thanks,

Andy

**Andrew M. Shecktor / AAA3PA/AAT3JF
NETCOM/9TH SIGNAL COMMAND (ARMY) - SMDPA
U.S. Army MARS Program
1308 Fairview Avenue
Berwick, PA 18603
Ph. 570-752-2434
Cellular 215-882-1706
FAX 360-283-2820**

WEBSITES

Here are two websites suggested by Andy, N3OMA.

This one is good for information on the state to local scene:

<http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php>

(I could not get this one to connect. Try it!)

This one has some good ham radio information:

<http://www.ah0a.org/AH0A.html>

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.

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 – LOTS OF GREAT CONTESTS COMING UP

During the next few weeks, there will be some great contests, including some SSB, CW and RTTY. There is a good contest almost every weekend. Check out the calendar for contests at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Scroll down to the November contests, and take a look! My personal favorite is the CQ WW CW DX Contest on November 24-25. Good Luck in the contests!

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