



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.qsl.net/cm-arc/>
SEPTEMBER 2007

CHANGING TIMES

Our club is in the midst of changing a lot of things. The next few articles explain the changes and the reasons for the changes.

MEETING TREATS

For many years, it was traditional that we have donuts and coffee at our meetings. We always got a dozen donuts, and the donuts would be eaten. However, for the last few months, we had donuts left over. The donuts cost about 70 cents each now, and several meetings we had as many as six left over. People were having coffee, but fewer donuts. So we got together and decided to have cookies instead. The cookies went over much better at the last meeting; members ate the whole bag. The preference seems to be for oreo cookies. That is what we will try for the next few meetings and see how it goes.

OUR CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

Our club Treasurer, Dave, WC3A, is the person who checks our U.S. Postal Service mailbox in Mifflinville. Dave reports that the cost of the mailbox is \$48 per year, and we receive almost no mail there. So we have decided that the mailbox will be dropped. All club mail will now be directed to my home mailing address. Thus the club address is:

CMARC
% Robert Foster
1586 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603

PHONE LINE TO THE REPEATER

Our club repeater operates on a frequency of 147.225 (+). Years ago, a phone line was required for remote control of repeaters. Recently the law was changed, so we are no longer required to have the phone line.

For many years we ran a phone patch with our repeater. Just think, you could make phone calls using your two-meter radio from your car or anywhere. That was before cell phones became common. Now with so many of our club members with cell phones, the phone patch feature of the repeater is almost never used.

The club is spending over \$300 a year to maintain the phone line to the repeater, and the phone line is no longer required nor is it used very much (if at all). At the August club meeting, the members voted to discontinue the phone line. It will be a big savings to the club.

CLUB DUES ARE GOING UP

Yes, it finally happened! The first dues increase in, well, over 20 years. We do not like to raise dues, but it has to be done if we are to remain a viable club. As you see in the previous articles, we have reduced costs, but we still need more in order to meet our bills. Our largest bill is for insurance, but we also have other obligations. The club officers are discussing how much the dues will have to increase for the year 2008, but it looks like the dues will be about double the present dues of \$10. We are discussing if we will keep the present tiered dues structure that we have had in past years.

ANDY, N3OMA, APPOINTED ASSISTANT EC

Our Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Columbia County is Randy, N3JPV. Randy may appoint Assistant Emergency Coordinators as needed. Randy has appointed Andy, N3OMA, as an Assistant EC. Andy will be responsible for the Skywarn program. Randy previously appointed Jack, N3EUM, as an Assistant EC. Jack is responsible for our ARES net which meets every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. on our CMARC repeater.

ANDY, N3OMA, PRESENTS EXCELLENT PROGRAM

Andy, N3OMA, presented a great program on NVIS to the club at our last regular club meeting (in August). We will have more information on NVIS in our next newsletter. It is fascinating!

OUR CMARC 4H CLUB IS VERY ACTIVE

Our 4H Chairperson, Linda, K3BD, tells us that our 4H Club has been very active. Here is her report:

Members of the 4 – H Club have been creating their projects over the past few months. Since Tyler has been working a job this summer and attending 4 – H summer camp he has been kept busy but found time to study for his General Class license. As everyone has heard, Tyler studied for and passed his General Class test and is now a General Amateur operator. Tyler framed his license and showed it along with his General Class book at the 4 – H Achievement Show.

Hayley built and completed her crystal radio. She has been active during the summer with 4 – H camp and other 4 – H sewing activities. Hayley brought her crystal radio to our home so Rich, KB3EUR, could help her make a contact. Oddly, we found the crystal radios the 4 – Her's have constructed work and receive CB signals. Hayley, after using longer wire for her antenna was able to receive Rich and his comments clearly on frequency

27.115 AM. She showed her crystal radio and explained how it worked at the Achievement Show. Hayley's radio and explanation warranted 'Best of Show ' in the electronics category at the Achievement Show.

Sarah built and completed her UTC clock. She has been attending summer camp in New Jersey and visiting Missouri. Time was still found to complete her clock and learn about the Universal Time, Greenwich England, and the Royal Observatory in England. She also read where and Universal Time was started and who initiated the process. She presented her clock and an explanation of UTC to the Judge at the Achievement Show.

All of the 4 – H Amateur Radio Club members presented their projects at the 4 – H Achievement Show August 8th and received Blue ribbons for those projects. They are all anticipating showing their projects at the Bloomsburg Fair this fall.

We hope those of you attending will look for the radio exhibits; these are to be included in the electronic exhibits this year and have their own category in the Fair premium book.

ISN'T IT GREAT TO SEE SOME YOUNG PEOPLE ACTUALLY ENJOYING THE HOBBY????

EMAIL FROM A CLUB FOUNDER

More than 20 years ago, hams in our area met and formed our club. One of the original hams that founded our club was Denny, KB3MJ. Denny now lives in Delaware. I recently received this email from him, and I have his permission to share it with you:

Hi Bob,

I enjoy reading the newsletter. It's nice to see what you guys are up to in the CMARC. It's been more than 20 years since I was living up there and a proud member of the, then still fledgling, club. I hope you guys had a super Field Day and everyone is doing OK.

Check out Youtube.com with a Search for KB3MJ. You'll get to see some of our "Winter Field Day" activities and just some raw video of our "normal" Field Day. Hopefully soon, I'll get some stuff up about our recent activities on Amateur Radio Light House Society's - National Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. It was a blast. We were out in the Delaware Bay and stayed over the weekend in one of the lighthouses. That was the first time in over 50 years that anyone was allowed to stay overnight there. I hope you guys are having as much "Radio Fun" up there. As we say, "FUN turns to "FUNctionality" when we're needed and nothing says we can't have fun "practicing".

Aloha,

73 OM DE KB3MJ - Denny

COMPUTER PROGRAM SUGGESTION

Dennis, N3VMM, found a neat ham radio program. It is not free, but it looks interesting. Here is the address:

<http://qsonet.com/programs.html>

NEW REPEATER ON-THE-AIR

A new repeater is on the air near Wilkes Barre. Xmitter is near Laurel Run Mtn with antenna 200 feet up a tower. 146.460 mhz is the output but the input is ONE MEG higher---147.460---pl=100.0

This is due to another repeater in the Bethlehem area. With the

repeaters location it should have a BIG footprint ;-)

Give it a listen

73'

Bob

WB3DYE

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:

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 – Crash and Newsletter Mailing List

About two weeks ago, I had a computer crash and lost my email address book. It contained the club email mailing list both for our members and for our non-members who wished to stay up-to-date with our activities. I had not backed up the latest email lists, so I had to get the info from our club officers (thanks to the officers). There is a big lesson to be learned from this: backup all your files, especially those files in your address book. I ended up asking all the people on our non-member list if they wished to continue on our CMARC mailing list, and most have responded that they wished to continue. I apologize for any inconvenience this caused. I now have a flash drive permanently placed in one of my USB ports, and anytime I change the mailing list, I save the updated file to the flash drive. I am not going to loose my address book again!

73, Bob, K3QIA

President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club