



**COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB
NEWSLETTER FOR JULY & AUGUST,
2007**

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

OUR CMARC HAMFEST

The Columbia-Montour ARC held its 17th annual Hamfest at the Bloomsburg Fire Company Hall on June 9th. We had a good member turnout Friday

evening to help setup the parking lot fence and arrange the tables in the hall. Members also were available to help the vendors carry items.

We had several new computer vendors and saw several old friends return again this year. The weather was good for our tailgating crowd and many said that they had exceeded their sales expectations. Sauder's Electronics returned this year; she had told us that she had an excellent day and is planning to return next year.

The VE team gave 18 tests to 13 individuals. Four people became new hams and 9 people earned upgrades. Overall, it was a very busy testing session.

Planning for next year will start soon and I would welcome any help or suggestions.

I'd like to thank all who helped make this year's event a success.

Jim

KB3ICM

Hamfest Chairman

VE TESTING UPDATE

The following three articles are also by Jim, KB3ICM:

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.

New General Class Test

July 1, 2007 a new General class exam was issued by the Volunteer Exam Coordinators. If you have been studying for an upgrade please check that you have the latest exam information since the question pool has changed. Your study material should be marked for use *AFTER *July 1, 2007.

Problems at a testing session

Several VE team members learned of a "dissatisfied" test session candidate who felt he was treated unfairly because he didn't pass his general class test on two attempts. He complained that we "made up questions" due to stickers that were on his test booklet. Those stickers were supplied by the ARRL VEC staff to replace questions that became obsolete due to the rule changes that the FCC made in December. The stickers contained questions from the approved question pool that was

current at the time he took his test. Had he asked at the test session we could have explained this to him, but he didn't. He choose to bad-mouth us over the radio instead and sent a complaint to the ARRL VEC office. Our VE team uses methods to ensure all candidates are treated fairly and with respect. Tests are selected by the candidate rolling a die to choose the version of the test that they receive. This eliminates complaints that we gave easy or hard tests because we know the candidate.

FIELD DAY

Field Day, held on June 23-24 this year, was lots of fun. Here are some photos from our Field Day:



Our Information Table was interesting! From left, there are Bill, K3WJH, Paul, W3EGL,

Linda, K3BD, Sarah Daring (GOTA Operator), and Randy, N3JPV.



We could not have had Field Day without the generator, provided by Bill, K3WJH (on right in photo). Others in the photo, from left, are Sarah Daring, Linda, K3BD, Paul, W3EGL, and Randy, N3JPV.



On left, that is Jim, KB3ICM, with Bill, K3WJH operating Field Day.



Terry, , on left facing camera, earned us 100 bonus points because he is an elected official (Terry serves on town council in Bloomsburg). This is a snapshot of supper on Saturday. Not everyone is seated at this point!



Dave, WC3A, who loaned us his call for Field Day, was also our chief chef. Here he is dishing up the spaghetti with meatballs in sauce for our Saturday evening meal.



Dishing out the spaghetti! From left to right are Bill, K3WJH, Paul, W3EGL, Rich, KB3EUR, and Linda, K3BD.



Operating at the GOTA station are, from left, Caitlyn Muchler, Kim Shecktor, And Paul, W3EGL, who was serving as the control operator at this time.



John, N3XJS, on left, earned us 100 bonus points by acting in his official capacity of representative of the Danville Fire Department. In center in photo is Andy, N3OMA, acting as the control op for the GOTA station. On right is his daughter Kim, operating the GOTA station.

FIELD DAY RESULTS

We had a total of 972 QSOs on Field Day. That resulted in 2,864 points and we also had 1,790 bonus points. In our class, which was 4A, this should put us around the 82nd percentile (that means we would have done better than 82% of the stations in our class). So, as a club, we did very well!

THOSE 1X1 CALLS WE WORKED ON FIELD DAY

We worked a number of 1x1 calls on Field Day. For example, we worked K1R and W1C. Calls like this are available for short

periods of time to hams for special events. The complete details may be found at this website:

<http://www.ncvec.org/1x1.php>

Many thanks to Dave, WC3A, who discovered the website.

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE REPEATER COMMITTEE

Several years ago, the Repeater Committee asked for federal grant money to purchase new repeater equipment. Recently grant money became available through Emergency Management Agency Act 147, better know as the Radiation Protection Act. Our Repeater Committee acquired a new two-meter transceiver and a new 440-MHz transceiver through Act 147 at no cost to the club. Randy, N3JPV, Vic, WA4THR, along with Linda, K3BD, and Rich, KB3EUR, installed the new equipment; the new two-meter transceiver was installed at the Jonestown site and the new 440-MHz transceiver was installed at the Catawissa site. The original equipment was taken out of service and will be available as back-up equipment. Well done, Repeater Committee!

Here is Randy's official announcement:

Funding for two Motorola four channel transceivers (two meter at Jonestown and 440 at Catawissa) are now in operation. Monies were made available via EMA Act 147 better known as the Radiation Protection Act. Having spare radios available will greatly benefit the membership, citizens, and the repeater committee. A big "thank you" to all the parties involved in this endeavor.

Columbia County Ares EC and Races Radio Officer
Randy N3JPV

CONGRATULATIONS TO TYLER, RICH AND LINDA

Recently we had three of our club members update their license classes. Tyler, KB3NKK (who is also a member of our 4H Club) recently upgraded from Technician to General Class. Rich, KB3EUR, recently upgraded from Technician to General also.

Linda, KB3ERH, recently upgraded from General to Extra Class. Linda also applied for and received a new extra call, K3BD (she wanted that call because the suffix is BD, for Belinda Daring). Congratulations to all who upgraded!

TWO NEW HAMS AND TWO NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Recently two prospective hams passed their Technician License tests, and both have joined our club. Jim Magill, who lives in Bloomsburg, has been given the call KB3PNI, and Jay Leiby, who lives in Mifflinville, has been given KB3PNJ. Please make our new members welcome, and be sure to work them when you hear them on our club repeater.

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 – MAKING PEOPLE FEEL WELCOME

Sometimes hams using the repeater have a tendency to just work certain other people ... their close friends, so to speak. Our club tries to be as friendly to everyone as we can be. So when you hear someone new on the repeater, make that person feel welcome. It could be someone just passing through our area on Interstate 80, or it could be a new club member. Let's try to be friendly ... that stranger you hear on the repeater could turn out to be a close friend in the future!

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