



## **COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL, 2008**

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

### **CMARC HAMFEST APPROVED BY ARRL**

Our club hamfest has been approved by ARRL. What does that mean? It means our hamfest will be listed in the June issue of QST, and we will be receiving door prizes from ARRL for our hamfest. For all the information about the hamfest, take a look at the flyer on our club website:

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

Many thanks to our Hamfest Chairman, Jim, KB3ICM, for writing the flyer! Thanks also to the other members of the Hamfest Committee: Dave, WC3A, Andy, N3OMA, and yours truly, Bob, K3QIA.

We are going to need all the help we can get to make our hamfest successful. Mark the date, June 14, 2008 on your calendars now!

### **CMARC FIELD DAY**

Once again we will be conducting our Field Day at the Kulp Church Grove near Slabtown. Mark the dates on your calendar now! Set up on Friday, June 27, and Field Day operation begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 28 and concludes Sunday at 2 p.m. There are a number of new rules this year. Join us in the fun!

### **PICTURES TAKEN FOR NEW RACES BADGES**

At the regular March club meeting, Jim Cunningham of Columbia County Emergency Management took pictures of the club members who have qualified for the new RACES badges. Those who were photographed will soon be receiving their new badges. For additional information about RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services),

contact the RACES Officer for Columbia County, Randy, N3JPV.  
Randy's email address is: [hamradil@ptd.net](mailto:hamradil@ptd.net)

## **IMPORTANT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DATES**

Randy, N3JPV, informs us of the following dates:

PPL Dinner at Portobellos in Lightstreet – 7 p.m., May 15

PPL Picnic at Knoebels Grove – August 23

PPL Practice Drill – September 18

PPL Drill – beginning approximately 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 21.

The October 21<sup>st</sup> drill is very important! We will need lots of RACES operators to take part in the drill, which will be observed by state and federal emergency management officials.

## **NEW WEAK-SIGNAL PROGRAM**

The following is from Tony, KA3BPN. Tony presented a very interesting program to the club recently about meteor scatter communications using weak-signal computer programs. This new program is most interesting!

I am not sure if many members are interested in weak signal work on HF, but Joe Taylor, K1JT, developed a new program for propagation study (mostly on 30 meters right now) where transmitter power is in the milliwatts. I have been playing with it for several days and have copied a number of US, VE, and DX stations near 10.140 Mhz running 5 watts or less, usually 100 mw or so - I would also recommend download this program after installing WSPR, it is a point and click interface - <http://home.arcor.de/dl5swb/mept/>

Links to WSPR, its purpose, and updated operating instructions are:  
[http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/WSPR Announcement.TXT](http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/WSPR%20Announcement.TXT)  
[http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/WSPR Instructions.TXT](http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/WSPR%20Instructions.TXT)  
<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/WSPR.EXE>

The latest version of the program is WSPR version 0.5, r673, and it is now available for free download at <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>

## **WEATHER DRILL CONDUCTED**

The RACES Radio Officer for Columbia County, Randy, N3JPV, reports on the Skywarn Weather Drill held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Here is Randy's report:

"This is only a drill!" With these words, Columbia County Emergency Management Agency activated the Emergency Operations Center at 11:00 a.m. EDT with 3 full time employees and 3 volunteers, two from RACES and a PIO. Only three municipal Emergency Operations Centers were activated. From my station at home, N3JPV checked into Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Headquarters at 9:10 EDT and headed to Columbia County Emergency Management Agency (CEMA). Voice FM but no data systems were tested, although the participants had access to Echolink, Psk31 and APRS. The District 4 Columbia-Montour ARES, RACES and Skywarn Net was activated at 11:15 after an initial briefing. We had twelve check-ins and handled twelve messages in all. Eastern Region contact was made on the 145.37/repeater Delano with a resource request for cots from CEMA operations coordinator Jim Cunningham to Tony Camillocci. HF relay was made from Columbia County Races to PEMA HQ via PAMARS operator Andy Shecktor, N3OMA or AAT3JF, with three messages. CEMA official Larry Lahiff was group chief and held the debriefing, among his other duties as our CEMA Emergency Management Coordinator. The weather exercise was terminated 2 p.m. A big thank you to all that participated, especially Net Control Station K3BD, Belinda Daring.

Columbia County RACES RO & ARES EC  
Randy Kishbaugh N3JPV

## **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.

## **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](mailto: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.

Here is the roster for the net control stations:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>CALL</b>	<b>BACKUP</b>	<b>CALL</b>
4/1/08	RICH	N3YGL	BILL	K3WJH
4/8/08	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
4/15/08	BOB	K3QIA	JACK	N3EUM
4/22/08	LINDA	K3BD	SAM	K3EAU

4/29/08	JACK	N3EUM	PAUL	W3EGL
5/6/08	SAM	K3EAU	LINDA	K3BD
5/13/08	DENNIS	N3VMM	DAVE	WC3A
5/20/08	JIM	KB3ICM	RICH	N3YGL
5/27/08	PAUL	W3EGL	BILL	K3WJH

## **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 – April". This message is only sent to people who have paid their CMARC dues for 2008. If you did not get the "CMARC Members Only" message, it means you have not paid your 2008 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 "Members Only" messages are sent out monthly.

In some cases, people have forgotten whether they have paid

their dues. If you are not receiving the “Members Only” monthly email, you have not paid your dues for 2008.

If you are not receiving the “Members Only” email, please take a few minutes and send in your 2008 dues now! The next two articles describe how you can join CMARC. We would love to have you as a member! 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 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.

**73, Bob, K3QIA**

**President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club**