



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

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

NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICES

The following club members have been nominated for club offices for 2009:

President: Bob Foster, K3QIA

Vice President: Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV

Secretary: Linda Daring, K3BD

Treasurer: Andy Shecktor, N3OMA

Public Relations Officer*: Matt Lunger, KB3JKU

[*This is a new office. The Public Relations Officer will handle publicity in the media for the club.]

Trustee: Bill Hoops, K3WJH [This office is to be held for three years. Term will expire in December 2011]

Other Trustees are:

Linda Daring, K3BD. [Term expires December 2010]

Jack McCormick, N3EUM [Term expires December 2009]

Any club member may nominate other club members for any office. Nominations will be closed at the regular monthly meeting on December 9th. Election of club officers for 2009 will be held immediately after closing the nominations.

FUND RAISING BY DONATING YOUR UNUSED ITEMS

Andy, N3OMA, made a great suggestion. Andy said that many members have things lying around that they do not need. If you

have such items, bring them to a club meeting and donate them to the club. Andy will sell the items either to other club members or will sell the items on Ebay. So look around your junk boxes and see if you have anything that you no longer want and bring it to the next club meeting. Thanks!

RUN FOR THE DIAMONDS RACE COORDINATION

Each year our club helps coordinate the Thanksgiving Day Race in Berwick, the Run for the Diamonds. Dave, WC3A, coordinates this project with the help of Bill, K3WJH, who brings his motor home to Berwick to house the net control station. We position club members around the nine-mile route the runners take, and the club members radio back to net control the times and order of the first few runners. If any runners are in need of assistance, we radio for help. In addition to Dave and Bill, the following amateur radio operators took part in the Run for the Diamonds:

Paul, W3EGL

Randy, N3JPV

Harry, KB3RUY

George, N3TQK

Matt, KB3JKU

Larry, KB3JMS

Scott, KB3JMQ (with daughters)

Dennis, N3VMM

Terry, N3XTS

John, N3XJS

Andy, N3OMA (with Kim Shecktor and Ken Warman)

Bob, K3QIA

We took some photos of the race, and we will show the photos at the next regular club meeting on December 9.

OPERATION SANTA

Each year our club takes a two-meter radio to the Geisinger Children's Hospital and lets sick children talk to "Santa". We will be doing this on December 3. The sick children tell "Santa" what they want for Christmas, then "Santa" tells the children that his helpers have some gifts for them. We give the sick children coloring books, crayons and stuffed toys.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Charlie Shaw, KB3BTO, for his very generous donation to Operation Santa. Charlie's donation will buy most of the gifts for the sick children.

We'll conduct Operation Santa on Wednesday, December 3, beginning around 6:30 p.m. This year we will be using the Bloomsburg repeater, 147.12+, tone 131.8. You can listen in to the children speak to "Santa". This is really fun, and it brightens the day of sick children.

ACTIVITIES AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

At the regular monthly meeting in November, we discussed what topics members would like to hear about or discuss at the club meetings. Sheets of paper were passed out, and members put on the paper what topics they would like to see presented. Then the members were asked to write down what topics they would like to present to the club at a meeting.

The club Activities Director, Andy, N3OMA, will be coordinating the monthly activities, so you can also send additional suggestions to Andy. Please carbon-copy your suggestions to me, too, please!

Andy's email address is maxfax@cris.com

Bob, K3QIA, email address is rlfoster1@verizon.net

TEN-METER CONTEST

The ARRL 10-Meter Contest begins at 7 p.m. EST on Friday, December 12, and continues until 7 p.m. EST on Sunday, December 14. You may work stations on both CW and phone, and all our licensed club members may take part in this fun contest. The technician sub-band is 28.3 – 28.5. The exchange is signal report and state, so most of the time the exchange you will send is 59 PA.

If we can get at least three club members to work the contest, we can enter as a club. I'll work the contest; can we get at least two more club members to join in the fun and work some stations on 10 meters?

INFO ON METEOR QSOs FROM TONY, KA3BPN

Tony Camillocci wrote:

Bob

I am not sure if any club members would be interested but I thought I would pass on the following meteor/VHF weak signal info:

Germinids Meteor Shower - Peak Dec 13 approx 2300 Z - meteor rate per hour could be as high as 100 at or near the predicted peak. If you don't have equipment to operate, get out and view, weather permitting.

North America High Speed Meteor Scatter 2008 Germinids Test - Coincides with the Germinids Shower and runs from 0000 UTC Dec 11 to 0200 UTC Dec 15, 2008. More info at - www.sportscliche.com/wb2fko/w08/rules_w08.html

Equipment can be as simple as an all mode transceiver (USB used), a horizontally phased antenna (I'm using a 6 meter halo and having success), an interface, computer and the program WSJT. If meteor activity is high, ssb and CW contacts are also possible.

Tony C
KA3BPN

LOGO COMMITTEE IS ACTIVE

The club has formed a committee to make suggestions about a club logo. The members of the Logo Committee are: Matt, KB3JKU (Chairman), Linda, K3BD, and Jack, N3EUM. The committee met recently and has made plans to have several designs for a logo for our club. When the designs are ready, the designs will be presented to the club for a vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 3RD

At the September meeting, Jack, N3EUM, made a suggestion that the Board of Directors meet before the regular meeting and conduct business. This would streamline the meeting considerably and let more time for ham radio talk. This is a great idea, and we did just that. The Board of Directors met at Panera Bread near Wal*Mart at the Buckhorn exit of I-80. The meeting will take place on Monday, November 3rd, at 6:30 p.m.

There were three items on the agenda: suggestions for nominations of club officers for 2009, ham radio programs to be presented at the next few club meetings, and an idea by Andy, N3OMA, to raise funds by having members donate ham radio items they no longer use.

PAUL, W3EGL, TO ATTEND RIT

Bill, K3WJH, informs us of the following:

Paul, W3EGL, was accepted at Rochester Institute of Technology, one of the nations most respected engineering schools, as a full time student for the fall 2009 quarter.

Congratulations to Paul! This is an awesome achievement!

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: 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 ten 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:

DATE	PRIMARY	CALL	BACKUP	CALL
12/2/08	BOB	K3QIA	JACK	N3EUM
12/9/08	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
12/16/08	JIM	KB3PNI	LINDA	K3BD
12/23/08	SAM	K3EAU	PAUL	W3EGL
12/30/08	RICH	N3YGL	BILL	K3WJH
1/6/09	JACK	N3EUM	JIM	KB3PNI
1/13/09	DENNIS	N3VMM	DAVE	WC3A
1/20/09	LINDA	K3BD	RICH	N3YGL
1/27/09	BILL	K3WJH	SAM	K3EAU

2/3/09	JIM	KB3PNI	JACK	N3EUM
2/10/09	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
2/17/09	JACK	N3EUM	LINDA	K3BD
2/24/09	RICH	N3YGL	BILL	K3WJH
3/3/09	PAUL	W3EGL	JACK	N3EUM
3/10/09	DENNIS	N3VMM	SAM	K3EAU
3/17/09	LINDA	K3BD	JIM	KB3PNI
3/24/09	BILL	K3WJH	RICH	N3YGL
3/31/09	JIM	KB3PNI	LINDA	K3BD

check into the net, and join in the fun!

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 2009

The membership drive for 2009 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 - #17
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

When you send in your dues for 2009, 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

POSTSCRIPT

If you have any amateur radio news, especially news that our local amateurs would like to know, please send it to me. My email address is:

rlfoster1@verizon.net

I'll be glad to put it in our newsletter.