



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 2008

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

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008 ELECTED AT DECEMBER MEETING

During the regular December club meeting, elections were held for the 2008 CMARC Officers. Those elected for the 2008 club officer positions are:

President – Bob Foster, K3QIA
Vice President – Jere Vietz, W3JLV
Secretary – Linda Daring, KB3BD
Assistant Secretary – Jack McCormick, N3EUM
Treasurer – Dave Schack, WC3A
Activities Director – Andy Shecktor, N3OMA
Trustee – Linda Daring, K3BD

Only one Trustee was elected. Two other trustees who are not up for re-election are:

Jack McCormick, N3EUM (term expires Dec 2009)
Jim Hancock, KB3ICM (term expires Dec 2008)
Trustees serve a three-year term, and one trustee is elected each year.

OTHER CLUB OFFICIALS

There are a number of club officials that do not change when new officers are elected. These include:

Webmaster - Matt Lunger, KB3JKU

4H Chairperson – Linda Daring, K3BD
VE Chairman – Jim Hancock, KB3ICM
Hamfest Chairman – Jim Hancock, KB3ICM
Membership Chairman – Dave Schack, WC3A
Field Day Chairman – Bob Foster, K3QIA
Run for the Diamonds Chairman – Dave Schack, WC3A
Operation Santa Chairman – Dave Schack, WC3A
Repeater Committee – Jim Hancock, KB3ICM; Vic Klein, WA4THR and Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV.
Specialist – Bill Hoops, K3WJH

You may wonder what the Specialist does. Although Bill lives at a distance, he provides very special services to the club. Bill provides the generator for Field Day, and his mobile home for the Run for the Diamonds. Many thanks to Bill and all our club officials!

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS

We have a number of club members who are very active in emergency communications. Here are our emergency communications people:

Columbia County RACES and ARES Radio Officer – Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV

ARES Net Coordinator (and Assistant Emergency Coordinator) – Jack McCormick, N3EUM

District 4 Emergency Coordinator – Andy Shector, N3OMA

Montour County RACES and ARES Radio Officer - Dave Torrey, KB3PWE

OPERATION SANTA

Every December, our club conducts a major project called Operation Santa. The chairman for this event is Dave, WC3A. Dave works with Child Life Coordinators at the Geisinger Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville. Dave arranges for a visit of several club members to the rooms of sick children. Dave also has the Child Life Coordinators give him information about the sick children. The group

that accompanied Dave to the hospital this year were Bill, K3WJH, Paul, W3EGL, and Bob, K3QIA.

When we entered the room of a sick child, we asked if the child wanted to speak to Santa on the radio. The children usually do, and we hook up a two-meter radio to a 5/8 wave vertical antenna. Then we use the BARS and the WB3DUC repeaters to let the children speak to "Santa". Many thanks to BARS and WB3DUC for their help with this project!

We usually have Pete, NQ3G, play Santa, but this year, Pete was ill. Dave enlisted the help of Jim, KB3ICM, and Jim consented to be our Santa this year. Jim made a terrific Santa, and saved the project for us.

When we call "Santa" on the radio, "Santa" begins with a jolly "Ho Ho Ho!" Then Dave tells Santa the number of the room we have entered, and Santa tells us the first name of the child, the names of the child's brothers and sisters, and the hobbies the child has. The children are really surprised! You should see their faces!

The child tells Santa what he wants for Christmas, and then we give the sick child a coloring book, crayons and a stuffed toy. If any siblings are in the room, they get gifts, too.

Other club members often listen in to the conversations on the repeaters. This is really a fun project, and it brightens the day of hospitalized children.

CLUB TAKES POSSESSION OF FRED'S EQUIPMENT

Fred Veth, WB2YTA, was an active club member. Fred passed away a few months ago, and he willed his equipment to the club. We worked with Michele, Fred's daughter, who located and collected his equipment for us. In early December, four club members went to Fred's home, met with Michele, and picked up the equipment. The club members who picked up and transported the equipment were Andy, N3OMA; Dave, WC3A; Dave, KB3PWE and Bob, K3QIA. We transported the equipment to Andy's garage, and have the equipment stored there. Many thanks to Andy for providing the storage space!

When the weather gets a bit warmer, we will do an inventory of the equipment. We plan to offer the equipment for sale to club members first, and then place the remaining equipment on sale at our club hamfest.

JACK, N3EUM, UNDERGOES SURGERY

Jack, N3EUM, recently underwent surgery on his leg. We wish Jack a speedy recovery.

JERZY, N3FIP, HAS INTERESTING ITEM IN STATION

Jerzy, N3FIP, works only PSK and RTTY. These two modes tend to make radios run hot, so Jerzy has temperature probes mounted on his transceivers and power supplies. He has the temperature read-outs mounted where he can keep an eye on the temperature of his equipment. This is not a bad idea for anyone who works PSK and RTTY.

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 two emergency operations courses, IS-100 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.gsl.net/cm-arc/ARES_RACESDOC/2007%20Required%20RACES%20Training.pdf

Notice that if you are taking a course on-line, you must complete the course without interruption. That is, you cannot stop part way through. If you do, you must begin at the beginning once again.

Some RACES operators have completed the two courses. The operators who have completed the two courses must have copies of their certificates on file with Columbia County EMA in order to be issued the new ID badges.

If you have any questions regarding this, contact Randy, N3JPV. Randy's email is n3jpv@arrl.net and his cell is (570) 441-1896.

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.

Here is the roster for the net control stations:

DATE	PRIMARY	CALL	BACKUP	CALL
11/27/07	SAM	K3EAU	LINDA	K3BD
12/4/07	JIM	KB3ICM	PAUL	W3EGL
12/11/07	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
12/18/07	BOB	K3QIA	JIM	KB3ICM
12/25/07	NO NET			
1/01/08	NO NET			
1/8/08	DENNIS	N3VMM	JACK	N3EUM
1/15/08	LINDA	K3BD	DAVE	WC3A
1/22/08	PAUL	W3EGL	SAM	K3EAU
1/29/08	BILL	K3WJH	JACK	N3EUM

2/5/08	JIM	KB3ICM	BILL	K3WJH
2/12/08	DENNIS	N3VMM	SAM	K3EAU
2/19/08	JACK	N3EUM	LINDA	K3BD
2/26/08	SAM	K3EAU	BOB	K3QIA
3/4/08	PAUL	W3EGL	BILL	K3WJH
3/11/08	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
3/18/08	JACK	N3EUM	DAVE	WC3A
3/25/08	BOB	K3QIA	PAUL	W3EGL

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 – JANUARY". 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 some cases, people have forgotten whether they have paid their dues. If you receive the club roster, check the first column. If you see 2008 before your name, you have paid your dues for 2008. If you are not receiving the “Members Only” monthly email, you have not paid your dues for 2008. For the present time, everyone who was a member last year will receive the “members only” for the first few months of 2008.

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 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 – IT IS TIME TO LOOK FORWARD AND BACK!

This past year, whenever we needed someone to do some work for the club, we always found a volunteer. The names that appear in the first two articles in this newsletter and others have stepped forward to do the work of the club. We owe all these people a debt of gratitude. We hope the spirit of cooperation and volunteerism that we have enjoyed in the past continues into 2008 and beyond. Many, many thanks to all!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

73, Bob, K3QIA

President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club