



# **COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER JULY – AUGUST 2008**

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

## **IS THAT OUR NEW LOGO?**

No, it is not! Our Webmaster, Matt, KB3JKU, has suggested we have a club logo. This is a great suggestion. CMARC has never had a real logo, but we certainly could use one! Our logo could appear on our newsletter, our correspondence, our website, our hats, our T-shirts ... you get the picture. At our next club meeting in August, we will be discussing a club logo, and what we want on it. We'll take a look at the logos of other clubs, and see if we can come to a consensus of what should be on the logo.

You might wonder how I got that temporary logo. Well, I used a Pennsylvania State map, a scanner and the Paint program that comes with Windows to produce that temporary logo. How do you like it?

## **FORTY-SIX MEMBERS!**

That's right, we now have 46 members! We are very pleased that our members have continued to renew their membership; we also have a number of new members, too! We were concerned when we had to raise dues this year that we might have a drop in membership, but that did not occur. So our club is quite healthy!

Our club treasury is also in good shape. In addition to dues, we also had a successful hamfest, and had successful sales from

Fred Veth's estate. Many thanks to our Activities Director, Andy, N3OMA, who conducted the estate sales!

One of our largest expenses has been insurance on our repeater system. Some members may consider the insurance is an expense that could be dropped. Before you consider dropping the insurance, take a look at another club's website. This is the website of the Red Rose Repeater Association, located in Lancaster, PA (look at the red print in the center of the page): <http://w3rrr.org/>

## **OUR REPEATER COORDINATION**

The Area Repeater Coordination Council (ARCC) coordinates all the repeaters in the Eastern Pennsylvania ARRL Section (as well as the Southern New Jersey ARRL Section). Our repeater, KB3BJO on 147.225+, has been coordinated for a number of years. This means that the ARCC has accepted our repeater into their system. ARCC maintains the system, and makes sure no two repeaters are operated on the same frequency (or adjacent frequencies) in the same coverage area. This keeps interference down to an absolute minimum.

ARCC is manned by volunteers. The volunteers are not paid, but it does cost money to operate the system. From time to time, when their treasury gets low, they ask for dues from the repeater sponsors. ARCC asked for the group sponsors of repeaters in their coverage area to pay dues of \$50 each in June. CMARC has paid its dues. Every organization that pays their dues gets to attend the ARCC meetings and vote on items discussed.

We received an invitation to attend the next meeting of ARCC. It will be held Saturday, September 20 at noon at the Harvest Diner in Cinnaminson, NJ. Does anyone want to go and represent CMARC? Let me know if you are interested.

Check out the ARCC website at: <http://www.arcc-inc.org/>

A list of the coordinated repeaters is on their website.

## **CMARC HAMFEST**

Hamfests are fun, and ours was a lot of fun!

Dave, WC3A, was our Hamfest Chairman for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bloomsburg Hamfest, sponsored by our club. Dave tells us that KJI Electronics, a major amateur radio dealer from New Jersey, came to our hamfest. Sauder Electronics came too, as did a number of other vendors and tailgators.

Our club hamfest was held at the Lime Ridge Community Center on June 14<sup>th</sup>. We had a very successful hamfest, had fun, and earned some much-needed money for the club.

Our thanks to Hamfest Chairman Dave for organizing our hamfest.

## **VE Testing Report for HAMFEST 2008**

Matt, KB3JKU, is our VE Testing Chairman. He tells us about the VE testing at the hamfest:

Testing at this year's HAMFEST went very well. The VE's tested 12 people, 8 of which either received their first ticket or earned an upgrade. Congratulations to all the test candidates.

As VE Testing Chairman, I'd like to take the next few lines to express my grateful thanks to the following VE's, which without their help, diligence, laughter and writing hands this year's test session would not have been possible (in no particular order, just in case you were wondering):

Wayne Robbins	AB3AM
John Rymell	N3PFF
Rich Maynard	N3YGL
Bill Hoops	K3WJH
Jere Veitz	W3JLV
Linda Daring	K3BD
Bob Foster	K3QIA
Dave Schack	WC3A

Respectfully submitted & 73's,

**Matt Lunger**  
**KB3JKU**  
**CMARC VE Testing Chairman**

## **CMARC FIELD DAY**

### **KEN SAVES THE DAY**

Just two days before Field Day, Ken, KB3PSP, discovered that a bridge was out, so the directions we were going to use to get to our Field Day location were no good. We scrambled to find an alternate route, and found one. Ken really saved the day! Many thanks, Ken. Ken has also volunteered to a RACES operator. Welcome to RACES, Ken!

### **DAVE DISCOVERS MAPPING WEBSITE**

Dave, WC3A, discovered a great mapping website which really helped with a new route to our Field Day site. The site is:  
<http://mapper.acme.com/>

### **FIELD DAY RESULTS**

Once again we conducted our Field Day at the Kulp Church Grove near Slabtown. For those who may not be familiar with Field Day, it is an exercise in emergency communications. We tried to work as many stations as possible within a 24-hour period (June 28-29). Here are our results:

Band	CW	Phone	DIGITAL	GOTA
80 M	159	193	0	3
40 M	146	144	0	50
20 M	5	14	8	38
15 M	2	105	0	6
10 M	0	19	0	1
6 M	0	3	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>98</b>

As you can see, our best bands were 40 and 80 meters, and we had a total of 896 QSOs (contacts). We are awarded points based on the number of QSOs we had.

## FIELD DAY PARTICIPANTS

We had 19 people participate in our Field Day. Here is the list of participants:

Call	Name
W3EGL	Paul Hoops
K3WJH	Bill Hoops
N3JPV	Randy Kishbaugh
N3EUM	Jack McCormick
W3GY	Jack McCann
WC3A	Dave Schack
N3OMA	Andy Shecktor
None	Kim Shecktor
None	Ken Warman
WB3P	Chris Stevens
N3KYZ	George Law
KB3JMS	Larry Bezdziecki
K3EAU	Sam Dalious
W3FMF	John Brocious
K3BD	Linda Daring
K3RND	Rich Daring
K3QIA	Bob Foster
KF3Y	Andy Bomboy
KB3PWE	Dave Torrey

We also earned bonus points for various activities at Field Day. By adding together the number of QSO points and the number of bonus points, it should place our CMARC effort at approximately the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. That is, better than 75 percent of the total participating groups in our class. Final results will come out later this year.

## ANTENNA INSTALLATION PARTY AT THE HOME OF RICH, N3YGL

Rich, N3YGL, needed a little help installing his new GAP Titan vertical antenna. So on Saturday, July 26, a few hams came over to his home and gave Rich a hand installing his antenna.

Rich & his wife Joanne treated the hams who helped to a great lunch. Those taking part in the antenna party included: Les, N3LQS; Dave, WC3A; Mike, N3BUD; Rich, K3RND; Linda, K3BD; and Bob, K3QIA. We hope to have pictures of the antenna installation at our next meeting.

## **RICH, N3YGL, UNDERGOES SURGERY**

Rich, N3YGL, underwent surgery on his back on July 30. We wish Rich a quick recovery.

## **IMPORTANT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DATES**

Randy, N3JPV, informs us of the following dates:

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.

## **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:

Date	Primary	Call	Back-up	Call
8/5/08	PAUL	W3EGL	BOB	K3QIA
8/12/08	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
8/19/08	JIM	KB3PNI	JACK	N3EUM
8/26/08	JIM	KB3PNI	BILL	K3WJH
9/2/08	BOB	K3QIA	PAUL	W3EGL
9/9/08	DENNIS	N3VMM	DAVE	WC3A
9/16/08	LINDA	K3BD	PAUL	W3EGL
9/23/08	SAM	K3EAU	RICH	N3YGL

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 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 - #17  
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**