



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER, 2008

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

TWO BIG ACTIVITIES COMING UP

Our club has two great activities in late November and early December. The first is our coordination of the Run for the Diamonds race on Thanksgiving Day, and the second is Operation Santa. The info on each is in the next two articles.

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. This all happens on Thanksgiving Day morning, so you will have plenty of time to go home for your turkey dinner. We need lots of ham operators to help, so if you can help, please contact Dave, WC3A. His email address is: drs352478@verizon.net

OPERATION SANTA

Each year our club takes a two-meter radio to the Geisinger 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 could use some

donations for the gifts to the sick children. If you would care to make a donation, please make out the check to: Robert Foster

Send the donation to:
Robert Foster
1586 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603

Or you could just give me the donation at a club meeting. I buy the stuffed toys and coloring books and crayons. If you care to buy the toys yourself, just bring them to the November meeting or drop them off at my house.

We'll conduct Operation Santa on one of the local repeaters on Wednesday, December 3. You can listen in to the children speak to "Santa". This is really fun, and it brightens the day of sick children.

PA QSO PARTY

Every October, our club takes part in a really fun operating event, the Pennsylvania QSO Party. You try to work as many stations as possible from your home station, especially trying to work as many different Pennsylvania counties as you can. In previous years, we had about 8 club members take part in this fun contest, but this year we had only three (that I know about). Here are the results of the three:

Tony, KA3BPN	182 QSOs	17,374 points
Dave, WC3A	111 QSOs	8,370 points
Bob, K3QIA	426 QSOs	82,696 points

It was a lot of fun.

A NEW HAM'S EXPERIENCE IN THE PA QSO PARTY

Less than a year ago Megan McCarty took her tests and passed both the Technician and General exams. Megan received the call KB3RGW. Megan bought a Yaesu rig, a FT-817, which runs QRP (maximum of 5 watts output). She learned CW, and operated in the PA QSO Party. Her adventures are here:

<http://setsukachan.livejournal.com/434421.html>

It is nice to hear about the successful experiences of a brand new ham, especially on CW!

OCTOBER 21ST WAS DATE OF BIG DRILL

Randy, N3JPV, our RACES and ARES Radio Officer, tells us that our emergency communications drill on October 21st was very successful. Pennsylvania Emergency Agency officials and Federal Emergency Management officials observed the drill, which simulated a problem at the PPL nuclear power plant near Berwick. RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) amateurs who were certified by Columbia County took part in the drill. RACES operators were stationed at the various municipal buildings throughout the county. Those taking part in the drill were:

Randy, N3JPV

Linda, K3BD

Vic, WA4THR

Dave, WC3A

Skeeter, WA3IIA

Larry, KB3JMS

Paul, W3EGL

Bill, K3WJH

Ken, KB3PSP

Bob, K3QIA

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

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 will do just that. The Board of Directors will meet 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. All club members may attend; the meeting is open to all club members.

There will be 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. The Board of Directors meeting will be scheduled several weeks in advance, and any members wishing to attend may do so.

NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

There will be nominations for club officers for 2009 at our regular club meeting on Tuesday, November 11.

JERE, W3JLV, UNDERGOES SURGERY

Our club Vice-President, Jere, W3JLV, underwent surgery recently. We wish Jere a quick recovery.

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

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
10/7/08	JIM	KB3PNI	JACK	N3EUM
10/14/08	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
10/21/08	JACK	N3EUM	BOB	K3QIA
10/28/08	BOB	K3QIA	RICH	N3YGL
11/4/08	PAUL	W3EGL	LINDA	K3BD
11/11/08	DENNIS	N3VMM	SAM	K3EAU
11/18/08	RICH	N3YGL	JIM	KB3PNI

11/25/08

BILL

K3WJH

DAVE

WC3A

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

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.