



# **COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 2008**

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

## **TWO BIG ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER**

Our club has two great activities in October. The first is the Pennsylvania QSO Party on October 11-12, and the second is the RACES drill on October 21. The info on each is in the next two articles.

## **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. Stations in Pennsylvania give a serial number and their county. Serial numbers work like this: the first station worked is given number 1, the second station number 2, etc. Stations located outside Pennsylvania send a serial number and their ARRL section. Complete information about the PA QSO Party is given at:

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>

The PA QSO Party has two parts. The first part begins at 9 a.m. EDT on Saturday, October 11, and continues until 1 a.m. EDT on Sunday, October 12. The second part begins again at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 12, and ends at 6 p.m. You can work SSB, CW, RTTY or PSK in the party.

Remember to log all information for each QSO. Date, time, mode, serial number sent, serial number received, and the QTH

of the other station. You log PA counties using a three-letter designation for the county. The special three-letter designations are on the website, and log sheets are on their website. If you have trouble downloading any of the needed info, drop me an email and I'll send it to you.

We would like to make a good showing again this year in the friendly PA QSO Party. Please plan to join in the fun on October 11 and 12. Even if you can only get on a short time, please send in your entry log and summary sheet.

**Please, please, even if you have only one QSO, send in your log and summary sheet. Be sure to write your club affiliation on your summary sheet as Columbia-Montour ARC (just like that, not CMARC or any other abbreviation).**

**AFTER THE PA QSO PARTY, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR SUMMARY INFO: NUMBER OF QSOS, AND YOUR TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS EARNED. I WILL COMPILE THE RESULTS, AND REPORT TO THE CLUB AT THE MEETING AND IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.**

Several people have mentioned that they are hesitant about taking part in the PA QSO Party because they are afraid they cannot get the exchange. Some operators in the contest talk very fast, so that is a concern. If you do not get a serial number or the location of the other station, just say, "Please repeat!" Usually the other operator will slow down for you and repeat the info. If you don't get it a second time, just ask again for a repeat again. The PA QSO Party prides itself as being "The Friendly QSO Party". Just hop in there and give it a try. Nothing to lose, and lots of fun and experience to gain!

Good Luck!

## **OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> IS DATE FOR BIG DRILL**

Randy, our RACES and ARES Radio Officer, reminds us that Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> is the date for the big PPL drill to simulate a problem at the nuclear power plant near Berwick. Almost all

the municipal buildings in the area must have a ham radio op with RACES certification on site that evening. RACES is an acronym for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. We have over 20 club members who are certified, but if you are not certified and would be willing to take part in the big drill, contact Randy. His email address is:

[hamradil@ptd.net](mailto:hamradil@ptd.net)

Randy mentions that he needs volunteers for the various locations, so if you are certified, please contact Randy. There are a few locations not yet manned, so you may have a choice if you act now.

This drill will be observed by both state and federal emergency management officials, so it is important that we have a good turnout of RACES operators. Remember that our repeaters' antennas are located on Columbia County towers, and the antennas were installed by county officials at no cost to us. The reason the county does this is so that the county will have ham radio operators as emergency responders. We really need to have a great turn-out of club members on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The drill will begin approximately 6:30 p.m., and last until about 9:30 p.m. Please contact Randy as soon as possible to take part in the drill.

## **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**

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 meeting will likely take place at Panera Bread near Wal\*Mart at

the Buckhorn exit of I-80. This month, there is no need for a Board of Directors meeting, but there will be next month. We will have several items of business to discuss for the November meeting, including the nominations of club officers for 2009. The Board of Directors meeting will be scheduled several weeks in advance, and any members wishing to attend may do so.

## **JERE, W3JLV, UNDERGOES SURGERY**

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

## **ANTITERRORISM CONFERENCE**

There will be a conference for ham radio operators concerning coordination of emergency operations in the region in case of national emergency, such as terrorist attack. The conference will be held in the Lewisburg area on Thursday evening, October 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending the conference, which will include touring some interesting communications vans, contact Randy, N3JPV. His email is: [hamradil@ptd.net](mailto:hamradil@ptd.net)

## **SOLAR ACTIVITY CONTINUES LOW**

There are very few sunspots showing up these days on the solar surface. In fact, in the last year, there have been over 200 days when no spots were visible at all. We are at the low point in the sunspot cycle, so DXing on the low bands should be great this fall and winter. So try 160, 80 and 40 meters for some good DX. I worked one new one on 160 meters; that was Market Reef in Europe. Good hunting!

## **CQ WW SSB CONTEST**

On October 24-26, the CQ Magazine World Wide SSB Contest will take place. SSB operators from all over the world will be on and very workable. The contest begins at 8 p.m. EDT on Friday, October 24 (0 hours Z on October 25) and concludes at 8 p.m. on Sunday, October 26. The exchange in the contest is signal report, zone, and state. Signal report is always 59 and we are in zone 5. Here is your chance to work a lot of DX! Good Luck!

## **HAM RADIO JOKE**

Did you hear that two antennas fell in love and were married? The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was wonderful! Yes, I know, groan, groan!

## **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](mailto: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	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](mailto:rlfoster1@verizon.net)**

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