



# COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER JULY - AUGUST 2009

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

## **CMARC HAMFEST IS SUCCESSFUL**

Once again we had a successful Hamfest on June 13th. While income was down a bit we still managed to make money for the General fund. We had quite a few volunteers to help with setup, the running of the fest and of course the cleanup. VE-Testing went off without a hitch as usual. The breakfast and lunch, served by the Church Youth Group was great. It was nice to see all the smiling faces in the kitchen. Hopefully they made some money for their efforts and I sure hope they are back with us next year. I have thought of a few changes for next year and look forward to any input from the volunteers and general membership. The changes I'm working on are mainly clerical. Your thoughts are very welcome. My hat is off to the many people who made this year's fest possible.

Dave, WC3A  
Hamfest Chairman

## **THE BEST FIELD DAY EVER!**

Our club conducted the best Field Day we ever had on June 26-28 in the Kulp Church grove near Catawissa. Why was it the best ever? For a number of reasons!

The first reason was because we had more people take part in the Field Day activities than ever before. We had the following people participate:

<b>Call</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>W3EGL</b>	<b>Paul Hoops</b>
<b>K3WJH</b>	<b>Bill Hoops</b>
<b>N3JPV</b>	<b>Randy Kishbaugh</b>
<b>N3EUM</b>	<b>Jack McCormick</b>
<b>W3GY</b>	<b>Jack McCann</b>
<b>WC3A</b>	<b>Dave Schack</b>
<b>N3OMA</b>	<b>Andy Shecktor</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Kim Shecktor</b>
<b>WA4THR</b>	<b>Vic Klein</b>
<b>KB3PSP</b>	<b>Ken Lewis</b>
<b>N3KYZ</b>	<b>George Law</b>
<b>KB3JMS</b>	<b>Larry Bezdziecki</b>
<b>K3EAU</b>	<b>Sam Dalious</b>
<b>KB3PNI</b>	<b>Jim Magill</b>
<b>K3BD</b>	<b>Linda Daring</b>
<b>K3RND</b>	<b>Rich Daring</b>
<b>K3QIA</b>	<b>Bob Foster</b>
<b>K3LRD</b>	<b>Don Mausteller</b>
<b>N3YGL</b>	<b>Rich Maynard</b>
<b>W3JLV</b>	<b>Jere Vietz</b>
<b>WA3GQA</b>	<b>Steve Zappe</b>
<b>W3JSW</b>	<b>Joe Warunek</b>
<b>KB3JMR</b>	<b>Kathleen Green</b>
<b>KB3JMQ</b>	<b>Russell Green</b>
<b>KB3SLO</b>	<b>Barry Huss</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Sarah Daring</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Thomas Natt</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Justin Slusser</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Caitlyn Muchler</b>

**Did I miss anyone? If I did, let me know and I'll print the correction in the next newsletter.**

**Another reason why this Field Day was the best ever was because we had more people than ever before help to put up the**

antennas. We had four G5RV antennas and one 40-meter vertical to install, and we got the five antennas up in record time, just about four hours.

We worked out a logging system that worked great! The system greatly simplified the logging process for the loggers, and it made the tabulation much easier after Field Day.

The layout of the antennas produced the desired effect: very little interference between the stations. The little interference was easily handled by reducing the power of one of the stations.

We had enough food, and there was very little food left over.

We had 917 QSOs, enough to place us about the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for our Field Day class.

We earned a lot of bonus points, too! Many thanks to all who earned us the bonus points!

Everyone had a good time, and it was a lot of fun. We plan to return to the Kulp Church location next year for our Field Day activities. Mark your calendars now for June 25-27, 2010.

Lastly, many thanks to all who participated in our CMARC Field Day 2009! You made it the best Field Day ever!

## **SKYWARN NET IS ACTIVATED**

In July a series of strong thunderstorms passed through our area, and Randy, N3JPV, activated the Skywarn Net through our club repeater. Randy is our RACES Officer for Columbia County, and he is also our ARES Officer. Randy reported a number of check-ins to the net.

## **ANDY, N3OMA, INTERVIEWED ON TV**

When a series of strong thunderstorms rumbled through our area, WNEP-TV (Channel 16 in Wilkes-Barre) tried to get some information about storm damage. They contacted Andy,

N3OMA, about storm damage. So Andy was interviewed via telephone by WNEP-TV. Way to go, Andy!

## **METEOR SHOWER COMING UP**

Tony, KA3BPN, is very interested in communications produced by bouncing signals from the ion trails of meteors. Here is news from Tony:

We have a big meteor shower coming up, Perseids meteor shower - Aug 12, usually the week prior we experience increased activity due to Meteor scatter on VHF frequencies (6 meters and above) building up to the peak or the 12th. Club members may wish to listen in the evenings or morning for meteor scatter communications. Most high-speed activity is on or around 144.140 USB, but FM simplex communications may be enhanced at or around the peak dates.

On another note the International space station is running packet regularly, frequency is 145.825 (FM), folks have been able to use the ISS to bounce packet messages using as little as 5 watts on an HT. Typically passes last 5 - 10 minutes. Passes also take place several times a day.

Anyone who would like to try this type of activity can contact me, I would be happy to "elmer" them. With the software and hardware available, your station can be very simple, but yield exciting results!

Tony, KA3BPN

Tony's email address is:

[tcamillocci@verizon.net](mailto:tcamillocci@verizon.net)

## **RANDY & VIC KEEP OUR CLUB REPEATER ON-THE-AIR**

The next time you see Randy, N3JPV, and Vic, WA4THR, tell them how much you appreciate all their work on our repeater system. Randy and Vic keep our voting repeater system functioning. The voting system is complicated, with two receiving sites and one transmitting site. Many thanks, Vic & Randy, for all your work and your expertise.

## **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. I've already given Andy several items, and he is busy 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!

## **ACTIVITIES AT MONTHLY MEETINGS**

We have been accepting suggestions concerning what topics members would like to hear about at monthly meetings. We are using these suggestions to schedule the activities for our monthly meetings.

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](mailto:maxfax@cris.com)

Bob, K3QIA, email address is [rlfoster1@verizon.net](mailto:rlfoster1@verizon.net)

Andy informs us that the programs for the next few regular club meetings have now been scheduled. We will announce the topics here in the monthly newsletter (as well as at the club meetings). The activities for the next few meetings are:

**August – This will be an interactive program presented by Andy, N3OMA, on Operating Techniques and Hints. Bob, K3QIA, will assist Andy.**

**September- This will be another inactive program presented by Andy, N3OMA, on Operating Techniques and Hints. Bob, K3QIA, will assist Andy.**

**October – This will be a program on our club’s VE testing program presented by Matt, KB3JKU. Matt is our VE Testing Chairman.**

**November – To Be Announced**

**December – Christmas Party!**

**The people presenting the programs will be asking for interaction with the other members. The programs are meant to be interactive, with the audience participating.**

## **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.**

## **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.**

Remember to contact our VE Testing Chairman, Matt, KB3JKU, if you know of anyone who wishes to take an amateur radio license exam. Matt's address is :

[kb3jku@verizon.net](mailto:kb3jku@verizon.net)

## **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 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 schedule for the net control stations:

<b>CALL SCHED</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>CALL</b>	<b>BACKUP</b>	<b>CALL</b>
8/4/09	RICH	N3YGL	JACK	N3EUM
8/11/09	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
8/18/09	JIM	KB3PNI	BOB	K3QIA
8/25/09	SAM	K3EAU	RICH	N3YGL
9/1/09	LINDA	K3BD	BILL	K3WJH
9/8/09	DENNIS	N3VMM	DAVE	WC3A

9/15/09	JACK	N3EUM	JIM	KB3PNI
9/22/09	BILL	K3WJH	LINDA	K3BD
9/29/09	BOB	K3QIA	SAM	K3EAU
10/6/09	RICH	N3YGL	JACK	N3EUM
10/13/09	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
10/20/09	LINDA	K3BD	RICH	N3YGL
10/27/09	JIM	KB3PNI	BILL	K3WJH
11/3/09	JACK	N3EUM	BOB	K3QIA
11/10/09	SAM	K3EAU	DAVE	WC3A
11/17/09	BOB	K3QIA	LINDA	K3BD
11/24/09	BILL	K3WJH	SAM	K3EAU
12/1/09	RICH	N3YGL	JIM	KB3PNI

Thanks, Jack, N3EUM, for making out the roster. 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 – March”. This message is only sent to people who paid their CMARC dues. The message contains the minutes of the last meeting, and the list of club members. We will allow a short grace period to members who have not paid their dues yet for 2009. We will continue to send the Members-Only to people who pay their dues for 2009.

If you have not paid your dues for 2009, please take a few minutes and send in your dues now! The next article describes 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.

## **CLUB OFFICERS**

The following club members have been elected to club offices for 2009:

President: Bob Foster, K3QIA

Vice President: Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV

Secretary: Linda Daring, K3BD

Treasurer: Dave Schack, WC3A

Activities Director: 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]

**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 next newsletter.