



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

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

CMARC HAMFEST IS ON TRACK

Your club officers have been planning for our hamfest on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Our hamfest will be held at the same location as last year, the Lime Ridge Community Center. Our club is an ARRL Affiliated Club, and ARRL officials have approved our hamfest. Approval means our hamfest is listed on the ARRL website, and also will be listed in the June issue of QST.

Our club Webmaster, Matt, KB3JKU, has placed the hamfest flyer on our club website. Check it out at:

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

Be sure to take a look at the great map Matt has at the bottom of the hamfest flyer.

CLUB MEMBERS WORK DESECHEO DXPEDITION

Desecheo Island is located near Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Sea. This is a very rare DXCC entity, which has not been active on amateur radio for many years. During the month of February, a large contingent of amateurs went to the island, and worked other amateurs all over the world. So far, I know of three club members who worked the Desecheo Dxpediton: Skeeter, WA3IIA; Tony, KA3BPN; and yours truly, Bob, K3QIA. It was fun working them on different bands and modes. Anyone else work this DXpedition?

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

Bob, K3QIA, email address is rlfoster1@verizon.net

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

March – GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) – we keep our logs in GMT, or UTC (Universal Time Coordinated).

(This program will be presented by Jack, N3EUM)

April – RACES/ARES – Emergency Communications

(This program will be presented by Randy, N3JPV)

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. The activity for June will likely be related to our two big June projects, our club hamfest and Field Day.

SSB DX CONTEST – FIRST WEEKEND IN MARCH

The ARRL SSB DX Contest will begin at 7 p.m. EST on Friday, March 6, and continue until 7 p.m. EST on Sunday, March 8. DX stations try to work as many U.S. states as possible. The exchange for stations in the U.S. is signal report and state. So most of us will be saying “59 Pennsylvania”. DX stations will give signal report and power. There will be lots of DX on, so if you want to work some DX, give it a try. Complete rules for the contest are located on the ARRL website:

<http://www.arrl.org:80/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>

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.

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 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:

| DATE | PRIMARY | CALL | BACKUP | CALL |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 3/3/09 | PAUL | W3EGL | JACK | N3EUM |
| 3/10/09 | DENNIS | N3VMM | SAM | K3EAU |
| 3/17/09 | LINDA | K3BD | JIM | KB3PNI |
| 3/24/09 | BILL | K3WJH | RICH | N3YGL |
| 3/31/09 | JIM | KB3PNI | LINDA | K3BD |

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

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