



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

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

CMARC HAMFEST IS JUNE 13, 2009

Our club will hold its annual hamfest on Saturday, June 13th, at the Lime Ridge Community Center. Our Hamfest Chairman, Dave, WC3A, reports the hamfest announcement cards will soon be in the mail. Thanks, Dave!

We will need lots of members to help make our hamfest successful. Plan to come, work a little, meet other hams and have fun. We'll have a hot breakfast available for our people beginning at 6 a.m. We will need people to park cars, to collect entrance fees, and we need certified VEs to help give the amateur radio licensing tests. If you are a certified VE (i.e. you are authorized to give the licensing tests), please contact our VE Testing Chairman, Matt, KB3JKU. Matt's email address is: kb3jku@verizon.net

Matt is also our club Webmaster. Matt has placed the hamfest flyer (that Dave, WC3A wrote) 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.

FIELD DAY

The largest amateur radio event of the year is the ARRL Field Day. It was designed to have radio amateurs ready to establish communications in case of emergencies, but hams found it was

a great excuse to do some ham radio operating in a camping atmosphere. Field Day is a fun event, and we would like to have as many hams as possible at our field day Location at the Kulp Church Grove near Slabtown (detailed directions will be forthcoming).

We will begin putting up our antennas around noon on Friday, June 26. We will begin working the other stations at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. We will continue working stations until 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 28. That means we will be working 24 hours, including all night long. We will begin taking down the antennas at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 28.

CMARC, like many other clubs, will be using Field Day as a teaching and learning opportunity. ARRL Field Day rules allow for a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station. The only persons allowed to operate a GOTA station are in one of three categories: people who are not licensed, those operators who have a technician license, or a person holding a general or higher class license who has not had an HF contact in two years or more. A GOTA operator will be under the supervision of a control operator. We need people who qualify to come and operate the GOTA station. You do not need to be present all 24 hours to operate the GOTA station. Just come when you can, and stay as long as you like.

If you don't qualify to be a GOTA operator, you can still operate one of the other regular stations. We will have about 5 stations on-the-air constantly for the 24-hour period. We need people to operate, to log the stations worked, to help in the kitchen with the food, and to earn the special bonus points. Remember everyone is welcome at Field Day! Hope we can get lots of hams and people interested in ham radio there!

MEMBERS PROVIDING FIELD DAY EQUIPMENT

The following club members are providing stations and other equipment for Field Day:

<u>Club Member</u>	<u>Primary Operation(s)</u>
Randy, N3JPV	SSB
Dave, WC3A	Digital, SSB

Linda, K3BD

GOTA, SSB

Bill, K3WJH

GOTA, SSB

Bob, K3QIA

CW, SSB

All stations will have G5RV antennas except Linda, who will have an 80-meter dipole fed with ladder line.

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.

DIGITAL MODES – AN INTERFACE IS A GREAT HOMEBREW PROJECT

You need a device to connect your computer to your transceiver to operate the digital modes. Such a device is called an interface. You can spend \$100 or more to buy a commercially available interface, or you can build your own interface. An interface is a great project for homebrewing. Homebrewing (building ham radio projects) is rapidly becoming a lost art. You can get the parts you need for an interface very reasonably priced at our hamfest or the Murgas hamfest (held in early July). If you are interested in building an interface, check out the following:

1. What version of Windows is operating your computer? (If you have anything except Vista, you are in good shape; if you have Vista, it is MUCH more difficult, perhaps impossible)
2. Check to see if your computer has a nine-pin serial port. (If your computer has one, it makes building an interface MUCH easier).
3. Check the manual that comes with your transceiver; find the connector on the back of the rig that allows for digital mode operation (often labeled AFSK or DATA). See if you have a plug that will fit the connector.

If you are interested in building your own interface, I'll be glad to give you a hand. Just check the above, and tell me what you find out. My email address is: rlfoster1@verizon.net

JACK'S ANTENNA SYSTEM – AND IT COULD BE YOURS, FREE!

Jack, N3EUM, who lives in Danville, put up antenna system composed of triband beam, rotor and a tower. The years passed, and an oak tree grew near the antenna that now prevents the beam from rotating. Jack has decided he will give away the entire antenna system (beam, rotor and tower) to anyone who will remove the entire system from his yard without damaging the oak tree. Contact Jack if you are interested. His email address is: jlmccorm@jlink.net

PAUL, W3EGL, HAS A GREAT DAY

On April 18, Paul Hoops, W3EGL, had a very good day. Here is a report of his day from his father, Bill, K3WJH:

Paul has had a very good day. The ARRL awarded Paul, W3EGL, a \$2,000.00 scholarship from the "You have a Friend in Pennsylvania" scholarship. Paul was also the recipient of the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association Scholarship of \$1,500.00 for Outstanding Student at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association State Leadership Conference. He was also given a lifetime membership in The National Society of High School Scholars for meritorious scholastic achievement and the pursuit of excellence at Warrior Run High School. Not bad for one day !

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 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:

May – RACES/ARES – Emergency Communications

(This program will be presented by Randy, N3JPV)

June – This will be a planning session for our Hamfest and Field Day.

July – This will be a reporting session on the results of our Hamfest and Field Day with photos of the events.

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

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:

CALL SCHED	PRIMARY	CALL	BACKUP	CALL
4/7/09	PAUL	W3EGL	JACK	N3EUM
4/14/09	DENNIS	N3VMM	DAVE	WC3A
4/21/09	JIM	KB3PNI	BOB	K3QIA
4/28/09	SAM	K3EAU	PAUL	W3EGL
5/5/09	LINDA	K3BD	BILL	K3WJH
5/12/09	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
5/19/09	JACK	N3EUM	JIM	KB3PNI
6/2/09	BOB	K3QIA	LINDA	K3BD
6/9/09	DENNIS	N3VMM	DAVE	WC3A
6/16/09	JIM	KB3PNI	JACK	N3EUM
6/23/09	JACK	N3EUM	SAM	K3EAU
6/30/09	LINDA	K3BD	BILL	K3WJH
7/7/09	JIM	KB3PNI	JACK	N3EUM

7/14/09	DENNIS	N3VMM	DAVE	WC3A
7/21/09	JACK	N3EUM	BOB	K3QIA
7/28/09	BILL	K3WJH	SAM	K3EAU

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

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