



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

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

GREAT PRESENTATION BY VE TESTING CHAIRMAN, MATT, KB3JKU

Our VE Testing Chairman, Matt, KB3JKU, presented an overview of our club's Volunteer Examiner program to the club members at our October meeting. Before each club meeting, beginning around 6 p.m., Matt and the other VEs are available to test candidates for amateur radio licenses. If a candidate passes his/her test, the candidate is granted an amateur radio license. If you know of someone who is interested in taking a test, please notify Matt:

kb3jku@verizon.net

Note that candidates must notify Matt if they are interested in being tested. Matt will organize a team of VEs to administer the test.

As part of his presentation to the club, Matt included the history of the VE testing program, which was very interesting.

LOCAL HAMS ACTIVE IN PA QSO PARTY

We try to encourage as many club members as possible to participate in the PA QSO Party, which was held October 10-11. Here are the results I have received so far:

CALL	QSOs	Counties	Sections
W3JLV =	142	54	17
N3BUD =	129	33	33

WC3A = 36	21	7
KA3BPN= 290	49	36
K3QIA = 535	50	52

It was a fun contest. This was the first year that I ran a G5RV antenna, and it worked great. I was really surprised to have a DL (Germany) answer my CQ on 80 meter CW.

Also noteworthy was the fact that we had at least five local hams work the contest. Also noteworthy was that Dave, WC3A, had 5 QSOs on PSK.

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY – NOT QUITE!

We were planning to have a Christmas party complete with our wives and guests, but we found that very few spouses wanted to attend. So we decided to have a Christmas Social instead. By that, we mean that it will be primarily just members present, but guests are also welcome (as always). The Christmas Social will be our regular location, at the date and time of the regular monthly meeting. So the Christmas Social has been scheduled for December 8 at the Shiloh Bible Church in Almedia at 7:30 p.m.

The Christmas Social will be composed of a short meeting to elect officers for the year 2010, and then we will have some food and some socializing. Some nice conversation and fun! Maybe some activities, too!

The board of directors has not determined the food or the activities. As soon as the decisions are made, I'll let you know.

NOMINATION FOR CLUB OFFICERS

We will have nominations for club officers for 2010 at the November regular meeting. There is a list of the present club officers near the end of the newsletter. Consider whom you would like to serve as club officers, and nominate them. If you would like to serve as a club officer, make sure you let one of the present officers know, and we will be sure to place your name in nomination. Nominations will also be accepted at the

December meeting, and election of officers will be held at the December meeting (which will be the Christmas Social).

RUN FOR THE DIAMONDS COORDINATION

CQ CQ CQ, calling all Ham radio operators.

Once again its time to collect volunteers for the annual Run for the Diamonds race on Thanksgiving Day in Berwick.

CMARC has been a proud supplier of radio operators for about 30 years.

We station 1 or 2 hams at each mile post to act as the eyes of the Race organizers. We watch for any runners in trouble and report back to Net Control if an ambulance is needed. In all those years we only needed help once as I recall. We got him help within a few minutes.

A secondary reason we do this is to report the ID numbers of the runners who are leading the pack. We will report the first 7 male runners and then the first 3 female runners. The race announcers will relay this info out to the general public over their PA system.

We have fun with this every year and the Race committee is very happy to have our participation. They plug our club often in their announcements

So here we go. We have 8 mile posts and each one should have 1 or 2 hams to relay the info back to Net Control.

The gun goes off at 10:30 sharp and we need to be in place by 10 AM at the latest.

The race committee will send a timer to each mile post to yell out the time as the runner go by. Sometimes a timer person is not available. If you have a stop watch and an extra person, please bring both along.

I will be handing out a form so you can gather the info as Net Control needs it. Please stop by the Net Control trailer, at 3rd and Market Streets, for that form and other goodies. **Many thanks to Bill, K3WJH, for providing the Net Control trailer!**

If you're having guests for Thanksgiving dinner, bring them along to see what we do for our community. The race will finish at about Noon. Plenty of time to get back to Family!

Let me know if you can help us this year. Time is running short so check with your family and let me know as soon as possible.

73, Dave, WC3A

Dave's email address is: drs352478@verizon.net

PPL NUCLEAR POWER DRILL HELD OCT 20

Randy, N3JPV, organized the RACES participation in the PPL drill that was held on October 20. Linda, K3BD, was stationed at the Columbia County Emergency Operations Center and acted as net control for the RACES portion of the drill. Randy acted as net control for the Columbia County communications during the drill. Other RACES operators taking part in the drill:

KB3JMS, Larry	WA4THR, Vic
W3JLV, Jere	WA3IIA, Skeeter
W3JSW, Joe	K3EAU, Sam
WC3A, Dave	N3YGL, Rich
W3LGW, Larry	N3PFF, John
K3QIA, Bob	

Thanks to everyone who took part. Great Drill!

EPA TRAFFIC NET

Randy, our ARES Officer, reminds us that the Eastern Pennsylvania Traffic Net is on 3917 daily at 6 p.m. local time on LSB. Tune in and see how the traffic net operates. It is interesting, and you might be able to handle a message.

PAUL, W3EGL, PICTURED IN QST AGAIN

Robert Paul Hoops, W3EGL, who was pictured in the September issue of QST is once again in QST. Check out Paul's picture on

page 13 of the November issue of QST. Paul is pictured with the mascot for the Rochester Institute of Technology, where Paul is a student.

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’ll conduct Operation Santa on one of the local repeaters on Wednesday, December 3, beginning around 6:30 p.m. You can listen in to the children speak to “Santa”. This is really fun, and it brightens the day of sick children.

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

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:

November – Dave, WC3A, will present a program on PSK operating.

December – Christmas Social

Program needed for January. Any volunteers?

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:
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 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
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 – September". 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 continue to send the Members-Only to people who pay their dues.

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.