



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

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

PA QSO PARTY COMING SOON

We try to encourage as many club members as possible to participate in the PA QSO Party, which will be held October 10-11. It is a fun contest! Please plan on having some fun this month. Complete information on the PA QSO Party is at:

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

See how many of the 67 Pennsylvania counties you can work!

Every year we try to get club members to take part in this fun contest. When you work this contest, you try to work as many stations as possible. You give a serial number and your county; stations in PA will give you a serial number and their county. Stations outside Pennsylvania will give their ARRL section. You can work any stations in this fun on-the-air activity. Just keep an accurate log, and send in your entry form after the contest. Be sure to state Columbia-Montour ARC as your club affiliation.

Please send me your results, so I can tabulate them with the other club members. We usually have a good showing in this event, so please plan to give it a try! It is fun!

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY?

We are in the process of surveying the club membership about a Christmas party for the club. Spouses, significant others and guests would be welcome at the party. If there is enough

interest, we will go ahead with plans for the party. We have not determined a date or time for the party.

Bill, K3WJH, has volunteered his home in Watsonstown as a possible location for the party. The decorations in his home at Christmas are spectacular. Thanks, Bill, for the generous offer!

As of now, I have received 14 responses about the Christmas party. Of the 14, the number of YES responses (have a party) is 13. So 13 out of 14 is good, but what about the rest of our members? If you have not responded to our survey as yet, please drop me an email and let me know if you would like to attend a club Christmas party with your significant other (or by yourself). My email address is : rlfoster1@verizon.net

RUN FOR THE DIAMONDS COORDINATION

Dave, WC3A, is again heading the efforts of our club to coordinate the Run for the Diamonds race on Thanksgiving Day, 2009. It will be here before you know it!

We place people at each mile marker on the nine-mile route with hand-held radios. As the runners pass by, we radio the order of the first few runners back to the starting location where Dave and Bill, K3WJH, are stationed. Then Dave and Bill tell the race officials, and the officials then announce the order of the runners.

We need people to take part in our race coordination project, so please mark your calendar to take part in this traditional club project. It is fun to see all the runners and take part!

PPL NUCLEAR POWER DRILL COMING UP

Randy, N3JPV, tells us that a PPL drill is coming up on October 20. Sometimes these drills require our club to post ham radio operators at each of the municipal centers in Columbia County. More information on this drill will be coming to you soon. Plans need to be finalized, and as soon as they are, you will be notified.

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 AFTER WINNING SCHOLARSHIP

Paul, W3EGL, won an amateur radio scholarship and his picture is in the September issue of QST on page 95. Paul is the recipient of the "You've Got a Friend in Pennsylvania" Scholarship. Congratulations, Paul!

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:

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

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

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

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
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.