



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

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

GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

At our August club meeting, a program on General Operating Procedures was presented by Andy, N3OMA, and your truly, Bob, K3QIA. A few of the procedures discussed included:

If you are going to call CQ, ask “Is the frequency in use?” and state your call before transmitting.

Keep your CQ calls short.

At the end of your short CQ call, do not add things like “tuning for calls” or “k someone please”. Just end your CQ with “standing by”.

Speak slowly and clearly so the other operators can understand you.

When answering a CQ, give the call of the station you are calling once or twice, then your own call once or twice. Use the standard phonetic alphabet. If the station calling CQ asks for your call again, give a longer call.

Once contact has been established, give four things to begin the contact: signal report (using the RS system), location, name and equipment. After contact is established, you need to give your own call only every ten minutes.

Going back and forth, use “over” or “go ahead”

Remember to practice courtesy.

Avoid controversial subjects like religion and politics. Keep your mic gain down to avoid splatter and pick up of other noises in the room. If you use a speech processor, be sure it is set up properly. Check your transceiver's manual on how to do this.

On phone, do not use the Q-code (except QRZ). Avoid the use of QRL, QSB, QRM and QRN. If the other station's signals are fading in and out, say so in plain English (instead of saying "QSB on your signals"). The Q-code is designed for CW and the other digital modes.

Do not use 73 or 73s on phone. If you wish to say, "Best Regards" do so.

On phone, do not use "Hi Hi!" If you want to laugh, laugh!

Use regular English, not jargon. Do not use handle (for name), that's a roger (for something received correctly), or destined (instead of arrived at a destination).

Do not give information that would be of use to criminals over the air. If your next-door neighbor has a million-dollar coin collection and he is vacationing in Florida for the next two weeks, don't say that over the air.

DID THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE SURPRISE YOU?

I fully understand that many phone operators do not follow the suggestions given above. The suggestions were taken from the ARRL Operating Manual. The suggestions are designed to make communication very easy to understand, even for an operator who may have limited understanding of English.

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! You give a serial number and your county to stations you work. Please plan on having some fun next month. Complete information on the PA QSO Party is at:

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

See how many of the Pennsylvania counties you can work!

DENNIS, N3VMM, HAS BACK SURGERY

Dennis, N3VMM, recently underwent back surgery. He will need four to six weeks to recover completely. Dennis is not able to go down into his basement where his station is located, so he will not be able to act as net control for the next few weeks. We wish Dennis a quick recovery!

JOHN, W3FMF, LOOKING FOR 12 V HF RIG

John, W3FMF, is planning to run mobile in the near future, and he is looking for an HF transceiver that operates from a 12-volt power source. Does anyone have an HF transceiver you would like to sell John? John's email address is:

johnbrosious@verizon.net

JAY, KB3PNJ, PUTS UP NEW ANTENNA

Jay, KB3PNJ, has a new 37-foot mast that he recently erected with the help of John, W3FMF. From the description, the raising of the mast required removal of several tree limbs, but the mast and the new antenna are now in place. Good luck with the new antenna, Jay!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

We have two new club members in the past month. Shirley, KA3TAX, and Steve, WB3FLG, are our two newest club members. Welcome, Shirley & Steve!

That brings our 2009 club membership to 45, with 35 of our members also members of ARRL. We need to have a majority of our members become members of ARRL in order to maintain our status as an ARRL Affiliated Club.

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!

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:

September- This will be an interactive 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 – 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:
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.