



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER MAY 2012

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

RANDY, N3JPV, TO PRESENT TRAFFIC HANDLING PROGRAM

Randy, N3JPV, will be presenting the program at our next club meeting on May 8th. The program will be on traffic handling. Randy will be telling us the correct ARRL procedures to use when handling messages.

DEMONSTRATION OF HAM RADIO TO BOY SCOUTS

Our club members are going to demonstrate ham radio to the Boy Scouts who will be at the Spring Camporee at Camp Lavigne near Benton on May 5th. We intend to set up a station and be active on HF. There will be groups of about ten scouts at a time come to the station and we will tell the scouts about the exciting hobby of ham radio. We hope to work some stations and let the scouts talk on the radio. We expect to erect a G5RV antenna around 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 5th, and be active on the air until around 5 p.m., when we will take down the antenna.

We have the following participants so far:

KB3SAQ - Don Cicero, Jr
WB3FLG - Steve Levan (Station)
WA3GQA - Steve Zappe
K3WJH - Bill Hoops (Station)
W3GY - Jack McCann (Station)
KB3TAX - Shirley Cicero
KB3UIK - Don Cicero, Sr

K3QIA - Bob Foster (G5RV antenna)
KB3JKU - Matt Lunger

The persons marked with (Station) are bringing a transceiver with an antenna tuner. Yours truly (Bob, K3QIA) will be bringing a G5RV antenna (102 feet long) and the rope to put it up. Stop by if you can, and have some fun!

COLUMBIA MALL COMMUNITY DAYS

Bill Hoops, K3WJH, has informed us that we have a unique opportunity at Columbia Mall on May 12th. On that date, the mall will again allow organizations from throughout the area to set up stands in the mall to demonstrate what they do to the mall visitors. There is no charge to the organizations. So our club will set up a table with information about our club. The last time we did this was successful, so we look forward to having an interesting time at the mall. Set up begins around 9 a.m. and we will be there until around 5 p.m. So come to the mall and join in the fun on May 12th.

CMARC HAMFEST

We should mention what happens at a hamfest. Ham radio operators buy, sell and trade amateur radio items and also computer items.

Our club will hold its annual hamfest on June 9th at the Lime Ridge Community Center, beginning around 6 a.m. Our Hamfest Chairman, Randy, N3JPV, has been making big plans for the hamfest.

Hamfests do not run themselves! We are going to need lots of people to help at our hamfest to make it a successful project. Hamfests are fun! You get to visit with other hams, pick up tips, pick up new and used equipment and parts, and have a nice breakfast and/or lunch. The food will be provided by the Ladies Group from the church that owns the Lime Ridge Community Center (where we are holding the hamfest).

The day before the hamfest, we need help setting up the area. We need to string ribbon around outside so the people attending will enter the hamfest through breaks in the ribbon called gates. We charge those attending a \$5 fee. We need to set up tables inside the

building, because some people will sell items from tables inside the building. The day of the hamfest, we need people to park cars, direct people where to go, sell admission tickets, and talk to the people attending the hamfest. We will have people coming to the hamfest to sell items in the paved parking lot. These people often sell items from the tailgate of a pick-up truck, and they are called tailgaters.

Now, don't get me wrong! If you come to our hamfest, you will not spend the whole day working. If we have enough club members attend and work, we should have people only work an hour or so, and you can spend the rest of the time enjoying the hamfest. We believe our hamfest will last from about 6 or 7 a.m. to around noon. Hamfests are early activities, and our hamfest is fun, too!

Don't forget we will have VE testing at our Hamfest, too! Our VE testing Chairman, Matt, KB3JKU, will be conducting the testing in the church basement across the street from the Hamfest. So if you know anyone who would like to be tested for their amateur radio license, please come to the Hamfest. Reservations for VE testing are not required.

Our club Webmaster, Matt, KB3JKU, has placed the flyer for our Hamfest on the club website. Take a look:

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

SPECIAL CLUB TABLE AT HAMFEST

Andy, N3OMA, is now accepting donated items to be sold at the club table during the hamfest. If you are able to donate an item to the club, Andy will attempt to sell it at our hamfest. The money from the sales of donated items goes into the club treasury. So check your junk boxes for items you do not use, and if the items are usable, donate them to the club. Thanks!

CMARC FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES ARE COMING

ARRL Field Day is another fun event, but it is very different from the hamfest. Field Day began over 60 years ago, and when it began, it was an exercise in emergency communications. If we have an emergency (like a hurricane) that knocks out regular communications,

we might have to set up our radios in unlikely spots and provide communications using emergency power.

Gradually ham radio operators realized that this is a great excuse to take radios out of their homes to another location and meet with other hams, put up antennas, and work (contact) other ham radio stations.

So our national ham radio organization, ARRL, sets aside the fourth full weekend of June as Field Day. This year it is June 22-23-24. It is by far the largest operating event of the year for ham radio operators.

Get the picture ... thousands of ham radio operators going out in groups, setting up stations, and contacting each other.

For Field Day, we need people to turn out and have fun! We need people to come to our Field Day location at the Kulp Church Grove near Slabtown. We will be putting up antennas on Friday, June 22, and the actual operation will begin the next day, Saturday, June 23, at 2 p.m. EDT and continue for 24 hours. During the Field Day operating period, we will be trying to contact as many other stations as possible using SSB, CW and the digital modes.

At our club meeting on June 12th, we will be teaching people how to operate on Field Day. If you already know how to operate, we need you, because you can teach the people how to operate who have never been on Field Day (or maybe some hams just need a little refresher course). Also note that persons who are NOT licensed may operate if a licensed ham is present at the radio.

Field Day is an event that needs the participation of club members to be effective. We need people to operate and log and take part in the other activities to earn bonus points. Come, have fun and take part in Field Day! Remember, EVERYBODY IS WELCOME WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN HAM RADIO.

We eat well, too!

By the way, there are no new rules for Field Day this year that pertain to us. All last year's rules stay in effect.

APRIL FOOL ARTICLE IN QST

In our last club newsletter, I asked who had found the hidden April Fool article in the April edition of QST. Only three people were able to identify the article on page 92 titled "On the Origins of Units of Measure". The three people were: Vic, WA4THR; Pat, W3HVG; and Steve, WB3FLG. Congratulations to these sharp-eyed hams!

MEMBERS MOVING TO AND FROM FLORIDA

There is a lot of movement to Florida from Pennsylvania and vice versa. First, Ken, KB3PSP, and Terry, N3XTS, have returned from Florida to spend some time with us here in the north. Dave, WC3A, has moved to Florida, and has been quite active on PSK. If you see Dave's signals printing on your waterfall, be sure to give him a call.

DAVE'S ADVENTURES IN FLORIDA

Dave, WC3A, who was extremely active with our club, is now in Florida. Dave expects to return to Pennsylvania in June in time to take part in Field Day with us. Here is an email from Dave received on April 26th.

WOO HOO !!!!

Finally worked a VK on PSK. Worked VK5NLI today at 12:29z. It was touch and go for a bit but there was an exchange of calls, name, QTH and report.

Got him on the first try but I did have to tail end another guy :(but that comes from contesting. HI HI.

I will be working the FL QSO Party Saturday and Sunday (April 28-29) on 40 meters. Give a listen. Would be a hoot to work someone from home.

Dave, WC3A

Please note that if you are interested in working the Florida QSO Party, here is the website with the information about the contest:

<http://www.floridagsoparty.org/>

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, and you do not need to be a member of CMARC to be a net control station. 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 ten 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	Net Control		Backup station	
5/1/12	SHIRLEY	KB3TAX	JIM	KB3PNI
5/8/12	DENNIS	N3VMM		
5/15/12	LINDA	K3BD	JACK	N3EUM
5/22/12	BOB	K3QIA	BILL	K3WJH
5/29/12	JIM	KB3PNI	SHIRLEY	KB3TAX

Thanks, Jack, N3EUM, for making out the roster. Check into the net, and join in the fun!

IMPORTANT NOTE: We would like to get more check-ins to the net. Please! Use reminders to yourself like sticky-notes to check into the net. The reminders do work!

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

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?

SPECIAL NOTE! PLEASE, PLEASE, SORT YOUR CARDS ALPHABETICALLY BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM TO ME. IT MAKES MY JOB MUCH EASIER!

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE "CMARC MEMBERS ONLY" EMAILS????

This month there is a bit of a change in the Members Only emails. Instead of sending out a separate email to members, the members will receive the newsletter and a copy of the meeting minutes and the latest club roster with the newsletter. The Non-Members will also receive a copy of the newsletter, but not the meeting minutes nor the latest club roster.

If you have not paid your dues for 2012, 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 2012

The membership drive for 2012 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:

**Jack McCann
11 Bald Top Heights
Danville, PA 17821**

When you send in your dues for 2012, 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.

Please state if you qualify for a discount because you are the child of a member or if you are a student. Our Membership Chairman, Jack, W3GY, will appreciate this very much.

If you prefer, you could just pay Jack at a regular club meeting. Jack will gladly accept your dues for 2012 then!

CLUB OFFICERS

The following club members have been elected (or appointed) club offices for 2012: (Those officers who are appointed have a * before the name of the office)

President: Bob Foster, K3QIA

Vice President: Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV

Secretary: Linda Daring, K3BD

***Assistant Secretary: Jack McCormick, N3EUM**

Treasurer: Jack McCann, W3GY

***Assistant Treasurer: Dave Schack, WC3A**

Activities Director: Steve Zappe, WA3GQA

***Public Relations Officer: Matt Lunger, KB3JKU**

Trustee: Jack McCormick, N3EUM [Term will expire in December 2014]

Trustee: Matt Lunger, KB3JKU [Term will expire in December 2012]

Trustee: Jere Vietz, W3JLV [Term will expire in December 2013]

***Web Master: Matt Lunger, KB3JKU**

***VE Testing Chairman: Matt Lunger, KB3JKU**

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 and/or send it out over the Internet.