



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012

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

DEMONSTRATION OF HAM RADIO TO BOY SCOUTS

Our club members demonstrated ham radio to the Boy Scouts who attended the Spring Camporee at Camp Lavigne near Benton on May 5th. We set up a station and were active on HF. Contact was made on 40 meters with two stations who stood by most of the day. The scouts really had fun talking on the radio.

The following club members participated:

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)
N3JPV – Randy Kishbaugh
KB3JKU – Matt Lungner

The project was a big success, and the scout officials said we are welcome to come back at a later date.

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 direct them 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.gsl.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! Our excellent chef, Dave Schack, WC3A, will be our chief cook, so get your taste buds ready for a treat!

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

DIRECTIONS TO OUR FIELD DAY LOCATION

We are going to have our Field Day at the Kulp Church Grove, the same place as last year. Here are directions how to get there (this is the shortest and most direct route):

Take PA Route 42 South through Catawissa. Just beyond the bridge over Catawissa Creek (near Tom's Kitchen Restaurant), take the LEFT fork (continue on route 42). Three miles beyond the fork, watch for two "do not enter" signs on the left. At the "Do Not Enter" signs, turn left (using the correct right lane). You are now on Ideal Park Road. Continue on Ideal Park Road (which becomes Mill Road) for about one mile, and watch for a covered bridge on the left. Turn left and drive through the covered bridge. You are now on Rarig Road. Drive approximately two miles on Rarig Road. Rarig Road ends at Old Reading Road; turn right on Old Reading Road, and Kulp Church is a few hundred yards ahead on the left.

There are other routes you can take, of course. I would strongly suggest that you do not try to set a GPS system to try to find our Field Day location (just use the directions above).

We will begin setting up antennas around noon on Friday, June 22, in the grove. Folks, we need help! We need as many people as possible to help with the antenna set-up! We will continue to put up the five

antennas until we are finished. The finish will be somewhere between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. (it depends on how many people help).

The actual Field Day operation (when we begin working stations) will begin at 2 p.m. EDT sharp on Saturday, June 23. We will continue working stations for 24 hours, until 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 24. This is a one-day (24-hour) event. We hope to have as many people as possible operate.

Make plans now to come to Field Day and have some fun!

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:

The June roster will be coming out very soon.

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.