



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

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

SATELLITE PROGRAM IS GREAT SUCCESS

Jack, W3GY, presented a great program on how to work the satellites. Jack uses an arrow antenna and a camera tripod to support the antenna. He also uses a small Kenwood rig that is capable of transmitting and receiving at the same time. Jack tape records all his satellite QSOs and plays them back in order to verify the QSOs. The satellite QSOs are very short, and involve exchanging locator grids. Jack's program was interesting and informative. Well done, Jack!

In case you would like more information about the satellites, try the Amsat website:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>

SIX METERS – The Magic Band

At a club meeting recently, Jere, W3JLV, told me that he found his tuner was able to tune his G5RV antenna to six meters. I tried it, and it works for me, too! Now, granted, a G5RV is not the best antenna for six meters, but it does indeed work. I did some research, and found that the six-meter band is divided into five sections:

50.000 – 50.080 Beacons

50.080 – 50.100 CW (my favorite section of the band)

50.100 – 50.125 DX window

50.125 – 50.200 USB

50.200 – 50.300 Meteor Scatter and other modes

The Beacons section of the band is very interesting. Tuning through this section of six meters, you listen for the CW beacons: most of the time you won't hear anything. But, when the band opens, you will be able to hear the beacons! Perhaps you will only hear one, but if there is a really good band opening, you may hear many of the beacons. The beacons transmit callsign/B then give the grid locator of the beacon. The beacons transmit all the time. So by listening for the beacons, you can tell if there is a band opening, and also if it is a really good opening to a large area (many beacons heard), and you can also tell the area to which the band is open. But you might just tell me you don't know CW. Not to worry! If you can hear signals, the band is open.

The CW section of the band (for actual QSOs) is only 20 kHz wide, but there is considerable activity in that wonderful section when the band opens.

The DX window section is reserved for very long distance communication. No stateside QSOs should be carried on in this band segment.

In the USB section of the band, when there is an opening, this section is really hopping! At least that is what I have been told; when the band is open, I am hanging out in the CW portion.

In the Meteor Scatter section of the band, meteor scatter QSOs are made. For this very interesting mode, you can check out the Ping Jockey Central website at:

<http://www.pingjockey.net/cgi-bin/pingtalk>

Lots of great info about meteor scatter QSOs on this website. You can make skeds there, too.

Now, a postscript! I thought I might try putting up an actual six-meter antenna, so I home-brewed a six-meter ground plane, and installed it on my roof. To my great surprise, during band openings, the G5RV was much better than the ground plane for receiving, and also for transmitting. I could be heard better using the G5RV! Go figure! Of course it is better to have a six-meter directional antenna, like a yagi or a quad. So far, I have worked 95 stations in 28 states in the past three months on six meters using only my G5RV (102 feet long).

There are several other amateurs I would like to mention here. Randy, N3JPV, has a lot more experience than I with six meters, and Tony, KA3BPN, has a lot of experience with meteor scatter QSOs.

SWAINS ISLAND DXPEDITION

A major DXpedition is scheduled to begin on or about September 6. The group of amateurs taking part in the DXpedition will be operating from Swains Island in the South Pacific Ocean using the callsign NH8S. For more information on the DXpedition, check their website: <http://www.nh8s.org/>

PA QSO PARTY

We try to encourage as many club members as possible to participate in the PA QSO Party, which will be held October 13-14. It is a fun contest! Please plan on having some fun on October 13-14. Complete information on the PA QSO Party is at:

<http://www.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 activity. 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. If you work DX, those QSOs count, too! 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!

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	
9/4/12	JACK	N3EUM	SAM	K3EAU
9/11/12	DENNIS	N3VMM	SHIRLEY	KB3TAX
9/18/12	SAM	K3EAU	JACK	W3GY
9/25/12	BILL	K3WJH	LINDA	K3BD
10/2/12	SHIRLEY	KB3TAX	BOB	K3QIA

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!

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.

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????

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 payable to CMARC to me, and I will be sure our Membership Chairman, Jack, W3GY, gets the check. Here is the address:

**CMARC
% Robert Foster
1586 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603**

Better yet, give your check or cash to our Membership Chairman, Jack, W3GY, at a club meeting. Thanks!

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: Linda Daring, K3BD**

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.