



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER MAY 2013

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

APRIL MEETING FEATURED SANDY DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM BY BILL, K3WJH

The April regular meeting of the club featured a presentation by Bill Hoops, K3WJH, concerning his involvement with relief work done to help New Jersey residents recover from Super Storm Sandy. Bill explained he is very involved with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; his units were responsible for the Southern half of the State of New Jersey in the wake of Sandy. Bill helped in the organization, preparation and distribution of thousands of meals each day. The amount of food and kitchen equipment was awesome! The way the meals were distributed over hundreds of miles was fascinating. Bill was also involved in communications during the relief, and told of the radio equipment and frequencies used. Bill's presentation was fascinating.

Remember the new PL of our CMARC repeater, 147.225+, is 85.4!

OUR NEXT MEETING – MAY 14

The May meeting of CMARC will involve planning for our two big activities in June, our club Hamfest and our club Field Day. You can read about each of these activities in articles in this newsletter. We

will also be having a “What Have You Been Up To Lately” session, where members share their latest amateur radio experiences. Come and join in the fun!

ANDY, N30MA, PROMISES TWO SURPRISES AT OUR MAY MEETING

Andy, N30MA, promises us two surprises at our May club meeting. The two surprises both deal with April Fool and the April 2013 issue of QST. Come and be surprised! Our May club meeting will take place at the Shiloh Bible Church in Almedia (our regular meeting location) at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14th.

CMARC HAMFEST

Plan now for our club Hamfest! Once again our Hamfest Chairman will be Randy, N3JPV. Randy informs us that the Hamfest will be held at the same location as last year, the Lime Ridge Community Center. We will set up at the Center on Friday, June 7th, beginning around 3 p.m. and continue until around sunset. The actual Hamfest will begin around 6 a.m. on Saturday, June 8th and continue to noon. Please plan to help out with the running of the Hamfest; we need a lot of help if the Hamfest is to be successful! You will still have plenty of time to enjoy the Hamfest yourself!

Our May meeting will be the last club meeting before our Hamfest, so we will be doing some planning for Hamfest at the meeting. Plan to be a part of this fun club activity!

FIELD DAY PLANS FOR CMARC

Our club will once again be conducting our Field Day activities at the Kulp Church grove near Slabtown. Mark your calendars now so you can take part in this neat club activity. We will begin setting up antennas in the grove on Friday, June 21, 2013, around noon. The actual working of stations begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 22nd and continues until 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 23rd.

Field Day takes a lot of planning if it is to be successful. These are the club members who are bringing a station to Field Day:

Linda, K3BD

Randy, N3JPV

Dave, WC3A
Jack, W3GY
Bob, K3QIA
Andy, N3OMA

It looks like we will be running class 4A. That means we will have up to four stations on the air at the same time on HF. VHF stations and the GOTA station (provided by Linda, K3BD) do not count toward the class.

Actually, this number of stations will be right at the limit of what can be placed in that grove without having a lot of interference problems between stations. There is also the problem having enough operators to staff more than four transmitters for 24 hours. So we have reached our practical limit!

We need people to operate the stations! Three of the stations will be SSB-only stations, and we will need SSB operators to man the stations. So plan on coming to Field Day and operating! If you just want to pay us a visit and watch the operating, that is fine, too! Please plan on taking part in our Field Day festivities!

Dave, WC3A, will be our chief cook and food specialist.

DAVE, WC3A, WORKS FLORIDA QSO PARTY

Dave Schack, WC3A, is now in Florida (Dave lives about six months out of the year in Florida). Dave reports that he worked the Florida QSO Party the weekend of April 27-28. Here is Dave's information:

Worked the FL QSO party this weekend.

I was calling mostly on 20 meters. You have no idea how many times I caught myself saying CQ field day instead of CQ FL QSO.

20 meters had some QSB and noise issues here but still got 32 multipliers and 71 QSOs for a grand total of 2272 points. Not too bad for a few hours work! Would have had more if some ops would learn to zero beat. So many were off frequency! Had to use my RIT and I hate using it. Maybe that's what its for - tuning in the dummies. I ought to write a book - Zero beating for Dummies.

OK I'm stepping off my soapbox now.
Dave, WC3A

NEW PREFIXES ISSUED IN THIRD CALL AREA

The KB3 callsign prefix block for the third call area has been used up. Thanks to Matt, KB3JKU, for telling us that the last callsign in the KB3 block, KB3ZZZ, had been issued. The FCC is now issuing new amateurs in the third call area callsigns with the prefix KC3. Look for the new KC3 callsigns on the air! Who will be the first club member to work a KC3?

RANDY, N3JPV, REPORTS IMPROVEMENT IN E-Z HANG ANTENNA SLINGSHOT

For many years, the E-Z Hang slingshot (used to place wire antennas in trees) has used a lead fishing weight as the projectile. Randy, N3JPV, recently purchased a new E-Z Hang that uses a tennis ball as the projectile. The slingshot requires a wider yoke, of course. Maybe, just maybe, Randy will bring his new E-Z Hang to our May club meeting to show it off!

REPEATER COMMITTEE WORKING ON OUR SYSTEM

Randy, N3JPV, our Repeater Committee Chairman, informs us that the Repeater Committee is very actively working on our CMARC repeater system. The committee is upgrading the system; this process is very time-consuming and will be an on-going procedure for a long time. You will notice improvements in the club's repeater in the coming months. By the way, our club repeater is 147.225+, and has a tone of 85.4.

**I programmed my radio for the new PL
on our club repeater: 85.4**

OUR CLUB TREASURER ATTENDS APRIL MEETING

Jack McCann, W3GY, our club Treasurer, had an open-heart operation March 1st. Jack was feeling well enough to attend our April club meeting. Glad your recuperation is going well, Jack! Welcome back!

DID YOU FIND THE APRIL FOOL ARTICLE?

Each year QST publishes an "April Fool" article in the April issue. The magazine does not identify the article, but lets the reader find it. So if you are not careful, you will be fooled. Did you find the "April Fool" article in the April 2013 edition of QST? Several club members correctly identified one April Fool article, the "The 2 Meter Q-Pole" on page 33. Surprise! There just might be another "April Fool" article lurking in QST. Take a close look!

Did you program your radio for the new PL on our club repeater? The new PL is 85.4

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 85.4. 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	
5/7/13	BOB	K3QIA
5/14/13	DENNIS	N3VMM

That is as far as the schedule goes, as of now!

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, so I've started sending out reminders for the net. Please! Use reminders to yourself like sticky-notes to check into the net. The reminders do work!

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 \$12 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!

**There is a rumor that the CMARC
repeater has a new PL of 85.4
THE RUMORS ARE TRUE!**

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2013

The membership drive for 2013 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 me at the following address:

Robert Foster
1586 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603

I will make sure Jack, W3GY, our Membership Chairman, gets the check, or you can just give Jack your check (or cash) at a club meeting.

When you send in your dues for 2013, 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 whether you qualify for a discount because you are the child of a member or if you are a student. Our Membership Chairman will appreciate this very much.

85.4 85.4 85.4 85.4 85.4 85.4 85.4

What is 85.4 ?

CLUB OFFICERS

The following club members have been elected (or appointed) club offices for 2013: (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 2015]

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.

Check your two-meter radio to be sure you have the correct PL for our CMARC repeater. The PL is 85.4