



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE 2014

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

JUNE MEETING LOCATION

There is a change in the location of our regular club meeting. We will meet at the regular time, the second Tuesday of the month, June 10th, at 7:30 p.m., but the location will be across the street from the Shiloh Bible Church in Almedia where we usually meet. The meeting will be held up the stairs in the building across the street. We met in this room several times, and it is a nice meeting room.

CMARC HAMFEST

Our Hamfest Chairman, Randy, N3JPV, tells us that our Hamfest has been scheduled for June 14, 2014. It will be held at the same location as last year, the Lime Ridge Community Center. The ladies from the Lime Ridge United Methodist Church (located across the street from the community center) will be providing the food for our event. We will be setting up for the hamfest the day before our event, on Friday, June 13th, beginning at 3 p.m. at the community center.

We will need help with the set-up, so please plan to be there to help!

The actual hamfest will begin around 6 a.m. on Saturday, June 14th, and continue until around noon.

Our webmaster, Matt, KB3JKU, has posted the flyer for our hamfest on our website. Take a look, then come back here and read the rest of the newsletter. Here is the website for the hamfest flyer:

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

We will be discussing our club hamfest at our June regular club meeting, so plan to attend.

FIELD DAY PLANS FOR CMARC EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLAN TO COME AND HAVE FUN!

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 27, 2014, around noon.

We need help putting up the antennas! Please give us a hand! Antenna raising usually takes from around noon to around 4 p.m.

The actual working of stations begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 28th and continues until 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 29th.

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!

This year we have purchased pass band filters to cut down on the interference between the stations.

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!

There are a number of ways to earn bonus points on Field Day. One way is to receive ten traffic messages from another station. Vic, WA4THR, will send the messages this year.

Dave, WC3A, will be our chief cook and food specialist. Dave's cooking skills are legendary!

Plan on coming and having some fun!

DIRECTIONS TO OUR FIELD DAY SITE

Take PA Route 42 South through Catawissa. Just beyond the bridge over Catawissa Creek (near Tom's Kitchen Restaurant used to be), 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 for about one mile, and turn left on Creek Road. Drive approximately two miles on Creek Road. When you reach Old Reading Road turn right, and continue about one mile. Kulp Church Grove will be on the left.

THOSE ARRL CENTENNIAL STATIONS: W1AW/x

ARRL is 100 years old in 2014, and there are a number of ways that ARRL is using to celebrate reaching that milestone. One way is the Centennial QSO Party, which continues for the full year. The party is explained at:

<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>

So there will be W1AW portable operations from each state and many U.S. possessions throughout 2014. You may have worked some of the W1AW portable stations already; I have worked a number of them.

Get on and try your luck with the W1AW portable stations!

The W1AW portable stations on in June will operate for one week beginning:

June 4 = AL and LA

June 11 = AR and MN

June 18 = AK and MT

June 25 = IL and MD

July 2 = WI and UT

Good luck, and see you in the pile ups!

NET CONTROL STATIONS NEEDED FOR OUR REGULAR TUESDAY EVENING NET

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.

We have a new net manager: Shirley Cicero, KB3TAX. If you are interested in becoming a net control station (and we need new net control stations) please contact Shirley. Shirley's email address is: scicero11@verizon.net

We need more check-ins to our ARES net! Mark your calendar to check into the net on our club repeater at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays! Thanks!

SHIRLEY, KB3TAX, GIVES US INFORMATION OF OUR TUESDAY EVENING NET

Shirley Cicero, KB3TAX, is now our net manager for the Tuesday evening ARES net. She has made up the roster of net control stations.

Here are the net control stations assigned in June:

June 3	Bob	K3QIA
June 10	Dennis	N3VMM
June 17	Shirley	KB3TAX
June 24	Linda	K3BD

The number of check-ins for each Tuesday net in May were:

5/6	9
5/13	22
5/20	14
5/27	9

73
Shirley
KB3TAX

Don't be left out! Join in the fun and check into the net!
Thanks for your organization of the net, Shirley!

Linda, K3BD, is helping Shirley by maintaining the list of stations to be called on the net. Thanks, Linda!

SPORATIC E SEASON COMING ON SIX METERS

Beginning in May and peaking in June, the six-meter band opens frequently with sporadic E propagation. If you wish to see if the six-meter band (or any band) is open, you can see the present propagation paths between stations on a map at:

<http://www.dxmaps.com/spots/map.php>

If the six-meter band is not shown on the map, click the 50 MHz tab.

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.

The members of the Repeater Committee are:

Randy, N3JPV, Chairman

Jere, W3JLV

Matt, KB3JKU

Dennis, N3VMM

The Committee is aided by Ryan Gross, N3SSL, who is an expert in repeater technology.

The Committee also calls upon the expertise of:

Vic, WA4THR

Doug, KC3HP

The efforts of all the Repeater Committee are much appreciated.

Thanks, everyone!

You will notice continuing improvements in the club's repeater in the coming months. By the way, our club repeater is on 147.225+, and has a tone of 85.4.

Special note: On the repeater coordination (ARCC) website, the new tone for our repeater is NOT listed. Randy has applied for the update, but the folks there have not listed the updated tone of 85.4.

MATERIALS NEEDED BY ANDY FOR HAMFEST

At our hamfest last June, Andy, N3OMA, sold items that had been donated to the club. Andy is a terrific salesman, and he was able to sell many of the items that were donated. Andy is now asking for more donations; he needs materials to sell at our hamfest. Our hamfest will be held June 14th, and Andy would love to have more items to sell. If you have some items to donate, let Andy know.

Andy's email address is:

andrew@shecktor.com

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 candidates 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. Reservations are needed! Matt's address is:
dekb3jku@outlook.com

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!

IF YOU ARE GOING TO USE THE ARRL BUREAU, PLEASE LOOK HOW THE BUREAU OPERATES AT:

<http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2014

The membership drive for 2014 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 2014, 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.

CLUB OFFICERS

The following club members have been elected (or appointed) club offices for 2014: (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

Treasurer: Jack McCann, W3GY

*Assistant Treasurer: Dave Schack, WC3A

Activities Director: Steve Zappe, WA3GQA

*Public Relations Officer: Linda Daring, K3BD

Trustee: Rich Daring, K3RND [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 2016]

*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