



# **COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER JULY - AUGUST 2014**

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

## **CMARC HAMFEST**

Our Hamfest Chairman, Randy, N3JPV, tells us that our club hamfest, held on June 14, 2014, was very successful. It was held at the same location as last year, the Lime Ridge Community Center. A full report was given at the regular monthly club meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Randy wishes to express special thanks to Andy, N3OMA, and Andy's daughter, Kim, who sold estate items that were donated to the club. Also special thanks to Dave, WC3A, who maintains the list of names and addresses to send the postcards reminders to come to the hamfest. Dave also helped in many other ways, too!

Thanks to Matt, KB3JKU, who organized the VE testing.

Many other people helped make our club hamfest very successful, including our members that put up the gate ribbon (especially Sam, K3EAU), parked cars, greeted attendees, collected admission money at the gates, and made the entire project very successful. Thanks to all who helped.

## **CMARC FIELD DAY**

Our club conducted our Field Day activities at the Kulp Church grove near Slabtown. Those who helped put up the antennas on Friday, June 27, included:

Joe, W3JSW

Steve, WA3GQA

Rich, WE3WEE

Ken, KB3PSP

Stan, AB3BL  
Dave, WC3A  
Jack, W3GY

The club members who brought a station to Field Day:

Linda, K3BD  
Randy, N3JPV  
Dave, WC3A  
Jack, W3GY  
Bob, K3QIA  
Andy, N3OMA

Club members who earned bonus points for our Field Day:

Emergency Power = Ken, KB3PSP  
Media publicity = Linda, K3BD  
NTS message to ARRL SM = Randy, N3JPV  
Ten Formal NTS messages = Steve, WA3GQA and Shirley, KB3TAX  
Natural power QSOs = Andy, N3OMA  
Site visit by elected official = Andy, N3OMA  
Educational activity = Dave, WC3A

The ARRL rules allow for a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station. The GOTA station may only be operated by people who qualify under three methods: inactive operators, unlicensed operators or newly licensed operators. At our GOTA station, we had a GOTA coach to help the operators.

GOTA coaches at Field Day allowed us to double our GOTA bonus points; the main GOTA Coach, who also provided the GOTA station equipment , was Linda, K3BD. Others who acted as the GOTA coach during Field Day were:

Steve, WA3GQA  
Jack, W3GY  
Andy, N3OMA

Operators at the GOTA station included:

Brenda Shearer  
Nathan Smith, KB3JZB  
Tom Smith, KC3CRS  
Kim Shecktor

**The GOTA station had 100 contacts. Well done!**

**Including the 100 contacts from the GOTA station, the number of QSOs was:**

**CW = 302**

**Phone = 330**

**Digital (PSK) = 4**

**For a total number of QSOs of 636.**

**With all the bonus points and points for the QSOs above, we should place about the 66<sup>th</sup> percentile of our 4A class. That means we did better than 66% of the entries in our class.**

**My brother, Dick Foster, W5TA, and I had a Field Day contact for the first time ever. His club is Williamson County ARC in Texas. It was a nice surprise. His club has a 45-minute video of their Field Day operations; you do not have to watch the whole thing, but parts of it are very interesting. It shows them installing beam antennas and operating, and the part showing them make a satellite QSO is very interesting. Also interesting is the part showing my brother operating the CW station. Here is the link:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-OHfxrHp2U>**

## **REPEATER NEWS**

**The Repeater Committee is aware of problems with the repeater, and the committee is working hard to repair the problems. The repair is a major one involving a number of different components on both sites, so it may take some time to complete the repair.**

**Please be patient, and we will have the repeater back to its normal operation as soon as possible.**

## **PAUL, W3EGL, AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP**

**The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club (Philadelphia, PA) has awarded Paul, W3EGL, a \$2,000.00 scholarship. Paul is working on his Master's Project this summer. In the fall semester he has to take a 3 hour class, a 2 hour class and finish the Master's Project. Paul will complete the requirements for his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in**

Electrical Engineering this December. The Ham Radio Community has helped Paul through out his college career, with about \$20,000 in scholarships. Believe it or not it has been over five years since Paul has been an active part of our club meetings. Paul plans to assist our club with the Run For the Diamonds in November.

Thanks to Bill, K3WJH, for providing the info about Paul.

## **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:

July 16 = SC

July 23 = RI and IN

July 30 = KY and SD

August 6 = VT and NJ

August 13 = OK

August 20 = OH and ND

August 27 = ME and AZ

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](mailto: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 July and August:

7/1	Shirley	KB3TAX
7/8	Dennis	N3VMM
7/15	Don	K3LRD
7/22	Linda	K3BD
7/29	Jack	W3GY
8/5	Bob	K3QIA
8/12	Dennis	N3VMM
8/19	Shirley	KB3TAX
8/26	Don	K3LRD

The net check-ins for June are as follows:

6/3	7
6/10	18
6/17	11
6/24	10

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 next hamfest. Yes, it is almost a year away, but Andy needs to collect things. If you have some items to donate, let Andy know. Andy's email address is:

[andrew@shecktor.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**