



# **COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2015**

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

## **CMARC CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our club held its Christmas party on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a very nice affair, organized by our club Secretary, Linda, K3BD. We had lots of food, a very nice variety, and many guests (mostly spouses and children of members). At the party, club officers for 2015 were elected. Please see the list near the end of this newsletter. After the party, Linda came out with this thank-you greeting:



**AND THANK  
YOU!!**

**for Making the CMARC Party a Success !!!**

Members please share this with your wives who benevolently shared their time to create a delightful donation to our food table. Everything was delicious, I believe I tasted nearly every dish there.

Don't forget to thank them for me.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS from**

**Linda, K3BD & Rich, K3RND**

**Thank you, Rich & Linda!**

### **CLUB MEMBERS WORK 160-METER CONTEST**

The ARRL 160-Meter Contest was held December 5-6-7, and we had at least three club members work this CW contest.

Mike, N3BUD, reported these results (running 150 watts):

Score 66,307

QSOs 539

Sections 61

Skeeter, WA3IIA, reported (running 500 watts):

400 Qso's

67 Multipliers

score 53868.

Bob, K3QIA, reported (running 800 watts):

309 QSOs

57 Multitpliers

Total of 36,423 points

The 160-Meter Contest was a lot of fun!

## OPERATION SANTA

Each year our club members take a two-meter radio to the Geisinger Hospital and they let sick children talk to “Santa”. We conducted our Operation Santa on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning around 6 p.m. We used the repeater on 145.29, located in Danville (thanks to Bill, WA2JOC, for giving us permission to use the repeater). The sick children told “Santa” what they want for Christmas, then “Santa” told the children that his helpers have some gifts for them. Then we gave the sick children coloring books, crayons and stuffed toys. This club project is a lot of fun.



This photo was taken in the lobby of the Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The club members shown in the photo taking part in Operation Santa are, from left, Bob, K3QIA; Bill, K3WJH; Matt, KB3JKU; and Steve, WA3GQA. Also taking part but not shown was our Santa, Jack, W3GY. Lou, KC3LOU, was also scheduled to take part, but had a medical emergency in the family and was unable to participate.

## **PA QSO PARTY**

There were four CMARC club members that submitted entries in the PA QSO Party, which was held last October. According to the PA QSO Party website, those members submitting entries were:

Linda, K3BD

Jack, W3GY

Jeff, WA3TD/M

Bob, K3QIA

Those shown above are the only entries that are shown on the website for the PA QSO Party. If you worked the party and submitted an entry but your entry is not listed, please inform the officials who run the party.

## **CLUB MEMBERS WORK THE ARRL 10-METER CONTEST**

A number of our club members worked the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. Here are some of the results; they are quite interesting!

Here are the results from Skeeter, WA3IIA:

The week of the ARRL 10 meter contest I was monitoring the Reverse Beacon Network to see where my 5 Watt 10 meter beacon at the frequency of 28284.8 kHz was being heard. The beacon signal was being heard in Australia, Germany, Hungary and Arizona. On Friday morning the day of the contest I went on 10 meters CW, reduced my transceivers power to 5 watts and called CQ. A station from Germany came back with a 579 report and we had a short QSO. That is when I decided to enter the contest in the QRP class using CW only. During the contest I continually monitored a power meter to make sure that it was not going above the 5 Watt QRP power limit.

The 10 meter band was in great condition, I worked 381 stations and had 106 multipliers. I did not have any trouble working stations; it was as if I was running full power. I was in a few pileups and managed to get through. I did not have much luck calling CQ to make contacts, only about 15, the rest of the contacts were made using the search and pounce method.

Here is the break down.

Score of 161544

381 Contacts

**106 Multipliers**

**40 States including Hawaii and Alaska**

**4 Mexican States**

**5 Canadian Providence's**

**61 countries counting Canada and Mexico**

**The best DX was New Zealand (5 contacts), Japan, Iceland, Asiatic Russia, Turkey and Hawaii (4 contacts) to name a few.**

**WA3IIA**

**Skeeter**

**Here are the results from Mike, N3BUD:**

**I GOT ON FOR A LITTLE GAVE OUT 51 CW CONTACTS WORKING 30 SECTIONS.**

**The furthest worked was New Zealand. I got more excited about working the close in ones during this contest. DE, WV, VT, & PA. Ran 100 Watts from Yaesu 950 into a 190 foot center fed wire.**

**Dennis, N3VMM, reports that he had 62 contacts and 21 mulitpliers.**

**Here are results from Bob, K3QIA:**

**Social obligations kept me from working the European band openings in the morning hours. However, I did manage to get some QSOs.**

**198 QSOs**

**34 states**

**37 countries (bright spots were Isle of Man, 3 Japan, 6 Hawaii, Alaska, Asiatic Russia, South Africa and 6 New Zealand)**

## **REPEATER COMMITTEE ACTIVE DURING THE 10-METER CONTEST BUT NOT IN CONTEST**

**While some club members were working the 10-Meter Contest, Randy, N3JPV, and Ryan, N3SSL, were busy at the sites of our repeater system. Randy reports there were updates at both our repeater sites. Be sure to thank Randy and Ryan the next time you see them.**



## **MORE INFO ON THE LAST TWO MONTHS ARTICLES: IN THE 1960s, BROWNIE QSLs POPULAR**

**In the 1960s, Brownie, W3CJI, (now a silent key) printed QSLs that were very popular with radio amateurs. Brownie has not been in business for many years, but the designs of his QSLs still remain**



popular. Last month I included in the newsletter pictures of actual Brownie cards.

Mike, N3BUD, also had QSL cards printed by Brownie. Here is a picture of Mike's Brownie card:

<h1 style="margin: 0;">N3BUD</h1>	<p>MICHAEL K. HOOVER BERWICK PENNSYLVANIA LUZERNE COUNTY FNI I</p>																			
	<p>Mobile ..... Portable .....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Geratol 1684 10-10 63024</p> 																			
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<p>MIKE HOOVER 1137 EAST FRONT STREET BERWICK, PA 18603-4921</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">By Brownies</p>																				

## **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.

Our net manager is 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 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 January and February:

1/6 Shirley KB3TAX

1/13 Dennis N3VMM

1/20 John K3PPK

1/27 Tim K3TEG

2/3 Jack W3GY

2/10 Dennis N3VMM

2/17 Linda      K3BD

2/24 Bob        K3QIA

The number of check-ins for December were:

12/2	10
12/9	6
12/16	11
12/23	11
12/30	16

We seem to have new interest in the net. Hope it continues.

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!

## **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 months 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 2015

The membership drive for 2015 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 2015, 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 2015: (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 2017]

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**

## **EDITORIAL – THOUGHTS ON DROPPING MORSE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING AND THE AFTERMATH**

At the present time, candidates take written tests in order to earn an amateur radio license. There is no longer a requirement that a candidate must demonstrate ability to copy Morse code. You just might wonder why! There are several reasons. First and foremost, we need to maintain amateur radio as a viable hobby; we amateurs offer aid to many government agencies as well as helping out with community projects (like Run for the Diamonds). In order to attract people to amateur radio, eliminating the Morse code requirement recruits many new amateurs. Also in this age of personal computers, new amateurs do NOT need to spend hours and hours learning Morse code. The new amateurs can simply download a program to their computer, interface the computer to their radios, and then be able to send and receive Morse code at speeds up to the limits of the computer program (usually around 99 words per minute).

I've been using computer keying for over twenty years. I first used a VIC 20, then moved up to a Commodore 64, then to the personal computers of today. Computer keying sends perfectly spaced Morse code; it is a wonder to behold. I never used the receive feature in the programs for Morse code, but I did test it, and it works.

Thinking logically, you would think the amateurs now active would be very happy that our new amateurs do not have to spend many hours learning Morse code and then spend more hours gradually building up their code speed. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. There are some amateurs who believe that someone who has not spent hours practicing Morse code and passed a Morse code test should be allowed on-the-air, so they have decided to make our new no-code amateurs as uncomfortable as possible. I'm not sure what to call the amateurs that do not want any no-code-test amateurs on the air; let's call them the "Fantastics" because that is what they believe they are.

The “Fantastics” want to discourage our new amateurs by insulting them and by creating malicious interference on any frequency being used by a new amateur. I am told this is more likely on 80-meter SSB than other bands.

Personally, I find this behavior truly disgusting, and I hope none of our club members are “Fantastics”. I would suggest that if you are a new amateur (who never had to take a Morse code test) and you do run into one of the “Fantastics”, simply move your transmit frequency. The phone bands are huge! There is lots of space! Simply move! You could also move to a different band. I would strongly suggest that you NOT talk to any “Fantastic”. That is what they want! It only boosts their egos, and their egos are already huge. The “Fantastics” are also usually delusional, so you cannot reason with them. The “Fantastics” just want to upset new amateurs, so don’t talk to them ... just move!

Please make our new amateurs welcome! Help them learn our hobby!

I would like to thank Bill, K3WJH, Matt, KB3JKU, and Steve, WA3GQA, for some of the ideas in my editorial above.

If you have a rebuttal or something to add to the above, I would love to hear from you. Just drop me an email!

**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**