



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

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

CMARC MEMBERS HAVE BEEN “RADIO” ACTIVE

Because it has been very cold outside, it has been a great time to get on-the-air, and our members have been very active on the bands.

Here is a sample of our members' activities on-the-air:

Dave, WC3A, reports working VK2LJM in Australia on 20 meters (JT65 mode) using only 8 watts and a vertical antenna cut for ten meters.

Skeeter, WA3IIA, reports that he earned QRP DXCC; just think, over 100 countries worked using only five watts!

Nate, KB3JZB, tells us that he worked VP8LP in the Falkland Islands using the PSK 63 mode on 10 meters running only five watts. The PSK 63 mode runs much faster than the more popular PSK 31 mode.

Dennis, N3VMM, tells us:

“Made a 10-meter mobile contact last week with EG5ANT who is in Antarctica; he gave me a 59+. Right after that I made a contact with Hungary. Was only 20 watts mobile!”

Jerzy, N3FIP, worked ZS4JAN in South Africa on 20m PSK 31.

When Jerzy mentioned he was 97 years old, Jan, ZS4JAN, was very impressed (as we all are). Jan sent Jerzy an email saying that he posted an article on the South African Radio League website about Jerzy.

PROGRAMS FOR MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS

The program which will be presented at the regular club meeting in March will be on Radioteletype, or RTTY. It will concern RTTY operating and will be presented by yours truly, Bob, K3QIA.

The program to be presented at the April meeting will concern computer logging programs, and will be presented by Jack, W3GY.

We are looking for a program for the May meeting. I have a suggestion! Take a look at the February 2015 issue of QST, and turn to pages 82 and 83. The article there is titled “Analog FM Repeaters – an Overview”. It explains how an FM voice repeater (like ours) works. Since most club members use our repeater (but many do not understand how it works), it would make a great presentation. Who will present the program?

If you would rather present another program, that would be fine, too. If you would like to present a program at a club meeting, please drop me an email:

rlfoster1@verizon.net

THANKS TO VICE PRESIDENT RANDY, N3JPV

Our club Vice Present, Randy, N3JPV, conducted the club meetings in January and February 2015. Many thanks to Randy for a job well done!

“HAM IN A DAY” SESSION SCHEDULED

A class designed to take a person from little or no knowledge of amateur radio to the point the person is able to pass a technician test will be presented at the Emergency Operations Center of Luzerne County in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday, March 14th. At the end of the session, technician license exams will be given to the participants. The class is limited to 20 candidates for licenses, and as of now (February 24th) they have 17 people already signed up. If you know of someone who is NOT licensed and is interested in this class, have the potential candidate send an email to the following address for more information:

ec@w3luz.org

DON, K3LRD, UPGRADES TO EXTRA

Our VE Testing Chairman, Matt, KB3JKU, reports Don, K3LRD, recently passes his extra class exam at one of our club’s testing sessions. Congratulations, Don, and welcome to the extra bands!

DAN, KC3APN, SETTING UP MESH NETWORK

Dan, KC3APN, informs us he is working on a mesh network and has been meeting with success. Dan reports he has tunneling working, and he has assured us that he will tell us what tunneling is!

ARRL SSB DX CONTEST – MARCH 7-8

There will be lots of DX on-the-air on SSB beginning Friday, March 6th, at 7 p.m. EST. The ARRL SSB DX Contest starts then, and concludes on Sunday, March 8th, at 7 p.m. EST. The contest exchange for U.S. stations in our state is “59 Pennsylvania” or “59 papa alpha”. You work only DX in this contest, and the DX stations will respond with a signal report and the power level they are running. Here is your chance to work some rare ones on SSB!

The weekend of February 21-22 was the CW version of this contest. I was able to get on a few hours and had 178 QSOs. I worked 61 countries in the contest; lots of Europe, few Africa, some South American, some Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

MARCH 25 – HAZARDOUS WEATHER EXERCISE

Once a year the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) conducts a hazardous weather exercise. The exercise this year will be conducted on March 25th, and will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You will be receiving more information about this exercise later this month about our involvement locally.

ARRL PREPARING APPLICATION FORMS FOR THOSE CENTENNIAL STATIONS – W1AW PORTABLES

You will recall that during 2014, centennial stations signing W1AW/X were active in all 50 states. If you worked W1AW centennial stations in all 50 states, you are qualified for a centennial worked-all-states (WAS) award. Centennial points could be earned by working other station, too! ARRL reports that the application forms for centennial awards are being prepared. Here is the announcement from ARRL: Feb 28, 2015: Centennial Awards Program Applications in Testing Phase -- **We are testing the application forms for W1AW WAS and the Centennial QSO Party awards. The Centennial QSO Points tables will also be updated soon.**

Several club members reported that they have worked W1AW/X centennial stations in all 50 states. If you did, please send me an email and I'll list the club members who qualified for the centennial WAS award in our next newsletter. My email address is: rlfoster1@verizon.net

NATIONAL TRAFFIC SERVICE (NTS)

Several of our newer amateurs have asked about NTS. There are a number of amateurs involved in passing messages; when messages are passed on ham radio, a particular format (the NTS format) is usually used. The format is explained in detail here:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%2520Service/MPG104A.pdf>

There are many nets that handle the messages. One of the nets in our ARRL section is the Eastern Pennsylvania Phone and Traffic Net, which meets nightly at 6 p.m. local time on 3917 KHz. Tune in and listen what it is like! Don't check in unless you know how to handle messages!

ARCC APPROVES TONE ON OUR REPEATER

The Area Repeater Coordination Council (ARCC) is responsible for coordinating repeaters in our Eastern Pennsylvania ARRL Section. The ARCC maintains a database of information about repeaters in our section at this website:

<http://www.arcc-inc.org/>

ARCC coordination is important to anyone (or any group) who operates a repeater in the EPA Section; this prevents interference between the many repeaters. ARCC has approved the new tone on our CMARC repeater, which is 85.4. ARCC sent me the official certificate approving the new tone, but ARCC has not updated the database on the Internet which still lists the old tone. So as soon as they update the data on the Internet, our new tone will be listed.

**The tone on our club repeater, 147.225+, is 85.4!
The tone is coordinated by ARCC! ARCC has
not updated the database on the Internet! Please
spread the word! Our repeater is an open
repeater; anyone is welcome to use it!**

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

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 March:

3/3 Shirley KB3TAX

3/10 Dennis N3VMM

3/17 John K3PPK

3/24 Tim K3TEG

3/31 Jack W3GY

The number of check-ins for February were as follows:

2/3 11
2/10 16
2/17 13
2/24 19 (nine messages in NTS message format were passed on
this net)

Thanks to all for checking in!

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.

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

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 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**

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