



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011

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

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH ALL THESE EMAILS?

There have been a flurry of emails lately concerning the club. The emails have been flying and probably most persons reading the emails have interpreted the emails as meaning that the club is in a state of chaos. Well, that is not the case!

What has happened is that there has been a lack of communication. It is sad that communicators (ham radio operators) had a breakdown in communications, but it happened.

I am happy to report that the lines of communications are being re-established now. When all lines of communication are completely open, you will see a more active, stronger, better-organized club than ever before.

That more active, stronger, better-organized club will be on display at our next regular club meeting. I would like to invite everyone to our next club meeting and see the club in action. We will meet at the Shiloh Church in Almedia on April 12 at 7:30 p.m. Come early and have coffee and cookies and just maybe some donuts will show up, too!

CMARC HAMFEST

Our improved club will hold its annual hamfest on June 11. Our Hamfest Chairman, Dave, WC3A, has been making big plans for the hamfest. Dave reports that he has revised the hamfest flyer, and the

revised flyer is posted on our club website for all to see. Here is the link:

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

Thanks to our Webmaster, Matt, KB3JKU, for posting the revised flyer on our club website.

Our club hamfest is also listed on the ARRL Website. Go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

And type in the location of our hamfest, Lime Ridge, PA

Dave will be updating us on his plans for the hamfest as we get closer to the big event on June 11th. Mark your calendars now and plan to take part in our hamfest!

Hamfests do not run themselves! We are going to need lots of people to help at our hamfest to make it a successful project. Hamfests are fun! You get to visit with other hams, pick up tips, pick up new and used equipment and parts, and have a nice breakfast and/or lunch. The food will be provided by the Youth Group from the church that owns the community center (where we are holding the hamfest). So plan to come, spend a little time working, and then have fun at the hamfest!

SPECIAL CLUB TABLE AT HAMFEST

Andy, N3OMA, is now accepting donated items to be sold at the club table during the hamfest. If you are able to donate an item to the club, Andy will attempt to sell it at our hamfest. The money from the sales of donated items goes into the club treasury. So check your junk boxes for items you do not use, and if the items are usable, donate them to the club. Thanks!

CMARC FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES ARE COMING

ARRL Field Day is another fun event, and our club is very active in this event! In this event, we need people to turn out and have fun! We need people to come to our Field Day location at the Kulp Church Grove near Slabtown. We will be putting up antennas on Friday, June 24, and the actual operation will begin the next day, Saturday, June 25, and continue for 24 hours. During the Field Day

operating period, we will be trying to contact as many other stations as possible using SSB, CW and the digital modes.

Field Day is another event that needs the participation of club members to be effective. We need people to operate and take part in the other activities to earn bonus points. Come, have fun and take part in Field Day!

By the way, there are no new rules for Field Day this year that pertains to us. All last year's rules stay in effect.

SPECIAL DATES FOR RACES OPERATORS

These dates come to us from our RACES Radio Officer for Columbia County, Randy, N3JPV.

The picnic for emergency responders is scheduled in Knoebel's Grove on August 27, 2011.

Practice for the next PPL-SSES (nuclear power plant) drill will be September 20, 2011. More information will follow about this practice.

CONTEST TERMS

Linda, K3BD, worked the SSB DX Contest a few weeks ago. Several of our members also worked the contest. Linda found some interesting new terms that are used for contests. Here is her report:

Since I was going to work the DX International Contest in March I went on line to copy the rules and forms for that event. When I did I discovered a section called the "Contest Glossary". On reviewing this I found it quite interesting. Even though I had contested a few times in the past, I realized there were some words related to contesting I had not encountered. I'll list a few that sparked my interest.

10 MINUTE RULE: This refers to a limit on the number of band changes permitted in an hour or how long a station is required to operate on a band after making a band change.

ROBOT: An electronic submission for contest logs usually in Cabrillo.

RUN: This one is rather self-explanatory. This means; to work a steady stream of callers responding to CQ.

UBN: Unique, Busted, Not in Log //// 3 ways a contest QSO can be judged invalid.

A Summary can be found in a UBN report issued by some contest sponsors to participants.

ARRL issues a list of UBN's to participants in most ARRL contest in a Log Checking Report.

There were more I found interesting but only listed these few.

WHAT SOME MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UP TO

At some of our regular club meetings we have a session near the end of the meeting where we ask members what they have been doing concerning amateur radio. These sessions are fun and informative. Here are some examples:

Randy, N3JPV, was able to copy ten packet radio packets sent by the International Space Station as it passed over.

Joe, W3JSW, and John, W3FMF, report there is an informal net on 28.450 MHz on SSB around 8 p.m. in the evening. They report the most activity usually is Friday evenings.

Dennis, N3VMM, was able to reach a Harrisburg repeater on two meters from Selinsgrove. That is a long distance!

If you would like to contribute to the list, that would be great. Just send me what you have been up to, and I'll put it in next month's newsletter.

TECHNICIAN + GENERAL + EXTRA TESTS PASSED AT ONCE!

Steve and Lucy Corbin attended our last club meeting. They both expressed interest in amateur radio, and we welcome them to our club. Neither Steve nor Lucy had a license when they came to our meeting on March 8. I just received an email from Lucy and she said:

"I actually went to the meeting in Williamsport on the 15th I tested for all three levels (tech + gen + extra) on March 15th. I actually passed all three tests, I'm just waiting to see what my call sign will be on the FCC website."

Just think ... taking and passing all three tests at one time! This is remarkable! I don't remember of anyone ever doing this before! Does anyone remember someone doing this previously?

SHIRLEY, KB3TAX, IS NEW NET CONTROL

Our ARES net meets on our club repeater every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Different amateurs serve as net control stations for the net, and the net is coordinated by Jack, N3EUM. On Tuesday, March 15, Shirley, KB3TAX, conducted the net for the first time.

Folks, she did a wonderful job! Shirley said she enjoyed the experience, too! We are looking for more people to act as net control stations! Just read the article "Net Control Stations Needed" (also in this newsletter).

I'm trying hard to get more check-ins to our net. Please try to check-in as frequently as possible. I'll send out email reminders to check into the net weekly.

WHAT INFO SHOULD BE SENT TO OUR MAILING LIST OVER THE INTERNET?

Our mailing list is composed of two parts, members and non-members. All information goes to members (who have paid their dues for the year). Some of the information also goes to non-members (who are interested in what our club is doing). I think of many of the non-members as potential members of our club. Some of the non-members are people from our area who have moved and now live some distance from Columbia and Montour counties.

I get a lot of information. I try to figure out what information should be sent out to our mailing list. Some people have told me to send out various items, while others have told me they do not care to receive those same items. If I try to keep track of who wants to receive what information, it becomes a nightmare of maintaining lots of mailing lists instead of just two.

So here is what I'd like to do at this point. For those who would like to receive the weekly ARRL Letter, you may subscribe to it for yourself on the ARRL website. I won't forward it anymore. This has been requested by several people.

Concerning the DX Bulletins I send out, I have been told that some people do not like them, either. So I'm going to stop sending the DX Bulletins out, too! However, if you are interested in DX, there is a wonderful DX Bulletin that has a new issue each week, and it is free. It is called the Ohio-Pennsylvania DX Bulletin, or OPDX Bulletin. The website is:

<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>

You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time. I am trying here, folks, but I can't please everyone! I just do the best I can.

RANDY & VIC KEEP OUR CLUB REPEATER ON-THE-AIR

The next time you see Randy, N3JPV, and Vic, WA4THR, tell them how much you appreciate all their work on our repeater system. Randy and Vic keep our voting repeater system functioning. The voting system is complicated, with two receiving sites and one transmitting site. Many thanks, Vic & Randy, for all your work and your expertise!

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 203.5. 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 eight 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:

3/29/11	LINDA	K3BD	JACK	N3EUM
4/5/11	JACK	N3EUM	JIM	KB3PNI
4/12/11	DAVE	WC3A	DENNIS	N3VMM
4/19/11	RICH	NQ3Y	BOB	K3QIA
4/26/11	SAM	K3EAU	LINDA	K3BD

Person listed first is Net Control, and the person listed second is the back-up station.

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 \$10 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!

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE “CMARC MEMBERS ONLY” EMAILS????

At the same time this newsletter was sent over the Internet, another message was sent titled “CMARC Members Only – April”. This message is only sent to people who paid their CMARC dues for 2011. The message contains the minutes of the last meeting, and the list of club members.

If you have not paid your dues for 2011, please take a few minutes and send in your dues now! The next article describes how you can join CMARC. We would love to have you as a member! Don't wait! Send in your dues now! Read the next article on how to become a member!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2011

The membership drive for 2011 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 our Membership Chairman:

Dave Schack
6020 Fort Jenkins Lane - #17
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

When you send in your dues for 2011, 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, Dave, WC3A, will appreciate this very much.

If you prefer, you could just pay Dave at a regular club meeting. Dave will gladly accept your dues for 2011 then!

CLUB OFFICERS

The following club members have been elected (or appointed) club offices for 2011: (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: Dave Schack, WC3A

Activities Director: Steve Zappe, WA3GQA

*Public Relations Officer: Matt Lunger, KB3JKU

Trustee: Bill Hoops, K3WJH [Term will expire in December 2011]

Trustee: Matt Lunger, KB3JKU [Term will expire in December 2012]

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.