



Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

www.marc-radio.org

P.O. BOX 557  
EAGLEVILLE, PA  
19408

# REMARCS

**Next Meeting: Feb 19, 2013 at 7:30 PM**

**Jan/Feb 2013**

## MARC 2012 Holiday Party

MARC held its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at the Uno Chicago Grill, 3910 West Chester Pike (PA 3 west of PA 252), Newtown Square. The Club subsidizes this event, and the cost to members was only \$10. For non-members the cost was only \$20. The Uno Grill provided us with a separate dining room with a fireplace and a flat screen TV for a college football game. Club members enjoyed a luncheon with an entree and dessert. All had a great time!

In attendance were:

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Jim K3RTU and XYL       | Chris N3GBJ   |
| Doug NE3U               | Bob N3JIZ     |
| Dennis K3DS             | Steve KD3WK   |
| Lou WX3I                | Rich KB3VZL   |
| Jim W3JG                | Martin AA3A   |
| Bob WB4PWZ              | Brenden W3VD  |
| Jeremy N2ZLQ            | Jim W3DCL     |
| Dominic KB3GNL          | Peggy KB3MOX  |
| Dieter K3DK             | Dieter K3DK   |
| Josy WQ3E               | Denise KB3ANO |
| Andrew KA2DDO and guest | Sal NC3U      |
| Will K3WIL              |               |



What is the proper way to greet another ham operator? With a Short Wave!

Thanks to Paul Kenyon, K1LLR



### Inside REMARCS

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## VOX

Congratulations to **Andrew Pavlin KA2DDO** who was recently highlighted with an audio and video podcast in a Ham Radio Now episode. Episode #39 is titled "YAAC - Yet Another APRS Client".

From Ham Radio Now:

"Another APRS program, but maybe a better one? Check it out if you run APRS. Andrew Pavlin KA2DDO followed the guidelines set out by APRS inventor Bob Bruninga WB4APR. Bob was in the audience, and he was smiling!

This is one of 18 presentations made at the 2012 ARRL/TAPR DCC held in Atlanta in September. HAMRADIONOW is producing them as quickly as we can and putting them on-line. For an overview discussion about TAPR and the DCC, see HAMRADIONOW Episode 33.

Andrew's presentation can be viewed at [http://arvideonews.com/hrn/HRN\\_Episode\\_0039.html](http://arvideonews.com/hrn/HRN_Episode_0039.html). Ham Radio Now is part of Amateur Radio Video News (ARVN); Television programs for and about Amateur Radio... on the web.

Congratulations to **Steve Ikler WA2EAJ** on his recent upgrade to Amateur Extra. Is a new callsign in his future? (See below)

MARC welcomes new member **Simon Do** (no call, yet).

## Letter from the MARC President

Dear Fellow MARC Members:

I hope that your holidays were safe and happy. Our Holiday Party was a great success. We had the best attendance ever and I trust that everyone had a good time.

We have a number of things to look forward to in 2013:

- Our January meeting presenter was our very own **Dennis Silage (K3DS)** who discussed "Fun with the SDR FUNcube". The FUNcube Dongle Pro+ is a software-defined radio (SDR) that fits into a 'USB key' and is part of AMSAT-UK's FUNcube satellite project. The FUNcube Dongle allows anyone to try his or her hand at reception of satellites like the FUNcube, due for launch in early 2013, as part of a global educational collaboration project collecting information from space., see: <http://funcube.org.uk/>
- Our February meeting presenter will be our very own **Martin Keefe (AA3A)** who will discuss the Motorola digital Mobile Radio system.
- Our March presenter will be **Alan Wolke (W2AEW)** who will put on a demonstration of using an oscilloscope to measure properties in a coaxial cable.

## MARC Info

[wb3joe@marc-radio.org](mailto:wb3joe@marc-radio.org)  
<http://www.marc-radio.org>

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS -

3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM)  
Community Meeting Room (in the front) of the  
Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building, 1100  
DuPortail Road, Berwyn, PA 19312-1079.  
Guests Welcome, Smoke Free, Handicapped-  
accessible.

### BOARD MEETINGS -

2nd Tuesdays of even months, 7:00 PM  
Paoli Hospital, Willistown Meeting Room, Paoli, PA.  
Members may attend as observers.

**WB3JOE REPEATERS (CTCSS or PL = 131.8 hz) -**  
145.130 - / 147.060 + / 147.360 + / 224.420 - / 224.5 -  
/445.675 - /444.050 -

The 145.13 and 147.06 2-meter repeaters are linked. The  
147.36 MHz, the 224.50 MHz and the 444.050 MHz  
repeaters are linked.

### WEBMASTER -

Dennis Silage K3DS  
[k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org) 610-353-4829

### 2-METER NETS -

Club Net, Sundays and Wednesdays, 8:30 PM  
Roundtable Net, Thursdays, 8:30 PM  
These nets occur on linked 145.13 - / 147.06 + Repeaters

### NET MANAGER -

Brenden McNeil W3VD  
[w3vd@marc-radio.org](mailto:w3vd@marc-radio.org) 302-319-3536

### NET CONTROL OPS -

Alan K3WWT, Bob N3JIZ, Steve N1HDP, Miguel  
KC2HMG, Yak N3MQM, Rob KB3WIR, Brenden W3VD,  
Mike WB2UQV and Bob WB3T

### DUES - Payable at the March Meeting

\$15 Full (licensed Amateurs)  
\$5 Associate (unlicensed persons)  
Family rate \$5/ham - after first member pays full  
dues

### NEWSLETTER -

The REMARCS editor is Steve WA2EAJ  
610-662-2768 [wa2ej@marc-radio.org](mailto:wa2ej@marc-radio.org)  
Do you have anything for REMARCS?  
Please let me know.



Don't forget the April meeting which will be our Annual Junque Auction with our own **Dennis Silage (K3DS)** as the auctioneer.

We continue to enjoy some good quality social time at our Saturday breakfasts. We meet on the second Saturday of the month at the Country Squire Diner, 2560 West Chester Pike, in Broomall. Please join us. Members, spouses and friends are all welcome.

Plans are underway for this year's Field Day (June 29-30) and Hamfest (July 7). We are always looking for volunteers to help set up and take down and participate in these events. Please plan to help us and enjoy the events.

Lastly, please note that our club secretary is now Tom Freeman (K3TF).

I am looking forward to seeing and working with all of you in 2013!!

73/Steve  
KD3WK  
President/ Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

## Upcoming General Membership Meetings

February 19, 2013, 7:30 PM - Motorola Digital Mobile Radio – Martin Keefe AA3A.

March 19, 2013, 7:30 PM – Using an Oscilloscope to Measure Coax Cables - Alan W2AEW (Rescheduled from January, 2013)

April 16, 2013, 7:30 PM – Annual Junque Auction. Proceeds to benefit MARC. See <http://www.marc-radio.org/news.htm#MARC%20Auction> for auction rules.

May 15, 2013, 7:30 PM – Meeting topic TBA

MARC usually meets the third Tuesday of the month in the Large Meeting Room (in the front) of the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building, 1100 DuPortail Road, Berwyn, PA 19312-1079. If unavoidable changes in the date or location of the MARC meeting is anticipated, the details will be announced on the Nets and posted on the Calendar.

Beginning at 7:30 PM and following a short round of introductions, announcements, Club reports and business, a lively technical program is provided. See the Calendar on the MARC website for details.

The schedule of Club meetings is interrupted in June because of Field Day and in December with a joyous MARC Holiday party. The current schedule of Club meetings and the topic of discussion is announced on the weekly MARC Nets.

## MARC Board of Directors 2011-2012

### PRESIDENT

Steven Werner KD3WK  
[kd3wk@marc-radio.org](mailto:kd3wk@marc-radio.org) 610-574-6836

### VICE PRESIDENT

Stephen Ikler WA2EAJ  
[wa2eaj@marc-radio.org](mailto:wa2eaj@marc-radio.org) 610-662-2768

### SECRETARY

Tom Freeman K3TF  
[k3tf@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3tf@marc-radio.org)

### TREASURER

Lou Ruh WX3I  
[wx3i@marc-radio.org](mailto:wx3i@marc-radio.org) 610-630-9146

### PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ  
[n3jiz@marc-radio.org](mailto:n3jiz@marc-radio.org) 610-687-4587

### TECHNICAL SERVICE

Dennis Silage K3DS  
[k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org) 610-353-4829

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Allan Glaser AB3FN  
[ab3fn@marc-radio.org](mailto:ab3fn@marc-radio.org) 610-687-0928

### PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Jim Biddle W3DCL  
[w3dcl@marc-radio.org](mailto:w3dcl@marc-radio.org) 610-353-0880

### PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Richard Russo KB3VZL  
[kb3vzl@marc-radio.org](mailto:kb3vzl@marc-radio.org) 610-539-2999

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2012 -  
Doug Wilkens NE3U  
[ne3u@marc-radio.org](mailto:ne3u@marc-radio.org) 610-692-6819

To 9/30/2013 -

Brenden McNeil W3VD  
[w3vd@marc-radio.org](mailto:w3vd@marc-radio.org) 302-319-3536

### CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

- WB3JOE  
[k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org) 610-353-4829  
Dennis Silage K3DS

- W3NWA  
[k3dk@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3dk@marc-radio.org) 610-489-1920  
Dieter Hauer K3DK

## From the Editor's Shack

Greetings from my warm and sunny winter QTH in Boynton Beach, Florida where it is 75 degrees today. Don't you just hate it when friends and relatives like to rub it in that their weather down south is better than yours? Me too! So I won't do it any more (this month).

After being an Advanced class operator for about 40 years I finally decided to upgrade my license. Luckily for me, one of the local ham clubs down here was starting an Amateur Extra license preparation class shortly after I would arrive in FL. The class was free, nearby and very comprehensive. It was scheduled to be for 3 hours a week for 12 weeks. How could I pass that up? So I started the class, purchased the new ARRL Extra manual, got my daughter to buy me a scientific calculator as a holiday gift and off I went. Half way through the course I noticed that the Laurel VE group was offering a free VE test session nearby. I decided to take the test just as a practice session to see how it went and then when I went to take the test for real I wouldn't be very nervous. I had studied some additional material from the ARRL manual and also started (but never finished) the Ham Test Online program on the Internet a year earlier (but that used a different question pool).

My expectations were not very high but I kept dreaming, "What if I did pass?" The night before the exam I was very nervous and didn't sleep much all night. I'm glad this was just for practice. The next day I arrived for the test and lo and behold, there were several hams there that I knew; both taking the test and some of the VEs. That helped me calm down a little. I took the test and I thought to myself, "this wasn't as bad as I had feared and I may have actually passed"! As you may know, the VE examiners grade the exam while you are there and let you know the results. I saw one of the VEs take my exam and began to grade it. I couldn't watch. I had to look away. Then someone tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Steve, you passed. Congratulations!" You could have scrapped me off the floor with a knife. I couldn't believe it. I'm really an Extra? Did I hear him right? Right until they gave me the CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination) I thought maybe it was all a joke. Even then, until I saw it on the FCC website, I didn't think it was real. But within a few days, there it was on their website – Stephen Ikler WA2EAJ, Amateur Extra. Wow, what a feeling.

Now I am facing the tough question about call signs. Do I change my amateur radio identity to something shorter, like a 1 X 2 or a 2 X 1 call sign, or do I keep my current call sign? After all, I have been WA2EAJ (and WN2EAJ) for 45 years now. It would be like changing my name from Steve to something else. And there's all that work to change everything from WA2EAJ to something else. I just got my WA2EAJ license plate and within the past year ordered new WA2EAJ QSL cards. My daughter, over the years, has given me several gifts with WA2EAJ printed on them. Surely she'll hate me if I change my call sign.

I love to participate in contests and that shorter call sure will help. DXing should be easier with a shorter call. It is very frustrating to call a station and after I'm done giving my call, the other station is in the middle of his reply to another station with a short call.

So I finally came to a decision. I would seek a new call sign. After all, that was one of my incentives for upgrading in the first place. I now have two separate applications on file with the FCC for a new vanity call sign. I'm in their waiting period so I won't know for a couple weeks or more. Good luck to me and I hope my daughter will understand.

73,

**Steve Ikler WA2EAJ (for now)**  
MARC VP and Newsletter Editor

P.S. No, I didn't go back to the class after I passed the exam. I'm really happy to have my Saturday mornings back for other activities like sunning, swimming, biking, walking outdoors, etc. OOPS, I promised I wouldn't do that again.

## VE Test Sessions

MARC provides VE Test Sessions quarterly on the first Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 0900 and hosted by the First Presbyterian Church, 113 East Airy Street (corner of Airy Street and Dekalb Street which is one-way US 202 North) in Norristown, PA. The VE Test Sessions are held in the Church and coordinated by **Bob Lees W3ZQN**. You can visit the MARC website for a detailed map that includes directions and parking instructions. **The next MARC VE Test Session will be on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at 9:00 AM.**

MARC VE Test Session Rules:

**YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THE VE TEST SESSION!** For more information or to register, please contact Bob Lees W3ZQN at [rjlees@aol.com](mailto:rjlees@aol.com). If you do not register in advance for the VE Test Session, you may find no one there to test you. Applicants should arrive no later than 9:15 AM. All applicants **MUST PRESENT EITHER A PHOTO ID OR TWO OTHER FORMS OF POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.** The test fee is \$15, preferably by a CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO ARRL/VEC. Those wishing to pay cash may do so but please bring EXACT CHANGE. MARC members can take one test per year for free!

Applicants already holding an amateur license must **BRING THE ORIGINAL OF THAT LICENSE PLUS A PHOTOCOPY OF IT.** Applicants holding a Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) for any examination element must **BRING THE ORIGINAL CSCE PLUS A PHOTOCOPY OF IT.** Applicants wishing to upgrade a Technician License held before 1987 must **BRING THE ORIGINAL PLUS A PHOTOCOPY OF THE DOCUMENT VERIFYING THE DATE OF THE ORIGINAL LICENSE.**

Please be aware of the following Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club policies concerning VE Test Sessions:



1 - We stop issuing exams at 11 AM. After that you will not be permitted to begin a new test.

2 - If you fail an element, we do not allow a retake of that element using another test version. However, if you are prepared to take the test for the next higher element, you may take that test. Passing a higher element without passing the lower one does not entitle you to the license associated with that higher element.

## BSA to Offer Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

From the ARRL  
01/18/2013

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has approved an Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for Scouts and Scouters to wear on their uniforms. According to BSA Communication Services Director Jim Wilson, K5ND, the strip recognizes the Scout or Scouter's availability as an Amateur Radio operator for communication services for events and activities, as well as emergencies. All registered youth members and adult leaders who also hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of any class are eligible to wear the rating strip.

"Last year, the BSA Awards and Insignia Committee introduced the Morse Code Interpreter Strip upon the recommendation of the BSA's National Radio Scouting Committee," Wilson told the ARRL. "We are always looking for ways to promote Amateur Radio, both within Scouting and to the world. The National Radio Scouting Committee thought this new Amateur Radio rating strip was a wonderful way to do exactly that, as it readily identifies to everyone that the wearer is a licensed radio amateur, prepared to be useful and to help others."

Wilson, who heads up the National Radio Scouting Committee, said that the Amateur Radio Operator rating strip is similar to the Amateur Radio Operator badge offered as a proficiency badge by Scouts Australia, as well as the badge recently introduced by Scouting Netherlands. It follows in the footsteps of the Scout Radioman personal interest badge for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts that was offered by the Boy Scouts of America in the 1940s. The strip is worn on the right sleeve.



## Postage Rates to Rise this Month

Beginning Sunday, January 27, it will cost more to mail first class letters, postcards and packages within the US. The cost to mail a first class letter will be 46 cents, while the cost to mail a postcard will be 33 cents, an increase of 1 cent for each. This is the third increase for postcard postage in less than two years. This month, the USPS will also introduce a First Class Mail Global Forever Stamp that will allow customers to mail 1-ounce letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10. The cost to mail flat-rate Priority Mail packages and letters will also increase.

## Hamfests and Contests

The following hamfests and contests will be held in the next two months.

### Hamfests

None available at this time.

### Contests

10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB  
0001Z, Feb 2 to 2359Z, Feb 3

Find Rules at:

<http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSO%20Party%20Rules.pdf>

EPC WW DX Contest  
1200Z, Feb 2 to 1200Z, Feb 3

Find Rules at:

[http://www.epcwwdx.srars.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=44:epc-ww-dx-contest-rules-2010&catid=34:contest-rules&Itemid=59](http://www.epcwwdx.srars.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44:epc-ww-dx-contest-rules-2010&catid=34:contest-rules&Itemid=59)

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest  
0000Z, Feb 9 to 2400Z, Feb 10

Find Rules at:

<http://www.cqwxrtty.com/rules.htm>

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW  
0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17

Find Rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

North American QSO Party, RTTY  
1800Z, Feb 23 to 0559Z, Feb 24

Find Rules at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB  
0000Z, Mar 2 to 2400Z, Mar 3

Find Rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB  
0000Z, Mar 30 to 2400Z, Mar 31

Find Rules at:

<http://www.cqwx.com/rules.htm>