



www.marc-radio.org
 P O Box 2154
 SOUTHEASTERN, PA
 19399-2154

REMARCS

July/August 2009

VOX

MARC welcomes **Marc Dulberg N3ZAN**. Marc has already done some of our nets on the MARC 2 meter repeaters and he is also a Volunteer Examiner!

Say it isn't so! **Bob WA3PZO** is no longer writing his monthly Public Service column for CQ magazine. We will definitely miss his wonderful articles that were published in CQ over the past decade plus. Thanks for all of your hard work Bob! Let there be no doubt that your articles have introduced many amateur radio operators to Emergency Communications and fostered a commitment to Public Service. This has helped our cause tremendously and helped to support amateur radio's existence.

See <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/May09Highlights.html>

Congratulations go out to **Steve N3LJZ** and other MARC members that assisted MontCo ARES/RACES a few weeks ago with communications and logistics, etc. for the 3rd annual Livestrong bicycle event that benefits cancer research. Steve was involved with this massive event and he is also the new Public Information Officer for MontCo ARES/RACES. Thousands of bicyclists pedaled their way through challenging routes in Montgomery, Berks and Chester county. This event was a major success and event officials and police were impressed again with the dedication and efficiency of the hams from MARC and other local clubs that assisted with this event.

A BIG thank you to our hamfest Chairman **Mike KF3CD** and ANRO Inc. for printing our hamfest flyers and tickets.

Thanks to **Harry W3FM** for generously donating all proceeds to MARC, from his equipment sales at the club table.

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VE AMATEUR TEST SESSION

MARC's VE Coordinator **Bob Lees W3ZQN** says that several candidates passed their exams at the last amateur test session, earlier on August 1st.

Technician Earned	1
General earned	1
Extra Earned	3
Passed an element but did not upgrade	0
Did not pass an element	0
Total Candidates Served	5
Total Elements Administered	5

The General was a paper upgrade of a Tech license, issued before 1987. So was one of the Extras who then went on to pass the extra exam.

The following Volunteer Examiners were present and assisted with the testing: **Bob W3ZQN, Marc N3ZAN, Paul NX3Q, Steve KD3WK, Walter WA3PPW** and **Sam KF3G**.

The next amateur test session will be held in Norristown on November 7th, 2009 and you must contact Bob W3ZQN to schedule for a test if you're interested. He may be reached at 610 265-6032 or RJLees@aol.com.

Current MARC Members are eligible for one free test session during their year of membership. See www.marc-radio.org for additional information.

MARC MEETINGS

September 15th – Introduction to QRP Transceiver Kit Building, by **Dennis Silage, K3DS**. Dennis will present on the techniques and strategy for building a low-power transceiver from a kit.

MARC will also conclude its annual election for the Board of Directors for 2009-2010.

October 20th – Introduction to QRP Kit Building – Part II, by **Dennis Silage K3DS**. This is a continuation regarding the September Kit Building presentation, but with actual hands-on participation and building of the QRP transceivers. Those that have decided to go the full route' and have purchased a kit, will be building theirs at this meeting. Others are invited to observe and maybe even assist.

FROM THE EDITOR'S SHACK

Recently, I went on a shopping trip to the local Staples store. I was looking for a decent webcam to connect to my computer and then, use it for communicating with friends and other hams.

When I explained my frustration to the sales person about locating a decent camera, he instinctively asked what I was using the camera for. So, I told him that I participate on an amateur radio net sometimes and that I'd like to use interactive video with my internet connection and show my station online.

Upon hearing this, his eyes lit up and he went on to explain that his wife's mother and father were missionaries in the jungles of Bolivia for the past 40 years. They are still in Bolivia, spreading the word of God and they rely solely on HF amateur radio for wireless email and voice communications back to the US.

He also told me that he and his wife speak with her parents frequently, via a ham operator in Ohio that performs a phone patch for them on HF – conditions permitting. I was enthralled to hear about this and asked him to describe the exchange that occurred when they would communicate. He smiled and told me that the voice conversation on SSB was in monologue format and accomplished using the term "over" so that the hams at each end would know when to key and unkey their transceivers. Yup, just as I thought.

Clearly, to them, amateur radio was a critical tool for safety, staying in touch and maintaining family relations. Other communications technology simply didn't exist or wouldn't work in that area of the globe that time forgot.

I thanked him for sharing this interesting and grounding story with me. I also wished him and his family all the best after describing the conditions that we hams face on the HF bands these days. He understood all too well.

After leaving with my purchase, I realized that my quest for a webcam didn't seem so important after all.

- 73 Dieter, K3DK

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS – WILL YOU HELP?

Our Public Service Chairman, **Bob Palin, N3JIZ** alerts us to the following upcoming Public Service Events that MARC provides communications for (see on right →).

The radio communications that MARC provides enables these events to run more safely and smoothly for all involved. It also promotes amateur radio and shows that we can provide assistance and value to our communities.

Assisting doesn't take much of your time and these events are well-organized and fun to work. If you can serve at just one event, that would help a lot.

MARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT

Dieter Hauer K3DK

k3dk@marc-radio.org 610-489-1920

VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Oswald W3DUB

w3dub@marc-radio.org 267-241-9067

SECRETARY

Sam Mitchell WA3LGL

wa3lgl@marc-radio.org 215-530-2151

TREASURER

Lou Ruh WX3I

wx3i@marc-radio.org 610-630-9146

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bob Palin N3JIZ

n3jiz@marc-radio.org 610-687-4587

TECHNICAL SERVICE

Dennis Silage K3DS

k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Jim Biddle W3DCL

w3dcl@marc-radio.org 610 353-0880

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2009 -

Miguel Ramirez KC2HMG

kc2hmg@marc-radio.org 856 534-8120

To 9/30/2010 -

Phil Cauffman KB3MAW

kb3maw@marc-radio.org 610 286-8961

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

- WB3JOE

Dennis Silage K3DS

k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

- W3NWA

Dieter Hauer K3DK

k3dk@marc-radio.org 610-489-1920

Bob is great to work with and can provide any information that you may need. Please contact Bob at 610 687-4587 if you would like to assist.

- 1. Penn Wynne Library 5 K Run – Oct. 10, Saturday**
 - Volunteers Assemble at: 8:00 AM
 - Location: Penn Wynne Library, Wynnewood
- 2. Radnor Run, Amer. Lung Assoc. – Oct. 25, Sunday**
 - Volunteers Assemble at: 7:00 AM
 - Location: Willows Park, Wayne
- 3. Vietnam Veterans 5 K Run – Nov. 15, Sunday**
 - Volunteers Assemble at: 8:30 AM
 - Location: Norristown Farm Park, Norristown

MARC Board Meeting Minutes August 11th, 2009

By Sam Mitchell – WA3LGL

Meeting started: 8:10 PM

Board members present: Dieter K3DK, Sam WA3LGL, Lou WX3I, Miguel KC2HMG, Bob N3JIZ and Jim W3DCL.

Field Day 2009 was moved to a new site for operation; the Lower Providence Fire Company in Eagleville, PA. The site proved to be a good location for FD 2009 and the weather was excellent. 25 Participants were on-site over the weekend and MARC operated as a 2-Alpha configuration.

Dieter K3DK submitted the Dupe Sheets, Bonus Point Info and all supporting documentation electronically to the ARRL by the due date. MARC's FD score was **1,464 points**. Dieter K3DK will send a thank you letter to Lower Providence Fire Dept. Thanks to our Field Day 2009 participants.

The **MARC Hamfest** was a success. Profit was somewhat better than last year, and attendance was about the same, but there were fewer sellers. Profit was: **\$2814.05**.

Note: Some sellers at the club table were generous with their donations to MARC – especially Harry W3FM. Thanks to MARC volunteers that assisted with set up and operations for hamfest 2009.

The **Kimberton Fair** was also a success in that MARC was able to get enough volunteers to assist the Fire Company and they were pleased with our assistance. Consequently, the Fire Co. once again waived the \$900 rental fee concerning our Hamfest. Thanks to our volunteers for their time and efforts.

There was no **General membership meeting** in June due to the Field Day event. The July meeting was a follow up meeting regarding the new Field Day site and was hosted by **Dieter K3DK** as a presentation and open discussion with Q & A and some slides that were supplied by: **Lou WX3I** and **Dennis KA3QOT**.

The upcoming membership meeting will be held on August 18th & will be a DXpedition video of AH1A, Howland Island in the Pacific, circa 1993.

The upcoming September and October meetings will be centered on QRP Kit Building and will be hosted by **Dennis Silage K3DS**. This will be an interactive meeting that will result with some participants hopefully building the QRP kits that Dennis will be discussing and mentoring on.

The November meeting is TBD and December is MARC's annual holiday party.

The issue of hosting programs for General membership meetings is a challenge because the Program Chairman position remains unfilled. Anyone that has an interesting presentation or knows an individual or expert that can present an interesting topic at a MARC meeting is encouraged to notify the MARC Board.

MARC has an **upcoming election** that is to be concluded at the September 15th General membership meeting. Any club member that is eligible and interested is encouraged to run for any of the listed positions and should notify the MARC Board by August 18th.

This announcement was made via the REMARCS newsletter, in early July. So far, **Steve Werner KD3WK** has stepped forward and expressed an interest in running for the Member-at-Large position.

MARC Treasurer Lou WX3I reports that the current balance in the MARC checking account is: **\$14,581.13** as of July 31, 2009. All bills are current.

The **MARC Board** determined what inscription must be made to the memorial brick, in honor of member **Robert H. Haase W3SA** (SK). Then, this brick will be inscribed and installed at the ARRL Diamond Terrace in Newington, CT in perpetuity.

Generous monetary donations were made to MARC in honor of silent keys; **Robert Haase - W3SA** and **Dick Thompson - K3IIN**, by their families. We are grateful for these donations.

MARC has another new member and VE as well; welcome to **Marc Dulberg, N3ZAN**.

The **email distribution lists** for announcements and REMARCS must be updated with any new members. Non-renewing members must be removed from the lists. **Dieter K3DK** will check with **Lou WX3I** regarding the current status of MARCs membership roster.

Dieter K3DK is also updating the MARC phone list that will be distributed (internally) to the membership.

Bob Lees W3ZQN reported that the recent amateur test session that was held earlier on August 1st resulted in several attendees passing their tests. One Technician, one General and three Extra class licenses were granted.

MARC member, **Mike Pilotti KF3CD** reports to the MARC Board that there is a public service event – Mainline Chamber of Commerce 5K Run & Fun Walk in Wayne, PA - that he was informed of that may need MARC's assistance regarding communications and safety. Dieter K3DK recently received this information from Mike and presented it to the MARC Board and the **Public Service Chairman Bob N3JIZ** for examination and consideration.

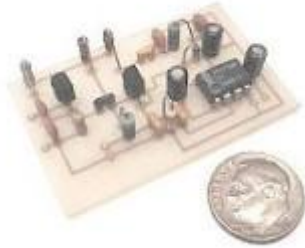
MARC's storage locker has been moved to the new location, effective this past June, as designated by our landlord' SpaceMall, in Oaks, PA. It is located on Brower Avenue – across from Center Ice and the storage locker number is #625. MARC property concerning Field Day Items, Hamfest and the Memorial Day Parade (signage) is located inside this storage shed.

Meeting ended: 9:35 PM

September 15th QRP Transceiver Homebrew Night!

By Dennis Silage, K3DS

At the September 15th Club Meeting we'll have a "prequel" of the homebrew construction night hosted by Dennis Silage K3DS! The simple Pixie 2 QRP transmitter is a small, direct conversion CW transceiver using just a handful of common parts. A trip to Radio Shack will get you connectors and an enclosure to complete the kit. Dennis will have an unassembled and an assembled Pixie 2 at the meeting and will describe the construction techniques and will explain the electronic circuitry.



The Pixie 2 is an HF CW transceiver, with a transistor transmitter with a Colpitts oscillator power amplifier (PA). Depending on the PA chosen, RF power outputs of between 100mW and 500mW can be achieved. The only components which are critical are in the TX PA output, so modifying for different bands can be done. On receive, the TX PA is used as an RF mixer which feeds the LM386 IC audio amplifier. This is a "bare bones" transceiver but more components can be added as an offset for the crystal and volume control for the audio.



standard two and a keyed device and 500mW are band

Club Members who want to actively participate in the actual hands-on homebrew night should email Dennis K3DS@arrl.net by October 1st or come to the September 15th Club Meeting to pre-order a kit. The Pixie 2 kit costs only \$9.95 (plus shipping) and typical QRP crystals for either 3.579, 7.040, 10.106 or 14.060 MHz are extra but cost approximately \$4.00 each. Payment would be due at the October 20th Club Meeting which is the homebrew construction night. Dennis will provide soldering stations, solder, tools and advice for the hands-on QRP transceiver homebrewing.

FCC to Utilities: Don't Look to Hams to Pay for Your Testing

From ARRL HQ – August 27, 2009

In a case that goes back more than 10 years, the [FCC has told a Pennsylvania utility](#) that the utility is responsible for paying for "efforts to locate and correct instances of [power line] noise." At least one amateur has been complaining to the FCC since 2000 regarding harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment that is maintained by Pittsburgh's Duquesne Light Company ([DLC](#)).

Bob Thacker, K3GT, of Allison Park, Pennsylvania -- a suburb just northeast of Pittsburgh -- first noticed harmful interference back in 1996. He told the ARRL that DLC would come out and fix things, but that he would soon hear noise again. After a few years of this, he complained to the FCC, and in 2005, the FCC notified DLC of the complaint. A month later, DLC responded to the FCC, detailing their efforts to resolve the matter and indicated that the most recent complaint was the result of changed conditions, not the continuation of an old problem.

According to the FCC, DLC again communicated with the FCC in a letter dated June 2, 2005, explaining the efforts they had taken to repair three lightning arrestors. During the latter half of 2005 and into 2006, Thacker continued to experience interference and continued to report these instances to DLC, requesting that DLC correct the problems. In 2007, he located a specific pole as one source of noise and advised a Mr Luther of DLC of this fact; Mr Luther advised Thacker that he would submit a work order.

In March 2008, DLC contacted Thacker, indicating that it had swept the area where suspected pole was located and discovered no noise. Rather, DLC indicated that the noise source was a neon light. Finally, DLC stated that it had spent "significant amounts of time and money" attempting to address his concerns and that DLC would require him to pay for any additional efforts to locate and correct instances of noise.

Special Counsel of Amateur Enforcement Laura Smith responded to DLC in July of this year, saying "Such a response is not acceptable," spelling out what she called "the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators," specifically:

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MARC INFO

wb3joe@marc-radio.org
<http://www.marc-radio.org>

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS -

3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 PM
Tredyffrin Twp. Bldg.
Berwyn, PA – Guests Welcome
Smoke Free, Handicapped-accessible.

BOARD MEETINGS -

2nd Tuesdays of even months, 7:30 PM
Paoli Hospital, Willistown Meeting Room
Members may attend as observers.

WB3JOE REPEATERS (CTCSS or PL = 131.8 hz) -

145.130 - / 147.060 + / 224.420 - / 445.675 -
The 2 meter repeaters are linked.

WEBMASTERS -

Foster Schucker K3FXS
k3fxs@marc-radio.org 302-363-7347
Dennis Silage K3DS
k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

2 METER NETS -

Club Net, Sunday, 8:30 PM
Traffic Net, Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 PM
Roundtable, Thursdays, 8:30 PM

These nets occur on linked 145.13 - R / 147.06 + R

NET MANAGER –

Sam Mitchell WA3LGL
wa3lgl@marc-radio.org 215-530-2151

DUES -

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

NEWSLETTER -

The REMARCS editor is Dieter K3DK
610-489-1920 k3dk@marc-radio.org
Do you have anything for REMARCS?
Please let me know.



Post Hamfest – (l-r) Bob N3JIZ, Lou WX3I & Carter N3AO (Ned WQ3Z not shown) stayed behind to clean up the hamfest facilities and lock the doors.

2009 MARC Hamfest

MARC concluded its annual hamfest on July 12th and it was a success once again. Our Hamfest Chairman **Mike Pilotti, KF3CD** says thanks to those that helped out with set up and running of the hamfest. Below is a listing of our expenses, income and profit. **K3JCS** won the Yaesu FT-60R HT.

Hamfest Expenses:

1. Yaesu FT-60R Handie Talkie \$189.95
2. HRO Gift Certificate \$50.00
3. PA System hookup \$120.00
4. Drinks & Ice \$17.47
5. Marking Paint \$8.36
6. Rental of Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds \$00.00 *

Total Expenses: \$385.78

Hamfest Income:

1. From - ticket sales, tailgate spaces & table rentals \$3114.00
2. From – MARC Club Table member equipment sales (donated) \$85.83

Total Income: \$3199.83 **PROFIT = \$2814.05**

* \$900.00 Rental fee waived for Kimberton Fire Co. Fair Grounds since MARC assisted with the Kimberton Fair.



Some prospective buyers sifting through the goodies for sale by Radio Oasis at the MARC Hamfest.

FCC to Utilities: Ct'd (from page 4)

[47 CFR, Section 15.5: General Conditions of Operation](#)

(b) Operation of an intentional, unintentional, or incidental radiator is subject to the conditions that no harmful interference is caused and that interference must be accepted that may be caused by the operation of an authorized radio station, by another intentional or unintentional radiator, by industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) equipment, or by an incidental radiator. (c) The operator of the radio frequency device shall be required to cease operating the device upon notification by a Commission representative that the device is causing harmful interference. Operation shall not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected.

[47 CFR, Section 15.13: Incidental Radiators](#)

Manufacturers of these devices shall employ good engineering practices to minimize the risk of harmful interference.

[47 CFR Section 15.15: General Technical Requirements](#)

(c) Parties responsible for equipment compliance should note that the limits specified in this part will not prevent harmful interference under all circumstances. Since the operators of Part 15 devices are required to cease operation should harmful interference occur to authorized users of the radio frequency spectrum, the parties responsible for equipment compliance are encouraged to employ the minimum field strength necessary for communications, to provide greater attenuation of unwanted emissions than required by these regulations, and to advise the user as to how to resolve harmful interference problems.

"Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and DLC has had ample time to locate the instances of interference and make the necessary repairs," Smith told the utility, "you are directed to respond to [me] within 60 days of receipt of this letter, detailing what steps you have taken to resolve the remaining instances of interference that are reported as being caused by your equipment. Should the remaining interference problems not be resolved within those 60 days, DLC will be required to provide [me] with a status update every two weeks going forward as to what progress, if any, has been made to resolve the matter."

ARRL Lab Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG, was pleased with Smith's decision, and said that amateurs should not be made to pay fees to the utilities to test for harmful interference by the same utilities. "It is not the responsibility of an Amateur Radio operator to track down and get rid of power line noise -- that's the utilities' job. I am pleased with the precedent that Laura Smith and the FCC have set here. Now maybe more utilities will take power line noise interference more seriously in the future."

2009 Kimberton Fair (see page 7 too!)

These MARC members & friends assisted the Kimberton Fire Company with ticket sales and collections for parking donations: Miguel KC2HMG, Phil KB3MAW, Dennis KA3QOT, Allan AB3FN, Josy WQ3E, Dieter K3DK, Steve KD3WK, Ron W3ZV, Lou WX3I, Bob W3ZQN, Mike KF3CD, Dominic Pilotti, Anthony Pilotti, Kevin Roussey, Ned WQ3Z, Lisa Fondot, Scott KB3RBU, Dana Pilotti, Wil K3WIL, Tom KB3TQS, Sam WA3LGL, Bill KN3EUF, Bob N3JIZ, Bill N3NUL & Andrew KA2DDO. Some worked more than one shift. The fire company appreciated MARC's help.



(l-r) Miguel KC2HMG, Pam and Allan AB3FN



(l-r) Steve KD3WK and Lou WX3I



(l-r) Scott KB3RBU & Dana (daughter)

MORE PICTURES FROM THE 2009 KIMBERTON FAIR



Pocket



Change



Remover!



MARC Volunteers: Josy WQ3E



Andrew KA2DDO



(l-r) Bob W3ZQN and Ron W3ZV

N - O C - O - N - T - A - C - T !

Sorry, no one sent in any logging information for C - O - N - T - A - C - T !. However, if you work some new DX on HF, from August 16th - October 15th, please be sure to send your contact information (limit - 2 contacts/ham) to Dieter K3DK at k3dk@marc-radio.org or 610 489-1920 by October 20th. CQ CQ CQ DX...

Name - Callsign	Date	Time (UTC)	DX Station Worked	Signal (RST)	Band	Mode	Power	Antenna	Location

**Mid-Atlantic ARC
P O Box 2154
Southeastern, PA 19399-2154**