



www.marc-radio.org
 P.O. BOX 557
 EAGLEVILLE, PA
 19408

REMARCS

Next Meeting: Nov 15, 2011 at 7:30 PM

Nov/Dec 2011

Stability Highlights 2011-2012 MARC Elections



The MARC Officer and Board election was concluded at the September General Membership meeting on September 20, 2011. **Miguel Ramirez KC2HMG** (Election Chairman) and **Steve Ikler WA2EAJ** (MARC VP) counted the email ballots and last minute paper ballots. Twenty-seven ballots were cast. The results are listed below.

Position	Board Member
President	Steve Werner KD3WK
Vice President	Steve Ikler WA2EAJ
Secretary	John Callahan KB3MPO
Treasurer	Lou Ruh WX3I
Public Services Chair.	Bob Palin N3JIZ
Technical Services Chair.	Dennis Silage K3DS
Program Chair.	Rich Russo KB3VZL
Public Relations Chair.	Jim Biddle W3DCL
Membership Services Chair.	Allan Glaser AB3FN
Member-at-Large (2011-2013)	Brenden McNeil W3VD

Also on the board are:

Position	Board Member
Member-at-Large (2010-2012)	Doug Wilkens NE3U
Callsign Trustee W3NWA	Dieter Hauer K3DK
Callsign Trustee WB3JOE	Dennis Silage K3DS

For the first time in quite a while we have all Board positions filled. All incumbents who chose to remain on the Board were re-elected. Sincere thanks to **Gerry W3GER** our outgoing Club Secretary and to **Miguel KC2HMG** our outgoing member at large – their service to the Board and valuable input were appreciated. Welcome to our new Board members – **Brenden McNeil W3VD** who will serve a two year term as Member-at-Large, **John Callahan KB3MPO** our new Secretary and **Rich Russo KB3VZL** our new Program Chair.



Front l-r: John KB3MPO, Steve KD3WK, Steve WA2EAJ, Doug NE3U
 Rear l-r: Brenden W3VD, Rich KB3VZL, Miguel KC2HMG, Allan AB3FN, Bob N3JIZ
 Absent from picture: Dennis K3DS, Dieter K3DK, Lou WX3I, Jim W3DCL

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VOX

Congratulations to **Brenden McNeil W3VD** on being named the new MARC Net Control Manager succeeding **Miguel Ramirez KC2HMG**. MARC thanks Miguel for a job well done over the past two years.

At last year's Penn Wynne public service event, **Floyd KA3OXA** donated several boxes of ham radio and related items (ham, General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), CB, scanner, etc.) to the club. **Bob N3JIZ** boxed the items and some were sold at the club auction and the remainder was sold at the club hamfest table. About 41 separate "lots" were sold. Unfortunately, an accurate record of the value of Floyd's items was not kept but we estimate the value to be around \$400-\$600. All proceeds were donated to MARC. This makes for a very generous donation by Floyd to the club. MARC thanks Floyd for his generous donation and to Bob N3JIZ for his work in organizing and selling the items.

MARC Holiday Party

MARC will hold its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at noon at Uno Chicago Grill, 3910 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073 (same site as last year). The party will be held in place of the regular December monthly meeting. The cost for MARC members will be \$10 and for non-member friends it will be \$20. The Uno Grill provides us with a separate dining room with a fireplace and a flat screen TV for a college football game. Club members will be treated to a three-course luncheon with individual appetizer, entree and dessert.

You can sign-up for this gala event at the November Club meeting on November 15, 2011 or by contacting Dennis K3DS 'on-the-air' or via email at k3ds@marc-radio.org.

Upcoming MARC Meetings

November 15, 2011 – Home-Brew Night

December 10, 2011 – 11:00 AM Special MARC Board Meeting at Uno Chicago Grill, Newtown Square

December 10, 2011 – Noon - MARC Holiday Party at Uno Chicago Grill, Newtown Square

January 17, 2012 – Program TBD

February 21, 2012 – "Power Amplifiers for Ham Radio" by Bob Caverly WB4PWZ (Tentative)

MARC usually meets the third Tuesday of the month in the Community 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 MARC website.

Beginning at 1930 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.

MARC Info

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

WEBMASTER -

Dennis Silage K3DS
k3ds@marc-radio.org 610-353-4829

2-METER NETS -

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

NET MANAGER -

Brenden McNeil W3VD
w3vd@marc-radio.org 302-276-5742

NET CONTROL OPS -

Alan K3WWT, Bob N3JIZ, Steve N1HDP, Miguel KC2HMG, Brenden W3VD and Yak N3MQM

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 wa2eaj@marc-radio.org
Do you have anything for REMARCS?
Please let me know.

Letter From the MARC President

Dear Fellow MARC Members:

Thanks to all who voted in our recent election and my sincere appreciation to all who served on the Board this past year. Welcome back to returning Board members and welcome to our new members. I'm proud to be a returning member to the Board and I look forward to serving another year to help keep MARC a vibrant organization. The Board has continued to look for ways to provide meaningful and relevant activities for our members. Starting in September we initiated a monthly breakfast get together. These take place on the second Saturday of the month, 9 AM at the Country Squire in Broomall. This is purely a social event and all members, family and guests are invited. Please join us.

We have had some very interesting technical programs at our recent club meetings. In September, **Joe Fell W3GMS** presented a program on AM amateur radio and in October we had a presentation by **Phil Theis K3TUF** presenting on Software Defined Radio (SDR). Future presentations will include Linear Power Amplifiers and Home Brew Equipment. Our annual Holiday Party has been scheduled for noon on December 10, 2011 at Uno Chicago Grill in Newtown Square.



Joe Fell W3GMS



Phil Theis K3TUF

Brenden McNeil (W3VD) has taken over as our Net Control Manager. Please consider assisting Brenden with his duties. The '06 repeater will soon be upgraded with a new antenna and amplifier.

Please feel free to contact me or any other member of the Board if you have any suggestions for how to further improve our Club and better serve your interests in amateur radio.

**73/Steve
KD3WK**

President/Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

MARC Board of Directors 2011-2012

PRESIDENT

Steven Werner KD3WK

kd3wk@marc-radio.org 610-574-6836

VICE PRESIDENT

Stephen Ikler WA2EAJ

wa2eaj@marc-radio.org 610-662-2768

SECRETARY

John Callahan KB3MPO

kb3mpo@marc-radio.org 610-291-6976

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

Allan Glaser AB3FN

ab3fn@marc-radio.org 610-687-0928

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Jim Biddle W3DCL

w3dcl@marc-radio.org 610-353-0880

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Richard Russo KB3VZL

kb3vzl@marc-radio.org 610-539-2999

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

To 9/30/2012 -

Doug Wilkens NE3U

ne3u@marc-radio.org 610-692-6819

To 9/30/2013 -

Brenden McNeil W3VD

w3vd@marc-radio.org 302-276-5742

CALLSIGN TRUSTEES

- WB3JOE

Dennis Silage K3DS

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

- W3NWA

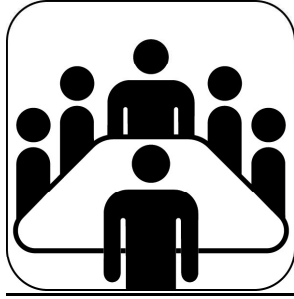
Dieter Hauer K3DK

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

Board Meeting Minutes

MARC Board Meeting

October 11, 2011



Board Members Present:

KD3WK Steve Werner
WA2EAJ Steve Ikler
N3JIZ Bob Palin
W3VD Brenden McNeil
K3DS Dennis Silage
K3DK Dieter Hauer
KB3MPO John Callahan
KB3VDL Richard Russo
AB3FN Alan Glaser
NE3U Doug Wilkens
W3DCL Jim Biddle

Board Members Absent

WX3I Lou Ruh

President **Steve KD3WK** called the meeting to order 7:05 PM.

Minutes from August 9, 2011 were approved.

Repeater 147.06MHZ Progress

New repeater hardware has been procured but not installed yet.

Treasurer's Report was not presented.

President **Steve KD3WK** will contact **Lou WX3I** for a written report.

Program is not settled for General Meeting of November 15, 2011.

Dennis K3DS will pursue a potential presenter at Villanova University to present High Power RF for MRI system.

Program for October meeting is OK.

Phil Theis K3TUF will present "Software Defined Radio and the Flex Radio" at the October 18, 2011 general meeting.

PA QSO Party

Members will be notified at the October 18, 2011 General Meeting to send their name, callsign, and Total Score via email to **Dennis K3DS** (k3ds@marc-radio.org) by the November 1 deadline for our internal club competition. Individual Award certificates for the top 5 MARC scores will be given out at the November 15 general meeting.

Corporate Entity

Steve KD3WK arranged for pro-bono legal counsel.

Issue 1:

Two EIN numbers are currently associated with MARC. The first EIN was taken out before MARC was incorporated. The second EIN number is on record with the IRS. **Steve KD3WK** will verify which EIN is on the club bank account.

Issue 2:

Legal counsel recommends the club re-file the articles of incorporation to reinstate the 501 c 4 status to prevent any tax obligations. There will be a \$70 fee to file, and a \$40 fee to obtain copies of the existing files on record with Commonwealth of PA. There is a distinction between the FCC license trustee and the club home address. P.O. Box address is not allowed; **Steve KD3WK** will submit his home address as the current club address.

Issue #3:

The board made and passed a formal resolution to adopt by-laws by members of the board.

Membership

Alan AB3FN reported progress to reenlist about 5 members.

Hamfest 2011

Resolution was approved to reimburse the Kimberton Fire Company \$100.

Public Service Events:

Issue #1:

Steve WA2EAJ raised issue to establish a formal safety policy pertaining to lightning during public service events.

Issue #2:

Increase involvement of club members in public service events.

Jim W3DCL volunteered to promote MARC public service events in the Marple-Newtown ARC newsletter.

Breakfast:

The board is considering keeping the location at Country Squire Restaurant on Rt 3, Broomall, PA.

NETS:

Brendan W3VD has revised the preamble content and will establish a New Net Controller email distribution list for announcements and future preamble updates.

Jim W3DCL raised the issue of having a formal Net Controller job description.

Steve WA2EAJ suggested moving the NETS to 8PM.

Holiday Party:

Dennis K3DS will follow-up with Uno's (Newtown Square) for availability.

The proposed date 1st Saturday in Dec. 12pm

There will be no breakfast meeting in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Submitted by **John Callahan KB3MPO**
MARC Secretary

From the Editor's Shack

The ARRL is currently conducting an election for the Atlantic Division Director. Pennsylvania is part of their Atlantic Division. The incumbent, Bill Edgar N3LLR, ran unopposed in the last election year (2008) so there was no formal election. This year, two candidates filed petitions to run against Bill for the Atlantic Division Director. Last month, one of those candidates contacted me by email asking to have a statement about his candidacy published in this newsletter. Since we have no policy about publishing such political statements, we declined his request but offered an alternative. MARC extended an invitation to all three candidates to come to our October General Membership Meeting to speak directly to our members. The invitation to the candidates included an offer for the candidate to supply a written statement that would be read to the members at the meeting if the candidate could not attend in person. Phil Theis K3TUF accepted the offer and also agreed to give a presentation on Software Defined Radios and Flex Radios. Phil gave an excellent presentation and was allowed some time to talk about his candidacy. Incumbent Bill Edgar N3LLR was unable to attend the meeting in person but did supply a written statement that was read to the members at our October meeting. The third candidate, John Mueller K2BT, did not reply to emails I sent to two different email addresses so no statement was read on his behalf.

All ARRL members living in the Atlantic Division are eligible to vote in this election. Paper ballots with voting instructions were snail-mailed to ARRL members earlier in October. I believe the deadline to return the ballot was mid-November so if you received your ballot and have not sent it back yet, you should do so right away.

In future issues of REMARCS there will be a regular feature profiling a different MARC member. It will include background information, any interesting stories, and photos. If you would like to volunteer to be highlighted in a future REMARCS, please let me know at wa2ej@marc-radio.org.

Have you noticed the increased activity on the higher HF bands lately? Openings on the 15 and 10 meter bands have been quite regular. This is happening just in time for a few big on-air operating events. The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest is happening the weekend of October 29-30, 2011. Even if you're not into contesting, there should be a lot of DX stations on and you should be able to contact them with modest stations and antennas. Maybe you can increase your DX totals and perhaps find that elusive DX you've been looking for. The CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest is the weekend of November 26-27 so you'll have another opportunity then. The ARRL 10-Meter Contest will be held the weekend of December 10-11. There is a lot of space on 10 meters so conditions shouldn't be as crowded as on other bands.

Good luck and have fun!

73, Steve **WA2EAJ**
REMARCS Editor

Message from Net Control Manager, Brenden McNeil W3VD

For those who are unaware, **Miguel, KC2HMG**, has passed down the position of Net Control Manger to me, W3VD. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Miguel for all of his hard work and devotion to the MARC club over the years. It is my personal opinion that MARC has the best 2m nets of any club or repeater in the Delaware Valley area. The club needs your help to continue the tradition.

We currently have two Members and Friends nets a week. One is on Sunday and the other on Wednesday, and both at 8:30 PM local time. We also have a Round Table Chit-Chat net on the last Thursday of the month, also at 8:30 PM local time. Over the past year, we have been getting between 5 and 15 check-ins on a typical net. Compared to some other 2m nets in the area, this is very respectable and we are proud of what we have. We should not become complacent in our position, but rather strive to continually improve.

First, if you haven't been a regular check in lately, please allow me to invite you back! We really do want to hear from you, even if it's only to check-in and say hello. Every single check-in is important to us, and helps to make the repeater system a more lively and inviting place for everybody. The nets also help to foster fellowship and a sense of community between MARC and local hams, which is very important for the hobby.

Second, I'd like to solicit suggestions from the membership regarding how they think the nets could be improved. Some current ideas on the table are:

1. Move net start time from 8:30PM to 8:00PM
2. Add a "swap shop" feature perhaps one day a week to allow non-commercial sellers and buyers to advertise their amateur radio related equipment for sale. (Details TBD)
3. New net topics
4. Start a HF net in addition to the 2m net (band, day, time, details, TBD)

I want to hear everybody's thoughts on the above, in addition to any other suggestions they may have. Don't be afraid to brainstorm. Please email bkm.w3vd@gmail.com with your thoughts.

Third, if you have any announcements you would like to have read on the net, email them to me and I will get them to the net control operators.

Finally, we are also looking for more net control operators. We've had to make some cutbacks on the amount of nets, specifically the Thursday night round table chit-chat net, because we don't have enough operators. We want to expand our nets instead of reducing them. Personally, I always look forward to running the net. It is both a fun and rewarding experience. I hope you'll consider joining the team!

2m Net Control Operator Job Description

Requirements:

1. Hold an FCC amateur radio license of any class
2. Be a MARC member
3. Have a good signal into the repeater
4. Be willing to commit to one day a month

As net control operator you will be responsible for:

1. Starting the net at the appropriate day/time
2. Reading a preamble, announcements, and closing statement
3. Maintaining a log of check-ins
4. Direct stations when it is their turn for comments
5. Strive to maintain a happy and welcoming atmosphere during the net
6. Operate in accordance with FCC rules and standard Amateur practice

If you have any questions or concerns about being a net control operator, or want to sign up, please email me, pick up the telephone, or call for me on the repeater. I look forward to hearing everyone on the MARC nets!

73,
Brenden McNeil, W3VD
MARC Member-at-Large
MARC Net Control Manager
bkm.w3vd@gmail.com
302-276-5742

2011 Pennsylvania QSO Party



The 2011 Pennsylvania QSO Party was held on October 8 and 9. Club members were encouraged to participate in the contest so that MARC would be included in the statewide club competition and be considered for our internal club competition. If you did participate, please be sure to submit your score to the Nittany Amateur Radio Club (contest sponsor) on the Official Summary and Score Sheet. On that same Summary Sheet make sure to enter "Mid-Atlantic ARC" for your PA Club Affiliation.

A special MARC certificate will be given to the top five scoring MARC members. So besides helping the overall club score, you are also competing against other MARC members for a certificate. For the internal club competition send an email to **Dennis K3DS** at k3ds@marc-radio.org with your name, callsign and total score. This should be done by the November 1, 2011 deadline. The certificates will be awarded at the November general membership meeting on November 15, 2011.

For more information and rules, see: 2011 PA QSO Party at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html>.

Monthly Breakfast Get-Togethers



The first MARC Breakfast Get-Together was held on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at Ray's Restaurant and Malt Shop on Germantown Pike, Norristown and was a big success. The event was attended by **Brenden W3VD, Doug NE3U, Bob W3ZQN, John KB3MPO, Rich KB3VZL, Charlie KC3DS, and Steve KD3WK.**

These non-business meetings are designed to promote some additional camaraderie amongst our members. All members and friends are invited to attend. At a recent membership meeting, it was decided to have these breakfasts on the second Saturday of each month at 9 AM.

The second breakfast was held on October 8, 2011 at the Country Squire Restaurant at 2560 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA. Eight members and friends attended this breakfast and they felt that this location was preferable to Ray's where last month's breakfast was held. It looks like the Country Squire will become the 'regular' spot for future breakfasts.



Clockwise, starting from the left: Steve KD3WK, Doug NE3U, Jim K3RTU, Jim W3DCL, John KB3MPO, Brenden W3VD, Brandon KB3VYD and Dennis K3DS

Our next scheduled breakfast is on November 12, 2011 at 9:00 AM at the Country Squire Restaurant. **Steve Werner KD3WK** would like to let the restaurant know how many folks to expect. Please let Steve know if you are planning to attend. You can contact Steve at kd3wk@marc-radio.org or 610-574-6836.

We hope to see you on the 12th!

MARC Celebrates 35 Years of Serving Amateur Community

MARC was created in November 1976 by a group of hams using the privately owned **WR3ABZ** 147.06 repeater, then located at Villanova University. The club's first president was **Pete Essl K3ZFG**, now a Silent Key. The newsletter, "Radnor Repeater News," started publishing in December and was edited by **Bob WA3PZO**. Those who were at the organizational meeting in November and/or the first membership meeting the following month were **Bob WA3PZO**, **AI N3EA** (ex-**W3DZI**), **Joe W3JDR** (ex-**WA3CMQ**) and one of the repeater owners along with **Joe DeCourcelle K3OBU**, **Marlene WA3UOC** (first secretary), **Bill W3YSZ** (first technical chairman and second president), **Don WB3AYT**, and **Carl WA3ZZU**.

The club has changed a great deal since its founding, evolving from a repeater users' group into a general-interest Amateur Radio club. A lot has changed in Amateur Radio and in MARC over the past 35 years. What has remained the same is MARC's essential friendliness. No matter what your license class, no matter what you like to do in ham radio, MARC is a good place to call your home in ham radio. (Reprinted with some changes from an article in the Nov 1976 REMARCS edited by **Kay Craigie N3KN**)

A Brief History of MARC and the Origin of MARC Callsigns

By **AI Maslin N3EA**

Prior to the founding of MARC in the mid-1970's there was a group who "inhabited" the 147.060 MHz repeater, which was then located in Villanova on the campus of Villanova University. The repeater itself was home built and run by **Joe DeCourcelle, K3OBU** and **Joe Rocci, WA3CMQ** (now **W3JDR**). MARC was not a club yet; just a group of hams that used that repeater as it had great coverage.

After a time, **Joe K3OBU** and **Joe WA3CMQ** contacted some of the "regulars" on the repeater and suggested that they form a club and that 147.060 Mhz would be the club repeater still owned and maintained by them. They held a few meetings at least one of which was at the home of **AI Maslin (now N3EA)** in Northeast Philadelphia. They decided to start a club as had been suggested and eventually selected the **Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** for their name. A short time later **Joe K3OBU** and **Joe WA3CMQ** decided that they would like the club to take over the repeater completely as they had some joint business venture in mind and just wouldn't have the time to take care of the club repeater. An agreement was reached and it was decided that the club would be given the repeater.

The repeater was a prototype and the company that **Joe K3OBU** and **Joe WA3CMQ** started was Spectrum Communications (SpecCom) that manufactured repeaters and

radios for many years. The club decided to appoint a trustee and apply to the FCC for a club call sign. **AI N3EA** volunteered for the job. He filled out the appropriate form and mailed it to the FCC. You can imagine the surprise of everyone when the license arrived and MARC was assigned **WB3JOE!** No, not named after **Joe K3OBU** or **Joe WA3CMQ** but it sure looked like that. It was quite random; there were no vanity call signs or even a way to request one in those days.

Bob Young, who was a long time member of MARC, originally held the call sign **W3NWA**. Bob was a very nice gentleman and was involved with many activities that MARC sponsored. After Bob became a Silent Key it was decided to apply for his call in memoriam as an additional club call in honor of all he did for the club.

The following text was on the QSL card for **W3NWA** after MARC took it over:

Bob Young W3NWA (SK) was a founding member of our club. Known as "Everybody's Elmer," Bob was an example of everything that a ham should be. It is MARC's privilege to return his callsign to the Amateur bands.

MARC Past Presidents

1977	Peter Essl K3ZFG (SK)	1995	Tom Porett N3JMA
1978	Bill Scholz W3YSZ	1996	Bob Lees W3ZQN
1979	Peter Essl K3ZFG (SK)	1997	Bob Lees W3ZQN
1980	John Bartholomew WB3ELA (SK)	1998	Tom Porett N3JMA
1981	Don Schuenemann WB3AYT	1999	Tom Porett N3JMA
1982	Jeff Ollis WB3KNB	2000	Steve Maslin N3ORH
1983	AI Maslin N3EA	2001	Steve Maslin N3ORH
1984	AI Maslin N3EA	2002	Steve Maslin N3ORH
1985	Carter Craigie N3AO	2003	Steve Maslin N3ORH
1986	AI Maslin N3EA	2004	Steve Maslin N3ORH
1987	AI Maslin N3EA	2005	Steve Maslin N3ORH
1988	John Bartholomew WB3ELA (SK)	2006	Steve Maslin N3ORH
1989	AI Maslin N3EA	2007	Dieter Hauer K3DK
1990	AI Maslin N3EA	2008	Dieter Hauer K3DK
1991	Carter Craigie N3AO	2009	Dieter Hauer K3DK
1992	AI Maslin N3EA	2010	Steve Werner KD3WK
1993	AI Maslin N3EA	2011	Steve Werner KD3WK
1994	Tom Porett N3JMA		

Public Service Events

The **Penn Wynne Library Run** for 2011 was held on Saturday, October 1, 2011. Proceeds benefited the library. Participating in the event for MARC were **Andrew KA2DDO, Floyd KA3OXA, John KB3MPO, Martin KB3VLB, Steve KD3WK, Bob N3JIZ, Doug NE3U, Brenden W3VD, and Steve WA2EAJ.**



L-R: John KB3MPO, Steve KD3WK, Martin KB3VLB, Brenden W3VD, Floyd KA3OXA (holding sign), Andrew KA2DDO, Steve WA2EAJ, Bob N3JIZ and Doug NE3U

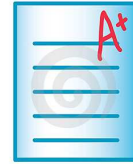
Penn Medicine Radnor is the presenting sponsoring for the annual "**Radnor Run**" on Sunday, October 30, 2011. Proceeds benefit the American Lung Association in Pennsylvania. The event is a 5-mile run and a 1-mile fun run/walk. **We need several more operators for this event that we support annually.** We have a loaner HT available if you need it. We assemble at 7:00 AM at:

Radnor Township Building parking lot.
301 Iven Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087

Talk in and coordination on 145.13. If interested in providing radio communications for the event, contact Bob Palin N3JIZ at 610-687-4587.

The **Vietnam Veterans 5K Run** will be held on Sunday, November 13, 2011. This event takes place at the Norristown Farm Park at North Wales and Germantown Pike. Proceeds from the run benefit Vietnam Veterans community projects. We need several operators for this event that we support annually. If interested in providing radio communications for the event contact Bob Palin N3JIZ at 610-687-4587.

MARC Sponsored 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 US 202 North) in Norristown, PA. The VE Test Sessions are held in the Church (see maps on the MARC website) and coordinated by **Bob Lees W3ZQN.**

The next scheduled MARC Sponsored VE Test Session will be on November 5, 2011.

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. 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.

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 Session:

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 at this VE Test Session 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.

Attention Techs: 10 Meters Is Hot!

From ARRL
09/29/2011

With solar flux numbers not seen since 2004, the higher HF bands have seen a surge in activity. The solar flux has been at least 100 since August 20. On September 10, it reached 116, rising to 121 the next day. It climbed steadily, reaching a peak of 190 on Saturday, September 24. While higher solar flux is exciting news for all hams, Technicians should definitely take note: The 10 meter band is the only HF band where Techs have phone privileges. "Techs can use their voice privileges from 28.300-28.500 MHz," explained W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. "If you don't have your own HF rig, find someone in your local radio club who does or call your Elmer. Without a doubt, you don't want to miss this opening. Who knows how long it will last or when it will come back? So get on the air while you can and experience the magic of 10 meters."

What is solar flux? The radiation from the Sun is measured at several different radio frequencies. One of these, 2800 MHz, or a wavelength of 10.7 cm, is most commonly used. The signal at this frequency is called the **solar flux**, and there is a rough relationship between this value and the number of sunspots. By measuring the solar flux, we can determine a general idea of the amount of radiation from the Sun that affects the ionosphere. Higher solar flux levels generally indicate that higher frequencies can propagate.

The solar flux hit its peak during the CQ WW RTTY Contest last weekend. "During the contest, both 10 and 15 meters were definitely hopping," said ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA. "I've only been licensed since 2006, and all the older hams tell me about how wonderful 10 meters could be, but I never saw it myself until the contest. Wow! It was better than I ever imagined, and I'm told it will only get better. I've never seen more than a handful of contacts on 10 meters during a contest, but we had almost 1100 contacts on the band during the 48 hour contest. We worked Senegal, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa, Europe and Asia, and even Japan on 10 meters. I couldn't believe how hot the band was!"

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, agreed. "I got on the radio for the CQ WW RTTY Contest and tuned to 20 meters out of habit. I was surprised at the lack of activity on 20, so I tuned up to 15 meters. So that's where everyone was! I couldn't believe the slew of activity on the higher bands."

But it wasn't only East Coast hams who experienced these spectacular conditions. Chip Margelli, K7JA, of Garden Grove, California, told the ARRL "the high bands were a delight from out here on the West Coast. In the late afternoon and evening, 10 meters brought in loud stations from Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and South America. Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Guam, Saipan, and other juicy catches kept my rotator working fast. But the real highlight was the massive opening to Europe and Africa that I enjoyed on Sunday, when I had some time to operate. Not only was I able to work into Western Europe, such as Spain, Portugal, France and England, but 'deeper' Europeans were very loud, as well: Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Baltics, the

Czech Republic and Slovakia were all thundering in. Weaker signals were coming in from European Russia, Ukraine and other places I haven't heard for seven or eight years on 10 meters out here in California. I do not have an amplifier for 10 meters; I use 200 W and a homebrew 5-element Yagi about 60 feet high."

"This is just the beginning of the fun and excitement that await us on 10 meters," Margelli said, "but what a beginning it was."

For the latest propagation news, please check out the K7RA Solar Update, published each Friday on the ARRL website.

US Amateurs Now 700,000 Strong!

From ARRL
10/12/2011

As the third quarter of 2011 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, began calculating the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, as well as the number of new licensees. "At the end of September, I saw that the number of hams in the US was high," she said. "When I started comparing that number with other years, I found that it was an all-time high." For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US.

"When looking at the three current license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- these numbers are impressive," Somma explained. "The number of Technicians peaked in March 2011 at 342,572, while in September 2011, we saw both Generals and Extras peak at 159,861 and 125,661, respectively. As new Technicians earn their Amateur Radio licenses, and current Technician licensees move on to General and Generals upgrade to Extra, this can cause up-and-down fluctuations for these totals."

Somma said these high numbers mean that hams are upgrading and renewing in larger numbers and staying interested in hobby: "These are compelling statistics and I am thrilled to see the highest number of amateur radio licensees ever! When I began working at the ARRL back in the mid 1980s, there were approximately 450,000 amateurs in the US. Our VEC program conducted an average of 55 sessions a week. Today, we administer approximately 150 exam sessions each week, and our total number of licensees across all three license classes continues to grow each year."

In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate:

December 1971:	285,000
December 1981:	433,000
December 1991:	494,000
December 2001:	683,000
September 2011:	700,221

Source: 1971, 1981, 1991: print editions of [Radio Amateur Callbook](#). 2001, 2011: www.ah0a.org/FCC/Graphs.html.

Please note: While the number of licensees has grown considerably over the years, we realize that these numbers include some who are no longer active in Amateur Radio. A recent survey of ARRL members, however, indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active.

"As technology changes and advances, it is especially vital to keep up or be at the forefront," Somma said. "I believe that Amateur Radio has done just that! The measurable results are our indisputable license numbers. It amazes me after all these years how important and relevant Amateur Radio remains. I am proud to be one of the 700,221 licensees and to see this historic and important milestone."

California Ham Killed in Shooting Spree

From ARRL
10/17/2011

A gunman, apparently enraged over a custody dispute with his ex-wife, walked into a hair salon in Seal Beach, California on October 12. Scott Evans Dekraai allegedly opened fire in the salon, killing eight people, including his ex-wife. David Caouette, N6DAC -- who was waiting outside the salon in his car -- was killed in the rampage. He was 64.

"He was shot in his very recognizable off road-ready Land Rover Discovery while sitting in the parking lot on his way into his favorite restaurant," Darrin Simmons, W7UNI, told the ARRL. Simmons, who called himself Caouette's best friend, said that he and Caouette were off road driving instructors: "We have been taking customers out on free off road trips since 2003. Back in late 2007, we had some trouble communicating with CB radios in Big Bear. I was fed up with not being able to contact my team that was staggered throughout the line of 30 vehicles. Soon after that, in March 2008, I contacted Gordon West, WB6NOA, and he got us into a ham radio licensing class. I remember it well; it was a rainy weekend and Gordon had us all in the garage on one of the days. That was quite a sight. Since then, we have had many, many off road trips with a core group of ham radio operators and have loved every minute of it. We will miss Dave with all our hearts."

Ed Testa, KI6OJV, a longtime friend of Caouette's, [told The Orange County Register](#) that Caouette "was in the wrong place at the wrong time and had no way to defend himself. We are just in disbelief that he could have been involved in this tragedy." Testa said that he had heard that Caouette was visiting one of the restaurants next to the salon where the shooting occurred.

KCBS -- the CBS owned-and-operated television station in Los Angeles -- [reported](#) that Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said that the deadly rampage started at 1:20 PM when Dekraai, 41, walked into Salon Meritage with the intent to murder his ex-wife Michelle Fournier and any other people who may have been present. He was wearing a bulletproof vest and armed with three handguns -- a 9 mm pistol, a .44 magnum and a .45 caliber pistol. "He walked through the salon shooting anyone close enough to hit,"

Rackauckas said, calling the incident a "two-minute massacre." By 1:21 PM, Rackauckas said Dekraai walked through the salon, methodically executing employees and customers. The victims were shot up close repeatedly. Dekraai allegedly stopped to reload when his ammunition ran out. He then continued firing as people lay dying, according to authorities. "Dekraai shot victim after victim, executing people by shooting them in the head and chest," Rackauckas said. According to the DA, Dekraai then walked out of the salon and allegedly executed the driver of a Range Rover parked next to him.

A police officer saw Dekraai leaving the area as police were responding to reports of gunfire. He was arrested about half a mile away and is the sole suspect in the rampage. Dekraai made his first appearance in Orange County Superior Court on October 15, but his arraignment on eight counts of murder and one count of attempted murder was continued to November 29. Rackauckas has announced that he will be seeking the death penalty for Dekraai.

Caouette is survived by his wife Paula and three children. A [memorial service](#) is planned for 4-8 PM October 17 at Patty's Place Restaurant, 500 Pacific Coast Hwy, Seal Beach, California. -- *Thanks to The Orange County Register, KCBS and Darrin Simmons, W7UNI, for the information*

Hamfests and Contests

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

Contests

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB
0000Z, Oct 29 to 2400Z, Oct 30

Find rules at:

<http://www.cqww.com/rules.php>

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
2100Z, Nov 5 to 0300Z, Nov 7

Find rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
2100Z, Nov 19 to 0300Z, Nov 21

Find rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
0000Z, Nov 26 to 2400Z, Nov 27

Find rules at:

<http://www.cqww.com/rules.php>

ARRL 10-Meter Contest
0000Z, Dec 10 to 2359Z, Dec 11

Find rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

ARRL RTTY Roundup
1800Z, Jan 7 to 2400Z, Jan 8

Find rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>