



Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

www.marc-radio.org

P.O. BOX 557  
EAGLEVILLE, PA  
19408

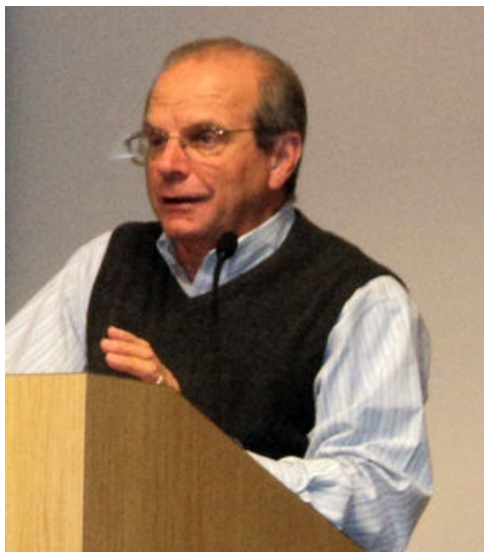
# REMARCS

**Next Meeting: Jan 15, 2013 at 7:30 PM**

**Nov/Dec 2012**

## Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH Featured Speaker at November MARC Meeting

**Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**, former Amateur Radio Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel, was the guest speaker at the November 20, 2012 General Membership Meeting. Although Riley retired from the FCC in 2008, he has remained very active in ham radio. He currently is a contributing editor for CQ Magazine and writes a monthly column titled "Riley's Ramblings" for the periodical.



Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH speaking at the MARC Meeting

Riley spoke on several topics including recent FCC proposals, the FCC's handling of the proposed implementation of BPL (Broadband Over Powerlines) and high profile enforcement actions. At the end of his presentation, Riley opened up the floor for questions and there were many.

Recognizing that Riley is such a desired speaker and doesn't make the trip from his home in Gettysburg, PA to the Philadelphia area often, MARC President **Steve Werner KD4WK** extended invitations to many other area amateur

radio clubs to join us for this rare occasion. As a result, the turnout for the November meeting was larger than usual. There were about 40 hams and guests in attendance.



About one month before the November 20 meeting, the Tredyffrin Township notified us that our usual meeting room at the township building would not be available to us. They needed it for a special zoning meeting with a special out-of-town speaker. We had to look for a new meeting room in the same general area. **Jim Biddle W3DCL** was able to secure the large Potter meeting room at the Paoli Hospital for our use. Unfortunately, this change of location happened after we

### Inside REMARCS

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Riley Hollingsworth is Featured Speaker |
| 2  | Election Results                        |
| 2  | MARC Holiday Party                      |
| 3  | Board Meeting Minutes                   |
| 5  | Letter from MARC President              |
| 5  | From the Editor's Shack                 |
| 6  | Upcoming MARC Meetings                  |
| 6  | VE Test Sessions                        |
| 7  | "Lending Library" for Tech Equipment    |
| 8  | Member Highlight                        |
| 8  | Public Service Events                   |
| 9  | PA QSO Party                            |
| 9  | Rod Newkirk W9BRD - SK                  |
| 9  | Postal News                             |
| 10 | Hamfests and Contests                   |

notified area clubs about the original meeting location. President Werner sent out dozens of notices to the area clubs once again to notify all about the change of meeting location. **Mike Pilotti KF3CD** made and placed signs around the hospital to help attendees find the Potter room and **Steve Iklar WA2EAJ** stood in the hallway to help attendees find the meeting room.

Thanks to our Program Chair, **Rich Russo KB3VZL**, for getting Riley to be our guest speaker and thanks to Riley for making the trip to be with us.

## 2012-2013 MARC Election Results



The MARC Officer and Board election was concluded at the September General Membership meeting on September 18, 2012. **Steve Iklar WA2EAJ** (MARC VP) (Election Chairman) counted the email ballots and last minute paper ballots. The results are listed below.

| Position                    | Board Member        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| President                   | Steve Werner KD3WK  |
| Vice President              | Steve Iklar WA2EAJ  |
| Secretary                   | John Callahan K3JDR |
| 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.  | Vacant              |
| Member-at-Large (2012-2014) | Doug Wilkens NE3U   |

Also on the board are:

| Position                    | Board Member        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Member-at-Large (2011-2013) | Brenden McNeil W3VD |
| Callsign Trustee W3NWA      | Dieter Hauer K3DK   |
| Callsign Trustee WB3JOE     | Dennis Silage K3DS  |

MARC thanks outgoing board member **Allan AB3FN** for his dedicated service to the club this past year.

## MARC Holiday Party 2012

MARC will hold its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 15, 2012 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 served a three-course luncheon with individual appetizer, entree and dessert.

## 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 [wa2eaj@marc-radio.org](mailto:wa2eaj@marc-radio.org)  
 Do you have anything for REMARCS?  
 Please let me know.



You can sign-up for this gala event by contacting Dennis K3DS 'on-the-air' or via email at [k3ds@marc-radio.org](mailto:k3ds@marc-radio.org).

## MARC Board Meeting of October 9, 2012

### Members Present

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| WA2EAJ | Steve Ikler            |
| N3JIZ  | Bob Palin              |
| K3DS   | Dennis Silage          |
| K3JDR  | John Callahan          |
| WX3I   | Lou Ruh                |
| NE3U   | Doug Wilkens           |
| KB3VZL | Rich Russo             |
| W3DCL  | Jim Biddle (phone)     |
| W3VD   | Brenden McNeil (phone) |

### Absent

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| KD3WK | Steve Werner |
| K3DK  | Dieter Hauer |

The meeting commenced at 7:01PM  
Minutes from the August 14, 2012 board meeting were approved.

### TREASURY REPORT

#### Income

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Dues                     | \$45.00         |
| Donated Equipment Sales: |                 |
| KA3DS Charlie Wood       | \$50.00         |
| KA3OXA Floyd Schoenberg  | \$276.00        |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | <b>\$321.00</b> |

#### Expenses

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Bank Fee                  | \$0.65         |
| PO Box 6 month renewal    | \$38.00        |
| Outgoing QSL Card Service |                |
| ARRL Fee                  | \$27.00        |
| Postage                   | \$6.05         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>     | <b>\$71.70</b> |

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Current Balance</b> | <b>\$16,246.43</b> |
| Nick Fund Balance      | \$151.23           |

### MEMBERSHIP

95 paid members as of October 9, 2012

### EQUIPMENT INSURANCE

Lou (WX3I)- nothing new to report on this. The inventory is in progress for the equipment exceeding \$200.00 that is stored at Bob N3JIZ and Dennis K3DS residence. Dennis (K3DS) provided a list for Lou, and Bob (N3JIZ) is still in progress.

PROGRAM – October 16, 2012

Lloyd Roach (W3QT) – Origins of broadcast radio and ARES/RACES in the Philadelphia area.

## 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

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

**PROGRAM** – November 20, 2012

Evening with **Riley Hollingsworth (K4ZDH)** retired Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division for FCC Enforcement Bureau. **Steve (KD3WK)** has made the hotel reservation at Embassy Suites, and the dinner reservation at Winberie's is pending a final count of those planning to attend.

#### **HOLIDAY PARTY**

The date has been confirmed for December 15, 2012 at 12:00pm at Uno Chicago Grill.  
The final count is due one week ahead of time.  
Dennis will send out club email with menu to get final count

**PROGRAM** – January 15

Allan (W2AEW) Oscilloscope to measure properties of coax

**PROGRAM** – February 19

**Martin (AA3A)** presenting on the Motorola DMR Motorola Digital Mobile Radio devices

**PROGRAM** – March 19

This meeting program is still to be determined

**PROGRAM** – April

This will be the club auction meeting

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

147.06 repeater antenna status – **Dennis (K3DS)** nothing to report since last board meeting

**PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT** – October 13

Penn Wynne Library 5K race  
MARC members need to assemble 8AM at the library parking lot  
5 signed up / 8-12 people needed

**PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT** – October 28

American Lung Assoc. Radnor Run 5 Mile race  
MARC members assemble at 7am at Radnor Twp. Building / 301 Ivan Ave  
4 signed up / 10-12 needed

**PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT** – November 11

Vietnam Veterans Memorial 5K race  
MARC members assemble at 8:30am  
3 signed up / 10-12 people needed

#### **NETS**

Brenden (W3VD) reported 6-15 people typically participating in the regularly scheduled nets

#### **RAISING AWARENESS of Amateur Radio - FACEBOOK**

**Lou (WX3I)** – nothing new to report on Facebook traffic stats since last meeting.

Facebook page is open for anyone to post pictures

**Doug (NE3U)** suggested sending out reminder email to encourage MARC members to post content.

#### **RAISING AWARENESS of Amateur Radio – New Awards / Contests**

**Ned (WQ3Z)** has reported no updates

#### **RAISING AWARENESS of Amateur Radio – ELMER Program**

No one has expressed interest in taking advantage of this.

#### **ELECTION**

**Steve I (WA2EAJ)** will send out election results email to the club members with a job description of the responsibility for open board position for Membership Services Chairman

#### **NEW Business**

Backup HF/6M Field Day Rig

**Dennis (K3DS)** proposed asking club members who can, to donate a rig with HF and 6M capabilities to fill the need for a second field day transceiver.

**VE Test Session** – Follow up on behalf of MARC with the newly licensed operators

VE test session will be held on 1st Saturday in November.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**Dennis (K3DS)** will contact VE our coordinator Bob Lees (W3ZQN) to communicate test results with club for membership service follow-up and for local publicity.

#### **PA QSO PARTY / MARC Certificates**

Two types of club participation

Submit scores to contest sponsor (Nittany Amateur Radio Club) and mention MARC

Also send scores to **Dennis (K3DS)** for MARC award certificates competition

#### **Scout Participation**

No progress to report from two MARC members involved in Scouts

#### **Outgoing QSL Bureau**

Four MARC club members took advantage of our Outgoing OSQ service in September

**Steve (WA2EAJ)** collected the cards and sorted the cards by primary call for each country

#### **MARC Equipment Loaner Program**

**Steve (WA2EAJ)** proposed allowing members to borrow club owned field-day equipment

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**Dennis (K3DS)** will author a technical article describing what the loaner program is looking to accomplish. **Doug (NE3U)** proposed adding to the article a solicitation for club members to only donate equipment of value.

#### **MARC 147.36Mhz Repeater**

**Dennis (K3DS)** wants to encourage club members using 147.36Mhz repeater located in Darby,PA

Meeting Closed 8:03PM

## Letter from the MARC President

As we approach the end of another year, I wanted to reflect on some of the many activities and successes of our Club.

- Our membership is nearly 100 strong!
- Interesting and informative presentations at club meetings, for example:
  1. October – Presentation by **Lloyd Roach (K3QNT)** on the history of broadcast radio in the Philadelphia area
  2. November – Presentation by **Riley Hollingsworth (K4ZDH)** – former head of the FCC's enforcement program for amateur radio services
  3. December – will be our annual Holiday Party
- VE testing program – four quarterly test sessions plus testing at our July Hamfest
- Public Service Events – MARC has provided valuable communication support at numerous events in the Delaware Valley. At one recent event, MARC members participated in finding a lost child and reuniting him to his mother.
- Saturday Breakfast Meetings – MARC members meet the second Saturday of each month at the Country Squire Diner at Newtown Square. A time for some good camaraderie with fellow members and guests.
- QSL card submission – at the September meeting MARC members brought in their QSL cards and at Club expense, these cards were sent in to the ARRL outgoing QSL bureau. We expect to make this a recurring opportunity – one of the many benefits of being a member of MARC. We are also looking into the possibility of having our own QSL card checker.
- Lending Library – the Board of Directors recently authorized securing testing and other equipment that will be made available to club members. The Board also encourages members with spare equipment to make that a part of the library.
- Elmer Program – we maintain a list of members who have a lot of operating experience and who have expressed an interest in being Elmers.

We would not have these activities and successes without the hard work of the Board and many members of the general membership. Thanks to everybody who has helped make MARC the success that it is.

I hope to see you all at the Holiday Party and I want to wish you and your families a safe and Happy New Year.

**73/Steve  
KD3WK**

President, Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club

## From the Editor's Shack

Since the annual holiday party replaces our regular membership meetings, the October and November meetings rounded out a stellar year for guest speakers. In October, **Lloyd Roach K3QNT** gave an interesting presentation to the membership on the beginnings of commercial broadcast radio in the Philadelphia area. Thanks to Lloyd for an excellent talk.



**Lloyd Roach K3QNT Speaking at MARC Meeting**

In November we had an informative and insightful talk by **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**. You can read about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope that you noticed the new program that MARC is kicking off this month. The "Lending Library" will allow members to borrow equipment owned by the club. The details are still being worked out like, who will be the "librarian", how long members can borrow equipment and how the equipment will be picked up and returned. The equipment most likely to be lent out is test equipment and tools for attaching Anderson Powerpoles and coax connectors. If you have any equipment that you feel might be useful to other club members, please consider donating it. Please, no junk. Just working tools and/or equipment that have some value. Unfortunately, MARC does not have the proper tax status for you to take a tax deduction for donations.

At the recent meeting we were informed that **John Callahan K3JDR** would no longer be able to serve as our Secretary. MARC thanks John for his valued service this past year as secretary. According to the By-laws, the President may appoint a replacement with board approval. We asked **Tom Freeman K3TF** to fill the vacancy and he agreed. This appointment is in the process of getting board approval. Welcome aboard Tom!

MARC welcomes new member **Eugene Coggins KB3ZIP**.

MARC is a Special Service Club (SSC) affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). As such, we may nominate HF and VHF Award Managers. We would like to take advantage of this opportunity to have an award manager in our club. So, we are looking for a volunteer to be appointed



as a local awards manager.

HF Award Managers may check applications for Worked All States, 5-Band Worked All States, and WAS endorsements. VHF Award Managers may check applications and endorsements for VUCC. An individual may hold both HF and VHF Award Manager appointments. Award Managers are encouraged to offer their services to hamfests, conventions, and other ham radio public events.

HF and VHF Award Manager Responsibilities:

1. Must maintain ARRL membership.
2. Must check all applications carefully, objectively, promptly, and in accordance with current award rules.
3. Will provide up-to-date telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to the Membership & Volunteer Program. Must permit their mailing addresses and telephone numbers to be published in the ARRL's media, including the League Web site. E-mail addresses will not be published on the ARRL Web site without the appointee's permission.
4. Will inform the Membership & Volunteer Program promptly if they no longer wish to serve.

If you are willing to serve as a local awards manager please contact **Steve Werner KD3WK** or me and we'll get the ball rolling for your appointment by the league.

73,

**Steve Ikler WA2EAJ**  
MARC VP and Newsletter Editor

## Upcoming General Membership Meetings

December 15, 2012 at Noon – MARC Holiday Party at Uno's Restaurant, 3910 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square PA, Reservations: email Dennis [K3DS@marc-radio.org](mailto:K3DS@marc-radio.org). Members \$10, non-members/guests \$20.

January 15, 2013, 7:30 PM - Using an Oscilloscope to Measure Coax Cables - Allan Wolke W2AEW.

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

March 19, 2013, 7:30 PM – Topic to be determined.

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 Sponsored VE Test Sessions

A MARC VE Test session was held on November 3, 2012 at the First Presbyterian Church, 113 East Airy Street in Norristown, PA.

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Technician earned                     | 3  |
| General earned                        | 1  |
| Extra earned                          | 1  |
| Passed an element but did not upgrade | 0  |
| Did not pass an element               | 0  |
| Total candidates served               | 7  |
| Total elements administered           | 10 |

No MARC members took advantage of the free test session. The following VE's took part in the session: **Bob W3ZQN, Doug NE3U, Dick K3ITH, Josy WQ3E, Brenden W3ZV, Jim AB3OM and Joe AA3JC.**

The next test session will be on February 2, 2013 in Norristown.

- David DuPuy of Philadelphia earned Technician.
- Alexander Rosen of Lansdale, KB3YKT, upgraded to Amateur Extra.
- Griffin Della Grotte of Yardley earned General by passing the Technician and General exams.
- Jonathan Lynch of Glen Mills also earned General by passing the Technician and General exams.
- Robert Siegrist of Philadelphia earned Technician.
- Alyin Waller of Ardmore earned Technician.
- Skye Randall of Lansdowne earned General by passing the Technician and General exams.

MARC congratulates all those that earned new licenses and upgraded existing licenses.

73, Bob W3ZQN

## A "Lending Library" for Technical Equipment Dennis Silage K3DS

Many of our MARC members are often stymied in their technical projects because of a lack of equipment. Something that is only used occasionally is not a reasonable investment! As part of the Elmer Program, MARC plans to acquire and lend some useful items that should help here. There are probably other items too that we have not thought of, so send your ideas to me at [K3DS@marc-radio.org](mailto:K3DS@marc-radio.org). Here are some current ideas for the "Library":

One very useful item is an antenna analyzer, which can speed the process of designing and building wire and beam antennas. The MFJ-269 antenna analyzer covers 1.8-170 and 415-470 MHz. It features a large easy-to-read two-line LCD display and side-by-side meters. The built-in *CoaxCalculator* calculates coax line length in feet given coax length in electrical degrees and vice versa for any frequency and any velocity factor. This is useful in building matching sections and phasing lines.

Anderson Power Products are becoming the new standard in DC power applications for the Amateur Radio community. Anderson Powerpoles have been adapted by most RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) organizations and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) units. MARC



plans to lend the professional crimping tool and stock an assortment of the 15A, 20A and 45A connectors. MARC members will only reimburse the Club for the connectors required at cost.



Producing a secure coaxial cable connection has always been a problem. Crimp connectors are used in professional installations and MARC plans to lend the crimping tool and stock an assortment of crimp SMA, BNC, PL-259 and N connectors. MARC members will only reimburse the Club for the connectors required at cost.



Let me know what you think of this part of the Elmer Program and what else we can do here. See the details of the Elmer Program at [marc-radio.org](http://marc-radio.org) under 'News'.

## Member Highlight Jim Smith K3RTU



Jim was first licensed as KN3RTU in January of 1962. He got started in radio as an SWL with an old Echophone receiver given to him by a neighbor at about age 12. After learning the Morse code and building a Heathkit AR-3 receiver and a Heathkit HX-11 (successor to the DX-20 with a TV sweep tube in the final) and getting his license at age 15, Jim got on the air on 40 meter CW. Later on he built a Heathkit Mohawk receiver and Apache transmitter and used both on AM phone as well as CW from his home QTH in Broomall, PA.

After college, marriage and one daughter Jim really got back into CW at his new QTH in Aston, PA. He built a Heathkit SB-104A and used it a great deal on 40 through 10 meters CW/SSB. He also operated 6 meter AM and SSB with a Lafayette HA-460 and a Heathkit SB-110.

Today, besides operation on all HF bands except 60 and 160 meters, Jim really enjoys QRP operation in state parks and hopes someday to get on the air from the Appalachian Trail where it passes through Pennsylvania. He uses a Yaesu FT-817nd and an Icom IC-703 Plus for his QRP operation away from home. He frequently goes to Ridley Creek State Park just a few miles from his home and operates from park benches. Ridley Creek State Park is 2600 acres of heavily wooded area about 16 miles from center city Philadelphia. He has a number of dipoles and a Buddy Stick vertical that he uses from many of his remote locations. Jim really likes to use the Buddy Stick and has made some really great DX contacts with it all over Europe and the Caribbean. He has operated QRP while visiting family in Clearwater, Florida and has had good results with the Buddy Stick from parks down there.

Jim also still enjoys operating 6 meter CW/SSB and uses an old 6 meter halo, from his 6 meter AM mobile days. The halo works really well and he has made contacts all over North America and the Caribbean with it when the band is open. He is also active on 2 meter FM on the 147.06 machine in Newtown Square, PA, which has very good coverage along route I-95.

Mobile operation on HF is another of his favorite things and has worked all over the world while mobile. "Funny how DX stations can't hear you when you are operating fixed, but always seem to come back to you when they hear that you are mobile".

## Public Service Events

The **Penn Wynne Library Run** for 2012 was held on Saturday, October 13, 2012. Proceeds benefited the library. Participating in the event for MARC were **Steve KD3WK, Bob N3JIZ, Doug NE3U, Steve WA2EAJ, Jim K3RTU and Chris N3GBJ**.

The event ended just in time for the monthly Breakfast Eyeball QSO at the Country Squire Restaurant in Broomall, PA. **Jim W3DCL** joined the group after the photo.



L-R: Bob N3JIZ, Steve KD3WK, Steve WA2EAJ, Doug NE3U, Chris N3GBJ and Jim K3RTU

**Penn Medicine Radnor** was the presenting sponsor for the annual "Radnor Run" held on Sunday, October 28, 2012. Proceeds benefit the American Lung Association in Pennsylvania. The event was a 5-mile run and a 1-mile fun run/walk. Participating for MARC were: **Bob N3JIZ, Steve KD3WK, Steve WA2EAJ, Doug NE3U, Denise KB3ANO, Frank K3FSB, Wil K3WIL and Jim K3RTU**.



L-R: Wil K3WIL, Doug NE3U, Frank K3FSB, Denise KB3ANO, Bob N3JIZ and Jim K3RTU. Absent: Steve KD3WK and Steve WA2EAJ (taking the picture)

The **Vietnam Veterans 5K Run** was held on Sunday, November 11, 2012. The event took place at the Norristown Farm Park at North Wales and Germantown Pike. Proceeds from the run benefit Vietnam Veterans community projects. Participating for MARC were **Sam WA3LGL, Lou WX3I, Denise KB3ANL, Doug NE3U, Jim KJ3P and Bob N3JIZ**. (No picture available)



## 2012 Pennsylvania QSO Party



The 2012 Pennsylvania QSO Party was held on October 13-14, 2012. Club members were encouraged to participate in the contest so that MARC would be included in the state-wide club competition and to 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 scoring MARC members. The Top Scorers for 2012 were:

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Steve WA2EAJ | 11 618 |
| Chris N3GBJ  | 3 249  |
| Dennis K3DS  | 2 034  |

The certificates will be awarded at a future general membership meeting.

For more information and rules, see: 2012 PA QSO Party at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html>.

### Former "How's DX?" Conductor Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (SK)

Special Bulletin 16 ARLX016  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT November 21, 2012  
To all radio amateurs

Rod Newkirk, W9BRD/VA3ZBB, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada - who penned the QST column "How's DX?" from 1947-1978 - passed away on Monday, November 19 after a long illness. Newkirk was credited with coining the term "Elmer," as well as for his humorous take on DX in his column, especially with limericks in his DX Hoggery and Poetry Depreciation Society and the accompanying cartoons of Jeeves by Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD (SK).

The term "Elmer" -- meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams -- first appeared in QST in Newkirk's March 1971 "How's DX?" column, where he wrote that "too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.' Sure, the guy could have burned through on his own, maybe, but he, like others, wound up an almost-ham. No more Elmer. We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh." Newkirk

was probably not trying to coin a term at the time, but the name stuck, becoming a general term for the mentors Newkirk called "the unsung fathers of ham radio."

Beginning in May 1951 (and appearing each May after that), Newkirk wrote about the annual meeting of the DX Hoggery and Poetry Depreciation Society. The DXHPDS featured such notables as Noyes E. Tester, Loda Watts, Harry Uppensign, Lotta Chassis and Hal R. Lauder -- as well as limericks that skewered deserving lids:

Splashy-voiced Boomboom MacSwine  
When told that his gain's out of line,  
Is prompt to reply,  
If '8' is too high  
Then why is it numbered to '9'? (May 1970)

In 1997, Newkirk married Betty, VE3ZBB, and moved to Canada, where he got the matching Canadian call sign VA3ZBB. A private family funeral will be held. Friends are invited to join the Newkirk Family at the Garden Chapel of Tubman Funeral Homes on Thursday November 22 from 2-4 PM for a celebration of Newkirk's life.

## USPS Seeks to Phase Out IRCs

From ARRL 11/06/2012

If the US Postal Service (USPS) gets its way, it will no longer sell International Reply Coupons (IRCs) after January 27, 2013. According to the October 23 edition of the Federal Register, there is not sufficient demand for the USPS to continue offering IRCs to customers; however, per the Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations, the USPS must continue to exchange (redeem) IRCs that have been purchased in foreign countries and presented at USPS facilities. The current Nairobi model is valid through December 31, 2013. Comments on this proposed change would be accepted through November 23, 2012.

IRCs provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations or other types of communications -- such as QSL cards -- that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for postage stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the UPU. Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter. The purchase price in the US is currently \$2.20 per IRC. -- Thanks to The Daily DX for some information.

## U.S. Postal Service Announces New Prices And Services for 2013

From the USPS  
October 11, 2012  
Release No. 12-011

*First-Ever Global Forever Stamp Debuts When Prices Change January 27*

WASHINGTON — Beginning early next year, the Postal

Service will introduce a First-Class Mail Global Forever Stamp. The new stamp will allow customers to mail letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10, and is among new mailing and shipping services filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission today.

The price for First-Class Mail single-piece letters will increase by just a penny when prices change in Jan. The new 46-cent Forever stamps will allow customers to mail letters to any location in the United States. Forever stamps are always good for mailing a one-ounce letter anytime in the future regardless of price changes.

Highlights of the new single-piece First-Class Mail pricing, effective Jan. 27, 2013 include:

- Letters (1oz.) – 1-cent increase to 46 cents
- Letters additional ounces – unchanged at 20 cents
- Letters to all international destinations (1oz.) - \$1.10
- Postcards – 1-cent increase to 33 cents

Prices for all products (Mailing and Shipping services) will increase by 4-percent, but prices for Mailing Services, such as regular letters and advertising matter, will increase only 2.6-percent.

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) will review the prices before they become effective Jan. 27, 2013. Today's Shipping and Mailing price filings will be available on the PRC website at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov) and the new Mailing Service prices are also available at <http://pe.usps.com>.

### Shipping Services

Several new Shipping Services products will be available in January. Free tracking will be offered to all competitive packages, including retail Priority Mail and Parcel Post (recently renamed Standard Post).

Also new, customers shipping Critical Mail letters and flats will now have the option of receiving a signature upon delivery as part of the service offering.

A large variety of flat-rate boxes and envelopes for Express Mail and Priority Mail, including the padded and legal-sized flat rate envelopes will continue to be offered by the Postal Service.

New domestic retail pricing for Priority Mail Flat Rate products include:

- Small box – \$5.80
- Medium box – \$12.35
- Large box – \$16.85
- Large APO/FPO box – \$14.85
- Regular envelope – \$5.60
- Legal and Padded envelope – \$5.95

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

## Hamfests and Contests

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

### Hamfests

None available to this time.

### Contests

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW  
0000Z, Nov 24 to 2400Z, Nov 25

Find Rules at:

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

ARRL 160-Meter Contest  
2200Z, Nov 30 to 1600Z, Dec 2

Find Rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

TARA RTTY Melee  
0000Z-2400Z, Dec 1-

Find Rules at:

[http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html)

ARRL 10-Meter Contest  
0000Z, Dec 8 to 2400Z, Dec 9

Find Rules at:

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

PODXS 070 Club PSKFest  
0000Z-2400Z, Jan 5

Find Rules at:

<http://www.podxs070.com/pskfest>

ARRL RTTY Roundup  
1800Z, Jan 5 to 2400Z, Jan 6

Find Rules at:

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

North American QSO Party, CW  
1800Z, Jan 12 to 0600Z, Jan 13

Find Rules at:

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

North American QSO Party, SSB  
1800Z, Jan 19 to 0600Z, Jan 20

Find Rules at:

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