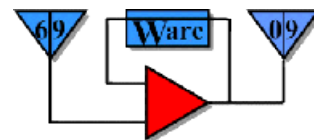




FEEDBACK



Web Site k3dn.org

Warminster Amateur Radio Club

October 2010

Next Meeting October 7th - Army Mars

Editor's Note: I am trying out a new format for the Feedback this month. Let me know what you think of it.

President's Message



MARS Emergency Services

At the October 7th general meeting I will be presenting to the club on the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS). Many of the concepts employed in MARS also apply to ARES and RACES, so if you aren't interested in MARS per se, many of the concepts may be informative. So before I mention where MARS is today, let me highlight some of its past. I think there are some valuable lessons for all of us in EmComm regarding what MARS learned about relevance and interoperability.

The high point of MARS popularity was during the four decades from the Korean War (1950) to Operation Desert Storm (1991); All of the MARS services spent considerable time and effort connecting the American Forces in the theatre of operations back to the home front. This was done mainly two ways. First using HF phone patches where a CONUS station provided a Radio/telephone interconnect between the MARS HF station in the overseas theatre and the folks at home. These were typically short conversations, because of the large amount of soldiers and airmen waiting to contact home, and of course propagation considerations.

Besides phone patches, the second major activity during this 40 year period was sending and receiving MARSGRAMS. These were typically a one page message similar to the ARRL message form. The service member overseas would stop in to a MARS station in the rear area, and fill out a short message for home. The message would then be sent stateside by HF, and relayed to other HF stations closest to the addressee. The MARS operator would then make a local call to the addressee and read the message. If the addressee wished, a return message could be sent back while on the phone. During this time EmComm preparedness took a back seat.

As time went on, the usefulness of MARS diminished greatly after Desert Storm because of the widespread use of cell phones, text messages, and of course email. Since, the de facto main function of MARS was sending and receiving these health and welfare messages, the new ubiquitous email system had the potential to eliminate MARS entirely. During these times, all DOD funding for MARS was almost totally eliminated. MARS members which previously had the ability to acquire excess military radio gear – including Collins HF radios – lost that privilege as well as having their postage and letterhead, and envelopes provided. Almost overnight all that was gone. During this hiatus MARS and its leadership were drifting – not ready for what was about to hit us. MARS was having its catharsis moment.

Our country was attacked by terrorists on 9/11/01 and a few years later the Gulf Coast was hit by a massive hurricane called Katrina. Our MARS and ARES emergency communications (EmComm) were not up to the task. But it doesn't begin to compare with the extreme makeover that other federal agencies were undergoing during much the same period. Washington's hectic response to 9/11 put 22 hitherto largely autonomous forces (like FEMA, the Coast Guard and Secret Service) under unified command in a huge Department of Homeland Security with resultant redrafting of disaster planning at all.

It was during this time that Army MARS, in an effort to rebuild the service, hired a recently retired Air Force officer and communications expert - Lt Col Stu Carter (ret) as its new MARS Chief. The newly installed MARS Chief knew exactly what had to be done, and set about changing attitudes. In one of his early pronouncements he said: ***“We can choose to follow his lead and become relevant in the 21st century or we can sit back and ignore the direction that has been provided and be of little use during a real emergency.”*** From that point on, Army MARS stressed the concepts of re-organizing, training, inter-operability, and relevance.

Major changes were happening very fast. All MARS services became more integrated with each other. Training was updated and standardized. MARS regions were reorganized geographically to match FEMA regions. For instance the individual states assigned to MARS region 3 match the states within FEMA Region 3's area of responsibility.

MARS members jumped into action as the 2005 hurricanes blasted across the Gulf coast. But there was a roadblock: Few EmComm resources remained in and around New Orleans. Army MARS had no working relationship with the few that did. AAA9USA, the Ft Huachuca gateway, was a rare exception in making a significant contribution to relief operations. A number of MARS members pitched in as participants in other relief organizations.

Meanwhile, post-9/11 emergency response scenarios remained in flux at both the U.S. Army and the Department of Homeland Security. While MARS leadership at Ft Huachuca worked hard at establishing new connections with the slow-to-emerge national EmComm structure, rank-and-file MARS members had to mark time with outdated doctrine and training materials. It was a frustrating period. In the end a year's work meticulously drafting a long-range national plan had to be abandoned because it appeared out of date before it was finished.

Just after 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security issued the National Incident Management System (NIMS), basic document governing all federal response. All local, county, state, and federal government officials (including myself) were mandated to complete the series of courses – very quickly. In our case, no Federal funds would come into our township government unless all elected officials actually took and passed these courses. These series of courses aren't meant for just elected officials – they are for everyone participating in emergency services. The courses spell out everyone's role and who is charge of what aspect.

Today, MARS is a highly trained communications service with emphasis on service, volunteerism, self-reliance, technology, drills, and training. They are ready for deployment and are capable of serving their client agencies. MARS must be as up-to-date operationally and as sophisticated technically as the agency personnel with whom they will work during emergencies.

The new member can get on the air immediately after they are assigned a callsign, and have up to a year to complete the training. The requirements for full MARS membership and participation are as follows:

- 18 years old (minimum)
 - FCC licensed Amateur of General class or higher
 - Completion of FEMA NIMS courses (available at www.training.fema.gov):
 - IS-100a An Introduction to the Incident Command System.
 - IS-200a The Incident Command System for Single Resources.
 - IS-700a The National Incident Management System (NIMS).
 - IS-800b The National Response Framework, An Introduction.
 - Members must have Internet access and e-mail capability in some form.
 - Members must have WINLINK capability.
 - Members must complete Army MARS Basic Training (open book)
 - Members must complete Army MARS 101 training (on the air training)
 - Members must have HF radio modified for operation outside of the amateur bands.
 - Participate in at least one on-air drill.
 - Participate in at least 9 hours of on-air nets each quarter
-

PROGRAMS

October 7, 2010 – Presentation by Rich (AG3L) on Army MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System)

November 5, 2010 - **Ham Radio Outlet RICK LAMB (K3TL).**

December 2, 2010 - **Annual Warminster ARC Dinner.**

CLUB INFO

PUBLIC SERVICE

WREC Hole-In-One at Five Ponds October 12 (Columbus Day)

Craven Hall 5K Run.

October 23 (Saturday)

CLUB STATION

The WARC club station is open to anyone with an interest, on Tuesday evenings between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 pm. For further information, call George Brechmann N3HBT at 215-443-5656.

WARC ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Attention all former WARC members. At the March 4, 1999 General Meeting, revisions to our club's constitution were approved that among other things, establishes a new Alumni membership category for former WARC members who are unable to attend meeting and Club activities on a regular basis due to health considerations or travel impediments. Dues for the Alumni membership were established at \$10.00 annually to cover the costs of printing and mailing our monthly FEEDBACK newsletter. Please contact co-chair Mark Hinkel (WA3QVU) for more information.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

If you want to have your picture taken to be placed on the 'Members Photos' section of the www.k3dn.org website, please email Mark Hinkel at mrhinkel@verizon.net or myself Michelle at mal61@comcast.net with your interest. If we get enough people who are interested, I will pass the info on and then we will have camera ready at the following club meeting. Remember to bring your best face!"

The Membership Committee has badges and Club cards for you to pick up. If you do not have a Warminster Amateur Radio Club badge or card with your picture on it, please stop by and visit your Membership Chairs, Mark Hinkel - WA3QVU or Michelle London - KB3MTW at the WARC monthly meetings. Otherwise, please contact Membership at: WARCmembership@K3DN.org. Thank you.

- Yearly requalify MARS 101 training on air.

Training is taken seriously. Members are all trained as net control stations, and authorized to self deploy. This is where self-reliance comes in to play. MARS is one of the EnComm organizations to enter the Federal SHARES nets as required, as well as handle FEMA traffic.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage those of you who are ARES and RACES members to take the NIMS courses. These are free online courses and are worth the time and effort spent. More importantly they explain the concepts of interoperability, chain of command, unity of command, and they explain exactly how you fit into the emergency services picture. I will cover more in the presentation, but should you have any questions, please let me know.

73's

Richard J. Luce, Jr./AG3L

Warminster ARC, Club President

**Warminster Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2010**

Meeting was called to order by the President, Rich (AG3L) at 7:35 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Guests: Terry, K3ZMW
Joe, KB3UZS (?)

MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 5, 2009 MEETING:

A motion was made, seconded and unanimous vote to accept them as printed in the Feedback Newsletter.

TREASURER REPORT- James (K3JHR):

As given

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP- Mark (WA3QVU) and Michelle (KB3MTW):

There are currently 116 paid-up members. .

Every member is also encouraged to join the ARRL. The club must have at least 50% of its members as ARRL members to keep the WARC's affiliation. ARRL annual membership dues are \$39.00.

PUBLIC SERVICE – George (N3HBT):

September 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12 Polish-American Fest at the Shrine of Czestochowa. Operators should register at the Cafeteria. See Burt, N3YVH for details.

October 11 Five Ponds Golf Course Hole-In-One Contest. Dinner afterwards. Need 10 operators.

October 23, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. Kraven Hall 5 K run. Need 5-6 operators.

PROGRAMS- Irwin (KB3TB):

October 7, 2010 – Presentation by Rich (AG3L) on Army MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System)

November 5, 2010 - Ham Radio Outlet Rick Lamb (K3TL).

December 2, 2010 – Annual Warminster ARC Dinner.

January 2011 – Stump The Panel.

February 2011 – Club Auction

CLASSES:

There will be a class for the Technician Class license taught by George (KA3WXXV) starting September 13 at the Warminster Recreation Center for eight Monday nights. The class is free but students are responsible for the book (\$20 from the club).

Irwin (KB3TB) asked if anyone was interested in starting an Extra Class study group. Only two members were interested.

REPEATER – Al (WI3Z):

No changes except EchoLink. It is now on the 440 repeater.

Proxy setting for the server is: node k3dn – r 526 259.

Put node in and then put *

Controllers (EchoLink) – pause for additions

GOOD and WELFARE:

Jim Burke is in a rehabilitation center at Windwood Nursing Home.

MEMBERS COMMENTS:

Doc (W3GAD):

September 25, (Saturday) V/UHF Conference at the Quality Inn in Montgomeryville.

1 – 4 pm Beginner’s Session (Free)

Friday evening – Hospitality suite.

Saturday after 4 pm and before the dinner – Tailgate.

September 11 – V/UHF September Sweepstakes

October 3 – Ham-A-Rama at the Grange.

Thanksgiving Day, 8am – 11am – Turkey Trot 5 K run.

Rich (AG3L):

We are working on the 501 (c) 3 application.

50/50:

Adam (KB3JCP)

TONIGHT’S PROGRAM:

Mark (AA3K), Bob (K3FMQ), Ken (KE3C), Irwin (KD3TB) and Andy (KD3RF) on Contesting

Submitted:

WDØESL, Club Secretary

September 12, 2010

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must bring two forms of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC’S 2010 test fee is **\$15.00.**

Warminster Amateur Radio Club, Monthly, Last Wed. 7:00 pm at the Warminster Recreational and Educational Center on Little Lane.

George Brechmann (215) 443-5656.

Atco, NJ, The fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m. Winslow Township Senior Center, 33 Cooper Folly Road, 08004-2603.

Mark (K2AX) jtra@comcast.net

Levittown, PA, Monthly, 1st Saturday - George LeNoir, WR3B, 215-943-4886.

Telford, PA, Monthly, RF Hill ARC. 3rd Monday at the Indian Valley Library.

Charles Schmell, KB3CEZ, 215-257-6368 days 215-538-7458 evenings.

Philadelphia, PA, Testing is done on the 4th, non holiday Thursday of the month at the, Community Ambulance Association of Ambler, 1414 E Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002 at 7:00 PM We also are testing on Saturdays at least once per quarter at 9:00 AM. For further information contact James McCloskey at jmcloskey@msn.com and by phone 215-275-2979.

Lansdale, PA Testing on the first non-holiday Tuesday of the month starting at 7:00 PM. The Lansdale Library Community Room Vine St. and Susquehanna Ave. Lansdale, Pa. Registration is required 48 hrs. or more before the scheduled exam date. If there are no registrations the scheduled exam date will be canceled. NO WALK-INS. You can register by contacting:

Olaf N. Markert ----- Phone (610) 517-5074, E-mail w3pa@arrl.net

2010 Contest Calendar

11/06/2010	ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
11/20/2010	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)
12/03/2010	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
12/11/2010	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
12/19/2010	ARRL Rookie Roundup - December
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 2 to 2159Z, Oct 3
Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 9 to 0600Z, Oct 10 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 10
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 9 to 0500Z, Oct 10 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 10
Iowa QSO Party	1400Z-2300Z, Oct 16
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 16 to 0200Z, Oct 17
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 17 to 0100Z, Oct 18

➤ **ATLANTIC DIV. HAMFESTS - 2010**

2 October Red Rose Repeater Association West Earl Community Park Newport Road (Route 772, Brownstown) Talmage, PA <http://w3rrr.org>

3 October Mt. Airy VHF Club (PackRats) Middletown Grange #684 Penns Park Road Newtown, PA 18940
<http://www.packratvhf.com/latest.htm#Hamarama>

17 October RF Hill ARC Sellersville Firehouse 50 North Main Street Sellersville, PA <http://www.rfhill.ampr.org>

24 October Carroll County Amateur Radio Club Carroll County Agricultural Center 700 Agriculture Center Drive Westminster, MD 21157 <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

SKYWARN INFORMATION

MOUNT HOLLY NWSFO SKYWARN Weekly Information Net: EVERY THURSDAY AT 21:00 HOURS
SKYWARN Net Repeater Listing/ Streaming Audio of scheduled SKYWARN Net: <http://www.skywarnnet.net>
You do NOT have to be a certified SKYWARN Weather Spotter to check into the Net

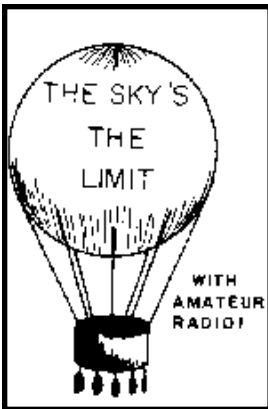
Bucks County SKYWARN Weather Spotter PRIMARY FREQUENCY: 147.300MHZ (+ 131.8)
 Fairless Hills, PA (many remote access locations throughout Bucks County)

Mount Holly NWSFO SKYWARN Homepage:
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/skywarn/index.html>

SKYWARN Basic Weather Spotter Educational Programs URL:
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/skywarn/training.html#sched>

➤ **CLUB EQUIPMENT**

WARC has purchased four Vertex Standard 2-meter HT's that are available for use by members of the club. The HT's are available on a month-by-month basis and have been purchased primarily to help new hams get on the air. However, they may also be used by any club member who is in need of a temporary 2-meter radio. They are also available for use by participants in WARC's public service activities.
 DE, Irwin Darack KD3TB 215-343-8170



*The Warminster Amateur Radio Club
 Announces Free Ham Radio Instructional Classes*

If you're interested in Ham Radio, or think you might be, this is your opportunity. Perhaps you'd like to learn about digital communications, Morse code, VHF, UHF, satellite, or perhaps you'd rather sit down and chat with someone in South Africa, Russia, Great Britain or in the space shuttle.

The Warminster Amateur Radio Club will be offering free ham radio Licensing classes for the Tech licenses starting on **Monday, September 13th, 2010**, at the Benjamin Wilson Community Center. The classes will start at 7:30 pm and last until 9:00 pm and run for 8 weeks.

For further information contact: George Brechmann at 215-443-5656

Bucks County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (BCARES)

www.bucksares.org
 Bucks County ARES will be on the air Wednesdays, at 9:00 PM. We will be using Warminster Amateur Radio Club's repeater on 147.090, pl 131.8. This net is linked as shown in the Net Schedule box for the Wednesday night net. It may also be linked to 147.300.

Winlink Gateway Stations:

Upper Bucks	NJ3A-10	145.610 Riegelsville
Lower Bucks	NY3J-10	145.530 Bensalem
Montco	W3CF-10	145.950 Hatfield
Chester County	W3EOC-10	145.690

Net Schedules

Sunday	2100	10 Meter Net	28.445 MHz
Wednesday	2030	2 Meter Net	147.09 Rptr.
Wednesday	2030	Linked w/ 2 Meter Net	443.95
Rptr. Wednesday	2030	Linked w/ 2 Meter Net	53.230 Rptr.
Sunday	2030	Informal Net	223.5 Simplex
Thursday	1900	Mont. Cnty RACES Net	146.835 Rptr.

Area Repeaters

VHF

- 145.310 R.F. Hill
- 145.350 Doylestown R.C.
- 145.250 Penn Wireless
- 145.330 Hilltown
- 146.670 DVRA
- 146.685 Holmesburg
- 146.925 Willingboro
- 147.000 Ham Buegers
- 147.030 Phil-Mont
- 147.090 Warminster
- 147.270 Frankford
- 147.300 BEARS
- 147.390 CBRA

220

- 224.580 PackRats
- 223.76 K3NAL

UHF

- 442.650 DVRA
- 443.250 TAG
- 443.050 Metro-Comm
- 443.950 Warminster
- 444.200 BEARS
- 449.325 KA3WXV
- 447.475 WR3B
- 447.625 WE3E
- 448.225 Penn Wireless

D-STAR

- 447.625 K3PDR DStar DV

6 Mtr

- 53.030 WA3BXW
- 53.230 N3DQZ
- 53.320 K3MFI

Are you submitting an article for the Feedback ?

Contributions of articles to be published are always accepted for consideration. Please follow these guidelines:

- E-Mail to:
wa4ywm@comcast.net
Or via snail mail to:
FEEDBACK EDITOR
Warminster Amateur Radio Club
Box 113
Warminster, Pa 18974
- Use both upper and lower case letters.
- Use your program's spell check.
- If you don't have a computer, then typewritten sheets are o.k. but please use both upper and lower case.
- Put your name and call at the beginning or end of the article, and show credits if you are using material from another source.
- Deadline for articles is the Saturday before the Board meeting.

The annual dues rate structure is as follows:

Full Member:	\$ 20.00
2nd Family Member:	\$ 10.00
Student:	\$ 10.00
Alumni:	\$ 10.00
Associate:	\$ 5.00

- Are your dues current ?
- Check the date on your Feedback mailing label.

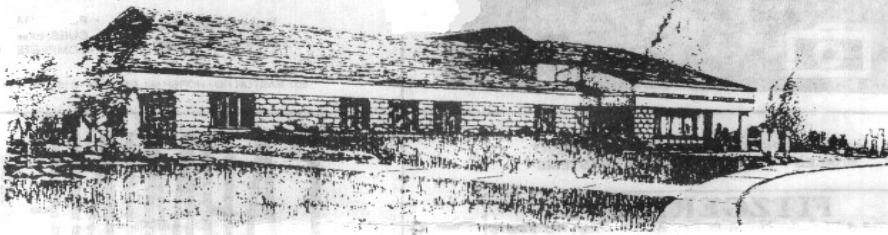
2010 Officers

Executive Officers

President	Richard Luce	AG3L	215-441-8264
Vice-President	Irwin Darack	KD3TB	215-343-8170
Secretary	Frank Clayton	WD0ESL	215-855-1029
Treasurer	James Hersch	K3JSR	215-674-1607
Director (E)	Michelle London	KB3MTW	215-672-7578
Director (E)	Mark Kempisty	N3GNW	215-953-1493
Director (A)	Al Konschak	WI3Z	215-491-9941
Director (A)	Brian Taylor	N3EXA	215-257-6303
Past President	Larry Abbott	WA3ELQ	215-443-7521

Committee Chairpersons

Archives	Burt Ludin	N3YVH	267-781-0603
ARES Liason	Denise Burstein	KB3ANO	215-355-1150
Arrl Liason	Richard Luce	AG3L	215-441-8264
Awards Manager	Vince Pironti	KD3TC	215-674-0446
Classes	George Altemus	KA3WXV	215-855-3856
Digital and APRS	Ron Wenig	NY3J	215-638-9257
DXpedition	Doc Whitticar	W3GAD	215-968-6397
Feedback Editor	Jim Elmore	WA4YWM	215-538-1889
Field Day 11	Mark Kempisty	N3GNW	215-953-1493
Fundraising	Adam Huffnagle	KB3JCP	215-442-9526
Hamfest 11	Mark Hinkel	WA3QVU	215-659-4449
Hamwear	Burt Ludin	N3YVH	267-781-0603
Holiday Dinner	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Interference	Mark Kempisty	N3GNW	215-953-1493
Membership	Michelle London	KB3MTW	215-672-7578
Membership	Mark Hinkel	WA3QVU	215-659-4449
Net Manager	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
PA QSO Party	Mark Kempisty	N3GNW	215-953-1493
Publicity	Dan Myers	KB3IBQ	215-957-2343
RACES Liason	Chris McCormack	N3JHR	215-969-2626
Refreshments	Doc Morein	KA3RAU	215-542-0593
Refreshments	Randy Gehman	N3LJE	215-822-9473
Repeater Cooridinator	Brian Taylor	N3EXA	215-257-6303
Satellite	Joe Bagnick	N3EMA	215-997-2539
Skywarn Liason	Mike Patton	W3MJP	215-491-9665
Station Trustee	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
Sunshine Club	Vince Pironti	KD3TC	215-674-0446
Township Liason	George Brechmann	N3HBT	215-443-5656
VE License Testing	Larry Abbott	WA3ELQ	215-443-7521
VHF/UHF/MW	Al Sheppard	N3ITT	610-847-5490
Website Coordinator	Al Konschak	WI3Z	215-491-9941
Youth Programs	Richard Luce	AG3L	215-441-8264
Youth Programs	Steve Larson	WW3Y	215-822-1511

Club Station**Meetings****Talk To Us**

The Club Station - K3DN - is located at the Benjamin Wilson Senior Center, Delmont Avenue, Warminster, PA. The station is open for club members and the interested general public on non-holiday Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm . The station is fully operational on HF (80 meters through 10 meters) both phone and CW. There is an assortment of amateur radio shareware which may be copied under the shareware licensing agreement.

For additional information on the Club Station please call the Station Manager N3HBT - George at 215-443-5656.

- WARC Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Benjamin Wilson Senior Center, Delmont Avenue, Warminster, PA. Talk in is available on the 147.09 & 443.950 repeaters.

For general club correspondence:

k3dn@k3dn.org

For Feedback articles:

wa4ywm@comcast.net

Visit our Home Page at:

<http://www.k3dn.org>

**Federal Communications
Commission**

1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

License Information

800-322-1117 - M-F 0800-1630

Fax-On-Demand 202-418-0177

FEEDBACK

Warminster Amateur Radio Club
Box 113
Warminster, Pa 18974

Address Service Requested. If
Undeliverable, Return to Sender.