

KC9HPZ News

METRO = AMATEUR RADIO = CLUB

www.metroarc.org



An ARRL Affiliated Club

March, 2009

March 3 Meeting

Emergency Communications

At the MAC meeting on March 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincolnwood Community Center, Lincoln Avenue at Morse Avenue, Marilyn Gardner, W9LUO, will discuss the organizations involved in emergency communications, including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network. Her talk will be followed by a DVD describing the national Simulated Emergency Test, or SET which is held every year around October. In this activity, amateurs throughout the nation hone their emergency preparedness skills. The DVD shows a routine SET operation in eastern Massachusetts, and how it became a real emergency when a gas leak was discovered. The DVD was produced by Bob Doherty, K1VV and Don Tanguay, N1DT, members of the Marconi Amateur Radio Club, W1AA.

Be sure to join us for this meeting to see one of the major reasons amateurs are able to keep their allocated frequencies in the crowded radio spectrum. You may enter the Lincolnwood Community Center by the ramp on the Morse Avenue side. Parking is plentiful. Bring a friend! Hams and non-hams are welcome to attend.

MAC Net Meets on Sundays

The net control stations for the March net are:

- March 1 - Don Burman, KB9WBM
- March 8 - Marilyn Gardner, W9LUO
- March 15 - Scott Irwin, W8UFO
- March 22 - Scott Irwin, W8UFO
- March 29 - Scott Irwin, W8UFO

The net is held Sunday evenings at 9:00 p.m. local time on the club repeater on 147.315 MHz. with a positive 600 kHz. offset and a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. In case the repeater isn't working due to power outage or whatever, the net will be conducted in simplex on 147.315 MHz. with no PL tone. Members and non-members are invited to check in and hear news and participate in the roundtable discussion, during which one can tell others what's been going on in his or her world.. Also included in the weekly net are ARRL news summaries and the contest calendar as well as a ham-related trivia question to stimulate round-table discussion. The trivia question is posted on the website (www.metroarc.org) prior to each week's net. Answers to previous week's trivia questions are also posted on the website.

Club Social Activities

Some club members meet at Sanders Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. on meeting nights. Sanders is at 5320 Touhy Avenue in Skokie.

Some club members meet for brunch around 11:00 a.m. every Saturday at Marilyn's Restaurant, 5900 Dempster Street in Morton Grove. Both breakfast and lunch menus are available at this time.

VE Testing March 3

The Metro Amateur Radio Club sponsors VE testing before each monthly meeting. Testing is available for all three levels of FCC licensure. If you wish to take an exam, contact AB9OP, ab9op@arrl.net, in advance. You will need to bring \$15 cash, two forms of ID, and either your FRN number (on your current license at the bottom of the wallet card portion) or your social security number. VE testing begins at 6:00 p.m. Those who pass the test here are invited to join the club for charge.

2009 MAC Board of Directors
President:

Steve Little, KC9MWW

Vice President:

Larry Wood, N9LCE

Treasurer:

Howard Aronson, W9MNF

Secretary:

Marilyn Gardner, W9LUO

Trustee:

Arnold Borenstein, W9FO

Member-at-Large:

Scott Irwin, W8UFO

From My Shack to Yours March, 2009

Winter still has its grip on us and with the snow on the ground, we're keeping indoors for the most part. The radio is great to expand our horizons but warm weather is sure going to be welcome. With the warm weather it brings to mind working the YMCA TriAthlon, Field Day and other outdoor activities. A lot of those activities are good training for emergency communications. Just one of many groups in this area is MARS. I remember when I was in the Air Force, the MARS guys could make a phone patch or relay a message to your home community. That seemed pretty cool to me. An article in eHam.com reminded me about those days. Here is an excerpt:

Amateur Radio Community Experts Crucial
to Emergency Communications
February 17, 2009 - by David J. Trachtenberg

A system that was used in the past primarily to support military morale has been fulfilling a new mission: emergency preparedness. For the past several years, the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) has been called upon during times of crisis, including the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and natural disasters, to ensure continuity of communications. The program trains a cadre of licensed amateur radio operators to understand and become proficient in emergency military communications protocol and procedures, including the use of modern digital technologies. However, this national communications treasure could falter if it does not receive adequate attention and funding. Started as the U.S. Army Amateur Radio System in 1925 by members of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, MARS was officially established in 1948 with U.S. Air Force participation, and it became a joint service program in 1962 with the inclusion of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Many veterans recall MARS from the Korean and Vietnam wars as a group of volunteer amateur radio operators who relayed telephone patches and morale messages between service personnel stationed abroad and their families at home. Even as recently as operation Desert Storm, thousands of messages were relayed. Today, as a U.S. Defense Department-sponsored program managed separately by the services, MARS can provide an emergency adjunct to normal communications locally, nationally or internationally.

All this is a like a teaser for the program at the March meeting of the Metro Amateur Radio Club this coming Tuesday. Whether it be ARES, SATERN, RACES or other groups, it takes many of us to make these activities successful. It can involve everyone whether you hang out on VHF, UHF or HF bands. So, think about joining one of these worthwhile groups. Take a class or get qualified and join in the fun and public service.

73, Steve, KC9MWW

K9YA Code Nets

MAC encourages use of the K9YA CW nets on or around 7.121 MHz, +/- QRM at 7:00 p.m. local time. The fast code net is on the first Wednesday of each month and the slow code net is on the other Wednesdays.

Free Weather Spotter Training will be offered at 1:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. on **April 8 at the Evanston Civic Center Parosol Room on the fourth floor at 2100 Ridge Avenue. For information, contact 847-866-0299 or ema@cityofevanston.org**

March Club Events

Weekly Net

Sunday, March 1, 9 p.m.,
147.315, + 600 kHz., PL 107.2

VE Testing

Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.,
Lincolnwood Community
Center, 6900 N. Lincoln
Avenue (Lincoln Avenue at
Morse Avenue)

Club Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.,
Lincolnwood Community
Center, 6900 N. Lincoln
Avenue (Lincoln Avenue at
Morse Avenue)

Brunch

Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m.
Marilyn's Restaurant

Weekly Net

Sunday, March 8, 9 p.m.
147.315, + 600 kHz., PL 107.2

Brunch

Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.
Marilyn's Restaurant

Weekly Net

Sunday, March 15, 9 p.m.
147.315, + 600 kHz., PL 107.2

Brunch

Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m.
Marilyn's Restaurant

Weekly Net

Sunday, March 22, 9 p.m.,
147.315, + 600 kHz., PL 107.2

Brunch

Saturday, March 28, 11 a.m.
Marilyn's Restaurant

Minutes of the February 3, 2009, Meeting

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Twenty people signed the attendance sheet.

Trustee Army, W9FO, reported that the repeater is working pretty well, putting 40 watts into the antenna, but there is still intermittent noise on the transmitter. Every component has been checked and the new amp has also been checked. When the machine is totally back to normal, a tech committee will be needed to care for it instead of leaving everything to Army, who has been keeping the repeater going for the past 30 years.

A December 17 note from WB2JSM, the Hall of Science Club in Queens, New York, to Art, N9THH, was read. The group wants contributions and for people to sign a petition at <http://tinyurl.com/6ljost>

Treasurer Howard, W9MNF, wants dues. There is now \$958.87 in the bank after paying \$840 for the club meeting room and the VE test room for the year and \$12 to the Illinois Repeater Association. Insurance still has to be paid. Recently collected dues will be deposited soon.

President Steve, KC9MWW, reported that a revised roster has been mailed to the club members.

A tech class to be held in Evanston starting February 9, was announced. Dave and Lynn Olivia volunteered for the VE testing for class members on March 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the Evanston Fire Department Training Room.

Greg, W9WIZ, suggested that the MAC banner be used at meetings.

W9FOded for some new tech licensees, not just paperwork, in order to help them get on the air. It was suggested that a possible future program might deal with setting up an HT, although the variation in HTs might make this difficult to do.

W9FO noted that the History of the K9YA group and Bob Heytow is online at k9ya.org. The meeting was adjourned for coffee, raffle and doughnuts, followed by the program by Mike, AA9VI, on the digital TV transition.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn, W9LUO

April Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, March 24. Send
news to w9luo@arrl.net or
847-866-9159. Late news
or news sent to other email
addresses may be ignored.

Special Event Stations for March

To obtain a certificate from any of the special-event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9×12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information.

Mar 1-Mar 4, 1600Z-2100Z,
Arlington Heights, IL. Peace
Corps Amateur Radio Club,
KA9NLX. To honor Peace
Corps volunteers, their service
and sacrifice. 21.375 14.290
10.133 7.275. Certificate. John
Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge
Ave, Arlington Heights, IL
60004. Dig MT63 on 10.133.65
and 2 m simplex in the Chicago
area. ipaskev@aol.com

Mar 1-Mar 31, 0000Z-2359Z,
Ocean County, NJ. Old Barney
Amateur Radio Club, N2OB/150.
Relighting and 150th
Anniversary of the Barnegat
Lighthouse "Old Barney". All
bands. QSL. via bureau or direct
to: Old Barney ARC, PO Box
345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087. Also
operating as N2OB/LH. IOTA
NA-111. Event began Dec 27,
2008. www.obarc.org

Public Service Organization Nets



The Cook County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net is at 9:00 p.m. on the SARA repeater, at 146.880, -600 kHz., PL 107.2 Hz. the fourth Wednesday of each month. The SATERN (Salvation



Army Team Emergency Radio Network) Chicago VHF net is at 8:00 p.m. on the CFMC repeater, at 146.760, -600 kHz, PL 107.2 Hz. each Tuesday evening. All interested amateurs are welcome to check in to either or both nets.

Special Event Stations for March, continued

Mar 2, 1700Z-2359Z, Orange, CA. Orange County Communications Employees ARC, W6OCC/75. 75th Anniversary of Orange County Communications. 14.320 7.230 3.960 146.895(-). QSL. Orange County Communications Employees ARC, 840 N Eckhoff St Ste 104, Orange, CA 92868-1021. CTCSS (PL) is 136.5 Hz for 146.895(-) MHz. w6hk@ocraces.org

Mar 7-Mar 21, 0000Z-2359Z, Charlotte, NC. Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, W4B. 60th Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. 14.280 14.085 14.070 14.050. QSL. via bureau or direct, W4B c/o W4BFB - MARS, 2425 Park Rd Rm 023, Charlotte, NC 28203. CW, SSB, RTTY, and PSK31. Check Web site for a list of all frequencies. Also operating 20 m portable from 2009 Charlotte Hamfest March 14-15. www.W4BFB.org

Mar 14, 1600Z-2000Z, New London, TX. Hospital Emergency Radio Operators, N5TMF. 72nd Anniversary of the opening of Trinity Mother Frances Hospital. 14.360 7.270. Certificate. Ed Sagen, New London, TMF Anniversary, 365 West Twin Creeks Trl, Troup, TX 75789. Trinity Mother Frances opened one day early to care for the wounded in the March 19, 1937 New London School explosion which prompted new school safety legislation. sagene@tmfhs.org

Mar 14-Mar 15, 1400Z-2300Z, Robbinsville, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association, W2R. Robbinsville, NJ 150 Year Anniversary. 14.270 7.200. QSL. Michael Moreken, 55 Sharon Rd, Apt E-22, Robbinsville, NJ 08691. www.qrz.com/ab2io

Mar 19-Mar 22, 1500Z-2200Z, Goliad, TX. Goliad County Amateur Radio Operators, W5G. 260th anniversary of the founding of Goliad, second oldest town in Texas, in conjunction with the Goliad County Fair. 21.320 14.270 7.215. QSL. Skip Stem, WB4DAD, 655 North Loop 337 #405, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

Mar 21, 1500Z-2200Z, Macon, GA. Macon Amateur Radio Club, W4BKM. 27th Annual Macon Cherry Blossom Festival. 145.370 14.240 7.225 7.050. Certificate. Macon Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208.

Mar 21, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating establishment of Naval Security Group in 1935, and Navy SEABEES in 1942. SSB 14.320 7.250 CW 14.060 7.055 PSK-31 7.070-7.080 RTTY 14.080 7.080 2m/70cm SOCAL rep WIN. QSL. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, 910 Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com

Mar 22, 1400Z-2000Z, Pasadena, CA. Pasadena Radio Club, W6KA. The First Pasadena Marathon. 28.400 14.200 7.250 3.900. QSL. Peter Fogg, KA6RJF, 1302 N Mar Vista Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104. www.qsl.net/w6ka

Mar 23-Mar 29, 0000Z-2359Z, Camden, SC. Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club, W4U. 77th Running of Carolina Cup Steeplechase Races. 14.260 7.235 3.905 CW up 37 kHz. QSL. Leon M. Morgan Jr, 2304 Moultrie Rd, Camden, SC 29020. n4lm@arri.net

April 18 is World Amateur Radio Day

The theme this year: Amateur Radio is "Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication"

Look for updates and current events on the club website at <http://www.metroarc.org>