

ISSUE

08

April
2019



A Journal of the
Montgomery Amateur
Radio Club (MARC)
Rockville MD

MARC Proceedings

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"Star Magnolia" Photo by Philip Sze

From the MARC President's Desk – Aleks W3JAG

My mother used to say her favorite month was January. The hectic holidays were finally over and it was too soon to begin gardening, so she could relax for a bit. Our club remains busy throughout the year, but, like my mother's gardening season, we enjoy an especially busy time beginning in the spring.



PUBLIC SERVICE

Our public service events for 2019 will begin at the end of April. The Rockville MS Walk is our first supported event, taking place on Saturday, April 27. The next day we support the Pike's Peek 10K and Rockville Science Day, where we get to introduce Amateur Radio to a whole new generation of young hams.

For those who wish to volunteer on Sunday for both the Pike's Peek 10K in the morning and Rockville Science Day afterwards, there is plenty of time to do both.

For a full schedule of public service events, which extend into November, go to our website <https://www.marcclub.org/> and click on the "public service events" link.

Paul N3RQV, our hard-working public service events coordinator, kicked off the 2019 season of MARC public service events at our April 17 meeting with an overview of all the events we are scheduled to support this year. He covered the different routes, technical and terrain challenges, equipment required, etc. Those that attended learned about all the great things our volunteers do. Please consider volunteering yourself! As Paul said everyone is welcome, and if you don't have a radio yet, we have plenty to loan.

You can contact Paul at N3RQV@arrl.net to volunteer for the MS Walk, Pike's Peek 10K and other public service events listed on our website.

David W2LNX is the coordinator for Rockville Science Day. If you would like to volunteer to for Rockville Science Day, you can contact David at W2LNX@arrl.net

FIELD DAY 2019 Planning Underway

On a separate note, we are three months out before Field Day 2019, our premier event for the year.

Here is a little blurb from the ARRL website: "Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio."



This will be MARC's sixth year partnering with the terrific **Damascus Emergency Communications Team (DECT)** at the **Damascus Volunteer Fire Department's** outdoor pavilion. While Field Day has a serious purpose, we don't forget to have fun, welcome visitors to learn more about our hobby and share a great weekend together.

This year's theme for Field Day will be "Innovation, Education and Community Service" highlighting the many important contributions of Amateur Radio. We will begin planning for Field Day soon so mark your calendars accordingly.

ANTENNA PARTIES



Normal Rockwell 1949 New Antenna

parties. (Editor's Note: deleted street addresses) We will start at Seth's/N3PZ home qth and complete the repair on his Carolina Window. Then possibly we can all grab a bite somewhere for lunch or not. Then migrate south to Komkit/W3KIT qth to erect his new R8 Vertical.

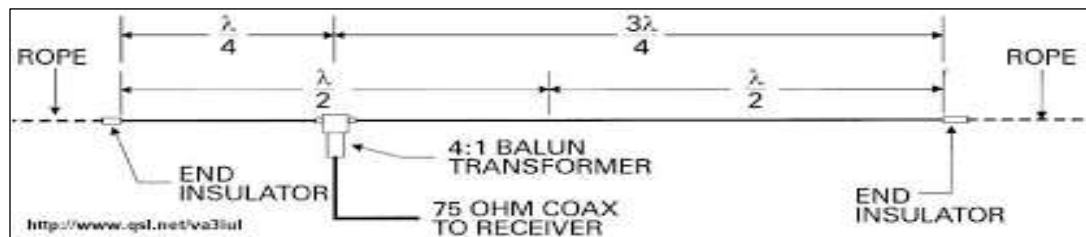
We'll meet at Seth's at 9:30am. *The plan is to first lower the existing Window, remove the vertical radiator and check it's integrity by ohming it out and placing a 50 ohm load on one end and measuring the other. Then possibly looking at it with the analyzer. If it's suspect at all, it will be replaced immediately. Next, is to remeasure both sides of the Window. If it's too short, we'll lengthen it, if it's too long, we'll trim it. We'll also examine and verify we have the correct Balun. I believe Komkit will be bringing a spare Balun.*

Komkit W3KIT says, thank you for all of the help putting up my vertical yesterday. Antenna work really, on 40 meter the antenna is pretty flat on the CW and Digital portion which I wanted anyway. On the SSB antenna matching is come to the rescue. The only band I have a hard time tuning it was the FM portion on 10 meter. But if FM 10 meter open up to EU 15-20 watts is all I need. 6 meter is so-so. Just have to wait for the opening and see. Again, thank you for your help. 73.

Seth N3PZ followed up on Komkit's comments: Thank you everyone for your help yesterday. 20 meters and above now working. This is great news. I will look at the antenna lengths over the next few weeks to address the 40 and 80 meter limitations. Great time. I enjoyed it. Thanks. Seth, N3PZ

Rafael, KP4N said, Glad to be part of it.

Andy WA3LTJ said, Great news, Kit. Thank you for the update. I had a great time at both antenna parties. It was fun colluding with other locals of the ham radio fraternity.



N3COB Glenn kicked off this "Antenna Party" sending an announcement out March 15th.

Ok boys and girls,

Below are the qth's of the locations for Sunday's antenna

Once we arrive at Komkit's. The goal is to assist raising the new vertical into position and secure into its new home. Just thinking ahead, which I don't do to often. Parking at Komkit's might be an issue as he is right on Arcola Ave. We may want to consider doing some car pooling to keep the cars to a minimum. Just a thought. We can all coordinate on the repeater 146.955 then migrate to 146.580 simplex as we're all pretty close to each other.

I will be bringing a roll of RG-8X Coax, MFJ Antenna Analyzer, Fluke Multi Meter, 50ohm load, assorted tools, extension cord and some electrical tape. Here are the location addressee's:

Site #1 Seth P Zarny/N3PZ

BROOKEVILLE, MD 20833

Site #2 KOMKIT LISTISARD W3KIT

SILVER SPRING, MD 20902

Always open for suggestions, additions, deletions. See you there, Glenn/N3COB

LATEST NEWS on Jeanne Socrates VE0JS Sailing Around the World Solo Non-Stop Unassisted

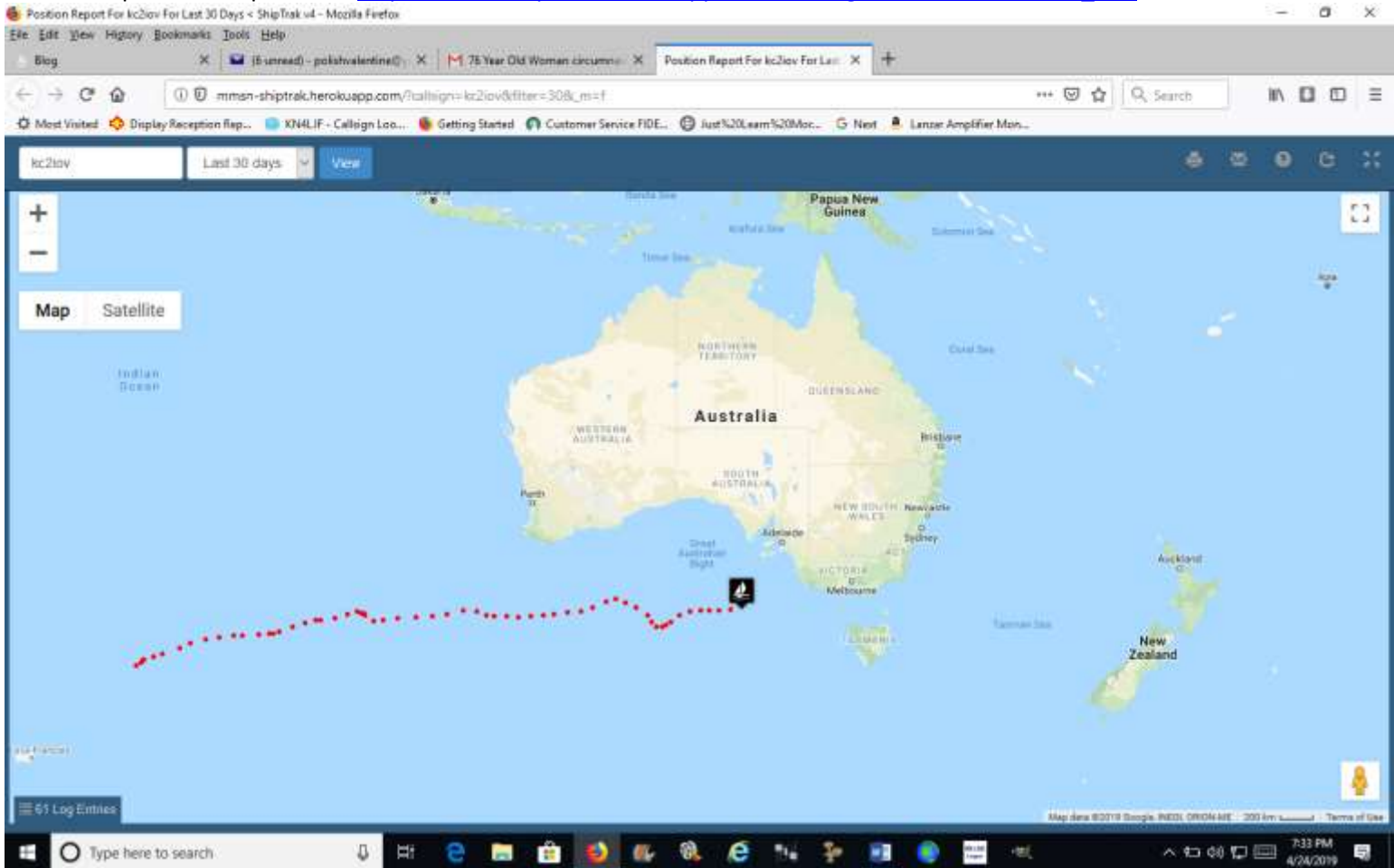


76-year-old woman underway to make fourth attempt to be oldest person to sail solo around the world

Jeanne Socrates already holds the record as being the oldest woman to sail solo, unassisted, non-stop around the world. But now, she's looking to be the oldest person, period. As Kori Sidaway tells us, in the past few years she's seen her fair share of setbacks, but she's dogged in her determination to get back to the open ocean. Check out this video as she prepares to set sail on October 3rd 2018.

<https://www.cheknews.ca/76-year-old-woman-to-make-fourth-attempt-to-be-oldest-person-to-sail-solo-around-the-world-493547/>

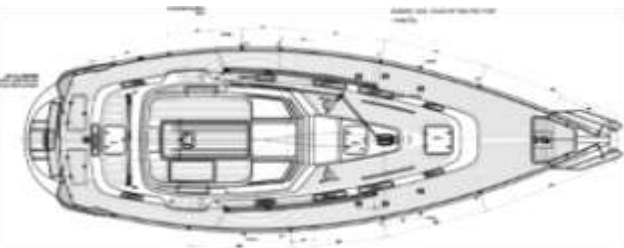
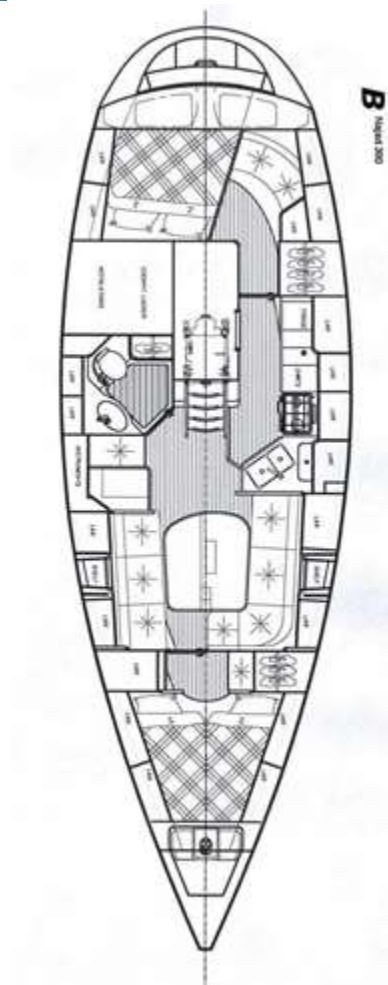
Her latest position as I publish is http://mmsn-shiptrak.herokuapp.com/?callsign=kc2iov&filter=30&_m=f



Note at the top of the map her call sign KC2IOV. If you like to read more about this great adventure, visit Jeanne Socrates <https://svnereida.com/blog>. Her blog is like a daily log entry. Her Day 203 item put my heart in my throat. I try to imagine what it must be like to be at sea all alone. Thank goodness she has lots of technical devices to keep her in touch. She frequently gets on ham radio nets such as FREQUENCIES *2300Z and 7.160Mhz *(SUN-11Z, MON-10Z, TUES-11Z, WED-10Z, THU-11Z, FRI-12Z, SAT-10Z) 7.163Mhz 0515Z 14.183Mhz * New Time/Frequency

Her TRANSCEIVER is a Icom M801E with 12V power supply and 125W (PEP) output power. Her ANTENNA: Backstay with insulators top and bottom. Ground is sintered bronze ground plate on underwater hull, in seawater, plus 1 sq. m of thin copper sheet glassed into inside of hull. She is using a AT141 Antenna Tuner.





K3MRI & Friends Conduct Unique Virginia QSO Party



The 2019 Virginia QSO Party was held during the weekend of 16-17 March 2019. Saturday, 16 March 2019 1400 UTC to Sunday, 17 March 0400 UTC and Sunday, 17 March 1200 UTC - 2400 UTC.

Jim, K3MRI, one of our most recent MARC members, participated in the Virginia QSO Party with three of his friends from the Mount Vernon ARC (W3JRD, K3HLT, W4DOI).

The four of them operated as an **expeditionary portable station starting in Emporia and ending in Spotsylvania County, VA.** They finished with 960 contacts, mostly on 80 meters. Indeed, the lower bands were, according to Jim, quite closed throughout the contest. The only exception was an early morning contact on Saturday morning from the city of Emporia, they managed to reach Melbourne, Australia on 40 meters. Unfortunately, the contest had not yet started so the QSO resulted in no points.

Their setup was the same they use during their other regular field outings. It is



mostly built around an 80 meter doublet raised on a 40-foot fiberglass Spiderbeam mast with either end

sitting on 20-foot Shakespeare poles. They also used a 13-foot vertical antenna made by Alpha Antenna and a Buddypole

dipole tuned to 20 meters. Throughout the contest, they were operating at approximately 300 watts using an RMItaly 305V amplifier.



In all, **the team stopped in fifteen locations over their two-day expedition** with, according to Jim, no major incidents except a mismatched battery connection. Fortunately, as always, field tools were present and Powerpoles came to the rescue.



Field Day 2019

Field Day 2019 (FD19) planning has commenced. Field Day is a **Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL)** sponsored event.



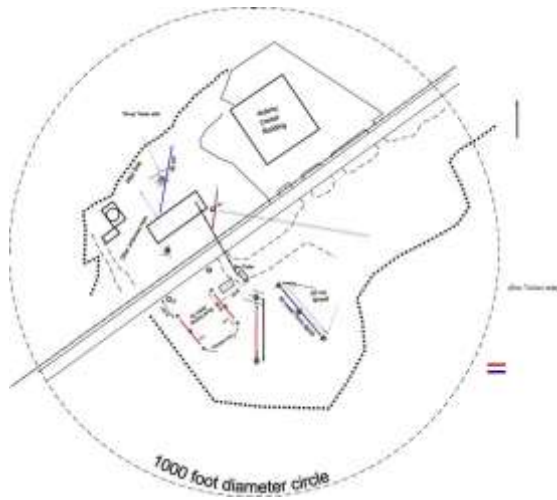
To motivate interest the MARC club is sponsoring FD Discussion sessions on 146.955 every Thursday 7:30 PM leading up to FD19. All are welcome to check in and

share ideas or make inquiries on how one can participate. Consider being a Station Captain and define whatever modes and bands you would like to setup. The **Montgomery Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** is teaming up with the **Damascus Emergency Communication Team (DECT)** for the sixth year. The location is

The following graphic is the MARC-DECT Field Day 2017 site layout. Though the image is that of FD17 it nonetheless is a good bird's eye view of how MARC-DECT manages laying out the site. This image serves more as a reference for those interested in deploying a station including all necessary components. It appears we will not be erecting the Rohn Tower nor many of the heavy push-up masts we have used over the last few years. The above picture is likewise one from a previous FD however it gives one a glimpse of the location.



To give a little flavor to what Field Day consists of I have inserted photo montages taken from the Field Day 2018 event. Photos show typical Stations including GOTA (Get-On-The-Air), youth participation, and other apparatus for Field Day.



Lois W0MMM and logging partner operating an HF station



Dave N3ADE at GOTA Station with potential hams



Transmission cable patch panel & installing grounding array rods

Robert K3RRR and his operating station (satellites & digital mode)

Here is a Icom ic-7200 I have used in the Antenna Tuner.

previous Field Days. Below is



The first deployment of the new MARC communications trailer



The outdoor pavilion at the Field Day Site (north side)

PUBLIC SERVICE



MARC's primarily mission at these events is the safety of the participants, course volunteers, and the public, as well as situational awareness for the race directors and coordination with police and medical personnel. This is accomplished by establishing a tactical radio net with volunteer radio operators on the course at key locations and shadowing race directors, police, and medical personnel, depending on the event.

Communication is via HT through local repeaters and/or simplex frequencies.

Don't know if this is something you want to do? Maybe you simply want to observe what goes on before you commit to working an event? Contact us and we will arrange for you to work with an experienced volunteer to observe and understand what is involved in working a public service event.

Don't have a radio but want to participate? MARC has appropriate equipment you can use to participate in an event.

If you have any questions or would like to help with radio communications, or logistics, or planning and administration for any MARC Public Service Event, please email me at N3RQV@arrl.net

The complete list of 2019 MARC Public Service Events is maintained on the MARC web site <https://www.marclub.org/> Public Service Events page.

Public Service Events	July 20	Rockville Rotary Runfest	
April 27	Rockville MS Walk	July 28	Riley's Rumble
April 28	Pike's Peek 10K	Sep 8	Parks Half Marathon
April 28	Rockville Science Day	Oct 27	Marine Corps Marathon
May 5	BCC Rescue 1 Run	Nov. 3	Rockville 5K/10K
July 4	Takoma Park July 4th Celebration		
July 12	Damascus Days Parade		

UPCOMING EVENTS

York Hamfest 04/27/2019 - 8AM to 1PM

Location: Elicker's Grove Park, 511 Roth Church Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362 Sponsor: York Hamfest Foundation

Website: <http://www.yorkhamfest.org>

Talk-In: 147.330+ (PL 123.0)

Contact: Duane KB3QLQ, Phone: 717-332-1385, Email: duane.sterner@yahoo.com

VHF Super Conference 04/28/2019

Location: Holiday Inn Washington-Dulles Intl Airport, 45425 Holiday Drive, Sterling, VA 20163

Sponsor: Southeastern VHF Society, North East Weak Signal Group, Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club

Website: <https://vhfsuperconference.com/>

Talk-In: none

Contact: Marjorie K4MEP, Phone: 703-754-3876, Email: info@directivesystems.com

The Great Hagerstown Hamfest 05/04/2019 - 7AM to 2 PM

Location: Washington County Ag-Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD 21713

Sponsor: Antietam Radio Association

Website: <http://w3cwc.org/hamfest>

Talk-In: 147.090+, 146.940- (PL 100.0)

Contact: Herman, K2AVA, Phone: 301-791-5841, Email: k2ava@myactv.net

Memorial Day Hamfest 05/26/2019 - 8AM to 2PM

Location: Howard County Fair Grounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794

Sponsor: Maryland F. M. Association

Website: <http://www.marylandfm.org>

Talk-In: 146.76-, 224.76-, 444.00+ (PL 107.2)

Contact: John, WA3MNN, Phone: 301-641-5313, Email: marylandfm@verizon.net

W4OVH Manassas Hamfest 06/15/2019 - 06:30AM to 14PM

Location: Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams Street, Manassas Park, VA Sponsor: W4OVH, Ole Virginia Hams

Website: <http://manassashamfest.org>

Talk-In: 146.97- (PL 100.0)

Contact: Don WA2SWX, Phone: 1-703-597-3211, Email: chairman@manassashamfest.org**Father's Day Hamfest at Arcadia** 06/16/2019

Location: Arcadia Fairgrounds, 16920 Carnival Avenue, Upperco, MD 21155

Sponsor: Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w3ft.com>

Talk-In: n/a

Contact: Dave, AB3TE, Phone: 410-252-2878, Email: summerentrepreneur@yahoo.com**VHF Super Conference**

Al Rabassa via MARC-MD wrote:

For those interested in technical programs, vendor sales, and everything weak-signal, the VHF Super Conference may be for you. The VHF Super Conference only comes to town every three years. This is the year! The dates: April 26-28, 2019. Web Site:

<https://vhfsuperconference.com> Location: Sterling, VA (28 mile drive).



NETS

The following tabular data is provided by K3TJC "Bill":

Net	Mode	Day	Time (local)	Freq.	PL	Purpose
MARC Sunday Net	FM	Sunday	7:30pm	146.955- MHz	—	Information
Public Service Net	FM	Tuesday	8:00pm	146.955- MHz	—	Public service & emerg
MARC 6-M Net	FM	Tuesday	9:15pm	53.270- MHz	156.7	Information
MARC Field Day Discussion Net	FM	Thursday	7:30 pm	146.955- MHz	—	Field Day Planning
Maryland Emerg. Phone Net (MEPN)	SSB	Daily	6:00pm*	3.820 MHz	n/a	Formal traffic
Empire Slow Speed (ESS)	CW	Daily	6:00pm	3.569 MHz	n/a	Training & traffic
Baltimore Traffic Net (BTN)	FM	Daily	6:30pm	145.330- MHz	—	Traffic
Maryland Delaware DC Net (MDD)	CW	Daily	7:00pm, 10:00 pm	3.557 MHz	n/a	MDC section traffic
Maryland Slow Net (MSN)	CW	Daily	7:30pm	3.563 MHz	n/a	Training & traffic
Radio Relay International East (RRIE)	CW	Daily	8:00pm	3.552 MHz	n/a	Formal traffic – long haul

*When band conditions degrade in late fall or winter, the MEPN may start an hour earlier.

D-STAR Nets

The MARC D-STAR repeater (444.200+) gateway is programmed to link to other reflectors to access nets hosted elsewhere. At the end of the programmed time the gateway links back to REF062C.

Net	Day	Time (local)	Reflector
International D-STAR Net	Sunday	8:00 to 8:59pm	REF001C
Philadelphia Digital Radio Net	Monday	8:00 to 8:59pm	REF020A
Raspberry Pi Net (1st and 3rd Mondays)	Monday	10:00 to 10:59pm	REF038C
PAPA System D-STAR Net	Tuesday	11:00pm to 12:59am	REF012A
Mid-Atlantic Auxiliary Communications Service	Wednesday	8:00 to 8:59pm	REF062A
National Capital Region Net (Washington DC)	Wednesday	9:00 to 9:59pm	REF062A
Ham Nation After Show Net	Wednesday	10:00 to 10:59pm	REF014C
PAPA Technical Round Table	Thursday	11:00 to 12:59am	REF012A