

# **MARC**

# **Annual Review**

**November 5, 2025**

# About MARC

- **Since our founding in 1966, MARC supports the Montgomery County, Maryland community and Amateur Radio**
- **Over 250 members**
- **Robust repeater constellation serving the region**
- **Many opportunities for members to get involved**
  - **Public Service**
  - **Education**
  - **Fun events like Fox Hunts and Field Day**
  - **Presentations on various topics at our regular meetings**
  - **Sunday nets**
- **Special Service Club**
  - **Recognized by ARRL for this prestigious honor**
  - **Because of our outstanding contributions to the local community and to Amateur Radio**

# Annual Review

## MARC Bylaws - ARTICLE VII OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### SECTION A. President

\* \* \* \* \*

5. Prepare annually and submit at the Club's annual meeting a full and correct statement of affairs of the Club, including a **balance sheet, a financial statement of operations,** and a narrative statement of the Club's program accomplishments for the preceding fiscal year;



Finance/budget by  
Treasurer later

Annual Review

6. Prepare annual and amended budgets for approval by the Board of Directors and present approved budgets to the membership;



Finance/budget by  
Treasurer later

# 2025 Officers and Directors

## OFFICERS

**Aleks W3JAG - President**

**Marc N4DR- Vice President**

**Fred K3CSX - Secretary**

**Bill KB3WKK – Treasurer**

## DIRECTORS

**David WZ3D**

**Dennis KD6DPR**

**Terry W3EDS**

**David W2LNX**

**Bob AK3Y**

**MARC Elections  
November 19**

**Repeater  
Committee  
Marc N4DR**

# 2 Meter Repeater

- **A New 2 meter repeater was installed in May 2025 by Jason N3JLT.**
  - ❑ **It is a more modern commercial grade Motorola repeater**
  - ❑ **Complete with controller, voter, and link receivers.**
- **The old repeater has been unplugged and is not in use. It is available in case of catastrophic failure of the new system (NOT likely).**

# Remote Sites

- **We are still having some problems with the North Site remote receiver.**
  - ❑ **It will be temporarily replaced with an older Motorola unit, and the current unit (a Yaesu DR-2X) will be removed and have its squelch board replaced.**
  - ❑ **This should fix the current audio level issues and allow final adjustment of input levels at the main site.**
- **All other remote sites appear to be functioning normally.**

# 6 Meter Repeater

- **The 6 meter repeater (53.270 minus offset, PL 156.7) continues to function well.**
  - ❑ **We have a weekly net at 9:00 PM every Tuesday night.**
  - ❑ **The net is growing in size, and several new members of the club are regular check-ins.**
  - ❑ **We often have 8 -10 stations joining us each week.**

# D-Star Repeater

- **The D-Star repeater is now fully functional using a software patch.**
  - ❑ **The patch was used to update security settings requested by our landlord's IT dept.**
  - ❑ **We will be transitioning to new software soon which will be more robust and solve any security questions.**

# 440 Mhz Repeater and APRS Digipeaters

- **The club 440 Mhz repeater, (442.750 plus offset, PL 156.7) is functioning normally.**
  - ❑ **It has C4FM capability that can be used between stations.**
  - ❑ **Full capability of the system is pending connection with the internet at the repeater site.**
  - ❑ **It is a useful way to test C4FM radios.**
- **The club's APRS digipeaters are working correctly, but are not heavily used.**

**Education  
Committee  
David W2LNX**

# Education Committee

## Education Coordinator - David W2LNX

- Answered inquiries posted to [education@marclub.org](mailto:education@marclub.org)
- Organized study materials for FCC exam
- Conducted test sessions
- Mentored new hams and Scouts at Field Day earning Radio Merit Badge
- Supported community educational events, e.g.,
  - Science Day
  - Scouts Camporee



# Test Sessions in 2025

- **Sunday, March 16 - Rockville Science Center**
- **Sunday, June 29 - Field Day**
- **Thursday, July 24 - Rockville Science Center**
- **Sunday, September 14 - Rockville Science Center**
- **Sunday, December 14 - Rockville Science Center**

## **Results:**

**Applicants: 33**

**Technician: 15**

**General: 8**

**Extra: 6**



# Test Sessions – Volunteer Examiners

**Bill Gross NF5E**

**David Bern W2LNX -- team lead**

**Marc Pressman N4DR -- deputy team lead**

**David Williams W3DKL**

**Eric Codes K3FNB**

**Eric Krichinsky NW3K**

**Eugene Cole NN0M**

**Frank Pelsor KC3SVS**

**Harvey Newman KC3VVL**

**Jeff Horlick KZ3F**

**Jim Alyanak K3MRI**

**Joe Massi AC3JM**

**John O'Brien K3LO**

**Mark Bary N4EOC**

**Phil Chimento KC3CNX**

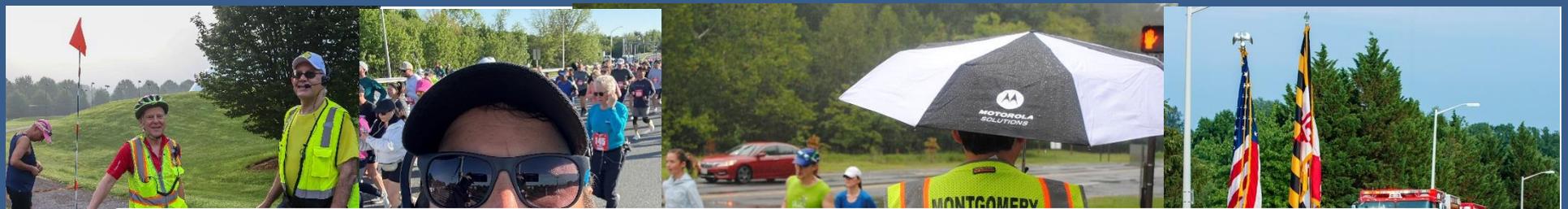
**Robert Fontana AK3Y**

**Sloane White NX2II**

Thanks to all our great  
volunteers!

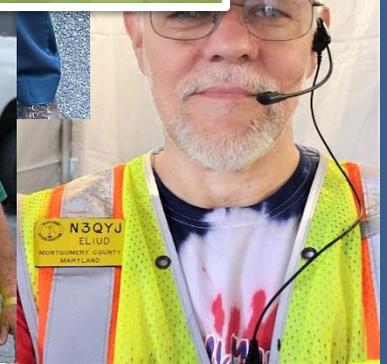


**Public Service  
Events  
Committee  
Paul N3RQV**



Public service events are a great way to learn about and gain experience with your radios and equipment, operating as part of a directed net.

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.







*MARC thanks all those members who supported these events. We look forward to an active Public Service Events calendar in 2026.*

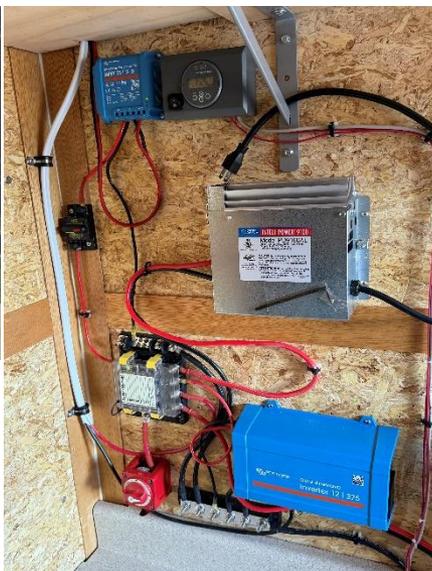
**Trailer Operations**

**Committee**

**Paul N3RQV**

**Ed KB3CJJ**

# MARC Trailer



# History

- **Took possession in Dec 2017, eight years ago!**
  - **ALM-31 crank up mast**
  - **Honda EU-2200i generator**
  - **Active solar and battery system installed and updated**
  - **Two operating positions**
  - **Purchased new radio and antenna equipment**
- **Trailer Committee transitioned to Trailer Operations Committee in 2023 to:**
  - **Increase awareness of trailer capabilities**
  - **Increase use of the trailer in local activities/events**
  - **Ensure necessary equipment and supplies are available in the trailer to conduct local, state-wide and national communications**

# Progress in 2025/Plans for 2026

- **Updates and improvements in 2025**
  - ❑ **Installed power at the second operating position, which was used at Field Day**
  - ❑ **Added new floor for protection and appearance**
- **Next up in 2026**
  - ❑ **Non-slip roof covering**
  - ❑ **VHF/UHF antenna and APRS monitor for second operating position**
  - ❑ **Coax cables: Keep what we need, sell/give away/toss what we don't. Purchase lighter coax for Field Day**
  - ❑ **Security racks and cabinets for radios**
  - ❑ **Routine trailer maintenance**
  - ❑ **Pop up canopy and tables**

**Field Day**

**2025**

**Paul N3RQV**

# 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JOINT FIELD DAY

## Montgomery Amateur Radio Club and Damascus Emergency Communications Team



**Left to Right**

**Chief Dale Browning, Damascus Volunteer Fire Department  
Ron KB3SYA, President, Damascus Emergency Communications Team  
Paul N3RQV, Field Day Coordinator, Montgomery Amateur Radio Club**

**Held June 28-29, 2025 at the  
Damascus Volunteer Fire Department  
Activities Center Pavilion  
10211 Lewis Drive, Damascus, Maryland**



# Logistics Plan

- **Friday**
  - Trailer and station set up
  - Install Common Ground System
- **Saturday**
  - Set up stations in including grounding for:
    - Scout Merit Badge Operations
    - Contesting Stations
  - Begin 24 hour operations at 2:00 pm local
- **Sunday**
  - End 24 hour operations at 2:00 pm local
  - Take down and clean up

# ALL ACTIVITIES, FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS FREE OF CHARGE



# Overview

- **Approximately 40 hams and over 130 public visitors attended (including scouts and their parents on Saturday and FCC-exam takers on Sunday).**
- **Contacts made using various radio Voice, CW and digital.**
- **MARC HF radios, antennas, masts, and safety features were installed.**
- **Local communications was provided by DECT via 2M radio.**
- **DECT Visitors' station provided information and handouts to the public.**
- **Field Day hams conducted Scout Radio Merit Badge instruction. Scouts came from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. 45 scouts attended and earned their badges.**
- **Accredited FCC examiners conducted exam for Amateur Radio License. 5 took tests, 4 passed.**
- **Complimentary food and refreshments, locally procured, was provided to all attendees.**

# Stations

- **7 Radio stations (5HF and 2VHF)**
- **5 HF antennas (EFHW, multiband dipole, vertical), 2VHF antennas (Yagi directional, vertical)**
- **Hams operated on 10, 15, and 20 meters from the pavilion; 6, 40, and 80 from the MARC Trailer**



# Scout Radio Merit Badge Instruction

- In cooperation with BSA, designed and conducted three one-hour classes Saturday morning followed by hands-on mentoring at radio stations, giving every Scout real-world experience operating a radio station
- 45 scouts, accompanied by their parents, attended and earned their Radio Merit Badge



# FCC-ACCREDITED TESTING FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE

- Official FCC-accredited exam sessions conducted for Amateur Radio License on Sunday
- There were five test takers



# Chief Browning of DVFD Graciously Visits Us





Amateur  
Radio  
Field Day





**Radio Merit  
Badge  
Program  
John K3LO**

# Background

- **For the past three years, MARC and DECT have offered a Radio Merit Badge Program at the DECT/MARC Field Day operation.**
- **The Radio Merit Badge Program allows a Scout to complete all the requirements for the Scouting America Radio Merit Badge in one day at one location.**
- **Date** – Saturday, June 28, 2025
- **Venue** – DECT/MARC Field Day
- **Location** - Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Activities Center

# Morning Session

**DECT and MARC members deliver PowerPoint presentation covering all the knowledge requirements for the Radio Merit Badge.**



# Lunch!



# After Lunch

**DECT and MARC members mentor Scouts at operating stations to make an actual on-the-air QSO.**



# Results

- **Forty-five Scouts**, accompanied by their parents, attended the program.
- **Forty-five Scouts** earned their **Radio Merit Badge** at the **DECT/MARC Field Day** operation.

## **New in 2025**

- **MARC purchased a third Yaesu FT-991A transceiver, expanding number of stations available for Scouts to operate.**
- **N3RQV installed VHF and UHF antennas so the FT-991As could make contacts through the repeaters.**

# **ARRL Foundation Grant**

- **The ARRL Foundation awarded a grant from the Alfred E. Friend, Jr., W4CF, Educational Activities Fund to MARC to cover the cost of instructional materials for the 2025 Radio Merit Badge Program.**
- **The grant enabled John O'Brien, K3LO, to compose a comprehensive handout and to have it commercially printed.**

# Placement in May 2024 QST

Christina Lessard, KC1TDM, [clessard@arrl.org](mailto:clessard@arrl.org)

## At the Foundation

# New ARRL Foundation Grant Recipients and Updates

Following the October 2023 grant submission period, the ARRL Foundation Board of Directors voted to approve funding for five grant proposals.

### ARRL Grant Recipients

The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club (MARC) in Silver Spring, Maryland, received a grant for instructional materials for 40 Boy Scouts to participate in the Radio Merit Badge program during the MARC and Damascus Emergency Communications Team joint Field Day.



### ARRL Foundation Receives \$2.1 Million Funding Commitment from ARDC

In a December 2023 news release ([www.arrl.org/news/ardc-and-arrl-](http://www.arrl.org/news/ardc-and-arrl-)

able on the  
at [www.a](http://www.a)

### New ARRL Founda

Elections  
Annual Me  
David Nor  
President.  
elected Vi  
der, K7GM  
surer, and  
was electe  
KB7HDX.

# Placement in ARRL Web Site



**ARRL**  
The National Association for  
Amateur Radio®

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## News

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So Now What?

ARRL Magazines

## The ARRL Foundation is Now Accepting Grant Applications Through October 31, 2024

10/04/2024

There is funding available to organizations for eligible amateur radio-related projects and initiatives, particularly those with a focus on educating, licensing, and supporting amateur radio activities. Youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged. The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical basis three times a year, in February, June, and October. Awardees are notified approximately 1 month after the closing of each cycle.

Recently, the ARRL Foundation provided funding for instructional materials to the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club (MARC), in Montgomery County, Maryland. MARC, led by David Bern, W2LNx, and John O'Brien, K3LO, held a Radio Merit Badge program on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the MARC/Damascus Emergency Communications Team (DECT) Field Day site. This program provided Scouts an opportunity to earn the Radio Merit Badge by completing requirements which included conducting a QSO.

# Placement in March 2025 QST

Mike Walters, W8ZY, w8zy@arrl.org

## Club Station

### Teaming Up for Radio Merit Badges

*Amateur radio clubs are ideally suited to assist Scouts in earning their Radio Merit Badges. Not only do they have a wealth of knowledge among their members, but clubs can also tap local resources to help make their efforts successful. This month, John O'Brien, K3LO, describes how his club did it, not just once, but 2 years in a row.*

The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club (MARC), in Montgomery County, Maryland, is an ARRL Special Service Club that was founded in September 1966. MARC's Education Committee Chairman, David Bern, W2LNX, conducts regularly scheduled licensing classes and licensing examinations for which he is always on the lookout for a venue.

David discovered the Rockville Science Center, a nonprofit organization located in Rockville, Maryland,

Amateur Radio Direction Finding. All options require the Scout to have knowledge of several radio-related subjects. All options also require an on-site visit to an actual radio installation, such as an amateur radio station, a broadcast station, or a public safety communications center. The amateur radio option requires the Scout to make an on-air contact.

David began planning a Radio Merit Badge program to be conducted during MARC's 2023 ARRL Field Day operation. This would allow a Scout to complete all of the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge on the same day at one location.

#### Joint Field Days

For the past 11 years, MARC has partnered with the Damascus Emergency Communications Team (DECT) to conduct joint ARRL Field Day operations. DECT is

# **2026 Radio Merit Badge Program**

- **Date – Saturday, June 27, 2026**
- **Venue – DECT/MARC Field Day**
- **Location - Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Activities Center**

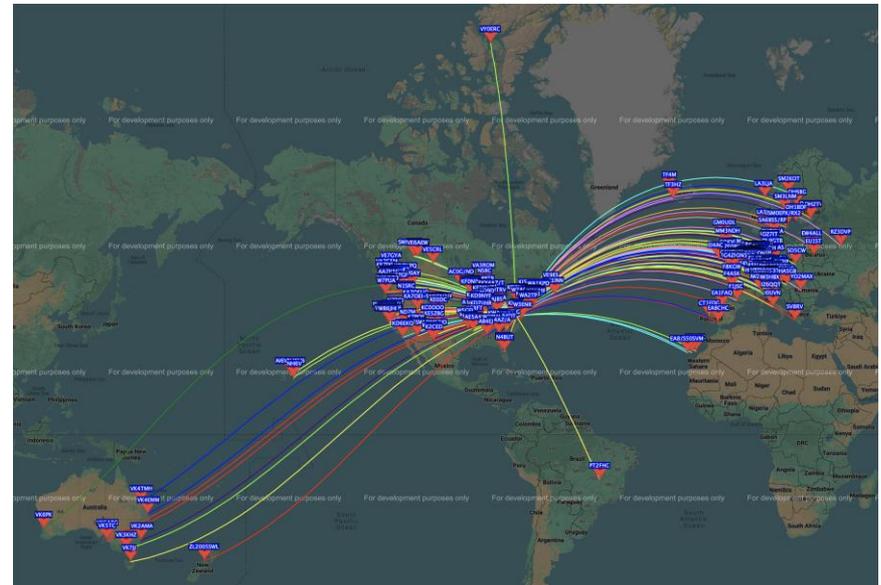
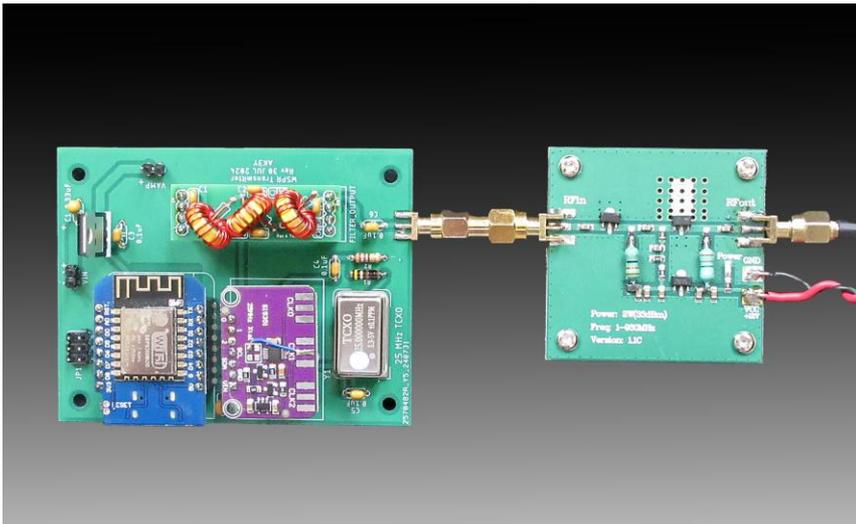
# How You Can Help

- **If you will be at the Field Day site and operating a station on Saturday afternoon, be set up and ready by 1:00 pm to show the station to the Scouts and help them make QSOs.**
- **If you will be at the Field Day site on Saturday afternoon but not operating a station, bring a handheld radio and help the Scouts make QSOs through one of the repeaters.**
- **If you will be at home on Saturday afternoon, monitor the 146.955, 442.750, and 443.900 repeaters and help the Scouts make QSOs.**

**Club  
Construction  
Projects  
FY 2025  
Bob AK3Y**

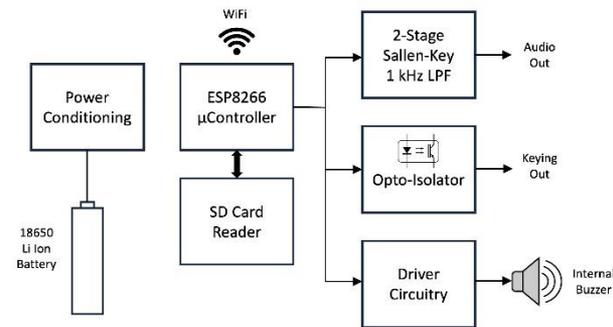
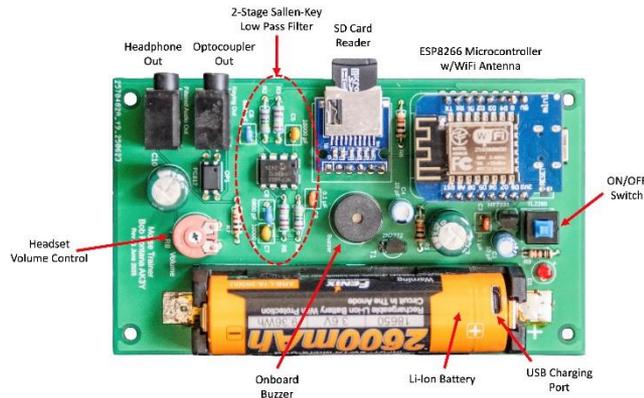
# WSPR Transmitter

- **WSPR Transmitter (October/November 2024)**
  - **Project designed by Bob AK3Y**
    - **To appear in QST magazine next year**
  - **Designed as a “Kit”**
    - **All components, PCB and detailed construction steps provided to participants**
  - **25 Club Participants total in Project**
  - **Two Zoom Sessions held to discuss project and theory of error correcting codes**



# Morse Code Trainer

- **Morse Code Trainer (July 2025)**
  - **Project designed by Bob AK3Y**
    - **To appear in QEX magazine next year**
  - **Designed as a “Kit”**
    - **All components, PCB and detailed construction steps provided to participants**
  - **18 Club Participants total in Project**



- **Planned Projects (one or more of the following)**
  - **QRP HF Transceiver**
  - **VHF Amplifier (for handhelds)**
  - **Fox Hunt antenna interface**

## **The Rockville Science Center's Relationship with MARC:**

**MARC has had a working  
relationship with the Rockville  
Science Center for many years.**

**We have supported and  
participated in the following  
programs at the RSC...**

# Amateur Radio Hangout

## **RSC Liaison – Howard KC3LUE**

- **Motto - “Learn, Solve a Problem, and Socialize”**
- **Product of Rockville Science Center, a 501(c)(3) organization.**
- **Average 15-20 people in a meeting with mix of aspiring, new and experienced hams.**
- **Meeting includes a presentation, demonstration, and/or hands-on activity.**
- **Most are also members of MARC and MCACS, with some from Frederick Radio Club, HacDC Amateur Radio Club, the NIH Radio Club, and some attendees are unaffiliated.**

# Hangout Presentations - 2025

- **“Hands-on tutorial: using the nano-VNA,” by Harvey KC3VVL**
- **“Imaginary numbers,” by Harvey KC3VVL**
- **“Winlink demonstration,” by Eric K3FNB**
- **“The hidden secrets of the coaxial cable and baluns,” by Michael NV3Z**
- **“POTA,” by Eric K3FNB**
- **“SkyWarn,” by Jerry, AI0K**
- **“ARES, MCACS, and emergency communications,” by Al KN3U**
- **“ARRL Field Day 2025,” by Paul N3RQV**
- **“The math and systems used in navigation,” by Jim Rudert**
- **Breakout sessions have included:**
  - Setting up and working with Winlink.**
  - Setting up and working with FT8.**
  - Working a FoxHunt.**
  - Some licensing training.**
  - And More!**

# **Parks on the Air (POTA) - 2025**

- **Director - Eric K3FNB**
- **POTA is announced and open to MARC members.**
- **Meets once a month. The date moves around a bit but is usually on the Saturday before or after Thursday Hangout meetings.**
- **POTA is a learning session for many, a chance to make POTA contacts, and an opportunity to socialize.**
- **Plan to POTA through the winter. Brrrrrr!**

# Other MARC/RSC Partnerships

**Ham About Town – led by RSC member.**

- **At school STEM nights and community festivals, RSC displays STEM activities and MARC members demonstrate Amateur Radio.**
- **At the April 2024 Solar Eclipse celebration and the October 2025 Gaithersburg sponsored International Observe the Moon Night.**

**Montgomery County Fair**

- **MARC, Scouts BSA, Montgomery College, and the RSC partner at the STEM Tent at the Fair's KidZone.**
- **MARC personnel demonstrate Amateur Radio and put attendees on-the-air.**
- **At the fair MARC poster is displayed, MARC fliers distributed, and talk about the club.**

**Field Day**

- **For the past three years has included the Scouting America Radio Merit Badge training, which includes putting Scouts on-the-air.**
- **This is a collaboration between MARC, Scouting America, and the Rockville Science Center.**

# ARRL Grants

- **Our MARC members have twice helped the Hangout secure an **ARRL Club Grant**.**
- **Next the Hangout will be seeking MARC's help to get the **ARRL Foundation Grant**.**
- **Yaesu 991A purchased with grant funds.**
  - **Currently “portable” and goes to POTA and community outings.**
  - **Will also use as a base station at the Rockville Science Center between POTA programs.**

**MARC**

**Website / Reflector**

**David W2LNX**

# MARC Email Reflector

## **Administrator: David W2LNX: Tasks**

- **Monitor email reflector for requests to register**
  - Open to all members with a callsign**
  - Allow posts from neighboring ham radio clubs without registering**
- **Monitor for spam and block spammers**
- **Monitor for inappropriate postings unrelated to ham radio or MARC activities**
- **Some Club members have earned the moderate status, where each new post is reviewed by David, W2LNX and, as needed, by Aleks, W3JAG**

## **How to subscribe to MARC Reflector:**

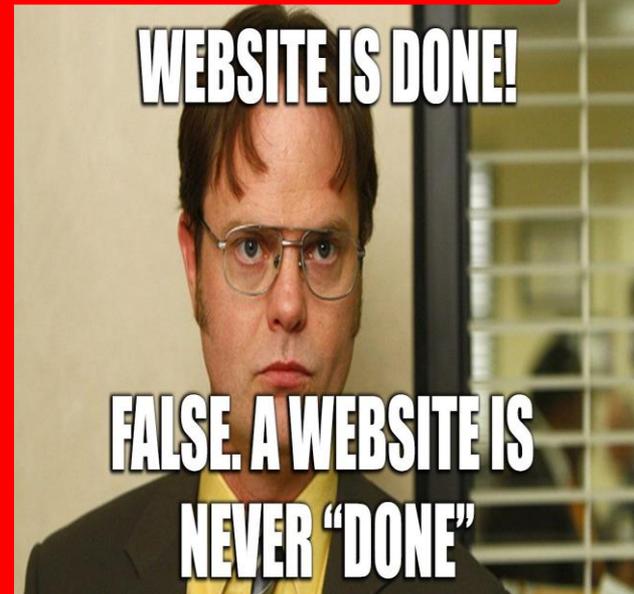
**Go to <https://marclub.org/> scroll to bottom of home page to find “How to subscribe...”**

# Website

<https://marclub.org/>

**Webmaster: David W2LNX**

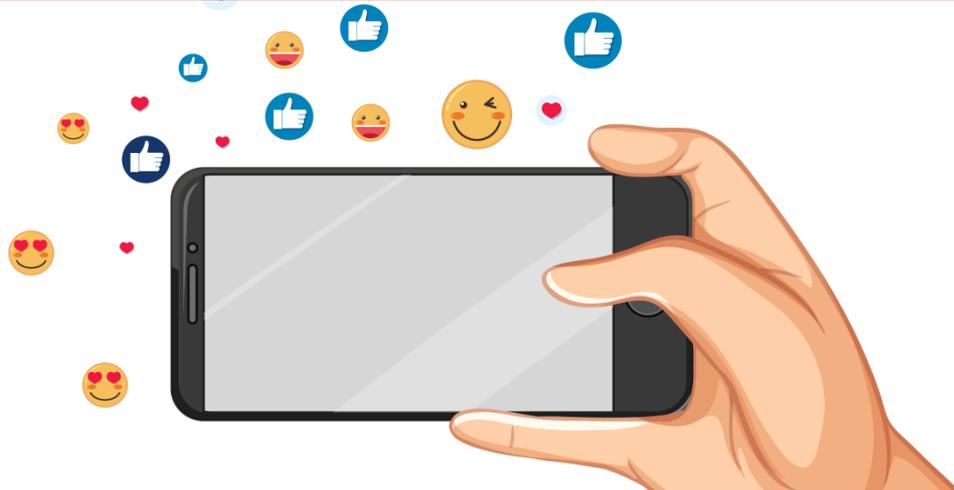
- **Manages annual Website SSL certificates**
- **Posts/schedules/updates**
  - Home Page, including presentations to Youtube**
  - Club Meetings linking to Zoom**
  - Public Service Events**
  - Education Committee**
  - Field Day**
  - Budget/Finance Info**
  - Test sessions**
  - Other changes as needed**



**Social Media**

# Facebook Group – KV3B

- **Thanks to Robert K3RRR, who created this page for our club.**
- **Great pics and discussion**
- **207 members**
- **Do not need to be a Facebook member to view posts (but need to be a member to post)**



# MARC YouTube Channel



<https://www.youtube.com/user/W3JAG>

**120 Videos, 1.17 Thousand Subscribers**

**145,153 Views**



**Presentations**

# Presentations at Regular Meetings

- After club business at regular meetings, we host interesting presentations by outstanding experts in Amateur Radio and related technology areas
- Most presentations are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel
- In this way we gain knowledge and share it with others



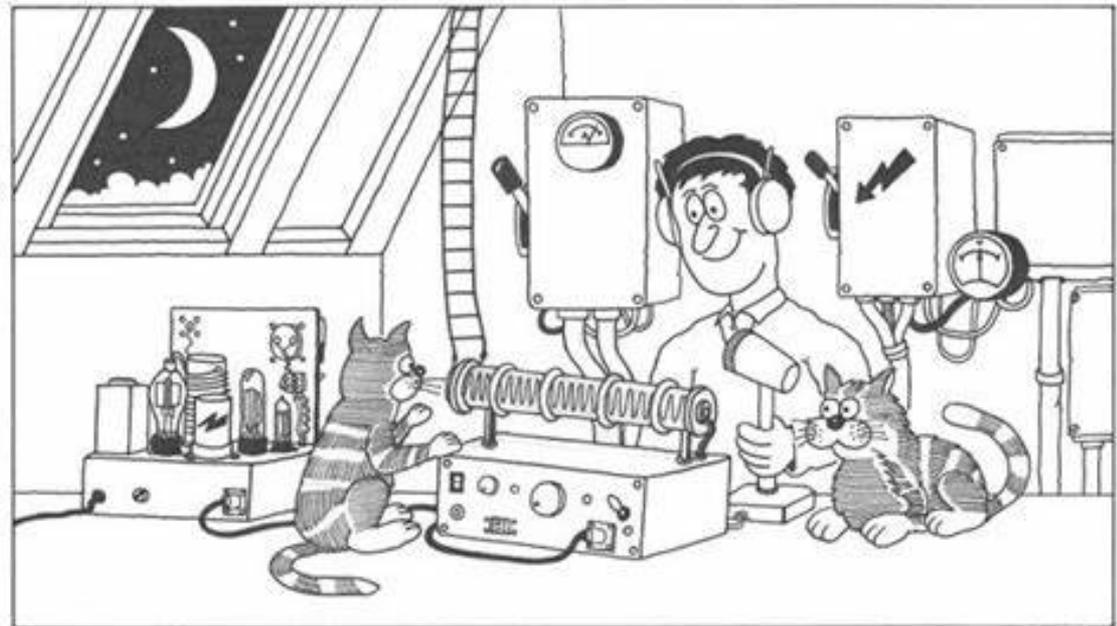
# Presentations in 2025

- **“National Radio Astronomy Observatory,” by Jesse Alexandra WB2IFS**
- **“Introduction to the Fun of Radiosport,” by Ed, N1EK**
- **“Repeater Duplexers,” by Fred K3CSX**
- **Field Day Kickoff – Scout Merit Badge overview (John K3LO), Parks on the Air Radio Practice (Eric K3FNB), set up, break down and 24-hour contesting (Paul N3RQV), Dennis (KD6DPR) Contest scoring and band plan programming management**
- **“Contest Logging for Field Day 2025,” by Dennis KD6DPR**
- **“Project Malawi and the Jeffrey Dahn Memorial Foundation,” by Don K6DO**
- **“Repeater Overview” by Marc N4DR**
- **“WSPR Project” by Bob AK3Y**
- **“Cold War HF Intercept and Direction Finding Antenna: The Elephant Cage,” by Mike Washvill of the Cold War Museum**
- **Approved Budget for 2026 by Bill KB3WKK, MARC Treasurer**

**Nets**

# MARC Regular Nets

- **Sunday Night Net**
  - **Popular Sunday night event**
  - **Builds net control skills while keeping up with friends**
- **Tuesday Night Public Service Net**
- **Skywarn Net**
- **Planning Nets**
- **Training Nets**
- **6 Meter Net**



# Thanks for the Great Support!

- **Officers and Directors**
- **Members**
- **Experimenters**
- **Donators**
- **Attendees at regular club meetings**
- **Volunteers who**
  - Respond to Emergencies
  - Support public service events
  - Mentor and instruct new hams
  - Participate in exercises
  - Volunteer as test examiners
  - Present topics of interest at meetings

***Can't do it without you!***

**THUMBS UP AND  
THANKS TO ALL  
FOR A TERRIFIC 2025!**

