I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah. The holidays can be stressful, but I hope you enjoyed the time with family and friends. I encourage everyone to cherish moments with each other, not only during the holidays, but throughout the year as well.

As I embark as your president, I especially want to thank Dave Vest for his years of service to the club as president. His stewardship has left the club in a good place.

Planning is well underway for our upcoming hamfest. Both our website and Facebook pages have been updated to reflect the event. As you may know, feedback on the move to the fairgrounds was very positive. Partnering with SWODXA in holding their convention with our hamfest has been mutually beneficial to both clubs. I plan on using social media in the coming months to leverage our reach to increase attendance.

We are awaiting the delivery of the additional repeater approved at the December meeting. If everything goes well, we anticipate having the repeater operational in the next few weeks. The C4FM capabilities of the repeater should add excitement. This potentially can attract new members by being one of the more prominent UHF repeaters in the area.

The club officers hope to have MARC become even more vibrant with a growing membership. In order to achieve this we need one critical element: You. Remember, our club is what you make of it. I encourage everyone to give constructive suggestions when you see a need for improvement. Please get involved whenever you can help. With your help, we can make this a better group for everyone.

Ron