

*How do I?*

*An occasional series*

*This week: Public Service*      *e*



For several years The Cumberland Amateur Radio Club (CARC) has provided communications support for The Fantastic Parade™ in Dillsburg, PA. This is a simple operation and does not need special equipment. We do not use a repeater. We can cover the entire parade formation area and route with simple 2 meter HT's like the ones shown

here. It doesn't matter if you have a Kenwood, Icom, Yaseu, Baofeng, etc, if it is a 2 meter HT it will work. The Yaesu FT60 and VX170 shown here both have Diamond SRJ77CA antennas which significantly outperform the stock "rubber duck". Both have 5 watts maximum output. For the base station at the registration office we use a mobile radio and ground plane antenna. Because it is in doors, testing determined the antenna needed to



be outside and made using a HT impractical.

What do you need other than a HT? Good solid walking shoes. Clothing for weather ranging from nearly 80 degrees to snow. A good sense of humor and a desire to help.

I am generally able to park near my station so I keep additional layers of clothing in the car. I also have water, a snack, bug spray (don't need it here, but at other events you might), a chair (again, not needed in Dillsburg), 2 radios, a speaker microphone for each, flashlight, safety vest, CARC public service hat, pens and a tablet. I have both the primary and secondary frequencies programmed in advance.

See ya there!