

**DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**Inc.**

***SEPTEMBER 2025***

**W3OK**  
**CORRAL**

Club Meeting September 4th, 7 pm at the  
Nancy Run Firehouse.  
3564 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020  
Will be also a Zoom meeting.

September's Program  
Satellite Station  
By Larry Butler, KC<sub>3</sub>JTK



## **AUGUST MEETING MINUTES**

Terry, KC3JHT, called the meeting to order at 1902.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Terry.

**President's Report:** Terry made the report that John Holmes, N3IGA, has volunteered to be the QSL Manager for the Club. So, any QSL cards that come in, John will take care of everything.

The annual Halloween Parade is on 16<sup>th</sup> of October as far as Terry remembers. If interested in taking part in helping provide communications for this annual event that the Club does, please let Terry know as soon as possible because he has a lot of meetings to go to and wants to make sure there will be enough members covering the parade as well as always

There is a need for volunteers for Programs and Awards. Terry said that he would be glad to help anyone get started in either one. At least you will get a better explanation on how to do it, which Terry never got.

**Announcements:** Bob Green, KE3AW, announced that the Fall Class for anyone wanting to take the classes and get their license. General Classes will be available. Classes start on 2 September 2025 from 7 to 9 pm at the 911 Center. There will more information later in this Newsletter. Bob needs members to drop off flyers at Post Offices, grocery stores, library, and any other places that people can read .

George, N3SQD, said that Lehigh University is looking to start up their Amateur Radio Society, which is over 100 years old. They are looking to reactivate it on August 22 from 3 to 6 pm. George is looking to take a few members to it. What George is looking for is any Amateur Radio operator that goes to Lehigh

University. There is a need to have students head up the organization.

**Guests:** None

**Secretary's Report:** John, N3IGA, asked if there was any additions or corrections to the Meeting Minutes as printed in the Newsletter last month. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Dean, AB3BD and second by Jay, KC3ZFR. A vote was taken and motion was carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry presented the Treasurer's report for June. Dean, AB3BD made the motion to accept. It was seconded by Steve, W3NAM. A vote taken and motion was carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** There are 3 members. One is a Voting Member, George, WA3MOJ. There are two Associate members from the Classes. They are William, KC3ZIG and Stan, KD3BQI. I would like to make a motion to accept them into the Club. Dean, AB3BD seconded the Motion. Vote was taken and passed. There are 9 Life Members and 120 voting members. That brings a total of 129 Voting members. There are 9 Assoc. Members. That makes a total of 138 members including the new members just voted in.

**Club Station:** No report. Terry brought it up about the Picnic two weeks ago at the Milkhouse. He was told that there were a lot of people that attended. It was said that there was an interest in having another one. Doreen said that there will another picnic on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are coming, brings a dish or something to share and eat. It's starts between 4:30 and 5 pm.

**Tech Committee:** No report

**Repeater:** No problems

**Website:** No report. If someone has an announcement that they would like to put on the website, sent it to [website@dlarc.club](mailto:website@dlarc.club) and Bill will be glad to put it on the website.

**New Business:**

Dave, N3EYT, asked if anyone needs any badges. He has some already made up. If you need a badge, and a member of good standing, contact Dave and he will get one made and bring it to the Club meetings.

John, N3IGA, talked about the PA QSO Party that is on the 11-12 October 2025. He said a few things about the QSO Party. He also said that if anyone would like to learn to use the Club's equipment that they should start now so that they will be able to take part in the Party and help the Club get the Club Trophy. The Club station is opened Wednesday night until everyone leaves. It is open on Saturdays at 9 am. So, make time to learn the equipment and get to enjoy another part of the hobby. John also said what the articles will be in the Newsletter each month before the QSO Party. September's issue will be about the history of the Club in the Party, which was put together by Barb, W3ATC. October's issue will have a Party banner and information on how to give your scores to the Club for the Club trophy.

**Old Business:** None

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1925 hours.

**Program:** POTA with a Purpose: Volunteer in National Parks by Bill Carleson, KD3FLY.

John Holmes, N3IGA  
DLARC Secretary



**POTA with Purpose: Volunteer in National Parks**  
**By Bill Carleson, KD3FLY**

This program was one of the best programs that were presented.

Bill did a great job explaining everything. The visual display was great and was helpful in his presentation. It was interesting to hear how Bill and his wife got into doing this.

He explained what was needed to do this type of work. It's not that easy to get into that program. You get checked out. It is helpful to have a travel trailer.

He went on and told how each Park can be different for the volunteers. From what I heard, I didn't hear of any of the Parks Bill mention had any bad things.

Bill said to check on "[volunteers.gov](http://volunteers.gov)" for more information.

I heard a lot about the snakes getting worse, but I did not know how bad it was in the Everglades. The problem is with the Burmese Pythons that are all over. Several times Bill mentions these Pythons and what they are doing to the Everglades. He said that slowly the smaller animals will not be around if something is not done now. Those Pythons are going from one island to another and taking over the islands.

I asked him about how those Pythons got down there. Some got away from a snake show or something like that, some may have been dropped off on an island

because it was too big to take care of and to live with one, and many more situations.

Bill showed pictures of his POTA set-up at one of the Parks. It was a great set-up because he was in a National Park. Got a lot of contacts on lower power. If you get a chance to talk to him, ask him about his POTA set-up that he went over at the meeting. He should be able to interest you with what he all did.

Bill also showed pictures of other parks he did volunteer work at and explained his work.

Like I said, this was quite an interesting program. I know a lot of people who live in Florida and I did too. So, I was lucky to see some of the Everglades, so this program was interesting to me.

De John, N3IGA

### **DLARC History in the PA QSO Party**

The 69<sup>th</sup> annual PA QSO Party will be held Oct 11 and 12, 2025. The first event was held in 1957 and DLARC has had an auspicious history with the contest since 1981, when a Club Entry Category was added to the weekend. Under the leadership of Ray Bilger W3TDF, during the 12 years stretch from 1989 to 2000, DLARC garnered 8 first places and 3 second place finishes.

In 1985, DLARC voted to become a sponsoring club for the PA QSO Party and pay for an award plaque. That year the Club placed 5th, slipped to 9th in 1987, and rose to 3rd in 1988. Then began the remarkable string of victories.

In 1989, 60 members contributed to the Club effort. Bill K3ANS and Mark N3EOF were given watches with the DLARC logo to recognize their outstanding performance. The Club also made commemorative patches to celebrate the achievement. DLARC again took top honors in 1990.

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in 1991, Ray orchestrated a catchy slogan campaign (such as “Don’t be loafy, Get back the trophy”; “Please, let’s not be slack, let’s get the trophy back”; and Don’t let your buddies down, Bring the trophy back to town”) to drum up enthusiasm for 1992. It worked and DLARC regained first place. The club gave engraved commemorative pens to each participant.

In 1993, DLARC again had 60 operators, took first place, and awarded plaques to the 12 members who scored over 50,000 points. The next year, with another first place, DLARC presented plaques to 21 high scorers and certificates to the other operators. When DLARC took 1<sup>st</sup> place in 1995, the club racked up double the points of the second-place club and again awarded plaques to the high scorers.

DLARC operated from Bushkill Township Elementary as a Special Events Station in 1996, took first place, and gave patches to participants. The last time the club took 1<sup>st</sup> place was 1998, giving the club 8 first place finishes in 10 years. In 1999 and 2000, the club finished 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In addition to leading the club efforts, Ray held many county records scores. He would load his trailer, head for a county that had a low number of operators, set up his station there, and try to show a new record score. All this was done alone, including setting up his beam antenna. Ray still holds 9 county records – Sullivan 1992, Fulton 1998, Juniata 2000, Indiana 2002, Union

2003, Wayne 2005, Montour 2006, Franklin 2010, and Clearfield 2013.

In 2007, after the death of Norm Zoltak K3NZ, an avid contester, the Club announced the creation of the Norm Zoltack PA QSO High Score Award to be given to the Club individual with the highest QSO score. The winner receives a personal trophy and their name on the plaque in the Milk House. The first winner was Jay Mason N3OW, who tallied 199,630 of the Club's 491,979 points that year.

DLARC was the QSO bonus station in 2008 and gave out almost half a million points to operators who contacted the station. DLARC did not snag any more first place awards, but finished 4<sup>th</sup> in 2009, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2010, 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2011, and 4<sup>th</sup> in 2012. In 2022, the Club placed 11<sup>th</sup> among the 13 PA clubs who sent between 3 and 25 logs, logging 34,867 points.

I want to thank Barb, W3ATC, for the above information from the Club's Achieves.

De John, N3IGA

## Antenna? – It's a Compromise

By VE3IPS

The G5RV antenna is often called a “compromise antenna”—and for good reason. While it's widely used and marketed as a general-purpose multiband HF antenna, it's got some design quirks and practical limitations that make it a poor performer in many field and DX scenarios. Here's why:

### **1. It Was Never Meant to Be a Multiband Wonder**

The original G5RV, designed by Louis Varney in the 1940s, was fine-tuned **20 meters**. The idea was to create a 3/2



wavelength dipole on 20m with a matching section of 450-ohm ladder line. Anything beyond that was incidental. Many commercial versions claim “80–10m operation”—but that’s only possible with a tuner, and even then, the radiation patterns get messy and unpredictable on most bands.

## **2. Matching Problems & Lossy Coax Runs**

A true G5RV uses:

**102 feet of horizontal wire**

**34 feet of 450-ohm ladder line**

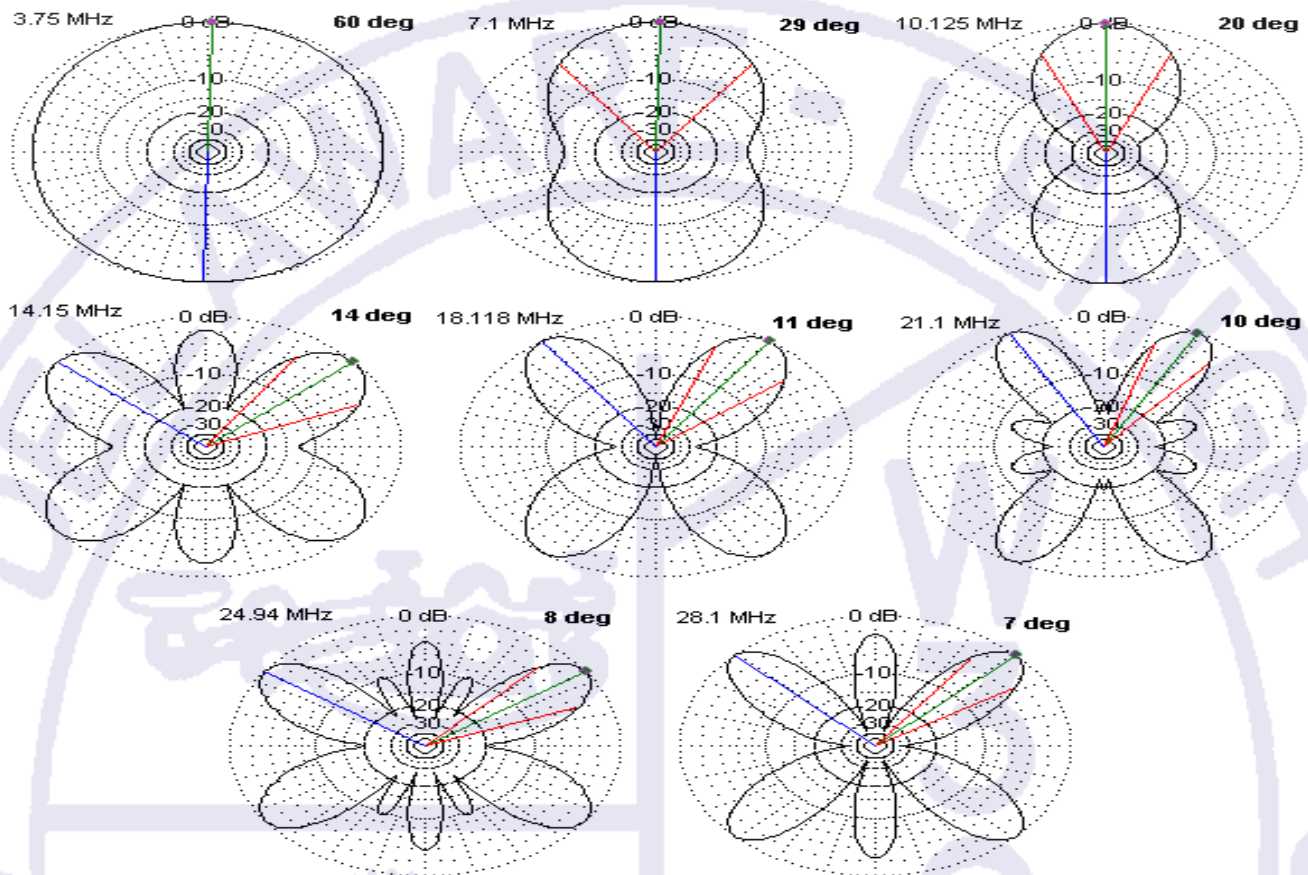
**Plus, a run of coax to the rig**

That transition from ladder line to coax without a proper **balun** or choke causes **common-mode currents**, RF in the shack, and noise. Also, the antenna presents **wild impedance swings** on non-resonant bands, so your tuner and feedline take a beating.

Running 100 feet of coax to a poorly matched G5RV on 80m? You’re just heating the line. That’s not DX—it’s a dummy load.

## **3. Poor Performance on Most Bands Without a Tuner**

Without an external tuner, especially one capable of handling high impedance mismatches, it just will not tune well on many bands. Even when you do tune it, the radiation pattern on 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters is a chaotic spiderweb with high-angle lobes—not exactly ideal for long-haul DX.



#### 4. Height-Dependent Sweet Spot

To perform even decently, the G5RV needs to be high—ideally **at least 35–40 feet**. At 20 feet, you're in NVIS territory with high-angle radiation. Portable ops or backyard deployments often don't have the height, turning it into a cloud warmer. That's ok if you like to work stations 300 miles away, but if its DX you want then this one is not for you.

#### 5. Modern Alternatives Are Just Better

Today you've got options:

**End-fed half waves (EFHWs):** Easier to deploy, often usable on more bands with less hassle

**Linked dipoles or fan dipoles:** Better efficiency, predictable patterns

**OCFs or doublets with proper balanced line all the way:** More flexible and efficient if you're using a tuner anyway

### **Real-World Field Notes**

If the G5RV is:

**Too low** (<25 feet): it shifts to **high-angle** radiation (~60–90°) and loses DX punch.

**Bent or in an inverted-V configuration:** the pattern fills in, becoming more omni-directional but with reduced efficiency and lobe focus.

**Fed poorly** (bad balun, high SWR): you'll get common-mode currents and unpredictable lobes.

### **Field-Tested Takeaway:**

If you inherited a G5RV or got bad advice from a ham, it can work—but don't expect it to be a DX machine or a field-friendly solution without serious tweaking. For portable or reliable multiband work, a resonant EFHW or linked dipole will outperform it 9 times out of 10, especially at low power or in rough terrain.

Why bother with this as your primary antenna when there are better options?

Now, if you are one of the 80 % of hams that like to listen, talk rarely on HF and enjoy listening to nets then the G5RV is your perfect short wave listening antenna.

Here's a side-by-side comparison of the G5RV, EFHW, and a 20m Inverted Vee based on real-world field use by VE3IPS:

**EFHW** stands out as the most field-friendly with easy deployment, solid multiband efficiency, and minimal tuner reliance.

A local ham could not hear the EU stations I was working one Saturday afternoon on 20m SSB with my 5 watts. The EFHW gave me DX contacts the G5RV did not.

**Inverted Vee** on 20m shines in predictable performance and low-power efficiency—great for focused band use.

This is my standard antenna and at higher heights ( 33 ft) it does a good job on DX on 20m and but on 40m it's a great one for regional contacts.

**G5RV** lags in almost every category unless it's installed at the right height with a good tuner and choke. A flat top antenna up 33 feet with 52 ft legs are tough to cram into a city lot.

## **DLARC Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, 18 August 2025

A meeting of the DLARC Board of Directors was at the 911 Center, with the following in attendance:

### **Board Members Present:**

President, Terry Swinney, KC3JHT - Zoom

Vice-President, Diana Lambert, KC3ZGQ

Secretary, John Holmes, N3IGA

Treasurer, Larry Butler, KC3JTK

Bill Carlsen, KD3FLY

Dean Guth, AB3BD



Steve Harper, W3NAM

Doreen Grambling, K3PDL - Zoom

**Absence:**

Adam Gauntz, N3LAG

Dave Frankenfield, N3LWY

**Proceedings:**

A quorum being present, the Secretary called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

**President's Report:**

The President was out of town, so the Vice President took over.

Diane asked what was going on in the Club. John said the PA QSO Party on October 11-12. Something was said by Terry because he was on Zoom.

This is still a need for a Program Chair and Awards Chair. Terry has said it so often that he will help you more than he was when he took over.

Terry also said that there is a need for more members to participation in the Emmaus Halloween Parade. If you are interested and didn't sign the sheet that was at the last meeting, contact him. His email address is on the website. He said that John will do a mass email about the Parade. The Parade is October 18<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of October 19.

**Secretary's Report:** John asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Board Meeting Minutes from last month. Motion to accept the report was made by Dean. Second, by Diane. Vote was taken, and motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry presented said Treasurer's report for July. A motion to accept the report was made by Dean. Second by Steve. Vote taken, and motion carried.

**New Business:**

John said that he had a member email him about the Club's 10-Meter Net. This member said that he saw the information on the website under Nets. I said that I haven't heard about that net since I left the Club in 2006. There was a discussion about the net. It was decided to remove the information from the website. Bill said that he will remove it from the website.

Larry said the he sent in a check for a plaque for the PA QSO Party. The plaque will for the High Score Outside of PA. We did that last year.

**Old Business:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1917 hours.

Minutes sent by  
John Holmes, N3IGA  
DLARC Secretary

## **ARRL AND RENEWALS**

Since there were a few new members at every meeting, I thought it was time to talk about ARRL membership.

As you know, the ARRL has raised their membership dues starting 1 January 2024.

All ARRL members need to check their QST mailing slip to see when their membership expires. Now members have to decide on what they want to do.

The dues went up \$10, from \$49 to \$59. The biggest change is that if you want to continue getting QST or On the Air magazines in the printed form, it will cost you \$25 per magazine. If you are willing to get those magazines in digital form, there are no extra cost

You have a choice in how many years you want your membership. One year is \$59 and 3 years is \$175. You still have to pay \$25 a year for the printed form of the magazines.

The Club benefits from ARRL membership by getting a commission on new members and members that renew. It is not much, but every little bit, it helps the Club. In order to be an Affiliated Club, you need to have at least 51% of the voting members be either Full or Associated members in the Club. At least 51% of the voting members must be licensed radio operators.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [n3iga@ptd.net](mailto:n3iga@ptd.net) and I will try to answer your questions.

De John, N3IGA

DLARC ARRL Membership Liaison

### **VE TEST SESSION**

On 5 September 2025, there will be a VE Testing Session at the Northampton County 911 Center at 7pm. Candidates are required to pre-register. You must contact Bob Green, KE3AW by phone 610-419-9286 or email address [ke3aw@arrl.net](mailto:ke3aw@arrl.net). Bob will inform the candidate on what is needed and prohibited, etc., the date, time, location, verification needed, directions, etc. The candidates need to know they should get their FRN number prior to the testing. If they do not have that FRN number (SS number cannot be used), it will slow their paperwork flow and delay the



license delivery to them. They also need to know the fee set by ARRL for their part in the checking process before their paperwork is sent to FCC in Gettysburg, and if paying by check, it shall not be made to any member of our VE Team nor to DLARC. And finally, the \$35 the feds are charging for their 10-year license.



Andrew, WV1B, George, N3SQD and David, N3EYT promote the Lehigh Amateur Radio Club during Club Fair at Lehigh U. on August 25th.  
De David Blankenship, N3EYT



# AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES



**THE DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
will offer **FREE CLASSES**

to help you prepare for the FCC test for

**Entry-level Amateur Radio License**

and, for those wishing to upgrade their current license, classes  
for

**General License Class**

**9 weekly classes will begin on September 2, 2025**

**On the 10<sup>th</sup> week, an FCC license test session will be offered**

Classes will be held in Nazareth from 7 to 9 pm on Tuesday  
Evenings

If you will register in the classes, have interests or  
questions About amateur radio, email

**KE3AW@ARRL.NET**, or call **610.419.9286**. Leave your  
name phone number, and/or e-mail address. We will  
respond promptly.

**Websites: DLARC.CLUB & ARRL.ORG**

**PLEASE** pass the word around to anyone that you know that  
may be interested.

## DLARC NET AND EVENTS CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 7 pm DLARC NET	4 CLUB MEETING 7 PM	5 VE TEST SESSION 7 PM	6
7	8	9	10 7 pm DLARC NET	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 7 pm DLARC NET	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 7 pm DLARC NET	25	26	27
28	29	30	7 pm DLARC NET			

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT NETS

Additional Net Controls are needed for the Wednesday Night ARES, RACES & DLARC net. If we have enough interested operators, it will only be necessary for each operator to have only one net session in each three-month period. 13 weeks in a period, then 13 net controls would be ideal, and some extras to fill in if needed.

This would give us a pool of experienced controls, for any emergency which would arise. Interested operators should contact George, N3SQD at [george@bioserv.com](mailto:george@bioserv.com). The NIMS IS-700 and ICS-100 courses are not needed to be a net control, but should the need arise, and we do supply controls and operators for real emergencies, then the courses requirement will be in effect and EMA issued IDs will need to be on the scene of an emergency.

### NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ARES, RACES AND DLARC NET

All Radio Amateurs are welcome to take part in the ARES, RACES and DLARC net. This net meets Wednesday at 1900 hours local time, on the W3OK Repeater 51.76, 146.70 and 444.90 (pl 151.4). With an alternate frequency of 147.135 + DPL 315) W3OI Repeater.

QCWA Chapter 17 holds a net Monday evening at 7:30 PM on 3958 +/- depending on conditions.

Other inputs are the 146.85 repeater, (151.4 PL) and Echolink at K2PM-R.

Mid-Atlantic D-Star Net meets each Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The following repeaters Dstar repeaters are available in the Lehigh Valley.  
W3OK -145.11000MHz -0.600 Port C – W3OI -147.16500MHz +0.600 Port C, – W3OI - 445.02500MHz -5.000 Port B

All repeaters on the net are linked through **Reflector 020 port A**, so all stations checking into the net should make sure that they have *their local repeater call sign followed by the letter "G" in the eight positions of the RPT2 field*. Otherwise, you will only be heard locally and not over the Reflector. Dongle users wishing to check into the net should Log On by connecting directly to Reflector 20, port A, rather than through your local repeater to conserve local bandwidth.

# **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023–2024**

## **OFFICERS**

**President** – Terry Swinney / KC3JHT ----- president@dlarc.club  
**Vice President** – Diana Lambert / KC2ZGQ ----- vicepresident@dlarc.club  
**Secretary** – John Holmes / N3IGA ----- secretary@dlarc.club  
**Treasurer** – Larry Butler / KC3JTK ----- treasurer@dlarc.club

## **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Dean Guth / AB3BD  
Bill Carlsen / KD3FLY  
Adam Gauntz / N3LAG  
Dave Frankenfield / N3LWY  
Steve Harper / W3NAM  
Doreen Gramling / K3PDL (Past Pres.)

**PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DLARC CAN  
BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE / MEMBERSHIP LISTING CLUB MEETINGS.**

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. Are held on the first Thursday of each  
month at 7 PM at the Nancy Run Firehouse. TALK IN ON 146.700 (PL 151.4)  
Club Station Telephone Number **484-291-1527** Email Address – [W3OK@arrl.net](mailto:W3OK@arrl.net)

**THE W3OK TRUSTEE --- Barry Vogt / N3NVA**

**The W3OK Corral is published monthly and is the Official Publication of the**

**DELAWARE - LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.**

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