

DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

JANUARY 2025

W3OK CORRAL

Club Meeting **January 2nd, 7 PM** at the
Nancy Run Firehouse.
3564 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020
Will be also a Zoom meeting.

January's Program

TBA via Email



DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

President, Terry, KC3JH, called the meeting to order at 1901 hours at Nancy Run Firehouse.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Terry.

President's Report: Terry said that there is a need for a Program Chair. January meeting is the day after New Year's. He is hoping to find someone to do the program for that meeting. He plans on announcing in the Newsletter, Repeater, and by mass email what the next month's program will be. Terry talked about the Elmer's List on the website. It was brought to the attention of the BOD that some members are asking about who to contact about getting on the Elmer's List. The BOD will follow up to find out who is updating the List now and see about getting that information out. There will be a mass email informing members about the List.

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 Dave, N3EYT. A vote was taken and motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Larry presented the Treasurer's report for the month of October. Dean, AB3BD made the motion to accept. It was seconded by Carl, AA3IX. A vote taken and motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Membership: There are 8 Life Members and 124 voting members. That brings a total of 132 Voting members. There are 9 Assoc. Members. That makes a total of 141 members.

Club Station: No Report

Tech Committee: No Report

Repeater: Working

Website: No problems

New Business: John, N3IGA, talked a little about how the Club can now do activations at parks under the call sign W3OK. He explains what he had to go through in order to get W3OK registered. He explained that there are only 3 members that can upload logs for POTA using W3OK. They are Adam, N3LAG, John, and Barry, KU3X, as the alternates.

Terry told members present about what Barry, KU3X, did to the Club Station's computers. Only thing for YOU to remember is that if you sign into something that when you are done, sign out. It is for your own good and security.

Old Business: Dave, N3EYT, talk about the upcoming Club's yearly Special Event. He said there will be a mass email done with all the information about the Event. That way all members know about it and may want to join others in doing this Event.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1926 hours.

Program: Christmas Party

John Holmes, N3IGA
DLARC Secretary

VE TEST SESSION

On 3 January 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. Bob will inform the candidate on what is required and prohibited, etc, the date, time, location, verification required, 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.

DLARC Christmas Party

If you did not make the DLARC Christmas Party after the December's meeting, you missed a lot. A variety of foods. All were good. Salads, meat and cheese tray, pizza, meatballs, cookies, and cake.

If you went home still hungry, that was only your fault. There were some leftovers.

Lots of good conversation and fun. From what I could see, everyone was having a good time.

De John, N3IGA

DLARC Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, 16 December 2024

100 Gracedale Avenue, Nazareth, PA 18064

A meeting of the DLARC Board of Directors was at the 991 Center, with the following in attendance:

Board Members Present:

President, Terry Swinney, KC3JHT

Vice-President, Diana Lambert, KC3ZGQ

Secretary, John Holmes, N3IGA

Treasurer, Larry Butler, KC3JTK

Dean Guth, AB3BD

Bill Carlsen, KD3FLY

Steve Harper, W3NAM

Dave Frankenfield, N3LWY

Absence:

Adam Gauntz, N3LAG

Doreen Grambling, K3PDL

Proceedings:

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

Secretary's Report: John, N3IGA, asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes as printed in the Newsletter. Motion to accept the report was made by Dean, Seconded by Steve. Vote was taken and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Larry, KC3JTK, presented said Treasurer's report for the month of November. There were some questions which Larry explained. A motion to accept the report was made by Dean. Seconded by Steve. Vote taken and motion carried.

New Business: John, N3IGA, wanted to make a motion to give Barry, N3NVA, permission to disable the Auto-Patch since it is not being used like it was before and everyone has a cell now. After discussions, it was decided that to not do that just in case there is a situation where there is no cell phone service, a Ham with a 2-meter radio could auto patch and connect to a landline to the 911 Center. So, the motion did not pass.

John mentioned the situation that for the last two years, there has been no scores reported on Field Day. Both years, logs were sent in, but it said still waiting for documentation. This year, the scores from W3OK at the Club Station were never sent in. There was another discussion about the “documentation.” John had a list of what Documents were needed. Nobody had any answers on why this was happening. John gave the document list to Terry to contact the Atlantic Division Director to see if he can give Terry any information about these “documents.

Since this is the first year as Membership Chair, John mentioned the question about Hams that paid to join but there was no record of them being members in the past. Terry and Larry said that this happens all the time. All John has to do is send a Membership Application to the new member to fill out and send back. Terry asked Bill, KD3FLY, the webmaster if he could set it up that John would get the Membership Application with all the information. Bill said that when he gets back to the area, he will talk with John about it.

John asked what the program for January is to put into the Newsletter. Terry said that he would let John know who and what the program will be in January once he gets all the confirmation.

He has a lot of programs that he needs to make sure of and that whoever will be able to do the program.

Terry is still working on the site for BOD Meetings. He told everyone that he should have an answer by the new year.

Old Business: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1950 hours.

Minutes submitted by
John Holmes, N3IGA
DLARC Secretary

DLARC Archives

Thank you to George Wieland, N3SQD, for the donation of club records to the DLARC Archives. Included in the material are agendas and minutes from Board and membership meetings, the 1957 membership roster (with 37 names), correspondence, event records, and newspaper clippings, including some from the 1950s.

If you have any DLARC related material and photos that would help, tell the story of our club, please contact Barb Wiemann W3ATC, 619-262-6977, blwiemann@gmail.com .

If you wish to keep originals, we can photocopy or digitize material for the archives. The archives are located at the club station in the Milk House and there is an index to find specific items.

Yaesu FTDX-10 / FT-710 comparison by Barry G. Kery, KU3X

In December 2023 I purchase a Yaesu FT-710. I wanted to use it in the primary station as well as at my parks on the air activations. I can say that by using it for the last year I realize I had purchased the perfect radio for my needs. I like the 710 so much I decided to take a look at the 710's big brother, the Yaesu FTDX-10. The black Friday sale price at Ham Radio Outlet was **\$974.99. WOW!** That was a great deal and is actually lower than dealer cost. I missed that offer and paid \$1199.95 that was meant to actually be the Black Friday sale price. The corporate office at HRO actually made a mistake quoting the sales price of \$974.99 and quickly corrected their mistake. Talking to the sales person at HRO he said that all stores honored the mistaken sales price and lots were sold until the mistake was corrected.



Since most of the features and firmware on the FT-710 and the FTDX-10 are so similar to one another, there is no

reason to rewrite the same information. The article about the FT-710 was in the February 2024 issue of the club's newsletter that can be found on the club's web page as well as my web page. <https://www.ku3x.net/product>

One minor issue I ran into with both radios is the wireless mouse. First off using a mouse really makes changing bands and modes super easy. I never touch the Band or Mode buttons anymore. Not all wireless mice work. The one I use is the Logitech M310 that only cost me \$9.95 off of eBay. Stay away from the Logitech M325, it does not work on these radios.

The FTDX-10 is ½ inch higher, ½" deeper and 1" wider than the FT-710. The FTDX-10 weighs 13 lbs. whereas the FT-710 weighs 9.9 lbs.

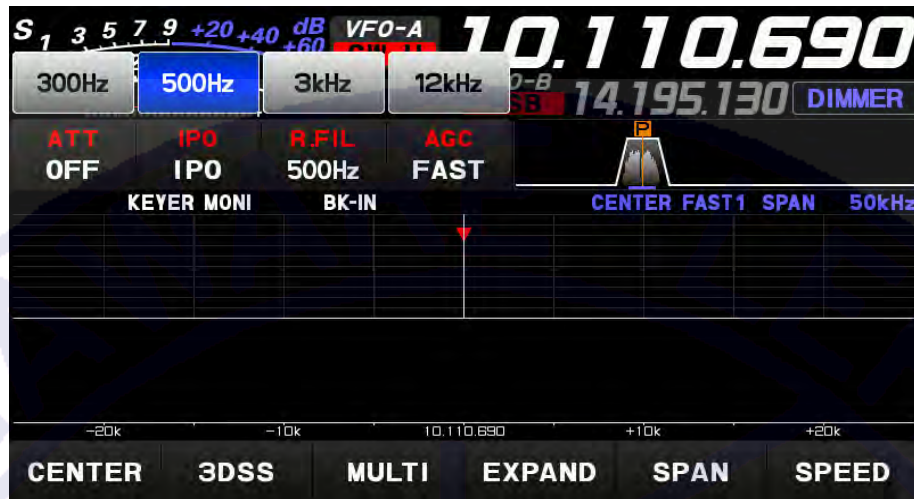
A lot of the functions on the FT-710 are accessed via the multi-function knob and a screen full of choices. For the FTDX-10, a lot of these functions are accessed via knobs and buttons on the front of the radio. This is a much easier and faster way to make changes.

In the following, under what I refer to as Likes, I point out these features.

Likes:

You can install an optional 300 hz CW filter in the FTDX-10 to improve the CW performance of this radio, as I did.

The FTDX-10 comes with three selectable installed roofing filters. Mine now has four roofing filters since I installed the optional CW roofing filter.



A stand-alone knob is provided so you can narrow the bandwidth in all modes.

A stand-alone knob is provided to change the “IF” shift.

A stand-alone knob is provided to change the contour and adjust the notch.

A lock button is provided for locking the radio. This is useful when you want to stay on a given frequency, like activating a POTA station. If you bump the VFO by mistake, you will not change the frequency.

All buttons and knobs are on the front facing panel on the FTDX-10. The 710 has a few needed buttons on the top of the radio. This can really be an inconvenience depending on where you place your radio.

Behind the VFO knob is ring type knob that is called the, “MPVD ring.” (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dual) This is a multi-purpose ring that works in conjunction with numerous buttons found on the front panel of the radio. There is little need to go into the function screen when changing some of the most useful features on this radio. When I first saw this feature, I had my doubts. I thought I would be bumping the main VFO knob while using the MPDV ring. No issues at all. Actually, it is a pretty neat feature.

When the clarifier RX (RIT) button is pushed the MPDV ring can now be used to change the receive frequency. If the clarifier TX (XIT) knob button is pushed the MPDV ring will now be used to change the transmit frequency.

Pushing the BAND button, the MPDV ring will be used to change bands, the same goes for pushing the MODE button.

A CS button is provided and can be programmed to use to make a quick function change. Just to name a few, pushing CS button and turning the MPDV ring you can change functions like CW speed, output power, CW pitch, Anti vox and so many more. Push and hold the CS button and you get to choose from one of the many functions. I have mine set to adjust the output power. On the fly if I tap the CS button, I can now turn the MPDV ring to adjust my output power down to 5 watts for operating QRP. Once I made the adjustment, I tap the CS button again and the MPDV ring goes back to its normal operating function.

When there are not any buttons pushed that utilize the MPDV ring, the turning of the ring will move the display frequency in 100 hz steps. By tapping the STEP/ MCH button the turning of the ring will change the frequency by 1, 2.5, 5 or 10 khz steps at a time depending on how you preprogram the ring. I have mine set to step through the frequency 5 khz at a time. If your radio is in the memory channel mode, by pushing this button and holding it on for 3 seconds, then turning the ring, you will be stepping through the memory channels.

By tapping on the spectral display, you can increase the size of the waterfall. You have three different sizes to choose from.

A TXW button is provided so when working split frequency, by pushing it you can toggle between the two frequencies for checking the activity on either frequency.

Dislikes:

The dislikes are not deal breakers. It is a, “Yaesu, what were you thinking?”

Every HF radio I own, including the FT-710, the CW jacks are 1/8” stereo. Every set of CW paddles I own use 1/8” stereo plugs. The FTDX-10 uses a 1/4” stereo jack. Now every time I take my FTDX-10 portable I have to make sure I take an eighth inch to quarter inch stereo adapter with me.

Both the 710 and the 10 share the same hand mic. Both have four PF keys on them and two buttons on top of the hand mic. All six buttons on the 710’s hand mic are programmable. This is a function of the radio. But you cannot reprogram any of the buttons on the FTDX-10’s hand mic. This is simple to correct via firmware. This past summer I called the Yaesu tech department and discussed this with them. A guess it was a fruitless call.

The band change button is closely spaced between the main VFO knob and the multi-function knob. Numerous hams on YouTube have complained about this. I personally do not see this as an issue but they do so it gets a mention here. I have used it numerous times only to see if I found it a problem and I did not.

Both radios have band three stacking registers (BSR) per band. It is like having three VFO’s per band. This is a nice feature on most radios, as long as they have front panel mounted keypads to address the BSR’s. Cycling through the BSR on both the 710 and the 10 is a slow cumbersome

process due to the fact there is no keypad on the front of the radio. For that reason, I do not use them. I can disable the BSR's on the FT-710 but I cannot disable them on the FTDX-10. Again, a simple fix via firmware update.

Conclusion:

When it comes to dislikes of the FTDX-10, I was really reaching for straws trying to find an issue. They really are not a big deal but for some people one of them may be an issue. I cannot count how many hams on YouTube and forums really complain about the placement of the band change button on the FTDX-10. I not only do not see it as a big deal nor do I even use that button. I find being able to use a mouse with both of these radios to change bands and modes is a great asset and I use mine all of the time.

Both radios are similar in performance, features and how they operate. The FTDX-10 is a little bit bigger and heavier radio but still not too big or too heavy that it would be inconvenient to use for operating portable. Both radios are excellent in performance, filled with features and are very user friendly. Yes, there is a learning curve but it is an easy learning curve.

If you are looking for a radio to be used for not only in the primary station but portable as well, like parks on the air, the FT-710 would be a great choice. For mostly the primary station and some portable work, the FTDX-10 would be the better choice.

On the Sherwood Engineering web page, the Yaesu FTDX-101D is the top performing radio. Number two on the list is the FTDX-10. Trailing behind is the Yaesu FT-710 that is number three on his list. To give you an idea of where this radio

really stands, the Kenwood TS890S is number 9 on his list and that radio sells for \$3999.95

At the time of sale, the FTDX-10 was \$320 more expensive than the FT-710. So, the question you have to ask yourself, "is it worth spending \$320 more to get the FTDX-10?" The answer for me was, "yes!" I am looking forward to warmer weather so I can activate a POTA station using the FTDX-10.

WINTER FIELD DAY 2025

Winter Field Day is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association. We passionately believe that Ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operational concerns. WFD is formatted to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operational skills in subpar conditions.

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including

using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.

To be clear, WFD is an EMCOM exercise, so do not get too hung up on our rules. At the end of the day, your total points do not matter. What you learn during WFD and your ability to adapt and overcome sudden obstacles will help you during unexpected emergencies. As we continue with another year of the WFD exercise, we want to encourage participants not to chase the contacts or the points but to evaluate their abilities and equipment. If you want to exchange signal reports, please give each other accurate information so the other station knows how well their station is working.

Winter Field Day is held the last full weekend in January. For 2054, it will be held on January 25th and 26th. The 24-hour operational period starts at 1900 UTC (2pm local) on Saturday, the 25th, and ends at 18:59 UTC (1:59pm) on Sunday, the 26th. If you want more information about this, you can go to the website, <https://winterfieldday.org> and check out what it is all about. If interested, check the rules out at the same time.

We are hoping to have the Club Station open for this event. There will be an announcement about that in the future to all DLARC members by mass email.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

DLARC membership is due for 2025. The best way to renew is to log in to DLARC.club, click on the "Members" menu item, go to "Renew membership" tab and click the "Join or Renew" button at the appropriate member level. Check that your information is up to date and remit a payment via Paypal. A Paypal account is not required for the transaction. If you need online help, please contact the web team via email or at the monthly meetings.

DLARC Membership Dues Rates:

Regular Membership

18-64 years of age Jan through Dec - \$25

65 and over or retired from all forms of employment (no age limit)

Jan through DEC - \$20

Additional Family member each - \$5 Please identify who the Family Member is.

Associate Individual Membership - \$15.

If you need to pay by checks payable to D.L.A.R.C. and ensure that your callsign appears in the memo field. Paying with cash is discouraged, but if you really, really must, kindly make certain you are prepared with the correct sum according to the rate table shown above.

If mailing, send to;

Lawrence R. Butler
800 Maple Lane
Easton, PA 18045

Enclosing an S.A.S.E. will bring your new membership card back to you as soon as possible via mail. You may write to me anytime with questions regarding DUES, or to discuss issues that you believe are my responsibility at lrbutler@ptd.net include your phone number if you prefer a live reply.

De Larry, KC3JTK, DLARC Treasurer

DLARC NET QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 CLUB MEETING 7 PM	3 VE TEST SESSION	4
5	6	7	8 7 pm DLARC NET	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 7 pm DLARC NET	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 7 pm DLARC NET	23	24	25 WINTER FIELD DAY
26 WINTER FIELD DAY	27	28	29 7 pm DLARC NET	30	31	

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. 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 be needed 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 ----- Idocapt@gmail.com

Vice President – Diana Lambert / KC2ZGQ ----- diana.lambert1@verizon.net

Secretary – John Holmes / N3IGA ----- n3iga@ptd.net

Treasurer – Larry Butler / KC3JTK ----- lrbutler@ptd.net

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Dean Guth / AB3BD ----- babydean1@hotmail.com

Bill Carlsen / KD3FLY ----- wcarlsenpsu@gmail.com

Adam Gauntz / N3LAG ----- agent1@aol.com

Dave Frankenfield / N3LWY ----- mycallsign@gmail.com

Steve Harper / W3NAM ----- sharper3152@gmail.com

Doreen Gramling / K3PDL (Past Pres.) ----- gramlingda22@myyahoo.com

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

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.

14 Gracedale Avenue

Nazareth, Pa. 18064-9211

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor – John Holmes / N3IGA ----- n3iga@ptd.net

Web Master – Bill Carlsen / KD3FLY ----- wcarlsenpsu@gmail.com

Circulation – John Holmes / N3IGA ----- n3iga@ptd.net

Photographer – Dave Blankenship / N3EYT ----- n3eyt@arrl.net