

DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2023

**W3OK
CORRAL**

Club Meeting September 7, 7 PM at the
Nancy Run Firehouse.
3564 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020

“PLEASE NOTE TO START TIME FOR MEETING”

SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

“Parks On The Air”

By Adam, N3LAG



JULY MEETING MINUTES

The General Meeting was held at the Firehouse.

President Doreen, K3PDL, called the meeting to order at 1905 hours.

Pledge of Allegiances: Led by Doreen, K3PDL

President's Thoughts: There was a moment of silence for Robert Oppen, NE2C, who became a Silent Key on this past July 24th.

Secretary's Report:

Terry, KC3JHT, as Acting Secretary, asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Meeting Minutes as printed in the last Newsletter. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Dean, AB3BD, and second by Adam, N3LAG. All were in favor, motion passed.

NOTE: *We still need a **SECRETARY** and if interested, contact any Board Member.*

Treasurer's Report:

Larry, KC3JTK, presented the report for June. A motion by Dean, AB3BD, to accept the report. Adam, N3LAG, seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Terry, KC3JHT reported that there are 145 members. 14 of them are Associates and 7 Life Members.

Club Station: Adam, N3LAG, reported that the logs for Field Day was sent in, the Club got a certificate award from PA QSO Party

Tech Committee: George, N3SQD, it is up to Charley Adams now that everything is ready with the Rotator.

Website: No report

Repeater: No report. It is working.

Old Business:

Dave, N3EYT, who does the Club ID cards was not present, but Terry, KC3JHT, told all present that if they need a Club Badge, please contact Dave.

New Business: Terry, KC3JHT, brought up questions about how we can engage more people to run for office or do committee work. We still need a secretary. Nobody stepped up to do that. Whoever wants the positions has a lot of help to get started for that office. We always have the same committee people. They can always use

extra help. Doing that will give a little more education into Ham Radio and the Club. We need to know how to get other people engaged, especially some of the newer members. Any younger members can fill in and help understanding what needs to happen and how we do things.

How do we get more people out to the monthly meetings? Maybe change a meeting occasionally to Saturday. Maybe go to Nazareth Dinner for a combined breakfast/brunch/meeting. They supposed to have a spacious room for something like that. Terry wants to find out how many will be interested in something like that. There will be a mass emailing to all members asking Club members if they would be interested in something like that. Once Terry gets the information, he then can contact the Diner and see what they have to say.

How do we get more people out of the Club Station (Milk House) on Wednesday nights? Maybe have Club members that do not have HF radios come out and learn how to do the ones at the Club Station. There is always somebody there on Wednesday to be able to explain how to operate any of the radios so that you can see if you can make a contact.

Terry said that it would be nice to get more people out on Saturday mornings for a workshop or a presentation of some sort. Here is another time that any Club member can come out and operate one of the Club radios and make some contacts. Saturdays are always good for making contacts overseas and across the USA. We can have George, N3SQD, show everyone how to make an antenna out of a tape measurer. If there is enough interests, there could be more interesting workshops for all to learn and enjoy. There is always someone at the Milk House (Club Station) if any members want to come out and learn how to operate the radios and get the joy of the first contact wherever it is. No matter what License Class you have, there will be Control Operators there to give new people a taste of what they could do as they upgrade their license as well.

Terry asked the members present what you want to do for the betterment of the Club. He is looking for suggestions. If you have any suggestions, send your suggestions to Terry at ldocapt@gmail.com so he can have an idea what needs to be done.

The next thing Terry brought up was any ideas we can present to do more participation by all the membership. We have the same 20-30 members show up for the General Meeting each month. Where are the other 100 members? Why not

more? We were told we needed programs. We have programs for each month. Some of them have been interesting like the SKYWARN presentation. Terry asked if anyone has any program ideas. If anyone has any ideas, please contact Terry at ldocapt@gmail.com with your information so that Terry can see if it is possible.

Terry said that we need people engaged at all levels! There are positions on the Executive Committee like Secretary or a Board Members. Give presentations on Ham related issues. Help the Tech Committee. Help with updating the DLARC Webpage. Even put on a Workshop if you have something you want to share with others. We can send a mass email out to everybody along with the Newsletter saying, hey, here is some opportunities, what do you want to do.

There was mentioned about having a Communication Team to update the DLARC webpage, get on social media to reach out there for local hams and to inform people about the License Classes that the Club does.

Terry said that there are only 25 people doing 99% of the work. We need everyone engaged to make the Club viable. What happens if the Club folds?

There were a lot of discussions on what the Club can do to attract more participation that has to be looked over and more discussions. It is not an easy thing to do when you get ideas, but no one to do any of them. Information will be given in the Newsletter and by mass emails so that all Club members are aware of what is going on.

The last thing Terry said was "IT IS TIME TO PITCH IN AND HELP.

Bob, KE3AW, announced that the start of the new classes coming up in September. It will be September 5th, the day after Labor Day and will run 9 weeks on Tuesdays with the 10th Tuesday being the VE Session. He said that he will put out pamphlets out all over the Lehigh Valley along with advertising it on TV.

Bob also talked about the upcoming Halloween Parade in Emmaus. He said he would need 15 operators for the parade. One Net Control and 14 operators in vehicles in the parade. He explained how important we are to the parade. We are the eyes and ears of the parade. Anything that is illegal or could cause any problems with the process of the parade needs to be reported to prevent any problems. It is not hard and the Club members that have been doing it for years will be willing to help anyone new.

John, N3IGA, informed members present about the price of membership to ARRL has gone up from \$49 a year to \$59 a year. All four magazines will be in digital

form online. If you want QST or On The Air in printed form, it will cost you \$25 extra for each. ARRL had a survey back in May 2023. The announcement of the increase was made July 23, 2023. There were only 20,077 ARRL members that took the survey. ARRL said that Life Membership applications are on hold until they can price the offering to be revenue. Those with regular memberships (a remaining term on a current membership) will need to purchase an add-on subscription to continue receiving printed QST or OTA after January 1, 2024. If you are a current Life Member as of July 2023 may choose to continue receiving printed QST or On The Air at no additional cost by contacting ARRL between September 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Monthly payment plan options are being created for members aged 70+ to help senior members who are experiencing financial stresses. You can check out this information on the ARRL website under Membership. You may have to look around for what you are looking for.

Announcements: Doreen informed members about an upcoming DLARC Field Trip on September 10th. It is Aviation Hall of Fame. It is in Teterboro, NJ, and what they are having is a Special Event called Open Cockpit Day. You get to sit in all these planes. Seniors - \$12. Adults is \$15 and it is from 10:30am to 4 pm. The last admission is at 2:45. Doreen had a sign-up sheet for it. It is something special since they do not always do this.

Awards: None

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1945 hours.

Program: It is About Time by George, N3SQD

Helpful Hints for the Ham Radio Operator

by Barry G. Kery, KU3X

Failure: High SWR

You are transmitting and suddenly, the radio cuts back on power and the SWR goes sky high. Now what? Assuming you did not bump into any controls on the radio and the ATU is in bypass, we must look elsewhere. Did your antenna fail? How about a connection somewhere along your coaxial cable run?

Our best friend for trouble shooting this problem is a 50-ohm dummy load. Everybody should own one. If not for trouble shooting but for assessing your equipment so you are not causing interference on the bands.

If you feel the antenna may be the issue, the first thing you want to do is give your antenna a visual. If it is still in the air and nothing is touching it, the problem may not be with the antenna. Enter the dummy load. Unscrew the coax from the antenna and attach it to the dummy load. Now send a carrier to the dummy load and check the SWR. If it is ok, now you know for sure the problem must be with the antenna. Fix same. If the SWR is still high, look for the next connection in the coax, working back from the antenna to the station and perform the same test. At one point by continually working your way back to the station, you will get to a point where the SWR remains stable. You will eventually find the point of failure. If you work your way back to the radio and have not found the point of failure, it may in fact be a failure within the radio itself. Hook the dummy load directly to the back of the radio. If the SWR is still high, and it can be, you now know the radio is at fault. This in fact happened to me many years ago.

When assembling your station, make sure you hook the coax to the correct antenna port on the back of the radio and make sure you push the right button on the radio to make that antenna port active. One ham called me and said his antenna has not worked from new. He had the coax connected to antenna port #2 but had antenna port #1 active.

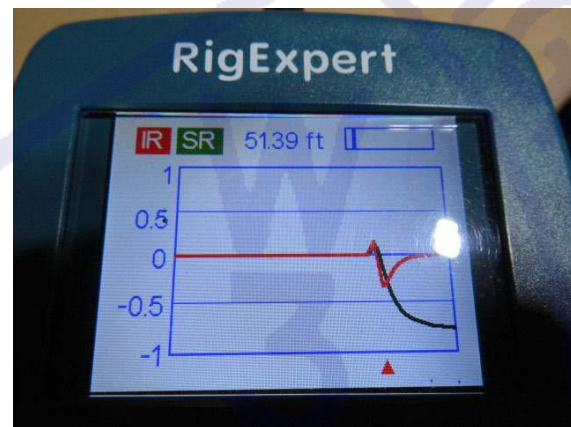
You do not have to start at the antenna to trouble shoot with the dummy load. You can start anywhere in the station if you like. I had an SO 239 that was connected to the antenna switch failure. The connector was in a place where once attached it was never touched again. The actual connection was made over 20 years ago. It just failed.

Another useful tool in trouble shooting failures is the antenna analyzer that has a Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR) built in. This was discussed in an earlier article that I wrote but it is an enjoyable time to review and apply it here.

A TDR will send a signal through your coax and it can find a fault. It will tell you if your coax is shorted or opened as well as where the fault is. The coax feeding my 40-meter antenna showed an extremely high SWR. I ran the TDR and it showed me that the coax was open around 80 feet away from the station. Since that location was at the base of the tower, I knew there was a barrel connector there so I went for a look see. Sure enough, the barrel connector was wet, burnt and failed. Fixed same.

Shown below are two TDR traces. The red horizontal line in the center of the screen shows an uninterrupted 50-ohm trace. Once the signal hits the 51-foot mark

it shows the failure point. Shown in the picture on the left, the signal goes high. This shows that the coax is open. The probable reason for this failure is a squirrel eating through your coax or an open connection due to a failed solder joint. The picture on the right shows a short failure. You ran over your coax with your garden tractor and smashed it to the point where the coax shorted? Either way, now you know where the fault is.



Programming the antenna analyzer is super easy. The one setting on the analyzer that is important to make, for accurate readings, is to program the velocity factor of your coax. If you do not know it, run the TDR anyway. It will show a fault if there is one, but the point of failure will just be an estimate. It will get you to the general area of the failure.

A little something to consider here: An old, seasoned ham taught me many years ago, "every electrical connection is a possible point of failure." So, every time you add SO 239's and barrel connectors to a coax run, you increase your points of failure. Unless otherwise needed, make single coax runs from your station to your antenna. If you must have a break in your coax, make sure it is at a location that is accessible so you can make repairs if needed. I do this at the base of my tower. Do not cut corners and use cheap RF connectors.

“MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ATTEND A MEETING.”

It's About Time

By George, N3SQD

George's program on "It's About Time" was quite interesting to all present. If you were not there, you missed a very topic which makes Amateur Radio more interesting.

George's presentation was about the 4th Dimension, Time. He explained how Wednesday June 29, 2022, was the shortest day on record for Earth. He explained this in a quite uncomplicated way that all present could understand.

He explains how we got the number of hours in a day, how time was divided into 2 for 12 hours day and 12 hours night. He explained how the minutes and seconds came about. All this was quite interesting.

He explained how time in Space is slower than on Earth. For anyone that watches a lot of sci-fi movies, should know that, but George explained why it is that way.

Like I said in the beginning, if you missed this program, you missed one the most interesting programs this year. I learned a lot and got a better understanding of how Time affects everyone.

De John, N3IGA



67th PA QSO Party October 14 & 15, 2023

(Always the 2nd Full Weekend in October)

paqso.org

Saturday, 14 October 2023

1600 – 0400 UTC / Noon - Midnight EDT

Sunday, 15 October 2023

1300 - 2200 UTC / 9:00AM - 6:00PM EDT

Work from your home station or use the Club Station. If you use your home station, use any logging program you can find on the PA QSO Party website. You can ask anyone what is the best one that you do not have to buy.

To give your score to DLARC, fill out the contact information before the logging program starts. Where it says “Club,” fill in **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** and the Club will get your score.



If you are new to Ham Radio or do not have an HF station you are invited to come to the Milk House where the Club Station is doing the Party under the W3OK call sign. You will be able to work in the bands under the highest-class licenses that are there!

With everyone's help, DLARC may have a chance to win the Top Club award!

Be sure to check paqso.org for FAQs about the QSO Party.

For any other questions, contact John, n3iga@ptd.net

DLARC NET QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY	5 Amateur Radio Classes 7-9 pm	6 DLARC NET N3SQD George	7 DLARC MEETNG 7:30pm	8 VE TEST SESSIONS 7PM	9
10	11	12 Amateur Radio Classes 7-9 pm	13 DLARC NET N3WR Ben	14	15	16
17	18 BOARD MEETING 7PM	19 Amateur Radio Classes 7-9 pm	20 DLARC NET K3PDL Doreen	21	22	23
24	25	26 Amateur Radio Classes 7-9 pm	27 DLARC NET KC3JHT Terry	28	29	30

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 8:30 PM on 3960 +/- 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 2022-2023

OFFICERS

President – Doreen Gramling / K3PDL ----- gramlingda22@myyahoo.com
Vice President – Terry Swinney / KC3JHT ----- ldocapt@gmail.com
Secretary – *OPEN*
Treasurer – Larry Butler / KC3JTK ----- lrbutler@ptd.net

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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

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