

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

***APRIL 2024***

**W3OK**

**CORRAL**

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

**May Program**  
**Website Update Review**  
**By Web Team**



## *MARCH MEETING MINUTES*

The General Meeting was held at the Firehouse and on Zoom. The meeting was called to order by the Terry, KC3JHT at 1920 hours.

**Pledge of Allegiances:** Led by Terry.

**President's Report:** None

**Guests:** Al (just getting back into the hobby) and his wife Jennifer. Dave, who is looking to take the classes and become a Ham.

**Secretary's Report:**

Terry, KC3JHT, asked if there were 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 and seconded by Doug and the motion was carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Terry, KC3JHT, presented the report for January. A motion by Dean to accept the report. Doug seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Terry. KC3JHT said there were 121 paid members and 7 Associate members, and 8 Life Members.

**Club Station:** Up and running

**Tech Committee:** D Star software is not loading properly, and the issue is being addressed.

**Website:** Committee Chairpersons can now update their blog and the information will now appear on the home page. An online seminar will be scheduled with instructions on procedures. E-commerce side has been updated so now dues can be paid online.

**Repeater:** Up and running.

**Old Business:**

The Club will be establishing a Special Event Station led by Dean for Nazareth Days on 20 July 2024.

John, N3IGA, is compiling operating manuals for each station at the Milkhouse.

Adam will be in charge of ARRL Field Day and we are encouraging all members to attend. VE testing session on that Saturday.

23 people signed up for the current testing session for tomorrow.

**New Business:** Doreen is looking for interest for a trip in June to Wings of Freedom at the Pennsylvania Aviation Museum.

**Announcements:** None

**Awards: None**

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1942 hours.

**Program:** Building a Low-cost Morse Code Practice Oscillator by Mark Hoffman, KC3BNV

### March Meeting Program

If you missed the Club Meeting or on Zoom, you missed a great program. We do not have many hands-on programs as it is.

Mark gave an interesting program on building his Low-cost Morse Code Practice Oscillator which was featured in the December Issue of QST.

Mark told all the difficulties there were in building this Oscillator. He mentions that certain parts had to be very carefully soldered in. He made sure it hit all the information he had. He had a few questions to answer.

So, if you interested in this Oscillator, check out the December 2023 issue of QST on page 35.

De John, N3IGA



# Sussex Amateur Radio Association

## - APRIL 20, 2024 -



# Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO

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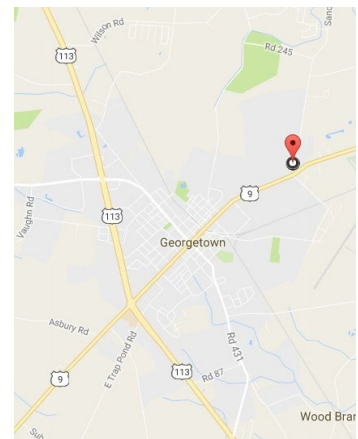
**Inside spaces \$15.00 - 1st Table  
Tailgaters : \$15.00 - First Space**

**For Information  
Contact Jamie, W3UC**

**(410) 202-7690**

hamfestdelaware@gmail.com

### HAMFEST LOCATION:



**Cheer Community Center  
20520 Sand Hill Rd.  
Georgetown, DE 19947**

### HOST HOTEL:

**Tru Hotel by Hilton  
301 College Park Drive  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
(302) 515-2100**

www.hilton.com

**JOIN US IN TAX FREE DELAWARE!**

**Gates open at 6:00 A.M.  
Expo begins at 8:00 A.M.**

### Schedule

6:00 AM	Gates Open
7:30 AM	Tailgating
8:00 AM	Indoor expo venue opens Restaurant available
12:00 PM	FCC testing -No test fee, pre-registration required <b>Last test seating at 12:30 PM</b>

### Speakers Forums

ARRL Update  
Others

### TALK-IN: SARA Repeater

147.090 mHz PL 156.7

*Schedule subject to change*

The Delmarva Amateur Radio Electronics EXPO is sponsored by Sussex Amateur Radio Association



**www.radioelectronicsexpo.com**

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## **ARRL AND RENEWALS**

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 must 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. So, your last printed magazine will be the December 2023 issue. If you just renew, you will still only get the digital form unless you pay the extra \$25.

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

I have the new forms for renewing or becoming a new member now. It shows all the prices for the dues and getting the magazines. Anybody wishing to become a member or wants to renew, please let me know, and I will send you the information.

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 helps the Club. 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.

John, N3IGA, DLARC ARRL Membership Liaison



## PA QSO PARTY 2023 RESULTS

The results of the PA QSO Party 2023 are finally done and are posted up on their website.

DLARC had 6 members that gave their scores towards DLARC. The operators were:

Ben, N3WR 91,266 points

George, N3SQD 69,140 points

John, N3IGA 29,518 points

Barry, N3NVA 12,766 points

W3OK 2,191 points

DOUG, K6PGH 472 points

The following are PA Stations Certificate Winners which means that they took their County in the category shown:

Ben, N3WR Single Op Low Power LEH

George, N3SQD Single Op High Power Mixed NHA

John, N3IGA Single Op QRP SSB NHA

Barry, N3NVA Single Op High Power SSB NHA

W3OK Multi Op Low Power NHA

John, N3IGA, also placed first the State in Single Op QRP SSB.

DLARC, with 6 stations, placed 9<sup>th</sup> in Club results. DLARC had a score of 205,353.

There is a need to get more Club members to participate in the QSO Party. It is not a contest. It is a fun activity especially to see how many of the 67 Counties in PA you can contact. There are 4 radios in the Club Station that Club members can use for the Party.

The 2024 PA QSO Party is October 12 & 13. Always the 2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend in October. It starts at Noon to Midnight on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Then 9 am to 6 pm on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

De John, N3IGA

## **Helpful suggestions**

### **“How not to be a Lid”**

**by Barry G. Kery, KU3X**

When I listened on the bands today, I heard so many hams with poor operating habits and some serious rule violations. For the new ham, when that person hears some of the mistakes made on the bands, they may not realize it is either a violation or just poor ham protocol. They may think it is how to operate?

Nobody is born a ham radio operator and we all make mistakes. Hopefully by pointing out some of these issues we can all learn so we do not act like a Lid.

ID with your call sign like it is a badge of honor. When you give your call sign on a repeater, first key the mic and give the repeater a second or two so it is fully keyed. Now speak clearly and slowly into your mic. So many hams key their mic and say their call sign like it is a race to the finish line. The first letter of the call sign is omitted and one is lucky to even hear the rest of the call sign.

“Is there anybody out there?” If you are looking for someone to talk to on the repeater, do not call CQ. That is not the proper protocol for using on a repeater. The correct way is to say your call sign and listening. Example: “This is KU3X listening.” You may or may not get a response. Some hams like to keep their radios on scan. In this case they may not even hear your request. What you may want to do is change the way you call. Lengthen your request. Example: “This is KU3X, Kilowatt Uniform 3 X-ray listening.” This will use more air time and gives the listener’s radio time to lock onto the repeater. To add, “listening on 70” is fine as well. The

person listening to his radio that is on scan may not get back to their radio fast enough to see what frequency the radio heard.

ID with phonetics if necessary. If someone does asks you to clarify your call sign when you say it, then use phonetics for clarification. You can use the standard ITU phonetics or words of your choice. Example of ITU phonetics: W3PYF, Whisky 3 Papa Yankee Foxtrot. Or you can use creative phonetics: Whisky 3 Pretty Young Females.

The FCC only suggests you use ITU phonetics, it is not an FCC rule. If the person you are talking to does not have a good command of the English language, like a ham living in Germany, it is highly suggested you use ITU phonetics. These phonetics are universal, just like Morse Code.

If you are in a QSO and ID, you do not have to say the other person's call sign, but if you do, your call sign always comes last. It is not proper protocol to say, "this is (you call) clear with (his call). New hams pick this bad habit up from listening to some of the nets on HF. It is not a violation of the rules, it is just not the proper protocol.

When to ID. You must ID at least every 10 minutes and at the end of your transmission. That is an FCC rule. Do you have to say your call sign when you give someone a quick response on the air? The answer is no. But you must within the 10-minute window and/or by the end of your transmission. But, by not giving your call sign up front, you do not let anybody know who you are. This is a poor operating practice and really annoys other hams. Why make them ask, "what is your call sign?"

QRZ is not a call sign. So many times, I hear hams activating a Parks on the Air (POTA) station and while calling for contacts they just keep saying QRZ over and over again and not saying



their call sign. Yes, by FCC rules you only have to ID every ten minutes and at the end of your transmission, but who are you? It is fine to say QRZ a few times when you have a pileup of hams trying to work you. But, in this case, only saying your call sign once every ten minutes is poor operating.

If you are using a DX cluster or the POTA spot web page, do not depend on the call sign you see as being correct or even the person that is on the frequency that is posted. Make sure you hear his call sign before you work them. If they just keep saying, "QRZ" and do not give their call sign and you want to work them, do so. But in the exchange ask them what their call sign is so you know who you are working.

Answering another ham. Again, when it comes to a POTA activation, the activator has not even finished calling CQ and some ham keeps answering with his call sign. Wait until the station is totally finished calling CQ before you respond. He cannot hear you if his mic is keyed.

A helpful hit here is, if there is a pileup answering him, try tail ending with your call sign. Do not compete with the pileup.

I have even heard on our local repeater when someone may have their mic on their car seat and not realizing they are actually sitting on the mic and keeping the repeater keyed. While the repeater is keyed, someone will come on the air and say, "Someone is sitting on their mic." He cannot hear you.....he is sitting on his mic...what is the point? If the repeater unkeys, then you stand a chance of getting the message out there.

Terrible audio. From time to time, you will run into a station with poor audio. I heard one particular station talking to another ham and was informed that he had terrible issues with his audio. The ham with the terrible audio signed and called CQ. I responded

and also informed him how bad his audio was and he outright told me he did not care. If someone tells you that there is an issue with your signal, do your best to resolve it.

Helpful hint: If you are using an end fed antenna and someone tells you that you have terrible audio, you have RF on your audio due to a poorly designed End Fed Antenna. A highly effective choke in series on your transmission line is necessary.

This is one area that I am sorry to say hits home. I try to keep an eye on the radios in the club's station to make sure they are fully operational. So many times, I check the mic gain and someone has turned the mic gain so high that it is not even close to the proper adjustment. The knob used to adjust the mic gain is not a power output knob, the more you turn it up the louder you sound. **WRONG!** There is an ALC scale that your audio must remain within. **The indicator for the mic gain must remain within the limits of the ALC scale.** Whether the indicator is close to the bottom of the scale or the top of the scale, as long as it is within the scale the audio is the same. The same goes with the speech compression adjustment. Most of the radios today recommend you do not go over 10 db of compression. If you are using a desk mic, speak in your normal voice with the mic positioned about one foot from your mouth. Do not scream into any microphone. There is no need to do so.

Shown below is the proper adjustment of the mic gain and the Speech Compressor. The indicator for the mic gain is shown to be at the 70% range within the ALC scale. The Speech Compressor is shown to be set at 10 db of compression. Shown below is the proper adjustment of the mic gain and the Speech Compressor. The indicator for the mic gain is show to be at the 70% range

within the ALC scale. The Speech Compressor is shown to be set at 10 db of compression.



If you purchase a new radio, most of the time you can take the radio out of the box, hook it up and get on the air without making any audio adjustments. The best advice I can give you is, when you have an interest in a radio, go the manufacture's web site, download the manual and read it. Don't wait until the radio is delivered to your front door and then rush to put it on the air. Learn everything you can about the radio long before you order one. Take your time a read closely and learn how to at least set up your audio properly.

Know your frequency privileges. Do not operate out of your allowed frequency range. It's so easy to make a mistake in this area. If you do, stop transmitting and move. Don't continue a conversation saying you did not know and keep talking. The best suggestion I can give you here is to print your frequency range per band on an index card and keep it in front of your radio. I've been

a ham for over 47 years and still have one in front of my primary station radio. I rarely transmit on the 12-meter band so I keep forgetting the frequency range. Also, I do not remember what the five 60-meter channels are.

Foul language does not belong on ham radio. Need I say more in this area? What you may think is not that bad, maybe someone's grandchild is listening and you are now setting a poor example for that child. Keep your politics to yourself. Ham radio is not a platform for your political beliefs.

CB lingo. Citizen Band language does not belong on the ham radio bands. Is it against FCC rules? No! But all you will be doing is annoying other hams. There is a time and place for everything and CB lingo on ham radio is not the place. Use plain language on ham radio.

You don't have a handle; you have a name. When giving a signal report of a 5 5, you don't say, "you are double nickels." If you have an HF amplifier, you have an amp that either uses tubes or transistors. It does not use pills.

CB radio has its place. Get stuck in a traffic jam on an interstate highway and see if you can find out what the problem is while listening to the 40-meter ham band. Now listen to CB channel 19 and you stand a chance of finding out what's going on ahead of you. Your GPS may also alert you to trouble ahead.

When it comes to improper ham radio operating, you are either part of the problem or part of the solution. For over 47 years, I always tried my best to be part of the solution. We are all human and we all make mistakes. Correct them, learn from them and move on.



## April Meeting Program

April Meeting Program is all about the new DLARC Website Update Review.

There has been a lot of work done the last 3 months improving the Club's Website. Making it easier to roam around. Can pay to renew or become a member. The Club Members List is being updated as soon as the information for the new member is received. The website is a lot more modern and colorful. Check it out when you can.

There is more going on, so if you can come out to the Firehouse or can get on Zoom, this is one meeting you do not want to miss. There is still a lot of work that can be done but need to do what is important first.

### What kind of a Club Member are you?

Some members are like wheelbarrows: No good unless pushed.

Some members are like canoes: They need to be paddled.

Some members are like kites: If you do not keep a string on them, they fly away.

Some members are like footballs: You cannot tell which way they will bounce next.

Some members are like balloons: Full of wind and never down to earth.

But some members are like gems: They glow and become more valuable every day.

**Which one are you?**

De Author Unknown



# DLARC NET QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

April 2024

NO INFORMATION FROM GEORGE, N3SQD, TO FILL THE NET CONTROLS IN

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 DLARC NET	4 <b>CLUB MEETING 7 PM</b>	5	6
7	8	9	10 DLARC NET	11	12	13
14	15 <b>BOARD MEETING 7PM</b>	16	17 DLARC NET	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 DLARC NET	25	26	27
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](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 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 2023–2024

## OFFICERS

**President** – Terry Swinney / KC3JHT ----- Idocapt@gmail.com  
**Vice President** – John Holmes / N3IGA ----- n3iga@ptd.net  
**Secretary** – Doug Wood / K6PGH ----- dwood72679@sbcglobal.net  
**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](mailto:W3OK@arrl.net)

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

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

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