

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

APRIL 2010



W3OK

CORRAL

Club Meeting At the Nancy Run Fire Company
7:30 PM April 1st 2010

**Barry / KU3X Presenting the
the March Meeting Program
on Baluns**

**2010 Amy Zimmerman Award
Winners; Bryan / AA3WM and
Charlie / W3OPA & XYLs**



APRIL MEETING PROGRAM
“BACKYARD ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY”

George / N3SQD & Al / W3CE



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

POPOPs

One of the more enjoyable aspects of amateur radio is the opportunity to meet interesting people. I am not quite sure what it is, but this hobby seems to attract quite a number of interesting folks. Since I have been teaching the amateur radio classes and running the VE testing sessions, I have been noticing that the hobby is not attracting as many new members as it did a decade ago. Don't get me wrong, the folks we are attracting are every bit as interesting, there just aren't as many of them.

I have been giving some thought to this problem and potential solutions. One of my observations is that as a hobby we are not very visible. Sure, we have field day, and the club runs some public event stations. But, that may not be enough. An issue with some of these events is approachability. It seems to me that many individuals will not approach a large group of individuals that are focused on a particular task, even when held in a public location. Sure, the curious individual will, but many won't.

The solution to this is to be small, interesting, and approachable. I would like to suggest, what I call, the POPOP. Or, publicly oriented portable operation. While we can enjoy operating in our shack, very few others (non-hams) get to see this. If we were to do this in a park, we would still enjoy operating, and at the same time it would have the benefit of being exposed to others that might have an interest. The key ingredients of a POPOP are being in public, being small / simple, being interesting, and approachability.

Let's take it in steps. First, being in public. That's fairly easy. There are a number of parks, trails, and picnic areas where this could be done. The general idea is to pick a place that will have exposure to the public. A spot 20 miles in from a trailhead might not be the best spot. Though, it might be fun to operate from there.

The next characteristic is small and simple. This implies keeping the group size down. Perhaps 1 to 4 people would be best. Also, the setup needs to be simple. For starters, the simpler the setup, the more likely you are to make the trip. An operating position that takes two hours to setup and tear down is less likely to happen than one that takes ten minutes. Additionally, we would like any visitors to see an operation that they could reasonably afford and setup. Trying to impress someone with how much money you have invested in the hobby will probably not attract many new members.

As for interesting, this is probably the easiest. Ham radio is interesting. Operating phone may be more readily understandable than CW. But either should attract attention, as would any of the digital modes or SSTV.

The final characteristic is approachability. The first three characteristics will help with this. If it's a small group, doing interesting things, with simple equipment in public it will attract attention. Saying hi to individuals that notice the operation, inviting them over to have a look at what you are doing will accomplish the goal.

So, how do we make this happen? For starters, scope out a location, check the rules for the site and get a feel for the traffic. Pick a nice day to operate. If there are no benches, you may want to bring an extra chair for any visitors.

You will need a station to operate. An HT could be sufficient. But, this might not be as interesting (unless you happen to be operating satellites with it) as a portable HF station. The portable HF station will require a transceiver (this is so much easier now that there are so many small rigs available), a power source, microphone or key (computer for digital modes), ground rod, feed-line, and antenna. If you are wondering about the size of the battery required, a 17AH to 26AH should be fine for a few hours of operation at reduced power (say 40W). Try working at reduced power. You will have no trouble with a lot of stations, and you'll have some reserve (100W) for the ones that may be more difficult.

My setup consist of an FT-450AT, gel cell (with Anderson PowerPoles, of course), ground strap with screw type ground rod (check out the pet stores), 50' of RG8X, and a 20/40M dipole from Hy Power Antennas.

I should discuss getting antennas into the trees. I would recommend hand-thrown lines (if you've got a good arm) or perhaps a slingshot / fishing reel combo. I do not recommend the use of a pneumatic launcher. Now I know that these are fun, and interesting, and are great for field day. But, most of the ones in our club would be better served from a tracked vehicle and are of a caliber that is suitable for putting a line over the Eiffel tower. The problem with these devices is that they do not make you "approachable". Other, that is, than by law enforcement (and they won't be happy about it). So, try and save these devices for field day or helping a fellow ham.

Finally, I would suggest carrying some credit card sized "eyeball" QSL cards. These are great for giving a visitor some additional information. On the back of mine, I have the ARRL website URL, the Clubs website URL, and the club telephone number.

There you have it, the POPOP. So, get ready, good weather is coming. I hope to see you out there.

73 George / N3SQD

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY RACES, ARES & DLARC NET

The Northampton County RACES, ARES and D.L.A.R.C. Net meeting is on Wednesday at 1900 hours local time. It meets on the W3OK Repeater, 146.700, 51.760 and 444.900. [With an alternate frequency of 147.370 \(+ 600 & pl 167.9\) the W3OI repeater.](#) Note: the new alternate frequency is an arrangement with the Lehigh Valley A.R.C. Due to the conversion of the W3OK 145.110 repeater to D-Star. The change has come about due to the institution of an eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York emergency communication system that uses D-Star as it basis.



MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 4th MEETING

The general membership meeting of Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. was held at Nancy Run Fire Co. in Bethlehem Twsp., PA on March 4 2010

Call to order: The meeting convened at 1930 hrs, President George Wieland / N3SQD presiding.

Pledge of allegiance: Led by George / N3SQD

Members in attendance: 61 and 7 visitors

Approval of minutes: Motion was made by Dave / K3GMT, 2nd by Gary / N2AUO **Motion carried**

Approval of Treasurer's report: Motion was made by Bob / N3SNZ, 2nd by Doreen / KB3PDL **Motion carried**

Amy Zimmerman Award : The Amy Zimmerman award was awarded to Bryan Williams / AA3WM and also to Charlie Lazarchak / W3OPA. Congratulation to you both

Repeater: Ben / KB3CTX gave report on the D-Star repeater

Web Page : Brad / W3JXQ Gave report on the status of the web page

Events: Pete/ N L7XM Collected logs from the 2 meter sprint

VE session: Their will be an VE session March 5 2010 at the 911 center at 6:45 pm

Club Station: Dave / K3GMT reported 120 people visited the milk house last month, also reported about the up coming contests

Tech classes: Bob / KE3AW gave a report that the next Technician and Extra class will begin March 9th at the 911 center and a General class will start in May

Membership: As of 04 March 2010 the club has 203 members, Report given by Vic / N2OFF Motion to accept, Amos Nicholson / KC3QD, Wendell Kulp, Tyler Kulp, Chris Kulp as members. 1st Jay / N3OW, 2nd Gary / N2AUO
Passed

Old Business: QSL cards were collected and the winner will be announced at the April meeting

New Business: Mel / W3SQ is looking for any one with an General license or higher to participate With M.A.R.S. If you want more info please contact Mel / W3SQ

George / N3SQD is looking for more people to get into portable operation

Louis / KB2VCI is selling club shirts, please contact him if you want one

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hrs by George / N3SQD

Respectfully submitted by **Howard Miller / WO3P** Secretary

FEBRUARY 28th 2010



D.L.A..R.C. Treasurer's Report	
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$3,900.69</u>
Pete Varounis / NL7XM Treasurer / D.L.A.R.C.	



LEHIGH VALLEY 2010 MS-WALK

This year's MS-Walk will be held again at the Coco-Cola Park, home of the Lehigh Valley IronPigs on Sunday May 2nd. This location was a huge success last year. This fun, family-friendly site in Allentown offers a more central location for walkers from throughout the Lehigh Valley.. The walk will start with a lap around the concourse and finish back at the stadium. The DLARC is again supplying communications and volunteers will be needed to insure the complete safety for the walkers throughout the course. Howard / WO3P is chairing the event and will be looking for sufficient number of operators for the event. Contact him at wo3p@arrl.net.

MS-150 PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH BIKE RIDE

It is not too early to make plans for this event, which is being held July 24th & 25th. The DLARC has supplied communications for several years and will do so again this year.

Starting just an hour's drive northwest of Center City Philadelphia, this cycling event of a lifetime takes you through the rolling hills of Montgomery County and the scenic Amish farmlands of Chester and Lancaster counties. The unique route gives the event a unique spirit -- a sense of community perfectly captured by the Saturday night finish line party at Millersville University. This is a combined event with the Central PA Bike Tour.

Operators are need at the check points, manning the ambulances, sag-wagons and other locations along the route.

Contact Bryan / AA3WM at sbw1@enter.net for more details.

APRIL 2010 QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 DLARC MEETING	2 NO VE SESSION	3
4	5	6 Tech Classes	7 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (N3SQD)	8	9	10
11	12	13 Tech Classes	14 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (W3BUD)	15	16	17
18	19 Newsletter Articles Due	20 Tech Classes	21 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (N3SNZ)	22 Executive Committee Meeting	23	24
25	26	27 Tech Classes	28 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KR3U)	29	30	



APRIL CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

April 4th & 5th – SP DX Contest
 April 11th & 12th – Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest
 April 18th & 19th – EA QRP CW Contest
 April 24th & 25th - SP DX RTTY Contest



Sew & Go LLC

DOREEN A. GRAMLING

Professional Seamstress – Freelance Designer

Specializing in Recreative Fashions: Apparel, & Home
 Alterations, Repairs, Pillows, Curtains,
 Patches Tote Bags & More!!

NEW... Embroidery, Monograms Logos etc.

Phone: 610-258-2473

By Appointment Only

ANNE ASTORE DEMAVE

Leisure Travel Consultant
 Independent Representative

Home; 610-588-0606 Cell: 908-627-3006

ademave@epix.net

ademave.worldventures.biz

ademave.worldventures.com

Your ad could be here. Your business card here for a ridiculously small monthly fee. A space the size of those above is available for a listing. For more information contact Pete / NL7XM at nl7xm@arrl.net

VE TEST SESSION

There will not be a test session this month. The next session will be May 7th at 7:00 PM at the Northampton County 911 Center. Pretest registration is required. Contact George / N3SQD at george@bioserv.com or AI / W3CE at w3ce@arrl.net.

ARRL BOARD DECIDES EMCOMM ISSUES

The Board of Directors of the ARRL concentrated much of its deliberations on major emergency communications issues when it met in Hartford, Connecticut last month.

The Board approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American Red Cross ([ARC](http://www.redcross.org)). The ARC has agreed to permit ARES® volunteers to meet its requirement for a criminal background check by obtaining such a check, at their own expense, through a law enforcement entity rather than through the ARC process. ARRL members will be given information to permit them to make a fully informed decision with regard to volunteering with ARC.

The Board also instructed the ARRL staff to seek a change in Section 97.113(a)(3) of the FCC rules to permit amateurs, on behalf of an employer, to participate in emergency preparedness and disaster drills that include Amateur operations. There is an extensive discussion of this action on page nine of the March issue of QST.

MONTHLY BRAIN TEASER

"A special prize awaits the first Club Member to submit the correct answer to this month's Brainteaser to the Treasurer via E-mail. He must be present at the next Meeting to receive it, or it goes unrewarded. Officers, Board members, and Brain Teaser Authors are not eligible to win."

de NL7XM

MARCH BRAINTEASER ANSWER & WINNER

There was no winner for the March BrainTeaser.

You were asked, "What city has no people?" The correct answer was, "*electricITY.*"

Honorable mention to Paul / KB3LIC however, who responded with several clever solutions, my personal favorite being, "*capaCITY.*"



APRIL BRAINTEASER

Can you guess what they are loading into the aircraft?
(Closest correct answer wins.)



APRIL WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/alerts/index.html>

*****ANNOUNCEMENT*****

There will no longer be a direct link to the newsletter sent through the forum. Only a notice that the latest newsletter is available on the website.. As per the Executive Committee's request, the latest two newsletters are available only to club members. So in order to access them it will necessary to be logged into the web site.

HOW ABOUT THIS QSL CARD

Jim Sundahl  

WOWEE

I'M A HAM

135 Capitola Court
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
wowee@arrl.net

DATE	TIME	FREQ	SIGNAL

PRODUCT REVIEW

Yaesu FT-897D

Barry G. Kery / KU3X

I was looking for an, "A One Radio Do All" in the 100 watt category that will cover from 1.8 to 440 MHz. It also had to be eye appealing and user friendly. One major factor I looked at was current drain on the battery when using any rig portable. The Yaesu FT-897D seemed to fit my needs.

Current Drain, batteries and power supply:

When you use an HF rig and turn the drive down to the final RF section of a rig in the 100 watts class, they do not perform well in the current drain category. If you want to operate at only 5 watts output so you can classify yourself as true QRP, it is best to look at rigs like the Yaesu FT-817, Icom IC-703 or maybe the Elecraft K2. They draw very little current off of your DC supply. Sometimes the bands are not all the good or maybe there are times you just want more power output from your rig to make that needed contact. So a rig in the 100 watt power output category is needed.

Here are my findings for current drain on various radios I was able to test.

	Yaesu FT-897D	Kenwood TS-480SAT	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-703+	Yaesu FT-817
Receive	.66	1.1	1.13	.530	.360
Watts	Amps	Amps	Amps	Amps	Amps
5	4.1	4.7	7.82	2	1.6
10	5.4	5.9	8.9	2.6	
30	8.2	8.7	12.7		
50	10.9	11	15.2		
70	12.7	12.5	16.9		
100	15.5	15	18.3		

As you can see from the above chart, the Kenwood fares pretty good compared to the FT-897 when it comes to power consumption. The only issue I had with the TS-480 SAT is, it is a bigger radio and the control head is just another thing to carry along when setting up portable. Although the Kenwood has a built in tuner, I mostly use resonant antennas and a tuner is not needed. The answer to using other rigs for portable is, carry a bigger battery. When I operate portable I would either operate at QRP/5 watts out or 40 watts out. At 40 watts output power the signal strength is about 2 of an S unit down on the receive end of the signal. That's not much but look at the savings in current drain. The more current you save, the longer you can operate off of the battery.

If all you are going to operate at is a 5 watts output power level, than get a rig designed just for that. But if you want a rig that can do both high and low power with the least amount of current drain, I feel the 897 is a rig to consider. The optional internal battery pack is something to consider. My problem with these packs are they are just too expensive. By the time you pay for the two batteries and the charger designed to work with these batteries, you will pay around \$269 from www.w4rt.com. One battery pack is rated at 4.3 amps. With the internal batteries you are limited to a maximum power output power level of 20 watts. I owned an FT-817 with a set of rechargeable batteries in the battery tray inside of the rig. The internal batteries were more of a nuisance then anything. The batteries will go dead just sitting in the rig in a few weeks. You never really know what state of charge the batteries are in. You end up always giving the batteries a quick top off charge before you take the radio portable and that is really not good to do to the batteries. I am sure if have two fully charged batteries inside of the FT-897D you are set up for a fun afternoon of operating. You could always charge the one battery pack with a solar cell as you work off of the other. For now I have a Yuasa 17 amp hour external battery and I can run at the 100 watt power level if I choose. I checked the price of a 26 amp hour gel cell from a local distributor and they only cost \$54 new. I think this is a much more cost effective way to go and it offers higher power out as well as a longer operating time in the field. The rig's display constantly shows the DC operating voltage of the radio so you can tell what condition the batteries are in.



The above picture shows the bottom cover removed from the 897. This is where the optional battery packs would go.

Yaesu also has an optional internal switching power supply that will fit in place of the battery packs. The power supply comes with its own bottom cover. The bottom cover that is supplied with the power supply adds about one inch more to the radio's actual thickness. The picture below shows the side of the 897 with the standard bottom cover on and the power supply placed next to the rig showing its actual size. The part of the power supply that is black in color is the part that is outside of the rig and adds thickness to the rig as well as added weight.



Setup and operation menus:

So many hams complain about the numerous menu functions of this radio. If you like to fine tune a radio to fit you needs you will need menus and this radio has them, lots of them. They are not all that hard to get a grasp of. To access and setup menus, push and hold the AF (function) key for about 2 seconds. The display will now show the setup menu. There are 91 menu items you can adjust to your liking. WOW, 91 of them! That does not mean you have to change or even look at all of them. Just address the menu items that you would like to change. Once the menu screen is displayed, turn the **MEM/VFO CH** knob to dial through the 91 selections. To make a change to any one of the menu items, turn the **MAIN VFO** knob. To save your selection, push and hold the AF key until you hear a BEEP.



The above picture shows menu item number 75 that adjusts the power output level. One nice feature of this rig is, when the display shows 100, you are getting 100 watts of output power. If you dial in 5 watts, the rig is at the 5 watt level. The Kenwood TS-480 is the same. What you read is what you get. Icom is not like that. Icom uses reference numbers that range from 0 to 10. On the IC 703, if you dial in 3, it does not mean you are at the 3 watt level. The 3 is just a reference number and no more.

The maximum power output is as follows: 100 watts from 1.8 to 54 MHz, 50 watts on 144 MHz and 20 watts on 440 MHz (CW, SSB, Digital and FM). On 60 meters, the frequencies are preset in memory slots, cannot be changed and the radio will put out 100 watts on those frequencies. This radio will work on AM at a reduced power level. Minimum power is adjustable down to 5 watts.

You can adjust the power output on 440 MHz independently of other bands, the same goes for 144 MHz. This means you can set the rig to put out 5 watts on 144 MHz and the radio will still put out 100 watts on HF and 20 watts on 440 MHz without going into the setup menu and changing the power level every time you change bands.

What I did was to download a PDF copy of the operation manual and print out pages 52 and 53. These two pages are a copy of all 91 set up menu options. This will make it easy to select what item you would like to change. Within the setup menu you will find changes for the following functions and many more: Mic Gain, VOX controls, CW speed, power output level, CAT rate, display colors, beep tone level and the list goes on. Enter the setup menu, change as many items as you like and then push and hold the AF key to save all of your changes.

The operational menus are a little different. They are in groups of three each and there are 17 rows of there to choose from. To access them all you have to do it hit the AF key for one half second and you will be able to scroll though each of them. These menu items are the ones you will use most. Examples are: A/B, A=B, VOX, SPLIT, ATT, BK, KYR, RPT, REV and so on.



The above picture shows menu selection J. SPOT is a button you hold on and the rig will send an audio tone through the speaker which can be used to match the tone of a receive CW signal so you know you are on the correct frequency. More on this later. The [BK] means the radio is setup for break in CW (semi break in or QSK). The [KYR] shows the internal keyer is being used. If the brackets are not displayed, the function is off. Tap the button to turn this function on or off. If you hold down the [KYR] button, it will take you to the CW Speed set up menu number 30. Turn the main VFO to change the speed and hold the F key down until you hear a beep. This is a shortcut to the set up menu. There are numerous shortcut keys like this in the operation menu. Another one would be [VOX]. By holding that one down you will access the VOX delay setup menu.

When I received this radio, I put one day aside and just played with all of the menu features this radio had to offer. It really is not all that hard. Almost all of today's radios have some sort of menu scheme so you better get use to menu driven radios.



CW filter installation and operation:

Installing a CW filter in this rig could not be easier. Just remove the top cover of the rig. You will have to unplug one of the cables that is attached to the toggle switch on the top cover. I left the speaker lead attached but it is also easy to unplug. Look at the bottom left hand corner of the main board and you will see the 500 HZ CW filter already installed. It just plugs in, it's as simple as that. Once the lid is back on you have to go to the setup menu and tell the radio that the filter is installed. To go from narrow to wide selection you can use the operation menu. You can install two CW filters in this rig if you like. Yaesu offers two different selections, a 500 Hz and 300 Hz bandwidth. You can pick and choose, either of the filters on the fly, via operation menu. Instead of two CW filters, you could install one CW filter and one narrow SSB filter.

This rig has a very good built in CW keyer and also three memory slots for CW messages. I loaded slot A with just my callsign, B with a CQ DX and C is CQ QRP. What I don't like is how you load the memory slots. You have to dial in the letters by using the VFO. I guess they think I don't know how to send CW. On my Kenwoods, I hit the memory key, hold it on for two seconds and then I send CW via my paddles....memory slot is now loaded. It is so much simpler on the Kenwood's. I guess Yaesu and Icom both figure hams can't send CW. I call it, Dialing for code!



The FT-897D has one neat feature I really like for making sure you are sending on the same frequency you are receiving so you do not send out of the other ham's passband. There is a little LED just to the top left of the main VFO knob that blinks with the CW being received to let you know you are right on the mark. If it's not blinking, you are not on the correct CW frequency. I found this feature very useful. I usually set my CW pitch control for 800 Hz. For some reason the 800 HZ tone did not sound right on this rig so I set it at 600 HZ. I do have hearing losses and I am sure that is part of the problem. When I went to tune in a CW signal I was always a tad off. I was use to the 800 HZ tone. With the little LED blinking I was able to be right where I should be.

Audio DSP:

I found the audio DSP to be very useful. I mostly use CW and here is where the rig's DSP really shines. It's not as good as the IF DSP in the Icom IC 7000 but it's not IF DSP, it's audio DSP. Once I find a CW signal I want to work I hit the DSP button on the top right hand side of the rig. The operation menu changes to DSP control and I can now narrow the bandwidth down to either of the three preset (set by the factory) bandwidths. Your three choices are 240, 120 and 60 HZ. They really work great and I use them all of the time. It not only narrows the audio passband but gets rid of a lot of background noise. Another DSP feature is Digital Noise Reduction. I think the bandwidth function does a better job in getting rid of the background noise on CW than the noise reduction does.

For SSB it also has a low and high cut selection for the passband. It also has Digital Noise Reduction as well as a Digital Notch Filter. You can also adjust your mic audio output via the DSP. I have mine set for cutting off the low frequency response. This is nice for working DX, you want more highs than you do lows.

General Operating Notes:

Some of the knobs on the rig are multi functional. By pushing in the MEM/VFO knob you can change the frequency of the radio by 1 MHz at a time. By just tapping the power button lightly you will change the VFO's tuning step to fast. Tapping the power button once more puts it back to default tuning speed. There is a little unmarked button to the right of the audio level control. By tapping the button once you turn on the RIT function. Tap again and the RIT is turned off. To zero out the RIT, turn the RIT off and turn the main VFO, the RIT will reset. If you push and hold this same button you will access the IF Shift. The only way to set the IF Shift back to center is to manually do it.

If you turn the MEM/VFO knob you will step through the frequency by either 2.5 or 5 khz steps. You can change this value in the setup menu. This is most useful for going from the bottom of the band to the top of the band.

The display is easy to read, but if your eyes are not that good, you can set the display up for larger characters. The color of the display can easily be changed via setup menu.

Within the operational menu you can set one group up for easy access to almost whatever control you like. I set mine up as follows: A = power lever, B = CW speed and C = VOX Delay.

Band changing and mode changing is very easy. To the right of the main VFO are four buttons. The top two buttons are for changing modes (USB-LSB-CW-CWR and so on). The bottom two buttons are for changing bands.

Personal notes:

Like I said in the beginning of this review, "I needed a One Radio Do All" and this radio really fits my needs. I really liked my FT-817 when I had it, but this model offers so much more. It's a great general coverage radio that can transmit on all of the HF bands, including 60 meters, as well as 6 meters, VHF and UHF. It has plenty of power if needed and does a nice job with reasonably low current drain at low power output levels.

By adding the optional Yaesu internal switching power supply you have an even better radio for taking with you when you go on the road. If you go camping and the campsite has AC power, you can plug the rig into the power grid. If they do not have AC power, just unplug the power cord that comes from the internal power supply and attach the proper power cord that can be connected to a battery. Even with the internal power supply installed the rig is still small in size and not too heavy to carry around. This is probably one of the most versatile rigs I have even owned.

The FT-897 series radios have been around for a long time and have proven themselves to be a very rugged radio. For a radio in the \$850 price range, you surely will get your money's worth.

The Yaesu FT-857 is the 897's smaller brother with pretty much the same features with the exception of no extra space on the bottom of the rig for batteries or built in power supply. The 857 also has a removable control head. They seem to both use the same motherboard. If size and weight are a major factor, get the FT-857. It is also about \$100 cheaper.



APRIL PROGRAM

Backyard Astrophotography

Let's tour the virtual observatories of George / N3SQD and Al / W3CE as they introduce us to their techniques and results of capturing amazing images that have fascinated human beings ever since the first one looked up at night. Behold the magnificence of the heavens as they share years of cataloged experience with us. Youngsters interested in space, science, and photography are especially encouraged to attend this presentation.

MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

Barry / KU3X's program was a complete explanation on the how, whys and where's of the balun and its application to amateur radio antennas. Barry covered the history and development of the balun as we know it today. He covered the various types, and which applications they would be used. Covered also were the materials used to make the baluns and how to get them. Barry finished with baluns he built himself and the applications where he used them.

2010 AMY ZIMMERMAN AWARD

The Amy Zimmerman Award, is given yearly, provided there is a candidate who fulfills the criteria outlined in the D.L.A.R.C.'s records. This member has demonstrated the unselfish commitment to public service in the same manner that Amy did during her years in the D.L.A.R.C. This year there were 2 nominations from the membership, both filled the requirements. Thus the board in making their final decision ruled that both nominees should be named as the award winners. **Bryan / AA3WM** and **Charlie / W3OPA** are the 2010 Amy Zimmerman Award Winners. Bryan has chaired the Pennsylvania Dutch 150 mile bike tour for several years and has been available for almost every other public service event by the club. Charlie has chaired MS Walks, the Library demos and has also been available for all the public service events his job commitments will allow. Bryan and Charlie were given plaques commemorating the award and their name will be displayed on the large plaque on display in the Milkhouse.



NEW MEMBERS

The DLARC is continuing to grow, so be sure to greet our new comers, shake their hands, and give them a warm welcome to our club. The newest members are **Amos / KC3QD**, **Wendell Kulp**, **Tyler Kulp** and **Chris Kulp**.

NEW PRODUCT

A new product is ready to be marketed which will revolutionize amateur radio as we know it today. Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you bothered by increasing QRM on the bands?
- Does your monster antenna array have difficulty turning in high winds?
- Does your XYL get after you to clean up bird droppings under your antenna?

With new Antenna Wax, your troubles are over. Just apply to your yagi, dipole, Quad or vertical and you will notice the difference instantly.

Read these testimonials from club members:

With Antenna Wax I can actually see QRM and QRN slide right off my antenna.

Antenna Wax lets me turn my 36 element 20 meter array with an ordinary electric egg beater, even in the fiercest Santa Ana winds.

Birds don't roost on my beam any more since I started using Antenna Wax.

The secret formula for Antenna Wax is rumored to contain a mixture of ordinary household wax, 38-weight diesel oil and powdered QSL Cards from Albania. Easy to use Antenna Wax simply wipes on and lasts 3-34 weeks. It is available in the following colors: Red (for that Russian DX), Green (for Irish DX), Blue for Moonbounce and Yellow (for generic DX). The cost is only \$19.98 and it is available at the finer outlets.

Silent Key

The D.L.A.R.C. Wishes to honor and to express its sadness at the passing of a club member or former club member.

BOB LOUX / KA3WRP



NEWS FROM THE MILK HOUSE

The Milk House hosted over 120 visitors in February. It can be a tight squeeze on Wednesday nights but everyone enjoys the camaraderie and learning from others. Bob (NE2C) completed the construction of a wire vertical at the Milk House. The antenna is resonant on 40 meters and was built using ladder line and a handmade matching network. Using a tree behind the Gray Stone building for support the antenna's first contact was Bosnia during the RTTY contest.

The Milk House operated the following contest in February
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB

DX highlights during these contests were Senegal (RTTY), Amsterdam & St. Paul Island (CW), and Kaliningrad (SSB). Contest in the coming months are few and far between. Below is the list that Milk House will operate:

March: CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, Mar 28 only to 2400Z

Nothing in April

May: CQ WW WPX Contest, CW0000Z, May 29 to 2400Z, May 30

Our D-Star repeater is now operational and on the air full time using the club's 145.11 frequency pair. Please join the Mid-Atlantic D-Star net every Tuesday at 7:30pm local time.

Don't forget the Milk House is open every Tuesday and Wednesday at 7pm and most Saturdays.

de Dave / K3GMT

2010 ATLANTIC DIVISION AWARDS

Atlantic Division 2010 Awards Nominations Reminder Do you know someone who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it. Wouldn't it be an honor for that individual or group to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others? Why not nominate them for one of the Atlantic Division Awards that they qualify for?

Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Nominations are taken from the ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Division Vice Director. The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. Amateurs of any license class may be nominated for awards. Nominations must come from within the Atlantic Division. The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another award category, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees.

AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Radio Amateur in the Atlantic Division whose record merits recognition for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. He or she is active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Amateur of the Year is an all-round Amateur, whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as an example to others. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the "Amateur's Code." In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge, and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio in the year preceding nomination.

KEITH FREEBERG N2BEL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

This award is named after Keith Freeberg N2BEL who was very involved in amateur radio and amateur radio training in the Western New York Section. Keith had a unique ability to teach amateur radio to people of all ages. He had an affinity for working with young people and was very involved with one of the few Radio Coaches programs. It is very fitting that this award is dedicated to his memory and that the successful candidate demonstrate an ability to successfully train people in amateur radio. The emphasis is on quality of training and not pure number of people trained.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Radio Amateur(s) in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self. Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware/firmware/software, systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

The nomination period closes Saturday, April 17, 2010 for this nomination.

AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To display the award nomination form, go to the web site www.atldiv.org/AwardNominationForm.htm

Then you send the form to your printer or save it to disk. The nomination form is available as an Adobe Acrobat file that can be saved, then emailed or printed.

www.atldiv.org/2010_atldiv_nomination_form.pdf

F.Y.I.

Congratulations to DLARC Member, Greg Petruccelli / KB3QFA, and wife Jessica, the proud parents of new female harmonic her name is Ada Sophia Petruccelli, 7 lb 9 oz. 20in long with a full head of hair. New mom, Jessica and baby doing fine.

The winners of the March Prizes were Gary / N2AUO and Rich / N3UB
The May program will be " History of the D.L.A.R.C." by Mel / W3PYF

The D.L.A.R.C. meets the "FIRST" Thursday of each month. Membership, friends and interested persons meet at the Nancy Run Fire Company Social Hall (3564 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa. 18020) at 7:30 PM. Committee reports and announcements of all present and future activities will be presented at that time. Followed by that month's program.

The EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA District 2 ARES Net meets every Wednesday at 1930 hours local time. (Just after the DLARC Net) On 147.255 (pl 162.2). And linked to 449.375 on Blue Mountain, 443.350 in Allentown and 147.180 in Berks County.

D-Star Mid-Atlantic Regional net meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month on the 147.165 port with a number of other repeaters in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York City area .

The OK Corral is an organization publication for the purpose of informing members of the D.L.A.R.C. of educational and training opportunities, club events, relevant news articles and a monthly calendar of daily activities, meetings and dates. Every member of the D.L.A.R.C. Is welcome to contribute articles of interest to this newsletter. Opinions, items of interest, and even suggestions towards the improvement of newsletter and/or the DLARC, itself would also be accepted, as a sort of "Letters to the Editor" section.

The Milkhouse phone number is 484-895-7038.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009 – 2010
OFFICERS**

President – George E. Wieland III / N3SQD ----- president@dlarc.org
Vice President – Ben Ramig / KB3CTX ----- vicepresident@dlarc.org
Secretary – Howard Miller / WO3P ----- secretary@dlarc.org
Treasurer – Pete Varounis / NL7XM ----- treasurer@dlarc.org

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Bob Oppen / NE2C ----- ne2c@arrl.net
Al Wiemann / W3CE ----- w3ce@arrl.net
Don Holmes / KC3II ----- kc3ii@dlarc.org
Jon Matson / N3INJ ----- cjfishing@rcn.com
Vic Zeno / N2OFF ----- vzeno@verizon.net
Jay Mason / N3OW ----- n3ow@rcn.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
7:30 PM at the Nancy Run Fire Company
TALK IN ON 146.700 (PL 151.4)

W3OK TRUSTEE --- DON REAMER / KA3JWE

**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**

ARES, RACES AND DLARC NET

All Radio Amateurs are welcome to participate 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 147.370 (167.9) W3OI Repeater.

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor – Don Holmes / KC3II ----- editor@dlarc.org
Web Master – Brad Snyder / W3JXQ ----- w3jxq@dlarc.org
Photographer – Vic Zeno / N2OFF ----- vzeno@verizon.net
Circulation – Pete Varounis / NL7XM ----- nl7xm@arrl.net