

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

**FEBRUARY 2010**



# ***W3OK***

# ***CORRAL***

**Club Meeting At the Nancy Run Fire Company**  
**7:30 PM February 4<sup>th</sup> 2010**



**“WX3MAS”**



**40 YEARS CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

**2009 N3IYX & KB3SXG**



**1969 K3NZ**



**FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM**

**\*\* Mini-Hamfest \*\***

**Howard / WO3P**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

Before getting into this month's topic, I need to make a correction to last month's article on the milk-house. While discussing how Ken and Skip started the regular opening of the milk-house, I used the wrong call for Skip. The correct call for Skip is K3CC. So many calls, so little gray matter.

Moving on. On January 13, Al / W3CE and I met with the folks from Northampton County (emergency management, 911 center, facilities management) and Industrial Communications (Charlie Adams). This meeting was a follow-up to a meeting which Al and I had with County last year. At our meeting last year, we presented a number of issues that we felt would improve our interaction with, and utility to the county. The following is a review of the results of our most recent meeting.

With a number of managers working in the county system, it has been difficult to know the correct individual to contact for a particular issue. We will now have a single point of contact in Nick Tylenda, for all of our various issues with county.

On the subject of ID badges, we can provide photographs (JPEG files) and qualifications to county and they will produce the badges for us. We are awaiting specifications for the photographs.

Easton Hospital is establishing some amateur radio capability to be used as a backup in emergency situations. They were looking into packet radio. We suggested that it may be advisable for them to pursue D-star communications as that system is newer and is being implemented in other area hospitals. The issue with packet radio is "who would they be talking to". County will be discussing this with the hospital.

For some time, we have wanted to improve the antenna situation at the milk-house with the installation of a beam antenna. We initially thought that this would be placed on a tower that we would attach to the barn. However, after some discussion, it was decided that it would be best if the beam were placed on top of the 100 foot tower adjacent to the milk-house. It turns out that the antenna at the top of the tower is no longer needed and that space will be available. Because our beam and rotator are rather old (>15 years) and the expense of installation is significant (> \$3K – county would prefer a professional crew to do the installation), it was suggested that a new beam and rotator should be purchased. They also proposed that they would pay for (and own) the equipment and installation. We need to provide the information on the antenna and rotator, and perhaps fabricate the mounting plates. County will look into providing the funding. And, Industrial Communications will supervise the installation. I would anticipate that we would assist in the assembly of the antenna and installation where permissible.

While work is being done on the tower, we should look into repairing or replacing our existing wire antenna, and perhaps installing a pulley or two for additional antennas. We might also be able to move some of our existing antennas further up on the tower.

As for the milk-house, county will be removing the old Blue Mountain Control tapes, and will arrange for the repair of the ceiling. The key issuance has been resolved and we will provide county with a list of active members to help improve security. Charlie Adams said that Industrial Communications would look to consolidate some of the equipment racks with the goal of removing two or three racks. This should make getting around in the milk-house quite a bit easier. County mentioned that they would be removing the generator from the milk-house and that we would be able to use that space once it had been cleaned out and painted. They mentioned that they thought this could take some time (as they hadn't worked out the details of the removal) and that we shouldn't start measuring for drapery just yet.

We discussed the possibility of converting our existing 145.11 machine to a D-star repeater. While we anticipated just a 2M repeater, county inquired into the option of other frequencies (440MHz and 1.2GHz). We will provide them with additional information and they will look into funding of this change.

On the emergency communication front, we discussed getting an RF connection in the situation room. While they do not want any RF sources in the situation room, they will review the possibility of putting the radio in the existing transmitter shack and running a line for the control head into the situation room. We also reviewed the purpose of the command vehicle and the potential for RF connections for amateur radio.

We reviewed the ability to get older laptops spun off from county operations. They would like a set of minimum specifications for these in order to make sure that the laptops would serve our purposes.

There was an interest in having the club participate with county in various public relations events. We have done this in the past and indicated a willingness to continue to support these events.

We also discussed the possibility of providing support for "Project Life Saver". And no, it doesn't refer to the candies. Project Life Saver is a system designed to find individuals (primarily Alzheimer's patients) who wander off from a safe location. These individual wear an RF bracelet that enables them to be tracked should they wander off. It was noted that our "Fox hunting" skills would be useful in this endeavor. The county already owns some of the necessary equipment, and some of our members may be similarly equipped. We need to resolve liability issues, establish call-up and coordination procedures, and establish a trained reserve group of club members.

As you can see, we covered a lot of ground in the meeting. In addition to thanking the individuals at the meeting for taking the time to prepare and meet with us, I would also like to thank Barry / N3NVA for reviewing some of the issues with Industrial Communications. I am sure that his discussions with Charlie went a long way toward getting a beam on top of the tower and getting us some much needed additional space at the club station.

At this time, there are no hard and fast timetables for the various projects. Each of the projects requires different levels of support and planning from the parties involved. What we do have is a rather well defined set of goals and responsibilities. We will be looking forward to your help and will keep you informed as we complete the tasks ahead.



## MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY MEETING

The general membership meeting of Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. was held at Nancy Run Fire Co. in Bethlehem Twsp., PA on January 7 2010

**Call to order:** at 1928 hrs, President George Wieland / N3SQD presiding.

**Pledge of allegiance:** Led by George / N3SQD

**Members in attendance:** 54 and 5 visitors

**Approval of minutes:** Motion was made by Doreen / KB3PDL, and seconded by Tracy / KB3TAE  
- **Motion carried**

**Approval of Treasurer's report:** Motion was made by Mark / K3MP, and seconded by Carl / AA3IX - **Motion carried**

**Web site:** Brad / W3JXQ Reported no changes

**Repeater:** George / N3SQD Reported testing will be done on the 146.110 Repeater for D-STAR

**VE session:** There will be an VE session on January 8, 2010 at the 911 center at 6:45 pm

**Club Station:** Dave / K3GMT gave a report about number of people who came to the milk house last month, also about up coming contents

**Tech classes:** Bob / KE3AW gave a report that the next class will be in the early spring. George / N3SQD asked if people were interested in General and Extra classes

**Events:** Dave / K3GMT gave a report about the number of contacts made during WX3MAS and of upcoming contests being held at the Milkhouse

**Membership:** As of 07 Jan 2010 the club has 216 members, Report given by Vic / N2OFF

Motion to accept, Diane Myers, George Zane, Eric Wasser, and Louis Rodriguez as members. 1<sup>st</sup> Tracy / KB3TAE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed / AA3OU - **Passed**

**Old Business:** George / N3SQD reminds everyone that club dues are due

George / N3SQD reminds everyone that the nominations are due next month for the Amy Zimmerman Award

George / N3SQD and Ben / KB3CTX reported on the phone tree and asked what time / Day is good to send out phone messages

**New Business:** Club is looking into redesigning the QSL cards, Members have until March Meeting to turn in designs  
Don / KC3II gave report on the DLARC 2 meter sprint, It will be held on Feb 27 2010

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2003 hrs by George / N3SQD

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

## DECEMBER 2009



### D.L.A..R.C. Treasurer's Report

**Ending Balance** **\$3,408.85**

**Pete Varounis / NL7XM**  
Treasurer / D.L.A..R.C.



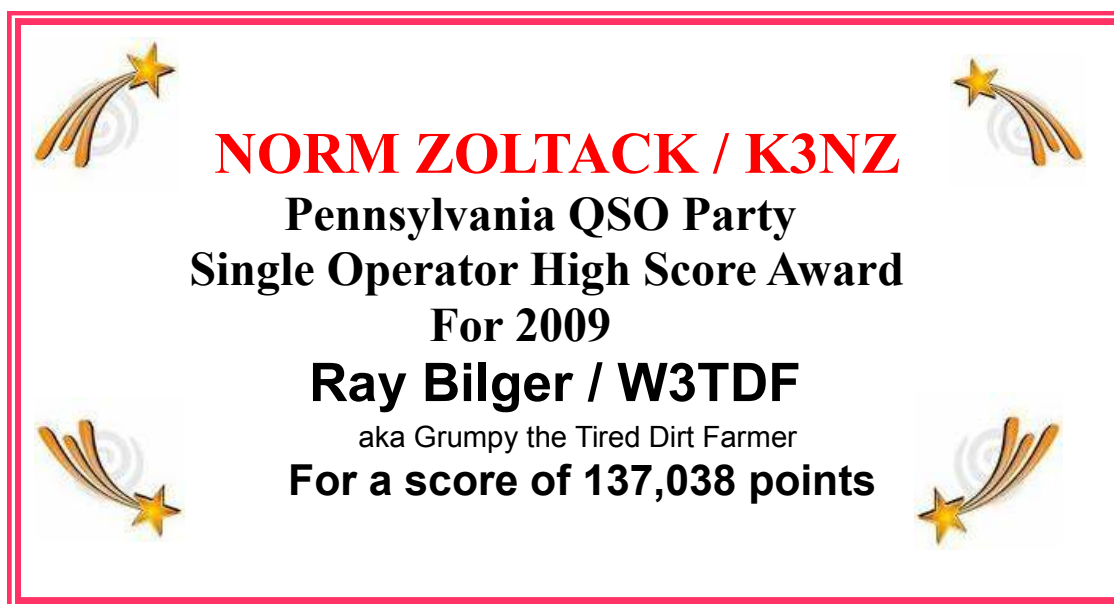
## FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

Following the business meeting there will a **\*\* Mini-Hamfest\*\*** instead of a speaker. Tables will be available for venders. Also refreshments and door prizes. This will be an opportunity to move your dust collectors and maybe get that item you have been looking for. More details can be found on the web page.

de **Howard / WO3P**

## DLARC FORUM

Subscribing to the DLARCforum will insure your accessibility to the DLARC's latest news and information pertaining to the club and its activities. This is also a way to address any questions to the membership in general, on any amateur radio and/or DLARC subject. Additional forum information is available in the January 2010 issue of the OK Corral. Go to <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/dlarcforum> to sign up for the DLARCforum.



#### FEBRUARY 2010 QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 DLARC RACES/ARES Net ( <b>KC3II</b> )	4 <b>DLARC MEETING</b>	5 No V.E. SESSION	6
7	8	9 D-Star Net 147.165 1900 Local	10 DLARC RACES/ARES Net ( <b>N3SQD</b> )	11	12	13
14	15 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	16	17 DLARC RACES/ARES Net ( <b>W3BUD</b> )	18 <b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>	19	20
21	22	23 D-Star Net 147.165 1900 Local	24 DLARC RACES/ARES Net ( <b>N3SNZ</b> )	25	26	27 <b>DLARC 2 METER SPRINT</b>
28						



#### FEBRUARY CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest  
 February 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> – ARRL International DX Contest (CW)  
 February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – North American QSO Party (RTTY)



#### NEWS FROM THE MILK HOUSE

The Milk House hosted 115 visitors in December. The club station added a new computer monitor and a Tigertronics Signalink to operate RTTY, PSK, and CW. We also repositioned some equipment to better utilize the space. We added a 20-meter delta loop to our antenna inventory. It is not up permanently. We put it up and take it down on contest weekends. We orient the antenna to optimize the radiation pattern for east/west. It is a great DX antenna.

Special thanks to Brandon Miller / KB3SXG, for building a new shelf for the club station.

de Dave / K3GMT



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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@arri.net](mailto:nl7xm@arri.net)

### **DLARCforum USAGE GUIDELINES**

The DLARCforum is meant to be used to pass relevant information about the club, its activities, events and other amateur radio related topics. You can use it to ask questions of a general or specific nature relating to the club or anything which concerns amateur radio. Round-table discussions are encouraged but please try to stay focused on the specific topic being discussed. You may advertise items for sale as long as they are amateur radio related.

Topics of general interest may be discussed but please be sure the topic is appropriate for the club forum and general membership. Please refrain from using the forum to discuss volatile topics unrelated to amateur radio. Occasional humorous anecdotes may be posted if relevant to the membership. However, the forum is not to be used as a "joke bulletin board".

If you are uncertain about posting any information that could possibly be inappropriate or controversial but has relevance to amateur radio or the membership then please contact the list administrator or an executive Committee member for advice and/or approval.

Please refrain from forwarding messages to the forum without verifying the accuracy and validity of the information. Many messages received from unsubstantiated sources concerning computer viruses, missing children, alleged scams, etc. that prompt you to "send this to everybody you know", often turn out to be highly inaccurate or complete and total hoaxes. Forwarding this type of information without verifying its authenticity and accuracy is irresponsible. (You should follow this guideline when forwarding any emails whether to the forum or the membership in general.)

The general rules of amateur radio concerning non-commercial usage also apply to the forum. It is not to be used for commercial purposes, solicitation for profit or personal gain (excluding sales of radio related equipment, etc.) by individuals or groups.

To avoid delays when posting messages to the forum, please remember to configure your email program to send "plain text" messages. You can usually find this setting in the options or configuration section of your particular email software.

You can only post messages to the forum using the email address which is subscribed. If you subscribed from your home computer using your home email address and attempt to post a message from your work computer using your work email address or any other computer with a different email address it will be rejected. However you can subscribe multiple addresses if you wish to use multiple systems.

Messages posted to the DLARCforum must have the address in the "TO" line. Postings with the address in the "CC", or "BCC" lines will be rejected.

As a general rule, if you post a message and you don't get your message back, via the DLARCforum (after a short processing delay) then it probably was rejected. The system may send you an automated message if it can determine why your post was rejected or you may get a message from the list administrator stating the reason for the rejection. If you are having difficulty posting or receiving messages, please contact the list administrator.

The D.L.A.R.C. Executive Committee reserves the right of administration over the contents and membership of the forum.

de **Don / KA3JWE** List administrator

### **NOTICE**

Long time member, Bill / K3ANS is recovering from a heart attack, so keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Watch the Forum for further information and updates on his condition.

## 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

### JANUARY BRAINTEASER ANSWER & WINNER

There was **no winner** of the January Brainteaser, so it will be carried again this month.

Which of the following will see more clearly in absolute darkness?

An owl, bat, or leopard?



### FEBRUARY BRAINTEASER

by NL7XM

What do you call a banana with a zipper?



## WHAT SHOULD EVERY HAM KNOW HOW TO DO?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.
3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.
4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, What do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## 3rd ANNUAL DLARC SPRINT

Previously held in March, but several changes were necessary, including the date, which is **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010**. Same time, however, 10AM to 11AM, local time. Still for DLARC members only. On 2 meter simplex channels only. [[ The first year we had 14 entries. Last year we picked up 12 more, but, 7 of the original 14 didn't enter. So, you can see, we could have at least 26, but, why not more?? ]] One contact per station, regardless of frequency. This is single operator only. You can operate Mobile part of the time and from home part time, all on one entry. Hand written logs to be submitted at the March 4th meeting, however the winner will not be announced and award presented until the April 1st meeting.

Now comes the interesting change, log keeping and exchange. You will note that the serial number has been dropped, and we will no longer use the birthday number. Instead we will use a **CHECK** sequence consisting of 2 digits and 2 letters. The 2 digit number will be from either your house number or P.O. box number. That's the last 2 digits only, followed by the first 2 letters of your middle name. (If your house number is 1234, you give 34. Same with the P.O. box number. If yours is only one digit then put a zero ahead of it. If you have neither then pick a number.) If your house number is 13579 and your middle name is Ambrose, then your CHECK Sequence would be 79AM. No middle name? then use NM. So, the exchange is:= CALL CHECK NAME Your log must show TIME as well. The top of your log sheet must show your Call, Check Sequence, and name sent.

de Ray / W3TDF

## MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

By Pete / NL7XM

It's that time, already! DUES are payable for the calendar year 2010. Here's how easy it is to remit your club DUES and keep your valuable D.L.A.R.C. Membership current. Whether in person or by mail, **CHECKS made payable to the D.L.A.R.C.** are the preferred method of payment to more accurately record your timely renewal. Please ensure that your callsign appears somewhere on the instrument, such as in the memo field. Paying with cash is discouraged, but if you really, *really* have to, kindly make certain you are prepared with the correct sum according to the rate table shown below. Remember, if your DUES are not paid by February 1st, your membership will expire.

### 2010 DUES Rates / No Changes

Regular Membership 18-64 years of age:

Jan. - Dec. ....\$17.-

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

Jan. - Dec. ....\$12.-

Additional Family member  
each \$3.-

Associate Individual Membership  
\$10.-

**You are strongly encouraged to MAIL your DUES** so that I may conduct the bulk of the record-keeping duties apart from where I believe you deserve the most of my attention. In person at Club Meetings, I'd prefer to answer your questions, address your concerns, and welcome your thoughtful revenue raising and savings ideas.

Therefore, it is firmly advocated that DUES correspondence be mailed to:

**Pete Varounis / NL7XM**

**P.O. Box 3026**

**Easton, PA 18043-3026**

Enclosing a S.A.S.E will bring your new membership card back to you immediately if you can't attend the next Meeting where they are routinely distributed. You may write to me anytime with questions regarding DUES, or to discuss issues that you believe are my responsibility at: [nl7xm@arri.net](mailto:nl7xm@arri.net) Include your phone number if you prefer a live reply.

de **Pete / NL7XM DLARC Treasurer**

### HARD COPY SUBSCRIPTION

You must sign up if you want a hard copy newsletter subscription. The rate stays the same this year at \$10. This is exclusively for the newsletter only to cover printing and mailing. The price of maintaining a Bulk Mailing Permit is too expensive to justify with the size of our Membership, thus the first class postage requirement. This will squarely cover the cost of paper and printing supplies for 12 issues. To subscribe contact Pete / NL7XM at [nl7xm@arri.net](mailto:nl7xm@arri.net).

### HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOUR CAR IN THE WINTER

Keep your headlights clear with car wax! Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights. It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights - lasts 6 weeks.

Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol! Wipe the wipers with a cloth saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking & squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence & clarity.

Ice-proof your windows with vinegar! Frost on it's way? Just fill a spray bottle with three parts vinegar to one part water & spritz it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water---preventing water from freezing!

Prevent car doors from freezing shut with cooking spray! Spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors & rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.

Fog-proof your windshield with shaving cream! Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield & wipe it off with paper towels. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.

De-ice your lock in seconds with hand sanitizer! Just put some hand sanitizer gel on the key & the lock & the problems solved!

**Hope these hints help even just one time.**

## VE TEST SESSION

There will **not** be a test session this month. The next session will be March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Northampton County 911 Center. Pretest registration is required. Contact George / N3SQD at [george@bioserv.com](mailto:george@bioserv.com) or Al / W3CE at [w3ce@arrl.net](mailto:w3ce@arrl.net).

## 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 Diane Myers, George Zane, Eric Wasser and Louis Rodrigues.



## VALENTINE'S DAY ROSES

The rose is one of the most popular flowers and one of the most powerful symbols of Valentine's Day. Since time immemorial the rose flower has been a favorite of poets and romantics at heart. For them, the lovely rose stands for beauty, passion and love. Every year on February 14<sup>th</sup> lovers long for a gift of a Rose from their Valentine as the flower has come to denote "I love you". No wonder, demand for roses reaches its zenith on Valentine's Day as people across the globe chose to express their love with a lovely rose.

### Legend Behind Valentine's Day Roses

There is an interesting story behind the legend of Valentine's Day Roses. It is said that once a beautiful maiden by the name of Rodanthe was pursued by a number of impassioned suitors. In their desperate pursuit the lovers broke the doors of Rodanthe's house. This enraged the goddess Diana. She turned Rodanthe into a flower and her suitors into thorns. According to a popular legend in Rome once Cupid was carrying a vase of sweet nectar to the Gods on Mount Olympus and some nectar spilled on the ground. From the spot where the nectar fell emerged the beautiful Rose flower. An interesting point to notice is that if the letters of the word 'rose' are rearranged it comes out Eros – the God of Love. Red roses are also considered to be the symbol of love and passion and the favorite flower of Venus – the Goddess of Love.

### Meaning of Different Colors of Roses

Rose flowers are found in different colors and it is fascinating to note that each of these different Rose colors have been assigned different meanings by society. Hence one needs to be careful while presenting roses to someone.

RED Roses – Love and Passion

YELLOW Roses – Friendship

WHITE Roses – True love and purity of the mind

PINK Roses – Friendship or Sweetheart

BLACK Roses - Farewell

## JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM

The program was "PA Turnpike Radio Systems" by C.R. Phillips / N3HTZ. Who works for the subcontractor that installs and maintains the radio and other electronic systems necessary to the operation of the turnpike. C. R. presented a slide show, that began with early pictures of the turnpike dating back to 1937 when construction began and proceeding through to



present. He also presented slides of the actual electronic equipment that was used over the years and replaced by more state of the art equipment. He also showed the "EZ Pass" equipment and gave an overall picture of its workings. C. R. finished up with pictures taken just days before our meeting of 180 foot tower being erected.



## HELP THE ENVIRONMENT & THE DLARC

Donate your old, empty printer ink cartridges to the Club for recycling. Any brand, model, size or shape; color or black. Please bring them to the meeting in a leak proof ziplock type baggie and give them to the Treasurer. This simple act can help your Club by reducing recurring expenses, and make you feel a lot better about our environment.

## PROGRAM CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE

There is a need for a program committee and chairperson for the 2010 calendar year program scheduling. This job has been done by Pete / NL7XM for the past 2 years, but he can no longer devote the time necessary all by himself to properly secure talent and arrange scheduling of all the Club's Programs. A program chairperson can choose to put together their own series of programs or put together a committee do the same, distributing the work load over a group. The Executive Committee feels the high quality programs that Pete had supplied over the past year, has had some effect on the membership growth experienced over this period. And would like for this growth to continue. There will only need to be necessary to schedule eleven programs, since the balance of this year is taken care of and December 2010 is the annual Christmas get together. Programs do not need to be Ham radio related, the only requirement is that the programs be of interest to membership. Looking back over the 2009 programs, the variance of subjects cover a lot of interesting subjects.

## 2010 CENSUS TO BEGIN

### **THIS IS PRETTY BASIC ADVICE; Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers**

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

**REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.**

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.

**AND REMEMBER, THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH ACORN ON GATHERING THIS INFORMATION..** No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

## QSL CARD CONTEST

It has been decided the DLARC to go along with its revised milkhouse activity, that the club needed a new QSL Card. The present card is quite old. So a contest has been decided on, so as to get the design from the membership through a contest. The final decision will be made at a date following the March 3<sup>rd</sup> general meeting. All entries must include the following information and turned in at that time.

### **Required items to be on the QSL card**

1. **Club name** : Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.
2. **Club Call** : W3OK
3. **Address** : 14 Gracedale Ave. - Graystone Building Nazareth, PA 18064-9211 U.S.A.
4. **ARRL info** : ARRL Affiliated club
5. **Location** : Grid FN20hr, CQ zone 5, Section EPA
6. **County** : Northampton County
7. **Station** : The Ed Hartman Memorial Station
8. **Fill in Boxes** :

Station	Date	GMT	MHZ	RST	MODE	QSL
						PSE TNX

### **9. Club Logo**



de Howard / W03P Contest Chairman

## INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKS INTERTWINE WITH HAM RADIO

Mike Schaffer, / KA3JAW

How many of you 217 members have an account and actively use internet social network services? Come on raise your hands. For you older than 50's years in age you might be asking what is that? Before I state the long definition, you might want to grab a aspirin first to go with your coffee, hopefully being poured into a D.L.A.R.C mug. OK, you can lower your hand now.

It focuses on enabling virtual communities that for the building and reflecting of social networks or social relationships among people who share interests and/or activities. Essentially consists of a representation of each user (often a profile), his/her social links, and a variety of additional services.

Most ISN's are web based and allow for online communities to be created so that users can interact over the internet, such as e-mail, instant messaging and bulletin board services. I know for sure at least 40 of you have already used at least one ISN named Facebook because the D.L.A.R.C homepage is found there. For the other 177 members, here is the link if you would like to check it.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Delaware-Lehigh-Amateur-Radio-Club-Inc/125230336754?ref=nf>

Another ISN domain you should place into your browser favorite list is <http://www.73s.org>, it's known as the Facebook for Hams which has a community of over 1,772 ham radio operators. Here you can communicate with the world, find, follow, and track amateur radio friends. You can post photos and blogs while linking into your existing YouTube, Flickr, and Twitter accounts! You can also log QSOs online and look-up repeaters, clubs, and Ham events- even DX cluster traffic and ARPS status of fellow hams. They even have Podcast content called ICQ, Practical Amateur Radio and Resonant Frequency. There are other domains on the net in which you can stay connected through status updates while following breaking amateur radio news. One that I found is called HamFeed.com that acts like a ham repeater for Twitter and 73s.org users. After dwelling on it for awhile I truly believe that ISN's will provide hams with a new generation of powerful tool applications to help aid amateurs with our hobby from this point on. But the first step to this success will have to be amateurs not being procrastinators. We first need to educate ourselves first with these new services. We need to embrace and take full advantage of them today rather than tomorrow.

My main interest now is television Dxing. I normally can be found on the 2005 Bob's Radio Web, TvFmSkip Log at Dxworld.com, a collection of interactive pages for Dxers. Here I can post real-time ionospheric condition alerts or chat when conditions are not that favorable.

The above site is a great resource with all it's useful links if you have a net connection while your in the field or mobile using your portable PC that has a web browser to access the link.

What do you do if you do not have that option but would like to communicate when tropospheric and sporadic-e exists at your location in real-time?

That is when Twitter fills the gap, a free micro-blogger that is a short message service that works over multiple networks in real-time. As their header logo states - "Share and discover what's happening right now, anywhere in the world". Here is my tweet: <http://twitter.com/GACTVDX>

If you have cell phone service, then you just found the answer. To use it with your phone you will first have to download a client service application(s).

Once the alert are issued using both TvFmSkip Log and Twitter and television Dx starts to appear on the screen I will video record the event with a camcorder. Later it will be uploaded to Youtube.com which everyone knows by this time is a video sharing website on which users can built their own channel to upload and share videos with the world. Here is my Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/GACTVDX>

After that's completed, a copy of the video will be archived on a site know as Arkiva.com, a secure off-site file storage, sharing, and media conversion. Basically a online cyber home that is a free service with up to 2Gb of space for your hobby group page. Their header logo is "All your Digital Files. One Place". It also offers free email. Here is my hobby group page: <http://www.arkiva.com/members/members.htm>

Go ahead and give these new services a try, use your imagination on how we can intertwine ISN's with our radio hobbies to be more efficient and productive.

73's Mike Schaffer / KA3JAW ( Ed. Note: Mike is the son of DLARC member,  
EL87 Bob / KA3JAV and a former member himself.)  
Tampa, Florida

*The D.L.A.R.C. Wishes to express its sadness at the  
passing of the wife of club member Dave / N3EYT.  
Louisa K. Blankenship*

## 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. Actually 13 weeks in a period, so 13 net controls would be ideal, and maybe 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 Don / KC3II at [kc3ii@arrl.net](mailto:kc3ii@arrl.net). The NIMS IS-700 and ICS-100 courses are not required 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.

## F.Y.I.

The winners of the January Prizes were Bob / NE2C & Tracy / KB3TAE  
The March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting program will be Barry / KU3X with “**Baluns Demystified**”

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.

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 now as a Magic Jack Phone with the number **484-895-7038**.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009 – 2010 OFFICERS

President – George E. Wieland III / N3SQD	-----	<a href="mailto:president@dlarc.org">president@dlarc.org</a>
Vice President – Ben Ramig / KB3CTX	-----	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@dlarc.org">vicepresident@dlarc.org</a>
Secretary – Howard Miller / WO3P	-----	<a href="mailto:secretary@dlarc.org">secretary@dlarc.org</a>
Treasurer – Pete Varounis / NL7XM	-----	<a href="mailto:treasurer@dlarc.org">treasurer@dlarc.org</a>

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

Bob Oppen / NE2C	-----	<a href="mailto:ne2c@arrl.net">ne2c@arrl.net</a>
Al Wiemann / W3CE	-----	<a href="mailto:w3ce@arrl.net">w3ce@arrl.net</a>
Don Holmes / KC3II	-----	<a href="mailto:kc3ii@dlarc.org">kc3ii@dlarc.org</a>
Jon Matson / N3INJ	-----	<a href="mailto:cjfishin@rcn.com">cjfishin@rcn.com</a>
Vic Zeno / N2OFF	-----	<a href="mailto:vzeno@verizon.net">vzeno@verizon.net</a>
Jay Mason / N3OW	-----	<a href="mailto:n3ow@rcn.com">n3ow@rcn.com</a>

## 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 )

**THE W3OK TRUSTEE --- DON REAMER / KA3JWE**  
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## 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 145.11 ( 151.4 )

## THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor – Don Holmes / KC3II	-----	<a href="mailto:editor@dlarc.org">editor@dlarc.org</a>
Web Master – Brad Snyder / W3JXQ	-----	<a href="mailto:w3jxq@dlarc.org">w3jxq@dlarc.org</a>
Photographer – Vic Zeno / N2OFF	-----	<a href="mailto:vzeno@verizon.net">vzeno@verizon.net</a>
Circulation – Pete Varounis / NL7XM	-----	<a href="mailto:nl7xm@arrl.net">nl7xm@arrl.net</a>