

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

JUNE 2010



W3OK

CORRAL

**Club Meeting At the Nancy Run Fire Company
June 3rd at 7:30 PM**



Attending members who were members during the early years of the DLARC



Mel Snyder / W3PYF presenting his program on the early years of Ham Radio and the DLARC.

JUNE MEETING PROGRAM

**Army Mars Recruiting
Mel Bach / W3SQ**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

Nice Weather; time to go outside

Spring is finally here, with summer just around the corner. I have had a few opportunities to get outside and operate portable. Barry KU3X has invited me up to Franko Park a few times. He has also joined me at the East Allen Bicentennial Park. I have also operated from the patio table in my back yard. Now that I have a "go" (I should call it a POPOP kit) kit set up for HF operations, I can pretty much set up on a moments notice. This makes the POPOP's I mentioned in an earlier column remarkably easy. If you would like to join us, try monitoring the 146.70 repeater on nice days, and listen to see where we might be setting up. Or, setup a POPOP kit for your rig, pick a nice day, a park, and put a call out on the repeater and let us know where you are headed.

Speaking of outdoor operations, Field Day (June 26 & 27) will be here soon. Mark your calendars and try to join us for this event. This is a great event for new and experienced hams alike. We need to get as many Extra class hams as possible to insure that we have good control operator coverage for the event. We also need as many other hams as we can get to provide enough operators, loggers, and someone to chat (or eat) with when we're not operating. It goes without saying that CW operators are in big demand. This year we are going to try to erect our tower and beam. To do this, and keep it safe, we'll need quite a dedicated team. F

Field day is a great way to learn to erect antennas, masts, get wires into trees, and operating procedures. This is a great way for Tech class hams to get a taste of HF operations. I mention this because we have had quite a few new hams come through our course and exam sessions, and are due for quite a few new upgrades as we have a large general class and have arranged to have a special testing session on June 11th (after the last general class). All this is just in time for Field Day.

So take the opportunity to get outside and operate. If not at a park near you in the next few days, then certainly join us for Field Day the last full weekend in June. I hope to see you soon.

73 de N3SQD / George



MINUTES FROM THE MAY 6th MEETING

The general membership meeting of Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. was held the Nancy Run Fire Co. in Bethlehem Twsp., PA on May 6 2010

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

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

Moment of silence : Led by **George / N3SQD**

Members in attendance: 64 and 3 visitors

Approval of minutes: Motion was made by **Tracy / KB3TAE**, 2nd by **Ken / N3IYX** – **Motion carried**

Approval of Treasurer's report: Motion was made by **Bryan / AA3WM**, 2nd by **Gary / N2AUO** – **Motion carried**

Repeater: **Dave / K3GMT** gave report on the D-STAR repeater, Ordered new power supply and the repeater still needs some adjustment.

Club Station : **Dave / K3GMT** gave report of 110 visitors to the milkhouse last month and all the parts to the tower for field day were found.

Tech Class/ VE Session : **George / N3SQD** reported that the Tech class finished up last Tuesday and the General class will start Tuesday May 11 at 7pm

Louis / KB2VCI reported that 2 people followed thru on the Extra class

George / N3SQD reported that there will be a Morse Code class that will start on Tuesday May 11 6:30 pm at the 911 Center.

The VE session will be held on 07 May 2010 at the 911 Center and the next one will be 02 July 2010 at the 911 center

Events: **Howard / WO3P** reported on the LV MS Walk, Thank you to everyone that helped

Field Day will be held on June 26-27, **George / N3SQD** is looking for volunteers to put up an tower and beam antenna

Bryan / AA3WM is still looking for volunteers to help out with the MS 150 to be held on July 24-25

Bob / NE2C is looking for help with the Easton Garlic Fest to be held on October 2nd

Mike / KB3TSJ is looking for volunteers to help out with the Palmerton 5K run

Membership: As of 05 May 2010 the club has 215 members, Report given by **Vic / N2OFF**

Motion to accept, **Don Hoppes / N0VGA**, **Ryan Scheckler / K3RDS**, and **Mike Williams / KB3TSJ** as members. 1st **Bryan / AA3WM**, 2nd **Tracy / KB3TAE** -- **Passed**

Old Business: **George / N3SQD** reported that the board of directors would like permission to buy a Icom IC-706 Mark II G and desk mike from Sebastian for \$600

Tracy / KB3TAE made a motion for the club to buy the IC-706 mark II G and desk mike for \$600. 2nd by **Jeff / N3QO** -- **PASSED**

New Business: **Pete / NL7XM** is looking for someone to take over as Program Chair starting in January 2011, Anyone interested please contact Pete / NL7XM

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hrs by **George / N3SQD**

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

JUNE 2010



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

Ending Balance - April 30th, 2020

\$3,252.87

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



THE JUNE PROGRAM

"Army MARS Recruiting." MARS is a Department of Defense sponsored communication system that reports to FEMA through the DOD. Their mission is to support agencies in emergencies where HF communication, especially digital, is used for speed and accuracy. Learn how RMS, (an internet over HF system) is becoming the backbone for rapid movement of data and messages. There are opportunities for the seamless integration of communication systems through the EOC [800 MHz, RACES, MARS] at central locations such as the EOC's where we hope to integrate MARS stations with the current RACES set up. **Me! (AAR3HA) W3SQ** will show how YOU can be a part of this system, and even earn a unique call sign!

JUNE 2010 QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 GENERAL CLASSES	2 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (N3SQD)	3 DLARC MEETING	4 NO V.E. SESSION	5
6	7	8 GENERAL CLASSES	9 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (WO3P)	10	11	12
13	14 Newsletter Articles Due	15 GENERAL CLASSES	16 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KC3II)	17 Executive Committee Meeting	18	19
20	21	22 GENERAL CLASSES	23 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (N3SNZ)	24	25	26 FIELD DAY
27 FIELD DAY	28	29 GENERAL CLASSES	30 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KR3U)			

MARCH CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

June 5th & 6th -- UKSMG Summer Contest
June 12th & 13th -- VK Shires Contest
June 19th & 20th -- West Virginia QSO Party
June 26th & 27th -- Field Day



VE TEST SESSION

There will not be a test session this month. The next session will be July 9th 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@arri.net



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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. 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.

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 2009 issue of the OK Corral. Go to [_](#) to sign up for the DLARCforum.

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**

MAY BRAINTEASER ANSWER

One of the operators was **Bill / K3ANs**.

There was not any winning entry.



JUNE BRAINTEASER

by Paul / KB3LIC



**According to the bible book of Genesis, how many different kinds of animals
did Moses bring with him onto the Ark?**

Your entry will not be considered if you ask the Ark 1st mate, **Ray / W3TDF** for the answer.

Silent Key

*The D.L.A.R.C. Wishes to express its sadness at the passing
of the wife of club member Charlie / N3WXO.*

Tammy Zimmerman

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE

There is a need for a program committee and chairperson for the 2011 calendar year program scheduling. This job has been done by Pete / NL7XM for the past 3 years, but he can no longer devote the time necessary 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. This year is taken care of and December's are 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 past programs, the variance of subjects cover a lot of interesting subjects.

RACES EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS

As of September 2006, NIMS IS-700 and ICS-100 course certifications are required in order to receive the county issued photo IDs. The photo IDs are required by federal law for participation in, on site RACES emergency operations. These courses can be taken on line by going to www.fema.gov and following the directions. These requirements are not needed to participate in the weekly Wednesday nets. The only requirement for these nets is a valid amateur radio license and an interest in emergency communications.

HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

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.

UP COMING EVENTS

June 26th & 27th – 2010 Field Day

July 24th & 25th - 2010 MS 150 Dutch Country Bike Tour

October 2nd – Easton Garlic Festival

GARLIC FEST

On October 2nd 2010 at the center square in down town Easton, there will be held the annual Garlic fest. The DLARC will be putting on a demonstration of of Amateur Radio. An operating special event station and other related activities to widen public awareness of our hobby. **Bob / NE2C** and **Jon / N3INJ** are chairing this event and will be looking for volunteers . Mark your calendar

HOW TO REGISTER ON THE DLARC WEB PAGE

I was recently asked how to register to the DLARC site. First - for those that do not know, the page address is still the same: www.dlarc.org

Only club members can register to the site.

Only club members can post to the site or gain access to the club rosters which includes addresses, phone#s, e-mail etc. I believe there will be more added later that members only have access. Scroll down on the front page. You will see on the left a place to log in. Under the log in spaces you will see:

-forgot your password?

-Forgot your user name?

-Create an account.

Click on "create an account"

Now you will see the registration form. All fields must be filled in.

We are a private forum/web page on the site so feel free to use your real name in the first space.

!!!The user name MUST BE YOUR CALL SIGN!!!!

Next a working e-mail address for your confirmation e-mail

Next pick a password

Next space re-type your password

Click the register button to the lower left.

You will then be brought back to the DLARC home page - at the top of the page will be this message:

"Your account has been created and an activation link has been sent to the e-mail address you entered. Note that you must activate the account by clicking on the activation link when you get the e-mail before you can log in."

Wait for the e-mail and follow the directions from there. The web master will check your call sign against the up to date / dues paid roster for 2009. If you are not on it you will be rejected. If you do not use your call sign you will be rejected.

The DLARC web page forum has a for sale section, a rag chew section etc.

Hope to see you on the site.

Any other questions - post them on the e-mail forum or contact the web master.

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.

2010 FIELD DAY

It is not too early to begin planning for the 2010 Field Day. To be held June 26th & 27th at the Plainfield Township Farmers Park. This is one of several events that the DLARC participates in every year. **Tom / KB3IUE** is chairman, so when he asks for help, don't be afraid to join in. the help is looking for is to set up Saturday afternoon and tear down Sunday afternoon. Plus operators and loggers during the two day period. Keep your calendar open! A sign up sheet will be at the May and June DLARC General meeting.

REPEATER ETIQUETTE

Atlantic County ARES Web Page Via **Bob Green / KE3AW**

Every couple of years it seemed we used to "remind" operators using our repeaters of the proper etiquette to be used on W3OK. With numerous new hams over the past couple years, or hams new to this area, it may be worth considering using/altering to suit us some such guide to operators in our club. I know, from recent questions to me about a number of points covered in this article, below...

Here is the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur radio Club Repeater Etiquette.

Use of the W3OK Repeater

- 1-Usage will be in accordance with FCC Rules Part 97.
- 2-Users will comply with directives of the control operator.
- 3-Transmissions will be courteous and professional. (See Basic Repeater Etiquette Below)
- 4-The time out timer is set for 90 Seconds. Keep transmissions under that time. Leave breaks between transmissions so the repeater can drop and the time out timer resets.

Basic Repeater Etiquette

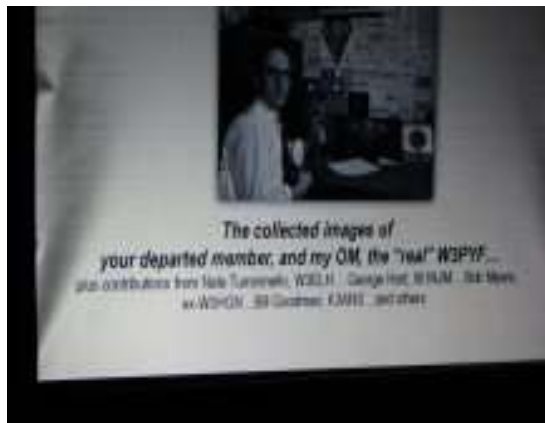
- 1-Starting a QSO via a directed call. There are two main ways by which a QSO can begin, one is via a directed call and one is via monitoring. A directed call is where one amateur calls another amateur individually, such as "N3XYZ from K3ABC". In such a case, K3ABC is looking for one particular individual, N3XYZ. It generally is not an invitation for anyone other than N3XYZ to return the call. If N3XYZ doesn't answer the call, K3ABC may just clear off by saying "K3ABC clear", or may clear and listen for other calls by saying "K3ABC clear and listening". The "and listening" or "and monitoring" implies they are interested in hanging around to QSO with anyone else who might be listening at that time. "Listening" and "monitoring" don't mean you are listening to somebody else's conversation, they mean you are listening for other people who may want to call you to start a new QSO. Likewise, just saying your call by itself with nothing following it is meaningless. If you were to say "N3XYZ", people listening wouldn't know if that means you were monitoring for calls, whether you were testing, or whether they missed the callsign of a party you were calling. Be concise, but be complete.
- 2-Starting a QSO via a monitoring call. If the repeater is not in use, simply stating your callsign followed by "listening" or "monitoring" implies that you are listening to the repeater and are interested in having a QSO with anyone else. Calling CQ on a repeater is generally not common, a simple "N3XYZ listening" will suffice. There is no need to repeat the "listening" message over and over again as you might do when calling CQ on HF. Once every few minutes should be more than sufficient, and if someone hasn't answered after a few tries, it probably means there is nobody around. If someone is listening and wants to QSO, they will answer back. Avoid things like "is anybody out there" or "is there anybody around on frequency"; it sounds like a bad sci-fi movie.
- 3-Joining a QSO in progress. If there is a conversation taking place which you would like to join, simply state your callsign when one user unkeys. This is the reason for having a courtesy tone: to allow other users to break into the conversation. One of the stations in QSO, usually the station that was about to begin his transmission, will invite you to join, either before making his own transmission or afterward. Don't interrupt a QSO unless you have something to add to the topic at hand. Interrupting a conversion is no more polite on a repeater than it is in person.
- 4-Interrupting a QSO to make a call. If you need to make a directed call to another amateur but there is already another QSO going on, break into the conversation during the courtesy tone interval by saying "Call please, N3XYZ". One of the stations will allow you to make your call. If the station you are calling returns your call, you should quickly pass traffic to them and relinquish the frequency to the stations who were already in QSO; don't get into a full QSO in the middle of someone else's conversation. If you need to speak with the party you call for a significant length of time (say, more than 15 seconds), ask them to either wait until the current QSO has cleared, or ask them to move to another repeater or simplex channel to continue the conversation.

- 5-Roundtables and "Turning it Over". When more than two amateurs are in a QSO, it is often referred to as a "roundtable" discussion. Such a QSO's usually go in order from amateur A to amateur B to amateur C ... and eventually back to amateur A again to complete the roundtable. To keep everyone on the same page, when any one amateur is done making a transmission, they "turn it over" to the next station in sequence (or out of sequence, if so desired). Without turning it over to a particular station when there are multiple stations in the QSO, nobody knows who is supposed to go next, and there ends up either being dead silence or several stations talking at once. At the end of a transmission, turn it over to the next station by naming them or giving their callsign, such as "...and that's that. Go ahead Joe." or "...and that's that. Go ahead XYZ." If it's been close to 10 minutes, it's a good time to identify at the same time as well, such as "...and that's that. N3XYZ, go ahead Joe."
- 6-IDing and Who's Who? By FCC regulations, you must always identify at 10 minute intervals and at the end of a transmission. If you are making a test transmission or calling another party, this is a one-way transmission. Since it has no "length" as there is no QSO taking place, you should identify each time you make a call or a test transmission. When identifying yourself and another party (or parties), or when making a directed call, your callsign goes **LAST**. "N3XYZ, K3ABC" means that K3ABC is calling N3XYZ, not the other way around. There is no need to identify each time you make a transmission, only once every 10 minutes. You do not need to identify the station with whom you are speaking, only your own callsign, but it is generally polite to remember the call of the other station. Avoid phonetics on FM unless there is a reason for using them, such as the other station misunderstanding your callsign. When phonetics are needed, stick to the standard phonetic alphabet.
- 7-Demonstrations. From time to time, an amateur may want to demonstrate the capabilities of amateur radio to another non-amateur. The typical way to do this is to ask for a "demo" such as "N3XYZ for a demonstration." Anyone who is listening to the repeater can answer them back. Usually telling the calling party your name, callsign, and location is what they are looking for, not a lengthy conversation. Someone doing a demo may ask for stations in a particular area to show the range of amateur radio communications, such as if the calling station is in the Poconos they may ask for any stations in south Jersey or Harrisburg areas, which is more interesting than demonstrating that they can talk to someone in the same town as they are in.
- 8-Signal Reports. If you are unsure how well you are making it into the repeater, **DO NOT** kerchunk the repeater. Any time you key up the repeater, you should identify, even if you are just testing to see if you are making the machine. "N3XYZ test" is sufficient. Do not use the repeater as a "target" for tuning or aiming antennas, checking your transmitter power, etc. Use a dummy load where appropriate, or test on a simplex frequency. If you need someone to verify that you are making the repeater OK, ask for a signal report such as "N3XYZ, can someone give me a signal report?" "Radio check" is a term most often used on CB, "signal report" is what most amateurs ask for.
- 9-Language. Aside from some of the techno-syncretisms inherent in amateur vernacular, use plain conversational English. The kind of English that would be suitable for prime-time television, not R rated movies. Avoid starting or encouraging conflicts on the air. If a topic of conversation starts to draw strong debate, change the subject. Avoid "radio-ese" lingo whenever possible. CB has its own language style and so does amateur radio, but the two are not the same. Amateurs have "names", not "personals". Although many new hams have graduated from the CB ranks, let's try to keep CB lingo off the amateur bands. When visiting a new repeater, take some time to monitor before jumping in to get a feel for the type of traffic and operating mannerisms of that particular system. Some repeaters are very free-wheeling in that there are people jumping in and out of conversations constantly. Others primarily have directed calls on them and discourage ragchewing. Others are member-exclusive repeaters. Listen before you talk, when in Rome do as the Romans do.
- 10-Emergencies. If there is a QSO going on, break into a conversation with the word "Break" or "Break for priority traffic." **DO NOT USE THE WORD BREAK TO JOIN IN A QSO UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY!** All stations should give immediate priority any station with emergency traffic.
- 11-Malicious Interference. If there is malicious interference, such as kerchunking, touch-tones, rude comments, etc. **DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE IT!** Continue the QSO in a normal fashion. If the interference gets to the level where it is impossible to carry on the QSO, simply end the QSO as you normally would.
- 12-Power. Use the minimum power necessary to complete a QSO. However, the minimum power necessary doesn't just mean you are barely tickling the repeater receiver squelch. If someone says that you are noisy, increase power or relocate or take whatever measures you can to improve your signal. Continuing to make transmissions after being told your signal is noisy is inconsiderate to those listening. The amateur radio manufacturers continue to come up with newer, smaller handheld radios, many with power levels well under a watt. Many new amateurs start out with a handheld radio as their "first rig". Although convenient, they aren't the most effective radios in terms of performance. Without a good external antenna, operating a handheld radio indoors or inside a car is going to result in a lot of bad signal reports.

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 **Don Hoppes / N0VGA**, **Mike Williams / KB3TSJ** and **Ryan Scheckler / K3RDS**.

MAY MEETING PROGRAM



Mel finished with pictures of the DLARC at Field days over the years. Included in this history were pictures of the DLARC in full emergency operation during the Hurricane Diane Flood of 1955. These pictures showed past members and even some of the present membership active at Field Days. Most of these pictures came from the boxes of pictures Clarence amassed over the years as unofficial DLARC photographer. Mel spent many hours putting this presentation together following Clarence's death, prior to the settling of the estate. He didn't want all that history lost.

If you failed to make the May meeting, you missed a photograph presentation by **Mel Snyder / W3PYF**. Mel is the son of long time member and SK Clarence Snyder also **W3PYF**, and a former member himself. Mel began with information and pictures of early members of the DLARC, and how due to the lack of the availability commercial equipment, they homebrewed almost everything they needed to put a station on the air. Mel then proceeded to show how equipment progressed and also became more readily available if you could afford it. And so homebrewing still continued until the end of World War II when military surplus radio gear became available.



KEEPING SAFE: TOWER SAFETY

Taking the proper safety precautions around your tower can save your life

S. Khristyne Keane / K1SFA

When we talk about safety and Amateur Radio, we usually mean one of three types: Tower and antenna safety, electrical safety and RF safety. It's no secret that when around high towers and high voltage, your awareness should be high, as well. I like to have fun with my friends when I'm on-the-air or helping out as ground crew, but I am always aware of my environment and the safety hazards that are always present.

The summer of 2009 brought us two tower tragedies: Larry Prelog / KE4PM of Niles, Michigan, and Jim Mullin / W8KKK of Clifford Township, Ohio, both died in tower accidents. It doesn't matter if it is a 30 foot tower or a 130 foot tower: If you aren't wearing the proper safety equipment --- and wearing it correctly --- you are risking your life

Tim Duffy / K3LR, knows this too well. When he was 16, he was retrieving a 2 element quad on top of a 40 foot guyed tower when the aluminum guys stretched, toppling the tower. Three days in the hospital and 27 stitches in the back of his head later, Duffy doesn't take tower safety lightly. "Many people asked me how I survived falling from a tower", he recounted. "Then I tell them what really happened --- the tower fell, I just happened to be on top of it. I had my safety belt on nice and tight when I landed, I was still tied to the tower. I was very lucky, but many are not. I learned my lesson well.

On the tower

You need to be attached to the tower 100% of the time; wearing only a climbing belt that you have to take off and reattach when moving past guys is not safe enough. The ARRL recommends using a hard hat, a positioning lanyard, a full arrest (FA) lanyard and a full arrest harness (FAH), also known as a full body harness, when climbing a tower. Along with the waist safety belt and d-rings, the FAH has adjustable suspenders, leg loops and a d-ring between the shoulders to hold the FA lanyard; some even have hip, saddle, chest and shoulder D-rings. Always wear the proper size of harness that fits you --- snug, but not too tight.

Positioning lanyards are available in fixed or adjustable lengths. They are used as to fix the climber in a stationary position on the tower so that they are close enough to their work area to prevent a fall. FA lanyards can be fixed-length or shock-absorbing. A shock-absorbing FA lanyard has stitched loops that yield gradually, decelerating to avoid a sudden stop at the end of a fall. A person who is falling can generate a lot of force in a short time, so the FA lanyard needs to be attached **above** you, allowing enough slack for moving around the tower. This will minimize the distance of any fall. When climbing, attach the FA lanyard as high above as you can then climb up to it. Next, attach the positioning lanyard, detach the FA lanyard and repeat the cycle until you reach the top.

Never punch additional holes or alter your FAH or climbing equipment in any way. Store your climbing gear in a clean dry area when not in use. Inspect it often for defects; if any part of it is cracked, frayed or worn in any way, destroy the damaged piece and replace it with a new one. Read thoroughly all instructions and inspection manuals that are provided when you purchase climbing equipment. Remember --- a climbing harness is to protect you in a fall. Treat it as if your life depended on it, because it does.

On the ground

Before you begin your tower work, meet with your ground crew and explain to them what you will be doing. Your ground crew should wear hard hats in case you drop something when you are on the tower.

The ground crew should not do anything unless directed to do so by the climber. This includes handling ropes, tidying up and moving hardware. Always keep your eyes on the climber so you can move if anything happens to fall. It's also a good idea for the climber and ground crew to communicate by radio. This ensures that the climber's directions will be heard and understood, and not lost in the ambient noise caused by the wind.

Today, Duffy has many tall towers at his Pennsylvania QTH. "I do lots of my own antenna work," he said, "I always have a ground crew and use approved safety harness and climbing belt that is always attached to the tower. I never lend my climbing belt or safety harness to anyone --- my life depends on it."

A complete tower structure system is only as safe as its weakest link, so frequent inspection of anchors and guy wires is a must. Hidden dangers such as subsurface corrosion and missing bolts often go unnoticed: the prudent ham will carefully inspect the anchorage system before climbing, much like a pilot does a walk around their "bird" each time a flight is made. Having a Registered Structural Engineer review your installation is money well spent.

This article isn't meant to supply all the answers. Please consult these references before determining whether an antenna support structure is safe to climb, and if so whether you have taken all precautions to avoid a potentially deadly accident: *TOWER DESIGN STANDARD, ANSI/TIA/EIA 222-G; US COAST GUARD TOWER MANUAL; FALL PROTECTION STANDARDS AANSI/ASSE E359, OSHA (REF:29 CFR 1926SUBPART M). The 2010 ARRL Handbook includes valuable tower safety information, as well.*

PICTURES FROM THE MAY MEETING



SIMPLE, PORTABLE AUDIO AMPLIFIERS

by Paul / KB3LIC

At some point in nearly every rig, you need to turn an analog electronic signal into acoustic sound waves. There are certainly plenty of systems available for audio amplification, and a bunch more for the speaker and its enclosure, but most are fairly expensive and/or not very portable. However, just about everyone has at least one old portable transistor radio lying around, battery operable, with its own internal audio amp and speaker. These can ALL be easily converted for general use as an audio amplifier.

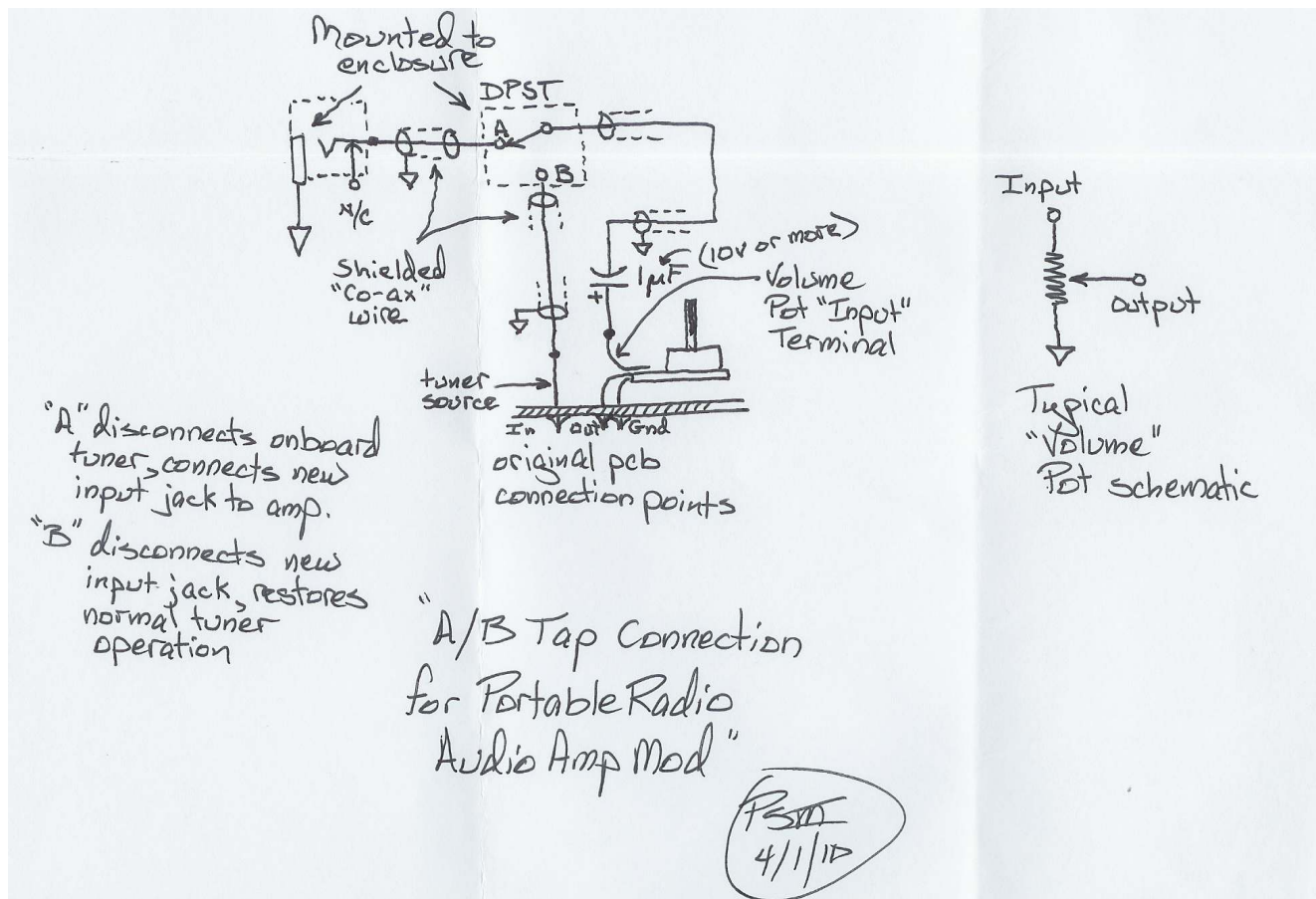
Not every single circuit is the same, but most use a "Volume" control. This always provides a good place to start looking for the "input" connection. A potentiometer has three connections that can be easily identified; the wiper (output) is always the center terminal. One terminal will almost always be connected to ground, which can easily be identified on circuit boards by its enormous surface area. The third terminal, on the opposite end of the resistance from the ground, is the "input" terminal.

Standard design practices nearly always place the Volume Control in the audio preamp section, so what feeds the input terminal of the typical Volume pot is DC-isolated, AC signal of around 0.1 - 0.33 volts rms. This is around -10 dbv, or what is commonly called "mic level," a little weaker than the signal you might see from the jack of an electric guitar (0.33 - 3v rms). You can usually work the input leg of a Volume pot clear of the circuit board after desoldering the underside. Replace the leg with a short bit of solid connector wire soldered into the circuit board hole, and you have your connection point.

Mount a basic DPST switch, and your choice of input jack, wherever you can find suitable space on the radio's enclosure. Connect these (using coaxial wire to ensure good noise shielding) to each other, and the connection point as diagrammed below. The capacitor shown is optional, but it is a good security measure because it blocks unwanted DC voltages that may be present on either end of your connection. (Observe correct polarity when using electrolytic caps.)

This A or B Tap technique permits you to switch between the radio's original onboard tuner, or your new input jack. The Volume control will still operate, allowing you to use a broad variety of audio signal sources of varying strengths, without overpowering the audio circuitry in the portable radio. You can use this to amplify guitars, microphones, portable music playback devices. AND the unamplified audio signal of just about any Ham radio receiver, just as long as you prepare a connector with a suitable plug.

These cheap, easily available setups have multiple uses on the tech's bench, in the shop/garage, around the home, and when you're out and away from the AC power grid. It's so handy, you'll probably end up converting every portable radio you own!



NEWS FROM THE MILKHOUSE



The Milk House hosted 112 visitors in April.

Now that the weather is warmer more outdoor activities are taking place at the Milk House. George (N3SQD) and Jon (N3INJ) both demonstrated their portable 40ft. antenna mast systems. George's custom made tilt plate is a work of art (Everyone should have a milling machine in their garage). Jon set up his mast with a 40 meter delta loop in about 20 minutes. We were working

Europe using PSK31 and CW with ease.

After 15+ years the main antenna on the tower has failed. The plan is to replace it with the same configuration (160-10 meter fan dipole). The club board will discuss a timeline and action plan with the county. T

The D-Star repeater was down for a few days in April. The power supply blew a fuse. The repeater requires 10 amps of current when in transmit mode and power supply is rated 9 amps continuous duty cycle. A new power supply was installed that will handle the sustained load.

The only major contest before Field Day is the CQ WW WPX CW contest. It begins 0000Z, May 29 and ends 2359Z, May 30. There has not been much interest from club members to work CW contests from the Milk House. If you want to work the contest please contact please email Dave, k3gmt@k3gmt.net Remember the Milk House is open Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and most weekends.

de Dave / K3GMT



F.Y.I.

The winners of the May Prizes were **Carl / KB3TOD** and **Bill / KA3RBH**

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

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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
7:30 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 147.370 (167.9) W3OI Repeater.

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