

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.



***W3OK***

***CORRAL***

***JANUARY 2010***

**Club Meeting January 7<sup>th</sup>  
At The Nancy Run Fire Company**

UP COMING EVENTS

**NO MAJOR EVENTS THIS MONTH**

**\*\*\*\*\* *HAPPY NEW YEAR* \*\*\*\*\***

**MEETING PROGRAM**

**PA Turnpike Radio Systems**

**C.R. Phillips / N3HTZ**

Public Communications infrastructure is transparent to most people, and taken for granted unless a catastrophic failure raises our consciousness of how they serve us while we safely navigate our areas busiest highways and corridors. Our speaker reveals the RF architecture of what it takes to keep things orderly on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Join us to learn how this is accomplished!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

Ending One Year, Starting Another

As I look back on the year at DLARC I see quite a bit of growth and new vitality. The membership continues to increase. Attendance at the monthly meetings is up; so much so, that we needed a new location. And the milk-house ... well the milk-house is hopping.

Speaking of the milk-house, I would like to recognize Kenny / N3IYX for getting that operation going. Quite a few years back (I don't remember how many ... they say memory is the first thing to go...) Kenny and Skip / W3CE decided to open the club station on a regular basis. Prior to that (at least since I was a member) the station was hardly ever open. It would be open during the WX3MAS event or after some of the Tech classes, perhaps half-a-dozen times during the year. Well Kenny and Skip decided that they would open it up on Wednesday evenings for anyone that was interested. Early on, it was just Kenny and Skip, or maybe just Kenny, or just Skip. But they kept at it. Others began to stop by. Al / W3CE became a regular, I joined in as well. Skip moved away, though we could still work him on the air. For many years it was usually just three to six people on a Wednesday evening (mostly three or four). Somewhere in the last year or so a number of others (including a number of new members) discovered the Wednesday night club station get together. Now it is not uncommon to have 12 to 18 visitors on a Wednesday evening. On a warm summer evening we've had upwards of two dozen. I know people that have clothing closets bigger than our club station. So I am always amazed that we continue to pull this off. Evidently, hams do not require much "personal space". If the attendance wasn't amazing enough, the evening usually begins with a dozen or so of the members getting together for dinner prior to traveling to the milk-house. Well now the group is so large that Kenny and Al have decided to open the station on some additional evenings just to deal with some specialized topics (D-Star), and Dave / K3GMT has been opening it on some of the contest weekends. So, my hat's off to Kenny, though it took a while, that spark of an idea has blossomed in a big way. The next time you're at the milk-house and see Kenny, let him know you appreciate the initiative.

While we're on the subject of the milk-house. This past Saturday, while setting up the WX3MAS special event stations, we notice that the generator cut-over was removed from the power arrangement in the building and that the power (and emergency power) was coming from the Greystone building. The removed switch is sitting in the generator room. My hope is that they are going to decommission the generator (perhaps selling it) and that it would free up the generator room. That would give us some, much needed, additional room. I will try to find out at a meeting with county in January. Keep your fingers crossed.

Now I tell the "Kenny and the milk-house" story for a reason. As I'm looking forward to the new year, I am also looking for some new ideas and activities for the club. Perhaps we could re-introduce the "meeting B" after our regular club meeting, or start a breakfast get together. Maybe a trip to W1AW. Is a DXpedition a possibility? I would like to hear your ideas. Things that would interest you. Or, even if they don't interest you, might be of interest to others in the club. As you can see from the story above, all it takes is a person with a good idea ... and some patience.

73 de George / N3SQD



## MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING

A general membership meeting of Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. was held at Nancy Run Fire Co. in Bethlehem Twsp., PA on December 03 2009

**The meeting convened:** at 1933 hrs, President George Wieland / N3SQD presiding.

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

**Moment of silence:** Was lead by George / N3SQD for Margaret Buchin / N3RDI ( 85 ) and Jerry Sevick / W2FMI ( 90 ) **SK**

**Members in attendance:** 53 and 12 visitors

**Approval of minutes:** Motion was made by Gary / N2AUO, and seconded by Bob / N3SNZ - **Motion carried**

**Approval of Treasurer's report:** Motion was made by Bryan / AA3WM, and seconded by Vic / N2OFF- **Motion carried**

### REPORTS:

**Web site:** No report

**Repeater:** Don / KC3II asked about the 440 side of the repeater, Wanted to know if anyone knew of any problems

**VE session:** Their 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 contests

**Tech classes:** Bob / KE3AW gave a report on the last class and that the next class will be in the early spring.

**Events:** WX3MAS will be on December 12-13 2009, it will be run from the milk house and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Gray stone building. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**Membership:** As of 03 Dec 2009 the club has 211 members, Report given by Vic / N2OFF. Motion to accept, Dylan Betz, John Feckete / KB3TKP, Claude Vetri / KB3TQP, Wendy Wieland, and James Paranzino as members.  
1<sup>st</sup> Marvin / KA3TEO 2<sup>nd</sup> Jay / N3OW - **Passed**

**OLD BUSINESS:** Pete / NL7XM reminds everyone that club dues are due

**NEW BUSINESS:** Club is looking into redesigning the QSL cards, more info next month

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2016 hrs by George / N3SQD

Respectfully submitted by **Howard Miller / KB3RTB** Secretary

**NOTICE; JERRY SEVICK / W2FMI -SK**

**Gary Breed / K9AY via K3YD**

Jerry Sevick, W2FMI, one of ham radio's great technical contributors, has passed away.

I received word from his family that Jerry died peacefully this past Sunday at the age of 90. I have known Jerry since 1995 while arranging for continued publication of his classic book, Transmission Line Transformers, after the ARRL decided not to do so. I was honored to be his collaborator on the current edition of that book, and the editor of several magazine articles and other manuscripts.

Jerry embodied the old-fashioned amateur spirit of innovation by experiment, applying his many years of experience as a Bell Labs researcher to a retirement project analyzing the performance of short vertical antennas. That work led him to the study of transmission line transformers, for which he became well-known in both the ham and professional radio engineering communities. He brought a little-known piece of technology to the forefront, and worried until the end whether enough people understood the principles behind the operation of these devices.

An excerpt from his obituary:

"...Jerry was a graduate of Wayne State University and a member of their Athletic Hall of Fame. He was drafted by both the Chicago Bears and Detroit Lions, but did not play professional football. He served as a pilot in the US Army Air Corps in WWII. He graduated from Harvard University, with a doctorate in Applied Physics.

Jerry taught at Wayne State University and worked as the local weather forecaster at WXYZ TV in Detroit. He worked for Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ and retired as the Director of Technical Relations. An avid Ham radio operator (W2FMI), Jerry was renowned for his research and publications related to short vertical antennas and transmission line transformers..."

**K3YD Note;** Jerry, W2FMI, spoke at a DLARC meeting about 10 years ago.

**NOVEMBER 2009**

<b>D.L.A.R.C. Treasurer's Report</b>	
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$2499.85</u>
<b>Pete Varounis / NL7XM</b>	
Treasurer / D.L.A.R.C.	

**JANUARY 2010 QUICK CHECK CALENDAR**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> DLARC RACES/ARES Net( <b>KB3RTB</b> )	<b>7</b> DLARC MEETING	<b>8</b> V.E. SESSION	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> D-Star Net 147.165 1900 Local	<b>13</b> DLARC RACES/ARES Net( <b>KB3CTX</b> )	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> DLARC RACES/ARES Net ( <b>W3CE</b> )	<b>21</b> Executive Committee Meeting	<b>21</b> Newsletter goes on the Web Page	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> D-Star Net 147.165 1900 Local	<b>27</b> DLARC RACES/ARES Net ( <b>KX3Q</b> )	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						



## JANUARY CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

January 1<sup>st</sup> – Straight Key Night  
January 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – ARRL RTTY Roundup  
January 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – North American QSO Party  
January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – North American QSO Party  
January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – ARRL January Sweepstakes



## TIGER CUBS LEARN ABOUT HAM RADIO

On Sunday afternoon, November 15, Tiger Cub Scouts from Palmer Township, along with their den leader (Mike / W3GES) and fathers of the other boys visited our W3OK station at the Milk House. The visit fulfilled their scouts' requirement to "visit a radio station". Ken / N3IYX and Bob / KE3AW provided some awareness and introduction to amateur radio.

What was planned as a half hour session for these 1<sup>st</sup> grade students, ended more than an hour later, with most of the boys having talked on 2-meters (to Jay / N3OW, with Gary / N2AUO and Lyle / KB3SXI standing by [Thanks all.]) when bit of mike shyness set in.

Hands down, the strongest interest area was Morse Code, talking about it, listening to it on HF, and deciphering a short message on paper.

It appeared that everyone found the afternoon to be worthwhile and productive. Within a few years we well may have some new father-son amateur radio operators!

de Bob / KE3AW

### *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.*

*Margaret (Margo) Wendlandt-Buchin / N3RDI*

## NEW MEMBERS

The DLARC is continuing to grow, so be sure to greet our new comers, shake their hands, and give a warm them a warm welcome to our club. The newest member are John Feckete / KB3TKP, Claude Vetri / KB3TQP, Wendy Wieland, Dylan Betz and James Paranzino.

## VE TEST SESSION

There will be a test session this month on January 8th at 7 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)

## THE THUMB

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

Let's consider the thumb for a moment. The thumb's ability to work with all the fingers on the hand makes it very important to humans. The opposable thumb separates humans (and primates) from other animals and is responsible for most human accomplishments. Because thumbs give us dexterity and allow us to use tools, we have been able to build many wondrous things. Some of these things are as small and intricate as a Swiss watch and as grandiose as skyscrapers and vehicles that allow us to explore beyond our planet. It is absolutely amazing that if not for the opposable thumb and the human brain that controls it, pretty much everything in our world would not be possible.

There is a lot of power in the thumb. Pointed downward a thumb could send a gladiator to his death. Hung out along a roadway the thumb can stop a car. Authorities keep subordinates under their thumb to maintain control. The thumb lets us know when we've done a good job, calls out baseball players, gives an artist perspective, counts money and can pacify a crying baby. The thumb also has a sinister side. We can thumb our nose at people, card cheats use the thumb to deal from the bottom of the deck or mark cards with a thumbnail, and the dishonest butcher has been known to place his heavy thumb on the scale.

For as much as the thumb has done to enhance our lives it seems that the index finger has been getting a lot of exercise recently. The index finger is very good at pointing however a pointing finger has not really accomplished as many positive things as the thumb has. Sure the index finger may dial a telephone, but without the thumb the telephone would never have been built. Pointing fingers send people away, poke-out eyes and blame others for our condition. In every aspect of our lives we see people pointing the finger of blame rather than accepting responsibility. A kid fails in school not because the teacher taught the lesson poorly, but because he failed to study. A lady scalds herself with hot coffee not because the restaurant did not label the cup--she was scalded because she put hot coffee in her lap. People find it easier to point a finger instead of planting their thumb in their chest and saying "I am the one who will make a difference." If you ever feel the need to point a finger remember the thumb and all that is possible because of it. Let's metaphorically use our opposable thumbs to grip the rope and pull in the same direction.

## 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

## DECEMBER BRAINTEASER ANSWER

There was not a winner of the December Brainteaser!!

### The Mystery Component is a Small DC Motor

While watching his son do wheelies with his radio-controlled car, Bob Wheels realized that small DC motors are very tough gadgets. They also generate a voltage having a polarity dependent on the direction of rotation. So he built a test circuit to determine if an inexpensive motor could be used as a rotation detector for the video game he was designing.

#### How It Works

Figure 2 shows the circuit with the missing component displayed. Both LEDs glow when the motor's armature is still or when it is rotated in a clockwise direction. When the armature is rotated in a counter-clockwise direction, the green LED switches off and only the red LED glows.

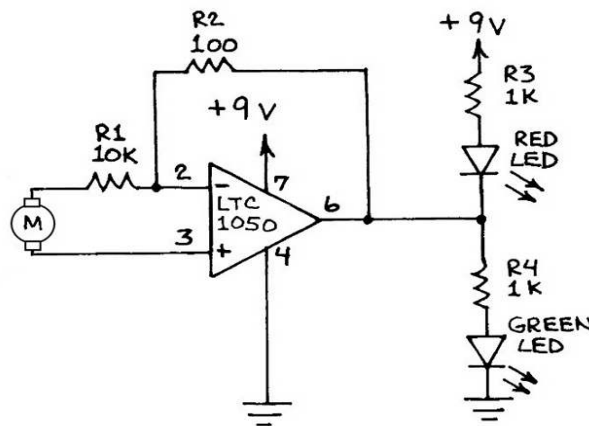


Figure 2. The mystery component in Figure 1 is a DC Motor.

#### Going Further

Any general purpose, single-supply op amp should work in this circuit. Different effects can be had by connecting a small capacitor between pin 3 of the op amp and the motor.

Credit: Forrest M. Mims, III



## JANUARY BRAINTEASER

Which of the following will see more clearly in absolute darkness?  
An owl, bat, or leopard?



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## From The *ARES E-Letter* for December 16, 2009 Amateurs Participating In Drills On Behalf Of Their Employers

I strongly disagree with the popular consensus about government employees participating in radio drills. Did anybody listen to a single word uttered by the FCC's William Cross and Laura Smith at this year's Hamvention? The regulation is there to protect Amateur Radio from all those who would seek to steal our spectrum.

Making this just about drills greatly oversimplifies things. Sure, nobody is "harmed" by a government employee participating in a radio drill. But where will it end? I don't think it will. Soon, paid employees of the Red Cross and Salvation Army will want their special dispensation, too. Who's next?

Maybe you think that the 2-meter band isn't worth saving, and we should just turn it over to public service and disaster relief organizations. If that is the case, you are certainly going about it the right way. IMHO, you are opening Pandora's box, and the potential for loss of our spectrum is huge. - Bruce Liddell, KC0RRS, Lawrence, Kansas, Douglas County ARES; Certified ARRL Emergency Communications Level One; FEMA ICS100, ICS200, NIMS700, NIMS800

### ALTOIDS USB CHARGER

By Phil Tang

Has your phone or iPod ever died when you needed it the most? That's why I designed a quick little battery charger for your electronics! Just plug your device into its USB port, turn it on, and you're all set! Best yet, it all fits in an Altoids gum tin!

#### The Design

Lots of electronics are powered from a USB cable, so I figured that a powered USB port would be the most useful power source. I used a voltmeter to measure the voltage on each of the pins on my iPod AC Adapter, and wound up with +5.16V on the V+ pin, +2.06V on the D- pin, and +2.76V on the D+ pin. I'm using a 7805 voltage regulator to get +5V for V+, and using two resistors for each data pin. I calculated the resistor values to minimize current loss (as not much current needs to go to each data pin).

#### Parts You Will Need

- An Altoids Chewing Gum tin
- A 9V battery ([151095](#))
- A 9V battery clip ([109154](#))
- A 7805 voltage regulator ([51262](#))
- A USB socket ([161024](#))
- A small switch ([109171](#))
- A 22k $\Omega$  Resistor ([691180](#))
- Two 27k $\Omega$  Resistors ([691201](#))
- A 39k $\Omega$  Resistor ([691243](#))
- ~ 2 ft hook-up wire ([36792](#))
- Electrical tape ([285464](#))
- Metal shears ([to cut the Altoids tin](#))

Here's the schematic:

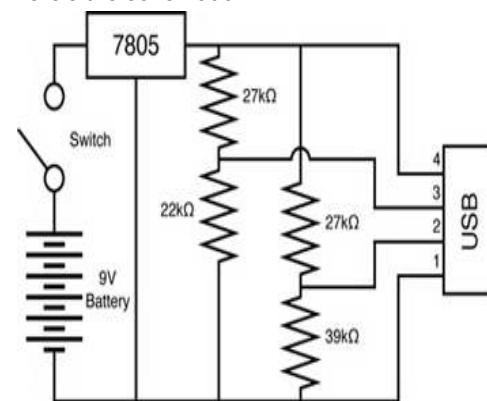


Figure 1. Schematic for the USB Charger

#### Assembly

For simplicity, I decided to just twist the leads together, as the circuit is pretty simple. You may want to solder them into a prototyping board for durability; see instructions for that below. To twist the leads together, you'll need to solder wires to the switch, the regulator, and the USB socket. Then twist the red lead from the battery with one of the wires on the switch, and twist the other lead from the switch onto the left wire (with the regulator's metal part down) on the voltage regulator. Then, twist the rightmost wire on the regulator with the two 27k $\Omega$  resistor and the lead from pin 4 of the USB socket. After that, twist the lead from pin 3 of the USB socket with the other end of one of the 27k $\Omega$  resistors and the 22k $\Omega$  resistor. Then twist the other end of the second 27k $\Omega$  resistor with the lead from pin 2 of the USB socket and one end of the 39k $\Omega$  resistor. Finally, twist the lead from pin 1 of the USB socket with the remaining ends of the battery, the regulator, and the 22k $\Omega$  and 39k $\Omega$  resistors.

You should have a functional mess of twisted wires at this point, so test the circuit by plugging in a device or by using a volt meter. If it doesn't work, check the switch and your wiring. Once it works, wrap each twist with a length of electrical tape. Then cut a USB sized hole in the Altoids tin with the metal shears. You only need to cut down twice, then just bend the metal repeatedly until it snaps. I'd suggest covering the edges with some electrical tape; it can be sharp! Then put the battery in the tin and push the USB socket through the hole. Then, push the rest of the circuit in the remaining space; it should fit pretty easily.

It looked pretty messy, so I covered up the guts of the device with some electrical tape. And voila! You have a working charger

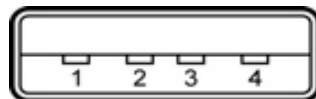


Figure 2. USB Pin out Diagram, looking into the socket.



**Figure 3. All The Parts you'll need to build The USB Charger**



**Figure 4. The Altoids Tin, After Cutting**



**Figure 5. The Finished Product Opened Up**



**Figure 6. The Finished Product**

If you want, you can put the circuit on a [prototyping board](#); It'll be smaller and It'll look simpler, but It will be a little more complicated to make. It shouldn't be too much of a problem; there are just four resistors and a switch to put in. The USB socket's leads are 0.1" apart and will fit right into a proto board.

iPod is a trademark of Apple Inc. Altoids and the Altoids logo are trademarks of Callard & Bowser Inc.

#### **About the author**

Phil Tang is an engineering student at Tufts University and a summer intern at Jameco, working on new media and data integrity. He loves learning a little bit about everything and a lot about the interesting bits. He's a proficient roboticist and all-around computer guy, enjoying all kinds of electronic marvels. He can be reached at [phil.sj.tang@gmail.com](mailto:phil.sj.tang@gmail.com).

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#### **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 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.

## **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@arrl.net](mailto:nl7xm@arrl.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@arrl.net](mailto:nl7xm@arrl.net).

### **ATTENTION DLARC MEMBERS**

Our very own September Meeting Guest Speaker, Carole Perry / WB2MGP, has just received the RCA Presidents Award at its 100th Anniversary Gala in Washington, D.C.! See the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4J-uDg38DY>

**Pete / NL7XM**

### **FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM**

The February meeting program will be a mini hamfest. Howard / KB3RTB is chairing this event and is looking for volunteers to assist in this venture. Anyone willing to help Howard, contact him at [kb3rtb@rcn.com](mailto:kb3rtb@rcn.com). More detail will be posted on the DLARC Web Page.



## 2009 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2009 was a banner year for the DLARC. A year of growth and a continued move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

January began with an outstanding program from Bill / K3ANS, "160 Meters –The Gentleman's Band". The ins and outs of operating the band.

February brought "6 Meters – The Magic band", by Howard / AE3T. The DLARC was invited to participate in the new Northampton County Emergency Operations Center drills.

March was a little confused with the canceling of our meeting space at the 911 Center. This change caused Dave / KA3IWC to be unavailable to give his program, but Gary / N2AUO stepped in with his presentation of "The Spud Gun". Gary related how he built and then improved upon the original plans from QST. The new Northampton County Emergency Operations Center went on line with the test operation under the watchful eyes of PEMA. A drill that paid off, as two days later there was a chemical tanker upset on Route 33 in Plainfield Township. This accident caused the evacuation of Wind Gap and surrounding area. The evacuees were housed in the Pen Argyl High school. The DLARC manned stations in the EOC and the high school and handled communications between the two locations. The DLARC's Spring entry level classes began, under the watchful eye of the education committee..

April allowed Dave / KA3IWC to present his program on the building and use of "Rotatable Dipoles". Followed by Ray / W3TDF reporting on his experiences working portable on "The Mount" with Moses. This year due to the combination of the Easton and Lehigh Valley MS Walks, there was only a Lehigh Valley MS Walk which was held in the area of Cocoa Cola Park, the Iron Pigs Baseball complex. Charlie / W3OPA organized and set up the safety coverage by the DLARC.

May had Al / W3CE with an assist from George / N3SQD presenting "Fox Hunting Made Easy". The easy building of an antenna for fox hunting, plus a commercially made antenna was shown.

June, brought Dan Michael, "The Rocketman", though not a ham, his presentation showed how rocketry had advanced beyond the Estes rockets of our youth. It was demonstrated how radio was included in tracking the rockets after they were fired. June was also the largest emergency type drill of the year, with "Field Day". Again this year as in past years it was held at The Plainfield Farmer's Grove. Antennas erected and stations on the air, while Tom / KB3IUE again had the food and drink portion of the event covered.

July was the month of the program of the decade, with Riley Hollingsworth / K4ZDH retired special council for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC Enforcement Bureau. He recounted his experiences with this federal bureau. July also was the DLARC annual involvement with the "Pennsylvania Dutch M.S. 150 Bike Ride" Communications were supplied by the club with the organization by Bryan / AA3WM again this year. This year the ride went off without any major difficulties through both of its days of operation and 150 miles of Dutch Country roads..

August had the scheduled program canceled due to personal issue of the presenter. But Charlie / W3OPA stepped in and presented "NVIS". A program on "Near Vertical Incident Skywaves". The history and possible used in modern Amateur Radio. The month also was our first meeting in our new location, the Nancy Run Fire Company. This move brought about by our out growing the 911 Center meeting room.

September brought from Staten Island, NY. Carole Perry / WB2MGP to relate her experiences "Recruiting Kids For Amateur Radio. She explained how over the years she was able to use the school's science classes to incorporate the teaching necessary for her students to gain their licenses. The annual picnic was held, in a new location, the East Allen Township's Bicentennial Park. The weather was fine and a good time was had by all. The fall entry level classes also began with a good turn out.

October had Dr Roger Ruhr / W3SZ presenting "E-M-E Moon Bounce" where he covered all the aspects of earth to moon to earth communications. The new Executive Committee was elected with some new faces and the promise to continue moving the club ahead. The DLARC also renewed its relationship with The Lehigh Valley Wheelmen, supplying communications for it annual "Century Run" which as it is described, a run by their membership and riders of the Lehigh Valley of either 25 miles, 50 miles or the complete run of 100 miles. All this is run throughout Northampton County. The yearly Pennsylvania QSO Party was competed in by the club with the intent to win the club prize again. W3OK was on the air as well as many members. The month finished with the DLARC's annual communication coverage for the Emmaus Halloween Parade, even with the move to its rain date, the club was able to cover the event to the elation of the Parade Committee.

November brought Mel / W3SQ relating his fun supplying HF communications for the Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska. It seems that there isn't any HF during the time the race is run. The aura prevents any communications in Alaska. Mel also reported that vertical antennas are not practical in camp grounds, but he demonstrated an antenna that he took along with a QRP rig, hiking the Appalachian Trail.

December was a fun month with the club's annual Holiday Get together. Many old faces were there and many of the new faces from the growth the our club this year. Then putting the WX3MAS, Christmas City Special Event Station on the air over the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for its 40<sup>th</sup> year of operation, was another mile stone occasion.

This was our year in brief, and another year is ahead of us, with a bigger and better prospect for continued growth and enjoyment of our hobby.

## COULD YOU PASS A DRIVING TEST?

de Dick / KA3MOU

Seriously, though, this is a great refresher on the rules of the road. Go to this site to take the test.

[www.autoinsurance.org/driving\\_test](http://www.autoinsurance.org/driving_test)

## SPEAKERS SOLICITED FOR NEW JERSEY ARRL STATE CONVENTION

For many years, dating back to before World War II, the Delaware Valley Radio Association sponsored a very large hamfest in Trenton that also served as the New Jersey State ARRL Convention. We are happy to announce that we have now joined forces with the popular Trenton Computer Festival to again offer such an event to the hams of New Jersey on Sunday April 25th, 2010 at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ.

The ARRL has designated the Sunday of that event as the ARRL New Jersey State Convention. As a result, a reduced \$10 single day Sunday admission will be offered. Of course, persons purchasing the TCF \$15 (\$12 if purchased in advance at <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>) entire weekend admissions ticket will be permitted to join in the Amateur Radio related activities on Sunday as well. This should prove a boon to promoting Amateur Radio to tech savvy non-hams as well.

As we all know, hamfests that serve as simple electronic flea markets have suffered ups and downs recently. This non-profit festival runs a whole weekend and has numerous presentations and speakers, commercial electronics vendors, large attendance, and an electronics flea market. Details of past events are at <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>

We're now soliciting speakers on radio related topics for the ARRL State Convention on Sunday. We envision having at least three classrooms dedicated solely to Amateur Radio topics, such as contesting, DXing, homebrewing, EmComm, Youth Activities, etc. A VE session is planned as well. Speakers are customarily offered free admission. If you're interested in making a presentation, please register at <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>

Finally, a half-price \$35 non-commercial, single tailgate selling space will be available to hams. Commercial dealer spaces are \$70 for 9'x16' and \$100 for 14'x16'. Each tailgate or dealer space is good for two days and includes one admission ticket. Inquiries on commercial vendor, tailgate and flea market spaces should be sent to [vendor@tcf-nj.org](mailto:vendor@tcf-nj.org)

Thanks & 73

Gary Wilson, K2GW

Radio Speaker Coordinator, 2010 NJ State ARRL Convention

[www.w2zq.com](http://www.w2zq.com)

[k2gw@arrl.net](mailto:k2gw@arrl.net)

### THE DLARCforum

A few years ago the Executive Committee established an electronic mailing list for D.L.A.R.C. Members and friends to provide an easy way to disseminate information on a timely basis. This mailing list is called the "DLARCforum" and all club members with email capability are welcome to join.

Joining the list is easy, just go to this website :<http://mailman.gth/mailman/listinfo/dlarcforum> and fill in the appropriate boxes. Instructions for the subscription process are available on the page. If you don't have internet service, but do have email service you can still subscribe by sending a subscription request directly to the list administrator, [ka3jwe@arrl.net](mailto:ka3jwe@arrl.net).

The DLARCforum is a "closed" list which means only subscribers can post messages, so your mailbox won't be filled with junk mail from unknown sources. The list uses a "text only" format which means, that only messages in plain text are passed. Messages received in HTML are filtered and stripped of any formatting before being sent out to list subscribers. The list will not accept or pass attachments such as files and pictures. This is done to eliminate the possibility of spreading any type of computer virus or other harmful programs. The forum is an "un-moderated" list, which means that there is no moderator screening messages before they are passed on.

Since its beginning, the volume of messages on the DLARCforum has been relatively low compared to other similar mailing lists. So don't worry your your inbox won't be overflowing with messages if you subscribe. There is also the ability to configure your preferences for the list to your personal liking.

So, please consider joining the list if you're not already subscribed. You'll be better informed about current club activities and also have the knowledge and experience of over half the membership at your disposal. Anything you want to know, all you have to do is ask!

de **Don / KA3JWE** List Administrator

### DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting had no scheduled program. The plaque for the outgoing president was given to Al / W3CE, along with a commentary by Charlie / W3OPA, awards chairman, on Al's terms as DLARC president. This was followed by the Barbed Wire Award for an article in the OK Corral, on the MFJ Tuner, to Barry / KU3X. The award ceremony ended with the awarding of the Bull by the Horns award to those club members who served chairman of a committee or event. Those honored were:

**Bob Green / KE3AW** - Public Relations - Halloween Parade – Entry Level Classes, **Al Wiemann / W3CE** - LV Wheelman Assoc Bike Run - Fox Hunts - Fmr President - picnic - New N.C. Radio officer, **Ben Ramig / KB3CTX** - Interference Committee, **Dave Arwood / K3GMT** - Milkhouse Chairman, **Don Holmes / KC3II** - Newsletter editor – Former NC Radio Officer, **Tom Slapinsky / KB3IUE** - Field Day, **Brad Snyder / W3JXQ** - Web Site - Lehigh Univ / Riley Event, **Don Reamer / KA3JWE** - W3OK Station Trustee, **Barry Vogt / N3NVA** - Repeater Maintinence, **Charles Lazarchak / W3OPA** - Awards Chair - Inventory - MS Walk – Salutations – Historian, **Ed Pitosky / AA3OU** - Nancy Run Fire Hall arrangements, **Vic Zeno / N2OFF** – Newsletter Photographer – Membership, **Jay Mason / N3OW** – Barn Inventory, **Doreen Gramling / KB3PDL** – WX3MAS - Polo shirts, **Howard Miller / KB3RTB** - MS walk - Fund raising - Milkhouse Clean Up, **George Wieland / N3SQD** – VE Coordinator, **Ray Bilger / W3TDF** - 2 Meter Sprint, **Tracy Miller / KB3TAE** – Fund raising, **Lou Gramling / KB2VCI** – WX3MAS, **Bryan Williams / AA3WM** – MS 150 - Club badges - Nominating committee, **Pete Varounis / NL7XM** – Programs - Door prizes - Make a wish.

The business at hand finished, the annual holiday get together began with good food and the renewing of old, and the beginning of new friendships. With all this, a good time was had by all. A fitting beginning to the 2009 Holiday Season.

## NEWS FROM THE MILKHOUSE

The weather is getting colder but attendance at the Milk House has remained high. Over 115 members visited the club station in November.

Wednesday night continues to be popular and many members meet for dinner before gathering at the Milk House. Check out the repeater traffic on 146.700 to find the dining spot for the evening. Dinnertime is around 5:30pm.

Several members are meeting at the Milk House on Thursday nights at 7pm to discuss D-STAR. The past few weeks have been dedicated to D-Rats and data mode operations. The group is also working on the installation of a D-STAR "Hot Spot" at the Milk House. (For an explanation of D-STAR Hot Spots go to <http://w9arp.com/HotSpot/> )

The Milk House participated in two contests in November. The ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB and the CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW. As with all contesting at the Milk House, the approach was very casual and intended to be a fun, learning experience. Three and sometimes four stations were on the air during the days and evenings.

The ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB is a tedious but fun contest to operate due to the long exchanges required: Serial Number, Precedence (Entry Category), Call Sign, Check (last two digits of your first license year), and your section. This long exchange has convinced Howard (currently KB3RTB) he needs a vanity call sign.

During the CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW it appeared that most of the CW was computer generated as the code speed seemed to average 30 words per minute and was perfectly sent. Some stations running big pile ups were sending at 40+ words per minute. This was a fun contest and developed our operating skills in zero beating and filtering. We also added Kuwait and South Africa to the Milk House's list of new countries worked.

Below is the 2010, January – March, contest calendar for the club station at the Milk House.

<b>ARRL RTTY Roundup</b>	1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
<b>North American QSO Party, CW</b>	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0600Z, Jan 10
<b>North American QSO Party, SSB</b>	1800Z, Jan 16 to 0600Z, Jan 17
<b>CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest</b>	0000Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW</b>	0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21
<b>North American QSO Party, RTTY</b>	1800Z, Feb 27 to 0600Z, Feb 28
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB</b>	0000Z, Mar 6 to 2400Z, Mar 7
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB</b>	0000Z, Mar 27 to 2400Z, Mar 28

All members are encouraged to participate. If you don't have HF privileges, you can operate the club's call sign, W3OK. Work as little or as much as you want. This is a great opportunity to teach or learn a new mode. Elmers are always needed and welcome.



### CHAIRS NEEDED

With the improvements being made at the Milkhouse, and increase of available space, the need for additional folding chairs has come up. Any member who may have folding chairs, or know of available folding chairs, for donation to the club, contact Al / W3CE or George / N3SQD. With the amount of time expected for use, contests, Christmas City etc, padded chairs of the type shown in the picture would be greatly appreciated.

### ELIMINATE CALLS OR CHARGES FROM TELEMARKETING CALLS TO CELL PHONES

First be sure that your cell-phone number is on the do-not-call list ([www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or 888-382-1222). If you receive a call that is not identified with caller ID, don't answer it. If you answer a telemarketer's call or use your minutes to call voice mail to receive a message from a telemarketer, ask your service provider to have the minutes restored. You also can call your carrier for credit if you get text messages from telemarketers.

Never return a call to a number you don't recognize – it may seem to be domestic, but actually could be in an area where US regulators have no authority, such as Turks and Caicos, which has a 649 area code. If you get repeated unwanted calls from the same area code, ask to have incoming calls from that area blocked.

HELPFUL: For information on fraud and on-line way to submit complaints to regulators, go to the web site of the National Consumers League's Fraud Center, [www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org).

### UNOFFICIAL 2009 PA. QSO PARTY RESULTS

A quick early report on the 2009 PA QSO Party. Shows that the DLARC had 21 entries for 614,680 points. This is not the final official scoring.

## 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.

## F.Y.I.

The winners of the December Prizes were all the members in attendance.

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 ----- president@dlarc.org  
Vice President – Ben Ramig / KB3CTX ----- vicepresident@dlarc.org  
Secretary – Howard Miller / KB3RTB ----- secretary@dlarc.org  
Treasurer – Pete Varounis / NL7XM ----- treasurer@dlarc.org

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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 )

## THE W3OK TRUSTEE --- DON REAMER / KA3JWE

**The W3OK Corral is published monthly and is the Official Publication of the  
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**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 145.11 ( 151.4 )

## THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

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