

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
DECEMBER 2013



W3OK

CORRAL

**Club Meeting December 5th, 7:30PM At the
Bethlehem Township Community Center**

DECEMBER MEETING PROGRAM
Annual Christmas Party



SEASON'S GREETINGS



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S SHACK

Hey DLARC it is CONTEST Season!

This is the time of year to brush off the amps and warm the shacks with the glow of tubes.

I was able to compete in the PA QSO Party and did my part for the CQ WW SSB for the NE3F station.

The ARRL SSB SS was a bit of a challenge with family stuff going on, but I was able to get on for an hour. I still had fun.

I hope that you are able to play in at least one contest, and have lots of contacts and good DX.

I know that in the PA QSO Party, NE3F and myself managed to work a WAS. This was not bad for a weekend.

You don't need a super station to have a good time in a contest. I have a modest station with a vertical and a small solid state amp and when the time allows I do well and have lots of fun doing it. Of course there are challenges, like setting up your logging program and getting your WAV files for the voice keyer. But that is all part of the fun. I had an issue setting up N1MM and NAP3 with LP Bridge. I managed to hit the wrong button and crashed the pan adaptor. Then when I downloaded the software, I partially read the screen and installed the wrong program. Oh well, I got a chance to play and use my brain a bit. I did manage get the station software working, so now I'll be ready for the next one. (it helps to have your computer glasses on) The other good thing is that contesting gives us a chance to verify that all the improvements we make to our stations during the summer have the wanted effect. And we can enjoy the fruits of our labor.

I would like to wish all the members a happy holiday season and enjoy your families.

Until next month, 73s and good DX

Jay / N3OW

DECEMBER QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	4 DLARC Net (KC3II)	5 DLARC MEETING	6 NO VE SESSION	7
8	9	10 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	11 DLARC Net (N3SQD)	12	13	14 WX3MAS City
15 WX3MAS City	16	17 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	18 DLARC Net (KB3CTX)	19 DLARC BOARD MEETING	20	21
22	23	24 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	25 NO NET 	26	27	28
29	30	31 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM				

DECEMBER CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

DECEMBER 7 & 8 – ARRL 160-Meter Contest

DECEMBER 14 & 15– ARRL 10-Meter Contest

DECEMBER 21 & 22– Croatian CW Contest Contest

DECEMBER 28 & 29 – Original QRP Contest



NOTICE<> NOTICE<> NOTICE

We are enjoying our superior new Meeting quarters, but for that reason, it is also a very popular venue for many other groups. To reduce congestion as other scheduled activities end and folks try to exit, we have been politely asked to refrain from entering the lobby before 7:15. Your strict consideration is appreciated. With the nicer weather, a pre-meeting get together can be had in the pavilions near the parking lot area.



MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The general membership meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. (the Club) was held on November 7, 2013, at the Bethlehem Township Community Center located in Bethlehem Township, Pennsylvania.

Call to Order: Jay Mason / N3OW, President, called the meeting to order at 1932 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Jay / N3OW

Member Happenings: Jay / N3OW asked if anyone participated in the PA QSO Party or the CQ World -Wide DX Contest.

Brief discussion of member's experiences and log deadlines for each followed. AI / W3CE reported that his amplifier was serviced by Tokyo Hy-Power with a one-week turn around.

Approval of the Minutes: John / NT3P asked if there were any errors or corrections to the minutes as they appeared in the last newsletter. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Mark / W2MB, second by Carl / AA3IX to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Mike / KB3LOD presented the Treasurer's Report.

Motion: It was moved by Dave / KA3IWC, second by Ed / AA3OU to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. **Motion carried.**

Club Repeater: No issues reported.

Website Report: Brad / W3JXQ reported the site was up and running. No issues were reported.

Club Station Report: AI / W3CE reported that there were no problems or issues and encouraged those who could to come out to the club station on Wednesday nights.

Membership Report: George / N3SQD reported that there were six applications for membership this month, including four who took the fall licensing classes and passed the exam. The candidates were:

John R Demchyk / K3ZRK

Peggy Moser / KC3BNQ

William J. Concolino / KC3BNT

Thomas Lavin , KA2ING

Eric Clemmer / KC3BNR

Alex Bolorin / KC3BNS

The new members were read in and approved.

Licensing Classes: Bob / KE3AW reported that both the Technician and General Fall classes are over and will be starting again in March. AI / W3CE added that Barbara / KC3BNU attended the fall classes and upgraded to General last Tuesday.

Emmaus Halloween Parade: Bob / KE3AW thanked all of the members who participated in the Emmaus Halloween Parade including those who made themselves available on stand-by. Bob presented a donation of \$300 from the Emmaus Halloween Parade Committee.

Christmas City Special Event Station WX3MAS: Jon / NJ3I announced the Christmas City Special Event Station WX3MAS will be in operation at the Milk House on Saturday December 14 and Sunday December 15 from 9 am to 6 pm on both days. Saturday will feature a Christmas party. The station will be operating on various modes and on a number of bands, depending on conditions. Jon encouraged everyone to come out to operate or just stop by. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Holiday Party: Doreen / K3PDL invited carolers for the party. Doreen also asked that if you bring food to share with everyone to try to include a card with the ingredients so that those with special food restrictions or allergies can choose appropriately.

ARRL Emergency Communications Course Field Examiners: Howard / WO3P explained that he is looking for ARRL accredited Volunteer Examiners who would like to serve as EmComm Course Field Examiners. Field Examiners are VEs who conduct the exams associated with the ARRL Emergency Communications courses. Please contact Howard if you would like additional information.

Visitors/Guests Present: None this month.

Request for Assistance with a Tower: Peggy Moser introduced herself as a newly licensed operator. She explained that she has the opportunity to obtain a tower with an antenna and asked for assistance to take the tower down. If you are interested please see Peggy.

PA QSO Party Scores: AI / W3CE suggested that those who participated in the Pa QSO Party are welcome to post their scores on the reflector. Ben / KB3CTX also suggested the website 3830scores. Ray / W3TDF reminded everyone that the club affiliation for the logs is not W3OK, but Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the Club, the meeting was adjourned by Jay / N3OW at 1949 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by John / NT3P, Secretary

THE AMY ZIMMERMAN AWARD

Each March in Memory of **Amy Zimmerman / KD3TI**, the DLARC Executive Committee seeks to present The Amy Zimmerman to an amateur radio operator "**In Appreciation For Unselfish Services Rendered To Amateur Radio And The Community**" The Executive Committee would like your input into this process by having you nominate an amateur radio operator who has exhibited these traits through out this past year. If you would like to nominate someone, please give

their name to one of the board members by the January 2013 general meeting.



MONTHLY BRAIN TEASER

"A special prize awaits the first Club Member to submit the correct answer to this month's Brainteaser to the Pete / NL7XM, *only*, at nl7xm@arrl.net The winner must be present at the next Meeting to receive it, or it goes unrewarded. Officers, Board members, Newsletter staff, and Brain Teaser Authors are not eligible to win."

de Pete / NL7XM



NOVEMBER BRAINTEASER ANSWER

There are two possible answers – Stewardesses & Aftercataract

The winners are Al / W3CE and Bob / KE3AW

DECEMBER BRAINTEASER de KB3LIC

In a room, there are six Brown eyed brunettes. If altogether there are 15 brunettes, nine people with brown eyes, and three people who are neither Brown eyed or brunettes. How many people are in the room?

STL-SDR FOR TV-DX METEOR SCATTER

On October 26, 2013 at 22:47 UTC (6:47 pm EDT) a -4.00 stellar magnitude meteor (less than a category -4.50 magnitude fireball) from the Orionids meteor shower caused by small fragments of cometic debris from Halley's comet streaked between the boroughs of Mountain Top and Freeland then over Kunkletown and reaching into the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania.

Seconds later, it's light yellow flame is seen overhead in Nazareth then the Delaware River and finally making it's way to Marble Hill, New Jersey while blazing at a velocity of 41 miles a second (67 km/sec).

It was determined the meteor tracked 3.7 miles north of Center Square in Easton, PA. Closest approach was 3.0 miles to the northeast when it fragmented into smaller pieces while cruising at a 45 degree inclination during it's 3.5 seconds flight journey through Earth's atmosphere.

The Orionids meteor shower are active from October 4 to November 14, 2013. Peak nights occurred on October 21-22. Meteor rates are expected to be 50-75 per hour.

At the time of event on October 26 I was home in south Easton with two NTSC analog television sets turned on to channel (2) with the volume set at a comfortable listening level for a chance of TV-DX via sporadic-e or F2 propagation. Unfortunately neither occurred.

Something very rare did occur at 6:15 pm EDT, exactly 32 minutes prior to the event stated above overhead near Easton while hoping to catch the Canadian network CTV, call sign CKCO in Wiarton, Ontario via Meteor Scatter (Ms) on 55.240 Mhz (minus offset) at a distance of 941 miles.

Without warning the TV's audio steady background noise rapidly flared producing what sounds similar to a burst of high pressure air leaking through a cracked pipe. That effect instantly startled me for about three seconds.

Afterwards I realized that sound effect was not the result of a meteor forward scatter mode but rather the ionized atmospheric gases (plasma) surrounding the meteor while leaving a vapor trail overhead. It seemed as if the meteor was exiting through the TV tube!

After nine years of TV-DXing I never experienced this phenomenon!

It was this rare event that inspired me to take a more active roll in finding other techniques in meteor detection - using the \$20.00 STL-SDR dongle. After some experimentation I can confirm that this inexpensive device has enough sensitivity to detect spot and train meteors.

I would like to share snap images of what a meteor looks like on the SDR# (SDR Sharp) waterfall display.

http://i1120.photobucket.com/albums/l486/GACTVDX/meteor61a_zps4ae7566c.png

To detect meteors via forward scatter propagation there has to be powerful (25 kW or more) radio frequency transmitter at one end point that is on-the-air 24 hours a day, such as a full-power TV facility that radiates 100 kW on their visual carrier with 10 kW aural. In our technique we are not concerned with the aural portion of the signal.

The above statement would meet half of our requirements. The U.S. TV broadcast conversion from analog to digital went into effect on Friday, June 12, 2009 per Congressional mandate.

Unknown to many citizens there are analog U.S. TV signals on-the-air since the DTV transition. Currently there are 72 low-powered analog TV stations in the U.S. These stations are Class-A, low-power and translators that run from 2 watts up to 3 kW on channel 2. Again, the power is not strong enough for Ms detection.

By now you might be wondering how will we be able to find any full-power 100 kW broadcasters in which to TV-DX via meteor scatter using the STL-SDR dongle.

There is one other option to peruse.

Our maple-leaf friends up along the Canadian/U.S. border have five analog TV-2 channels that remain active since their DTV analog-to-digital transition went into effect on August 31, 2011.

This option will have an extra advantage as there will be no U.S. based high-powered NTSC analog television stations to cause any radio frequency interference issues.

Normal meteor scatter range is up to 1,400 miles.

73's Mike Schaffer / KA3JAW Fn20iq

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time, already! DUES are payable for the calendar year 2014. 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.

2014 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:

Michael J. Gower
1511 Shelbourne Drive
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

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: Treasurer@dlarc.org Include your phone number if you prefer a live reply.

de Mike / KB3LOD, DLARC Treasurer

HARD COPY SUBSCRIPTION

You must sign up if you want a hard copy newsletter subscription. The rate is \$12, 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

CHRISTMAS CITY SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Again this holiday season, the DLARC special event branch, "The Christmas City Station" will be on the air. Over the weekend of December 14th and 15th, 9AM to 6PM daily, from the Milk House with the call of WX3MAS. This our way of celebrating Christmas and wishing other hams around the world a "Merry Christmas" from the twin Christmas Cities of Nazareth and Bethlehem. Jon / NJ3I will again chair this event and is looking for support from the general membership. Operators will be needed man the radios during the on air period. Jon did a good job last year, but volunteers are needed to continue our tradition. Jon also has said that there will be a holiday dinner Saturday evening and left overs for Sunday plus any Christmas goodies you would like to bring. A sign up sheet will be available at the is meeting and also at the December meeting.

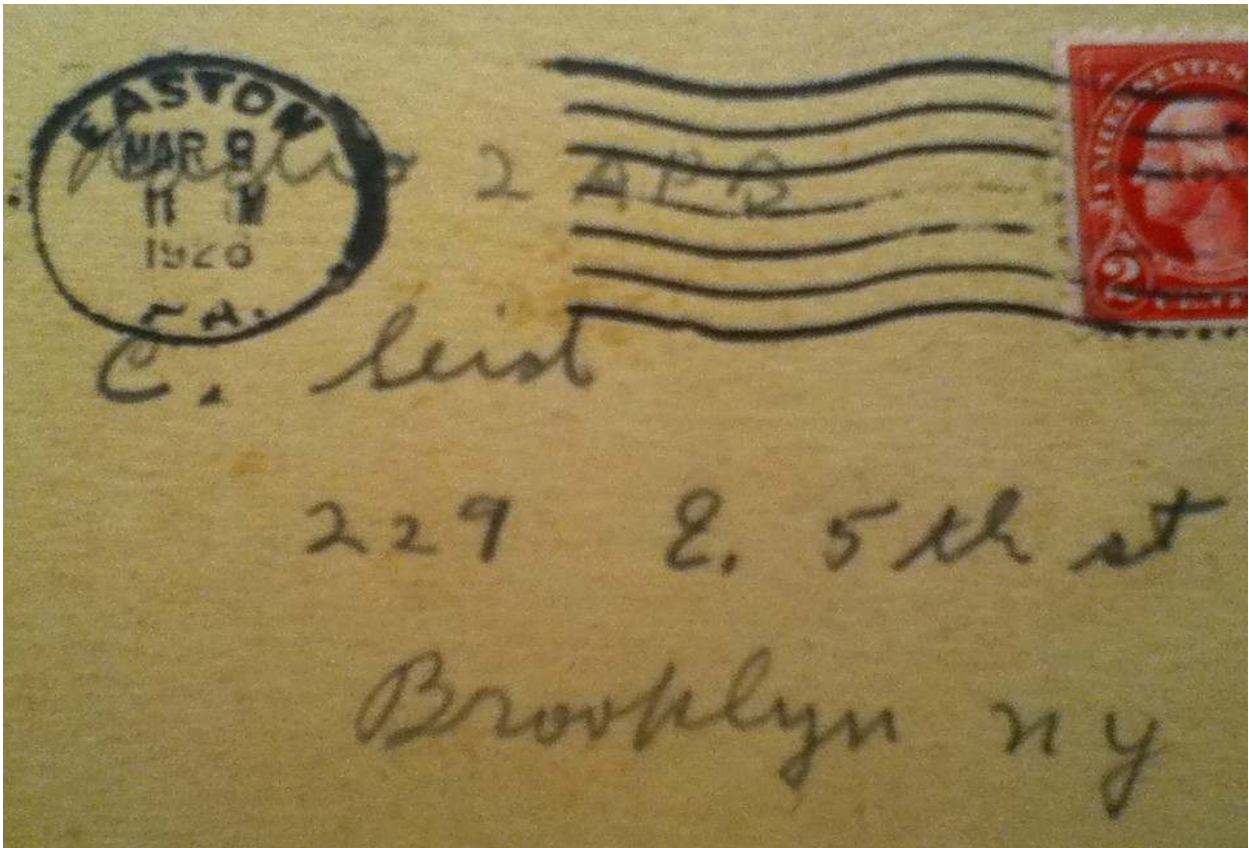
FROM THE PAST

The 1926 QSL card of legendary Easton operator, Ed Hart / 3NF (later W3NF) to 2APB in Brooklyn, NY. Ed and his brother George Hart / W1NJM who invented the ARRL's National Traffic System and were early members of the LVARC and DLARC.

COLLEGE CAMPUS, EASTON, PA.

Radio. *2APB* Ur CW Sigs WDK Hr. *3/6/26* at *11:40 AM* EST
Wave *190* Meters Audibility *R-2* ES
QRM *mm* QRN *mm* QSB *DC* QSS *mm*
Receiver Hr. *3 current*
Transmitter *various* Watts *7 1/2* Circuit *am* Volt *550* Rad. *16*
Antenna *40 ft high tower*
Ctpse *3 wire fan*
Remarks
Pse QSL—Best—73's

Opr. *Edward Hart Jr*



Photos and Card courtesy of the NL7XM Collection

NOVEMBER PROGRAM REPORT

Brad / W3JXQ presented program which covered cw and him radio in the movies and on TV over several decades, in cartoons full-length movies TV series and TV sitcoms. Brad, using clips from these shows illustrated just where our hobby has presented itself throughout the years in the entertainment industry. The earliest example was from the 1930s from the Andy Hardy movie series and the latest was from the TV sitcom "Last Man Standing". All the decades between were covered by examples, which in some cases, brought laughter from the audience. It was surprising that there were so many examples on the subject past and present out there. Included was Pete / NL7XM's QSL Card on all of the backgrounds of the ham radio related scenes, on "Last Man Standing". Another different and entertaining program.

EMMAUS HALLOWEEN PARADE 2013

On Saturday, October 19, the Emmaus Halloween Parade began in nice evening weather, but it turned to a steady rain by the end. Fortunately most of us were in vehicles. Our Net Control Operator. George / N3SQD, however, fought the elements, on foot.

As the rains came the crowds diminished. That may well have been the reason for minimal disturbance. The parade officials did request -- and did receive -- reports on parade slow-downs and stoppages, especially this year, when there was nearly 2 1/2 miles of paraders on a 2 1/2 mile parade route!

From the feedback I got, everyone had an enjoyable and interesting time, through the parade, and afterwards at our gathering at the restaurant.

The gratitude of the parade committee has been expressed once again this year, both verbally, and with a generous donation to DLARC for our communications service.

Our DLARC Amateur Radio Operators this year were: George / N3SQD, Jay / N3OW, Wendell / KB3UNB, Mark / AK3M, Don / N0VGA, Eric / KC3AOK, Dave / KA3IWC, Doreen / K3PDL, Steve / KB3WYJ, David / N3EYT, Roy / KC3AHT, Chris / KB3WTM with Joe / AB3OS, Laura / KB3ZKR with Evelyn / W3DOY, Larry / KC3ANC, and Doug / N3WGH, whom we didn't see on parade night, but he was the ham that supplied his house as our location for the cross-band repeater.

de Bob / KE3AW

FROSTFEST 2014

FROSTFEST 2014 is approaching! It will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at the Richmond Raceway Complex, from 8:30AM until 3:30PM.

We are looking forward to a great hamfest with manufacturers' representatives, new radio dealers, accessory dealers, and many, many tables filled with amateur radio equipment of all descriptions. There will be VE Testing, forums and meetings, and much, much more.

Our Grand Prize is \$1,000 in **FrostfestBuck\$**. Also, Early Bird ticket holders will be able to enter at 8AM, 30 minutes before General Admission starts

!All the details can be found at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Tickets and tables can be purchased online at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Plan on joining us for Frostfest2014

Frostfest is sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

REDNERS' SUPERMARKETS SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

Here's how it works:

Redner's has a terrific program to support the Club **AT NO COST TO THEM**, if our members simply sign up for a Gas Card that records their shopping points, and give their cash register receipts to, **Pete / NL7XM**, He'll do the rest.

Note: This does not affect your gas points in any way.

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 Pete / NL7XM. This simple act can help your Club by reducing recurring expenses, and make you feel a lot better about our environment.

NEW MEMBERS

The DLARC is continuing to grow, so be sure to greet our new members, shake their hands, and give them a warm welcome to our club. The newest members are John Demchyk / K3ZRK, Thomas Lavin / KA2ING, Peggy Moser / KC3BNQ, Eric Clemmer / KC3BNR, Alex Bolorin / KC3BNS, and William Concolino / KC3BNT.

VE TEST SESSION

There will not be a test session this month. The next session will be January 3rd at 7:00 PM at the Northampton County 911 Center. Pretest registration is required. Contact George / N3SQD at george@bioserv.com or Al / W3CE at w3ce@arrl.net.

F.Y.I.

The January Program will be " Electrical Assembly and Automation " - Paul / N3YNT

The D.L.A.R.C. meets the "FIRST" Thursday of each month. Membership, friends and interested persons meet at the Bethlehem Township Community Center, 2900 Farmersville Road, 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.

QCWA Chapter 17 holds a net Monday evenings at 8:30 PM on 3960 +/- depending on conditions.

Mid-Atlantic D-Star Net meets each Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The following repeaters Dstar repeaters are available in the Lehigh Valley. W3OK -145.11000MHz -0.600 Port C – W3OI -147.16500MHz +0.600 Port C, – W3OI - 445.02500MHz -5.000 Port B All repeaters on the net are linked through **Reflector 020 port A**, so all stations checking into the net should make sure that they have *their local repeater call sign followed by the letter "G" in the eight position of the RPT2 field*. Otherwise, you will only be heard locally and not over the Reflector. Dongle users wishing to check into the net should Log On by connecting directly to Reflector 20, port A, rather than through your local repeater in order to conserve local bandwidth.

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.

The Clubhouse telephone number is 484-895-7038.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2012 – 2013
OFFICERS**

President – Jay Mason / N3OW ----- president@dlarc.org
Vice President – Dave Blankenship / N3EYT ----- vicepresident@dlarc.org
Secretary – John Barbaz / NT3P ----- secretary@dlarc.org
Treasurer – Mike Gower / KB3LOD ----- treasurer@dlarc.org

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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 Bethlehem Township Community Center
TALK IN ON 146.700 (PL 151.4)

THE W3OK TRUSTEE --- Barry Vogt / N3NVA

**The W3OK Corral is published monthly and is the Official Publication of the
DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.**

**14 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, Pa. 18064-9211**

ARES, RACES AND DLARC NET

All Radio Amateurs are welcome to participate in the ARES, RACES and DLARC net. This net meets Wednesday at 1900 hours local time, on the W3OK Repeater 51.76, 146.70 and 444.90 (pl 151.4). With an alternate frequency of 147.370 (167.9) W3OI Repeater.

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

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