

**DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.**  
*JULY 2014*

# *W3OK*

# *CORRAL*

**Club Meeting July 3rd, 7:30PM At the  
Bethlehem Township Community Center**

## **JULY MEETING PRORAM**

**“Crown Jewel”**

**DLARC Clubhouse Showcase**

**Dave / NB3R**



**Bob / W3RF**

**ARRL EPA Section Manager & Volunteer Counsel**

## MINUTES FROM THE JUNE MEETING



A general membership meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. (the Club) was held on June 5, 2014, 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:** Al / W3CE has WAS (worked all states) on JT65 confirmed in logbook of the world.

Ed / AA3OU has started operating on 220 Mhz.

**Approval of the Minutes:** John / NT3P asked if there were any errors, additions or corrections to the minutes as they appeared in the last newsletter. Hearing none, Jay / N3OW asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Barry / KU3X, second by Mark / W2MB to approve the minutes. **Motion carried.**

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Al / W3CE, second by Evelyn / W3DOY, to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Motion carried.**

**Club Repeater:** Barry / KU3X reported that Barry / N3NVA is aware of a problem with the Service Electric (Fountain Hill) remote receive site and will address it in the near future.

**Website Report:** Brad / W3JXQ reported that there have been no issues with the website.

**Membership Report:** George / N3SQD reported there are two applications for membership this month, Frank J. Carpinelli, Jr, and Korine Behler. Both attended the technician classes. Jay / N3OW asked for a motion to accept the members. The members were accepted into the club.

**Field Day:** Stephanie / WX3K reported the club will operate 3A with an additional 6 meter station and a GOTA station. Ed / AA3OU reported on the preparations being made for food during Field Day, which include Dave / NB3R hand making 120 burgers. Ed also reported that in making preliminary preparations for purchasing food at Redner's Market, the local store manager advised that Redner's may be able to assist a non-profit organizations such as the Club and that the corporate office should be contacted for more information. Ed will forward Redner's contact information to John / NT3P after the meeting.

**Solar Array:** Al / W3CE acquired a solar array from Harbor Freight for the Club for a solar powered station during Field Day. Al has assembled and tested the array. The cost for the array is to come from the annual club station stipend.

**Trip to ARRL Headquarters:** Doreen / K3PDL reported the planned trip to ARRL Headquarters on June 9<sup>th</sup> will be by car pool leaving at 6:30 AM from the William Penn Highway Park & Ride.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business before the Club, Jay / N3OW adjourned the meeting for the evening's presentation from Bob Famiglio / W3RF, ARRL Section Manager and Volunteer Counsel. The meeting was adjourned at 1943 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by John / NT3P, Secretary

## JULY QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	2 DLARC Net (KC3II)	3 DL ARC MEETING 7:30 PM	4 	5
6	7 QCWA Net 8:30 PM	8 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	9 DLARC Net (N3SQD)	10	11 VE SESSION	12
13	14 QCWA Net 8:30 PM	15 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	16 DLARC Net (KB3CTX)	17	18	19
20	21 QCWA Net 8:30 PM	22 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	23 DLARC Net (K3PDL)	24 DLARC BOARD MEETING	25	26
27	28 QCWA Net 8:30 PM	29 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	30 DLARC Net (KB3WYJ)	31		

## JULY CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

July 5 & 6 – DL-DX RTTY Contest  
– Marconi Memorial HF Contest  
July 12 & 13 – IARU World Championship  
July 19 & 20 – DMC RTTY Contest  
– North America QSO Party - RTTY  
July 26 & 27 – RSGB IOTA Contest



### VE TEST SESSION

There will be a test session this month on July 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

### 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 Frank Carpinelli Jr. / KC3CTG and Korine Behler / KC3CTH.

### JUNE PROGRAM REPORT

Our program this month was presented by Bob Famiglio / W3RF. Bob is ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager and an ARRL Volunteer Legal Counsel. Bob has been a ham since he was 11 years old. He received a degree in electrical engineering and followed up with a law degree. He has been a volunteer counsel for the ARRL since 1980. During this time he has been active in ham radio.

Bob began his talk the advantages of an ARRL membership, listing what they are for the ham community. Also how he is available as EPA section head to pass on any complaints or praises to the ARRL. Bob has held this position for several years and is attempting to make the EPA section one of the best sections in ARRL.

The final portion of the program was an update on the Chester County antenna problem. He explained in detail the federal law covering ham radio antennas. He then explained the Pennsylvania law which was enacted in 2008 and although not completely protecting the ham radio operator does have finer detail than the federal law. However there were being a lack of knowledge of either the federal or Pennsylvania law, the Township officials are denying any legal possibility of the antenna in question erection. While Bob and the numerous experts have shown there is no precedence for stopping this project, which is for emergency communications, it would appear that this process will take several years to be concluded, but the antenna will rise.

Bob concluded with a question-and-answer session. An another outstanding program, if you weren't here, you don't know what you missed.

### FIELD DAY 2014

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The 2014 Field Day will be held on the week end of June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at Louise Moore Park in Bethlehem Township. The DLARC will be located in Pavilion #5 which is located on the east side of Country Club Road. The same location as last years picnic.

Stephanie / WX3K is chairman of this event and will be looking for volunteers to help with all phases of the event. A sign-up sheet will be at both the May and June meeting for signing up. Help is needed with setting up, tearing down and also putting together the food and drink. Contact her at [w3k@arrl.net](mailto:w3k@arrl.net)

### GAP GALLOP 2014

The Wheelmen's 100 mile bicycle ride will be on Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> this year. It will be the same course as last year starting at DeSales University. I will act as net control this year and hope to run the station totally on Solar Power. If you are able, please reserve that day and help out the club. I will start a signup sheet at July's meeting.

73 AL / W3CE

### 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.**

## 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



## JUNE BRAINTEASER ANSWER

Defenselessness – Beekeeper – Peacekeeper – Greenskeeper  
Effervescence – Defervescence – Enfeeblement – Sneezeweed



Winner – **NO WINNER**

## JULY BRAINTEASER

Two candles are the same length. Both are lit at the same time. The first candle (#1) burns six hours before it extinguishes itself. The second candle (#2) burns three hours before it extinguishes itself. Question : During how much time must candle #1 burn before it is twice the length of candle #2 ?

## 49 YEARS FOR A WAS

In the 49 years I have been a Ham I have been active on CW and SSB with my trusty Heathkit SB-100. I probably worked all the states, but never went after the QSL's or wallpaper. I was more interested in rag chewing and public service.

Recently my wife Barbara earned her General Class ticked, W3ATC, and we treated ourselves to a new Kenwood TS-590 last Christmas. I planned to put the 590's internal USB sound card to good use on digital modes and SSTV. Then I read an article about JT65-HF. This is a HF version of the weak signal software used primarily in EME QSO's. I was amazed to find that I could work VKs on 20 Meters when no CW or SSB signals could be heard. Some of the contacts can be made with the signal over 20 db below the noise floor.

It was then I decided to go after the WAS, working from shortly after Christmas to early May. I worked 44 states in short order, with DE, ND, NH and HI left.. The first three took little work but was able to work them. Hawaii was the biggest problem. I was trying to work a KH6 station every time I saw one pop up on the software, with no luck Then after coming home from the VE testing session in May I sat down at the station and gave one CQ on JT65, I was answered right away by KH6SAT and finally had WAS verified on LOTW.

Taking a break now, with 4 minutes to exchange calls, location and sig report DXCC will be a ways off.

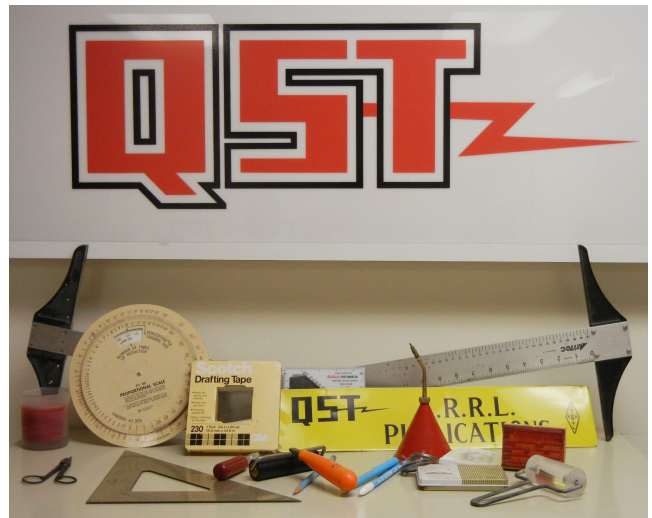




# DLARC AT AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS







**DLARC RECOGNIZED AT DAYTON HAMVENTION**



It is great to see the DLARC recognized for our contribution to this fine program.  
**2014 Hamvention was the scene for the RCA Youth Forum  
and Recognition of the 2014 Young Achievers**

Carole Perry, RCA Director and Youth Activities Committee Chair, presided over the activities at the 2014 Hamvention event in Dayton, OH last week. She presented the 2014 Young Achievers with achievement certificates and RCA pins.

"On behalf of the parents, the RCA Young Achiever presenters, and myself, I want to thank all the sponsors who helped make the Dayton Youth Forum such a huge success. With sponsors like ICOM, MFJ, KENWOOD, Ten- Tec, Charles Kirmuss & Associates, L'Anse Creuse ARC, Slow Spokes, **Delaware-Lehigh ARC**, AMSAT, CQ Magazine, and of course the RCA Youth Activities Committee, we produced a forum that made everyone proud to participate," she stated. "My thanks as well to Stan Reubenstein and Mike & Mary Feryan for their great efforts, and to Jay Underdown WØPS and Michael Clarson WV2ZOW for all of their hard work."

**The 2014 Young Achievers**

Jacob Keogh KD0NVX - 16 years old

*"Amateur Radio: Development, Social Role, and Modern Benefits"*

Scott Elias KD0WBB -9 years old *"SOTA: Mountain Top Portable Ham Radio"*

Garner Fleming KK4CLY - 15 years old *"How Dx'ing Can Increase Your Knowledge of The World"*

Rohan Agrawal KJ6LXV -12 years old *"Bluetooth APRS Text Messaging and Tweeting Systems"*

Divyam Mishra KD0OOE -14 years old *"Ham Radio and Your Heart at The Same Frequency"*

Kyle Watt KD2DWC 18 years old *"Rapid Deployment of Antennas for Portable Operations"*



**SAFETY TIPS**

**DO NOT** ride in an automobile; they cause 20% of all fatal accidents

**DO NOT** stay at home; because 70% of all accidents happen in the home

**DO NOT** walk around on the streets; 40% of all accidents happen to pedestrians

**DO NOT** travel by air, rail, or boat; 16% of all actions occur this way

**ONLY** .001% of all accidents occur at amateur radio club meetings. .

**SO, the safest place to be on the first Thursday of each month is that the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club meeting at the Bethlehem Township Community Center.**

**WHAT WENT WRONG?**

This is a story for people; Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Somebody should do it.

Nobody asked Anybody.

It ended up that the job wasn't done and Everybody blamed Everybody, when actually Nobody asked Anybody.



## FCC OKAYS CHANGES TO AMATEUR RADIO EXAM CREDIT, TEST ADMINISTRATION, EMISSION TYPE RULES

06/10/2014

In a wide-ranging Report and Order released June 9 that takes various proceedings into consideration, the FCC has revised the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to grant credit for written examination elements 3 (General) and 4 (Amateur Extra) to holders of “expired licenses that required passage of those elements.” The FCC will require former licensees — those falling outside the 2-year grace period — to pass Element 2 (Technician) in order to be relicensed, however. The Commission declined to give examination credit to the holder of an expired Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) or to extend its validity to the holder’s lifetime.

“Our decision to grant credit for written examination Elements 3 and 4 for expired licenses that required passage [of those elements] will provide some relief for former General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra class licensees,” the FCC said, “and is consistent with how we treat expired pre-1987 Technician class licensees who want to reenter the Amateur Service.” Pre-1987 Techs can get Element 3 credit, since the Technician and General class written examinations in that era were identical. The Commission said current rules and procedures that apply to expired pre-1987 Technician licenses “are sufficient to verify that an individual is a former licensee under our new rules.”

The Commission said that requiring applicants holding expired licenses to pass Element 2 in order to relicense “will address commenters’ concerns about lost proficiency and knowledge, because a former licensee will have to demonstrate that he or she has retained knowledge of technical and regulatory matters.” The FCC said the Element 2 requirement also would deter any attempts by someone with the same name as a former licensee to obtain a ham ticket without examination.

In 1997 the FCC, in the face of opposition, dropped a proposal that would have generally allowed examination element credit for expired amateur operator licenses. In the past, the FCC has maintained that its procedures “provide ample notification and opportunity for license renewal” and that retesting did not impose an unreasonable burden. The issue arose again in 2011, with a request from the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

The FCC pulled back from its own proposal to reduce from three to two the minimum number of volunteer examiners required to proctor an Amateur Radio examination session. The ARRL, the W5YI-VEC and “a clear majority of commenters” opposed the change, the FCC said. The FCC said it found commenters’ arguments persuasive that the use of three VEs “results in higher accuracy and lower fraud that would be the case with two VEs.” In a related matter, though, the Commission embraced the use of remote testing methods.

“Allowing VEs and VECs the option of administering examinations at locations remote from the VEs is warranted,” the FCC said. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in 2002 endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. The Anchorage VEC has long pushed for the change, citing the expense to provide Amateur Radio test sessions to Alaska residents living in remote areas.

The FCC declined to address “the mechanics” of remote testing, which, it said, “will vary from location to location and session to session.” The Commission said specific rules spelling out how to administer exam sessions remotely “could limit the flexibility of VEs and VECs.” The FCC stressed the obligation on the part of VECs and VEs “to administer examinations responsibly” applies “in full” to remote testing.

The FCC amended the rules to provide that VEs administering examinations remotely be required to grade such examinations “at the earliest practical opportunity,” rather than “immediately,” as the rule for conventional exam sessions requires.

Finally, the FCC has adopted an ARRL proposal to authorize certain Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the Amateur Service. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in 2013 granted an ARRL request for a temporary blanket waiver to permit radio amateurs to transmit emissions with designators FXD, FXE, and F7E, pending resolution of the rulemaking petition.

“Commenters strongly support amendment of the rules to permit these additional emission types,” the FCC noted. “The commenters assert that the proposed rule change ‘is consistent with the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service,’” and will allow repurposing surplus mobile relay equipment from other radio services in the Amateur Service, the Commission added.

The FCC said it also will make “certain minor, non-substantive amendments to the Amateur Service rules.” It is amending Part 97 “to reflect that the Commission amended its rules to eliminate the requirement that certain Amateur Radio Service licensees pass a Morse code examination,” the FCC said in the R&O. It also said it was correcting “certain typographical or other errors” in Part 97.

### 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.

## **KICKSAT RE-ENTERS ATMOSPHERE WITHOUT DEPLOYING "SPRITE" SATELLITES**

KickSat Project Manager Zac Manchester, KD2BHC, has that the KickSat CubeSat reentered the atmosphere on May 14 (UTC) and burned without deploying its cargo of tiny "Sprite" satellites.

"Unfortunately, we were not able to command the Sprite deployment in time," said Manchester, a Cornell University aerospace engineering graduate student. "While we are certainly disappointed that things did not go as planned, I think we still have a lot to be proud of."

Manchester said that more than 300 people from around the world cooperated to make KickSat a reality. "We built a spacecraft, tested it, and launched it," he said. "Hundreds of people had their names flown in space, more than a dozen radio amateurs were able to receive signals from KickSat's beacon radio, and volunteers collected and processed telemetry data and predicted KickSat's orbit and reentry. This kind of participation is exactly what KickSat is all about and I'm glad we all got to share in this experience."

Manchester said he plans to take the lessons learned to build an even better KickSat-2. "This is only the beginning!" he said. The Sprites, PC boards each about an inch or so square, would have been the smallest satellites ever to orbit Earth. Manchester said an unexpected reset of KickSat's master clock caused the failure, preventing the CubeSat from releasing its cargo of some 100 Sprite satellites before it deorbited.

The satellite launched successfully April 18, and the ground control team at Cornell as well as several Amateur Radio operators around the world made contact with the spacecraft.

## **ARIZONA OFF ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT TURNS IN TO AN EMERGENCY**

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club provided communications for the 2014 in late April, in Prescott, Arizona and surrounding mountains. 2,000 amateur and professional mountain bike riders participated in this three day event. Saturday's 50 mile race quickly Whiskey Off-Road Mountain Bike Event became an actual emergency about an hour after it began when temperatures dropped with a mixture of rain, high wind, sleet, and snow.

When the weather worsened, some of the riders dropped out of the race at the second checkpoint and returned to Prescott via a connecting road. Other riders continued on the race course until reaching the fourth checkpoint, where approximately fifty riders dropped out of the race due to the worsening weather. A number of these riders developed hypothermia.

Event communications operators quickly went into evacuation mode and all checkpoints were contacted by net control to determine the number of riders needing transportation back to Prescott. Net control worked with race, search and rescue, and other emergency personnel to coordinate transportation to evacuate these riders. Personal vehicles and a bus were used in the evacuation. While awaiting evacuation transportation to arrive, Amateur Radio operators and other race personnel manning the checkpoints gathered some of the riders suffering the most in their vehicles to warm up. The race continued and event communications were used to locate some missing riders.

Once things settled down, the net went back into getting race updates from the checkpoints and everyone was brought in safely, albeit a bit cold. The abandoned bikes were all picked up and returned to the event center. Despite the difficult conditions, well over 300 riders completed the entire 50 mile race course.

The weather front broke later in the morning and the second race was started around noon. The race officials did shorten this ride from the planned 25 miles to a 15 mile event and it finished with no major incidents.

During this event, Amateur Radio communications enabled a quick response by race officials, which kept a bad situation from getting worse. This response contributed to the overall success of this three day event. -- *Lloyd Halgunseth, WA6ZZJ, District Emergency Coordinator, Yavapai County, Arizona*

## **DEATH AND TAXES**

Tax his cow, Tax his goat, Tax his pants, Tax his coat,  
Tax his crops, Tax his work, Tax his tie, Tax his shirt.  
Tax his chew, Tax his smoke, Teach his taxes, are no joke.  
Tax his tractor, Tax his mule, Teach him taxes, are a rule.  
Tax his oil, Tax is gas, Tax his notes, Tax his cash;  
Tax him good, and let him know – after taxes, He has no dough.  
If it hollers, Tax him more, Tax him 'til He is is good and sore.  
Tax his coffin, Tax his grave, Tax the sod, in which he lays.  
Put these words, upon his tomb, "TAXES DROVE ME, TO MY DOOM"  
After he's gone, He can relax, They will still be after, inheritance tax.

## **HELPFUL HINTS**

Re purpose a cereal canister as a trash can for the car.  
Deodorize sponges in the microwave. Soak in water spiked with white vinegar or lemon juice and put on full power for one minute. Use tongs to remove as it will be hot!  
Use a magnetic strip to store bobby pins on inside of a cupboard.  
Or store them in an empty Tic-Ta dispenser!  
Clean cat litter trays quickly by lining with a garbage bag.  
Use a Post-It note when drilling to catch the dust  
Organize jewelry on a cork board for easy viewing when deciding how to accessorize an outfit  
Re purpose an old picture frame as a serving tray



## THE DARK SUCKER

For many years, it has been believed that electric bulbs emit light. However, recent information is proven otherwise. Electric bulbs do not emit light, they suck up darkness. Thus we will call these bulbs "DARK SUCKERS". The Dark Sucker Theory (that electric bulbs suck the darkness) and the proven existence of dark suckers postulates that darkness has mass and is heavier than light. To prove the theory to yourself, take an energized, dark sucker device (light bulb) into any dark room. Notice that there is much. Less dark right next to it than there is anywhere else in the room – and the larger the dark sucker device, the greater its capacity to suck up darkness. Note that the suckers placed in a parking lot have a greater capacity to suck up dark than the ones in this room. But as it is with many great things, dark suckers don't last forever. Once they are completely filled with darkness, they lose their ability to suck in more.. This is only proved by the dark spot on a full dark sucker device.

A candle is a primitive form of dark sucker. Note that a brand-new candle has a white wick, but after the first use, it turns black, representing the darkness it has sucked into it. If you put a pencil next to the work of an operating candle it will turn black. This is because it got into the path of the darkness flowing into the candle.

Portable dark suckers have also come into common usage. With these, the bulbs (being much smaller) can't handle all the darkness by themselves and must be aided by a darkness storage unit. When the darkness storage unit is full it must be either replaced or emptied before the portable dark sucker will operate again.

Darkness has mass. When darkness goes into a dark sucker, friction from the mass generates heat. Thus it is not wise to touch an operating dark sucker. Candles present a special problem. Since the mass must travel through a solid work instead through clear glass, a great amount of heat is generated. Thus, it is also not wise to touch an operating candle.

In fact not readily apparent is that darkness is heavier than light. If you were to swim just below the surface of the lake, you would see a lot of light. Now if you were to swim deeper and deeper, you would notice it getting darker and darker. If you were to swim really deep, it would be in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats to the top. After all, that is why it is called "light".

Finally, we must prove that dark travels faster than light. If you were to stand in a lighted room, in front of a closed dark closet and slowly opened the closet door, what would you see? As we all have observed, you will see the light slowly entered the closet. However, since darkness travel so fast, you would be unable to see the dark leave the closet..

Now, having been properly educated, the next time you wish to refer to an electric bulb, manage it's technically correct term; a DARK SUCKER..

## HOW TO SINK A 40-FOOT GROUND ROD

### The Easy Way

Communication technician Kurt Straub / WB9CRH came over to my place and sank a 40 foot copper ground rod, in about three quarters of an hour, without a bit of difficulty, and it was even easier for me because I just watched.

Kurt showed up with four 10 foot lengths of three-quarter inch copper tubing.( He says you can do it with half-inch stock, but the three-quarter inch tube is stiffer and easier to manipulate.

He sweat soldered a pipe thread adapter to one end of a length of the tubing, and then he screwed into it a "pipe thread to hose thread" adapter. After which he attached my garden hose to the combination.

You can guess some of the rest: holding the "open" end of the tube against the earth, he had me turn on the hose faucet, and he was in business – a slight rotation back and forth of the tubing and she dug her way into the sandy soil of Florida like your garden hose did. when the neighbor's kid paid you a Halloween visit. We turned off the water pressure when only about 6 inches of the tubing still protruded above the earth.

After that it was a matter of un-soldering the adapter combo from the mostly buried length of tubing and sweat soldering it to a second ten-foot length.... the other end of which was coupled to the mostly buried tube by soldering on a straight "sweat on" coupler. Turn on the hose again and away we went down ... down ... down until we were 40 feet into the ground.

Well, not quite. At 35 feet or so, the city water pressure proved insufficient to force the tubing down any further, because the aquifer was now sucking the water down as fast as we could supply. it. So that left only 5 feet for sledgehammer work, which is sure a lot easier than it would have been with the standard steel rods and a lot of muscle. Plus this WB9CRH ramrod is solid copper, copper plated steel which must eventually give way to rust, and you can solder your grounding strap to this rod – no corroding clamps to worry about!!

so if you want this kind of ground, go thou and do likewise: you need a small blowtorch, Solder, some extra flux, and the special couplers, which you can buy at Home Depot, or any other plumbing supply house. Kurt suggests, if you find a stratus of "hard pan", that you can cut some saw-teeth on the end of the tubing and use water and rotation to work your way through.  
de Dick / AAR4PP

## 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.

## F.Y.I.

The August Program will be "Inventor Nikola Tesla (1856 – 1943) – Doreen / K3PDL

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  
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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

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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.

## THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

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