

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
JANUARY 2021



W3OK

CORRAL

Club Meeting January 7th, 7:00PM
Via ZOOM

JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM
"HOMEBREW NIGHT: HANDS ON EXPERIENCE"
Stephanie / WX3K





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DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A General Meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was held on December 3, 2020 via a Zoom video-conference.

President Jim Matlack / KC3MKP called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with 33 members online.

President's Report: Jim opened the meeting by asking if there were any comments or discussion concerning the Bylaws that were accepted unanimously at the November general meeting. There were none.

Jim said the Club continues to have a need for a Program Chair for 2021 along with a member to assume the position of Station Manager. Bob / KE3AW asked if any of the programs that were scheduled this year that were not presented, could they be this coming year. Stephanie / KX3K said the program she was to give on "Homebrewing" was the only one and she would do so for the January meeting.

Jim spoke about the upcoming WX3MAS Christmas City special event and noted there are sign up sheets for the four days, December 17-20. Stephanie / KX3K said the sheets are for working from the Milkhouse and any member can work from their own home stations. Those electing to work from home should contact her or Dave / N3EYT for times and frequencies.

Jim asked Larry / AB3TY if the Club Survey was on the website. Larry said the survey has been on the website for two weeks and added that one had to be logged in to see it.

Jim asked if visitors were able to attend the Club's virtual general meetings. Larry / AB3TY said guests can attend if he sends them the Zoom links.

Announcements: AL / W3CE noted the passing of Gary N2AUO. Larry / AB3TY said he would send a condolence card when he receives information on where and who to send it.

Secretary's Report: Larry / AB3TY, announced the Minutes for the November 2020 General Meeting. Dean / AB3BD motioned to accept. It was seconded by Skip / KD2BDA and so moved.

Treasurer's Report: Larry / KC3JTK, reported on the Club's financial status for October 2020. George / N3SQD motioned to accept. It was seconded by Pete / K2PM and so moved.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Membership Chair Terry / KC3JHT said there were no new members. There are 9 lifetime members and to this date, and there are 40 voting member renewals.

Club Station: No report.

Tech Committee: Al / W3CE had nothing to report.

Website: Larry / AB3TY reported no issues. George / N3SQD said he was unable to log on the website as did Adam / KC3OJA. Larry checked and notified Adam that he had not put him in the members database and did so as he spoke. Larry told George that he checked on his membership status and found nothing amiss. He told George to use his call sign as his username and if he continued to have an issue to contact him.

AL / W3CE said Barbara / W3ATC wanted to renew her membership but there was no category for a family member of a lifetime member. Larry said that Barbara, to his knowledge, was the only member with a family member holding lifetime status. Larry said to send her payment directly to the treasurer and the website would be updated to reflect her payment.

Al / W3CE said the "old" website had a method for donations to be paid and asked if it was possible to have payments for donations on the "new" website. Larry said he would add a donations button to the website. Larry said that Dave / N3EYT has done a terrific job with Club pictures that have been posted to the website and turned to Dave who asked for additional pictures. Dave said pictures of WX3MAS and Field Day would be appreciated. Any other pictures would be added to the category of The Year in Pictures. He added that the location and date of the submitted picture should be noted.

Repeater: AL / W3CE reported the 2m repeater had low output and Barry / N3NVA was looking into the problem.

Pete / K2PM said the 6m repeater has low audio on the input. He said that someone coming in through UHF or VHF sound fine. He checked with his son's 6m rig and found that was the case. George / N3SQD said Barry / N3NVA is aware of the 6m problem and said it would be an easier fix than the 2m issue.

Jim said Larry / AB3TY suggested the Club should have a DMR channel. A discussion ensued. Larry said he could easily arrange a DMR channel on the TGIF Network as opposed to one on Brandmeister who requires a certain amount of traffic or they close the channel.

New Business: George / N3SQD said it was the time of the year to consider Bicentennial Park or Louise Moore Park for Field Day 2021. George said that Louise Moore was a hit or miss as there is a big demand. He said that Bicentennial would be easier and added Jim could get the Lower Milford Fire Company site the Club used for 2020. Stephanie / WX3K said her preference is Bicentennial Park as the location has many tall trees ideal for antennas, that it is elevated and very quiet. A discussion ensued. Don / KC3II said that the location should be considered for attracting the general public in the Club's desire to foster interest in the hobby. Blair / K3YD motioned to reserve Bicentennial Park as the site for Field Day 2021. It was seconded by Dean / AB3BD and so moved.

Skip / KD2BDA asked if a donation had been sent to the Lower Milford Fire Company for using their site for Field Day 2020. Stephanie / WX3K said the Board approved a \$100 donation in August. It was determined that the donation was not sent. Larry / KC3JTK said he would send it.

Don / KC3II asked if the Board was short one director. Jim confirmed that the Board has an open director position.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Program: Stephanie / WX3K—"Setting up a station for a Newbie."

JANUARY QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2
3	4	5	6 DLARC Net (KC3MKP)	7 DLARC MEETING 7:30 PM	8	9
10	11	12	13 DLARC Net (W3CE)	14	15	16
17	18 M.L.K. Jr DAY	19 DLARC BOARD MEETING	20 DLARC Net (KC3II)	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 DLARC Net (N3SQDL)	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

- January 2 & 3 – WW PMC Contest
 - Original QRP Contest
- January 9 & 10 – UBA PSK 63 Prefix Contest
 - North America QSO Party - CW
- January 16 & 17 – Hungarian DX Contest
 - ARRL January VHF Contest
- January 23 & 24 – BARTG RTTY Contest
 - UK/EI DX Contest – CW
- January 30 & 31 -- CQ 160-Meter Contest – CW
 - UBA DX Contest – SSB
 -

WANTED – CLUB STATION MANAGER

The position of Club Station Manager. Is open, Steve / NS3L is stepping down due to other responsibility, so this position is open. Stephanie / WX3K says she will assist the new station manager as needed. Our thanks to Steve for the fine job he as done while handling the position.

MEETING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

The DLARC is still in need for a General Meeting Program Chairman. Someone who can plan and organize programs for each monthly meeting, beginning in January 2021. This chairman can select a committee to assist him and can get ideas from his committee and the general membership. Ideas from the general membership, will enable the Chairman and his committee to get an understanding of what subjects would be of interest to those attending the meetings. Subject matter does not have to be amateur radio related, but just of interest in general. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, contact any member of the Executive Committee.

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

DECEMBER BRAINTEASER ANSWER

To switch horses.

Explanation: After they switch horses, whoever wins\ the race will get the inheritance because they still technically own the losing (i.e., slower) horse.

The winner is **Dave / N3EYT**

JANUARY BRAINTEASER

84% of people reading this will not find the the mistake in this.
A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z.

Silent Key

The D.L.A.R.C. Wishes to honor and to express its sadness at the passing of a club member.



**GARY DE MAVE
N2AUO**

Silent Key
The D.L.A.R.C. Wishes to honor and to express its sadness at the passing of a club member.



MARK BOND
W2MB

DUES NOTICE

By the new By Laws, the membership year now goes by 1 January to 1 January,

LIKE THE PHEONIX, RADIO SHACK TO RISE FROM THE ASHES

The good news is that as of today RadioShack has officially been purchased by Retail Ecommerce Ventures (REV), giving the troubled company a new lease on life. The downside, , is that there are no immediate plans to return the iconic electronics retailer to its brick-and-mortar roots. As the name implies, REV specializes in online retail, having previously revamped the Internet presence of other bankrupt businesses such as Pier 1 Imports and Dressbarn.

While the press release doesn't outright preclude the possibility of new physical RadioShack locations, it's clear that REV believes the future of retail isn't to be found in your local strip mall. As the US mulls further lockdowns in response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, it's hard to disagree. There will be millions of bored kids and adults looking for something to do during the long winter nights, and an electronic kit or two shipped to their door might be just the thing.

REV says they plan to relaunch the rather dated RadioShack website just in time for the company's 100th anniversary in 2021. As of this writing the website currently says that sales have been temporarily halted to allow for inventory restructuring, though it's unclear if this is directly related to the buyout or not. Getting an accurate count of how much merchandise the company still has on hand after Shuttering their physical locations 2017 certainly sounds like something the new owners would want to do.

We have fond memories of the Golden Age of RadioShack, back before they thought selling phones and TVs was somehow a good idea. To their credit, they did try and rekindle their relationship with hackers and makers by asking the community what they'd want to see in their stores. But we all know how that story ended. While it doesn't look like this news will get us any closer to having a neighborhood store that stocks resistors, there's a certain comfort in knowing that RadioShack kits and books will still be around for the next generation. nets and watch the Forum for the latest information on our get together.

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club History

Chapter 1

Founding Fathers, 1946

The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was founded in 1946 at Lafayette College in Easton by a group of young hams under the age of 40. Several had recently returned from World War II. According to William Van Horn, one of the founders, the men barely know each other. They met at Lafayette because several were students at, or had connections to, the school, but their new club was not affiliated with the college. At their first meeting, they chose the club name to reflect their location at the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers.

Our club founders:

William P. (Bill) Bastian (N3AXV, formerly W3RUY), age 21, the youngest of the founders, was born in Lehigh County. When he registered for the draft at age 18, he was employed as a radio serviceman at Sears & Roebuck in Allentown. He served two and a half years in the Army, returning home in January 1946. Later a resident of Bethlehem Township, he remained active in amateur radio until his death in 1989 at age 64.

Edward (Ed) Hart Jr. (W3NF, W2ZVW, K2FB, N4KB; W5RE), at age 36, was not a new ham in 1946. His early interest in amateur radio (he was licensed in 1925 as 3NF) was funded by his father, who was chair of the Chemistry Dept. at Lafayette. Edward was the first DLARC President. Although his son Paul says that Edward did not graduate, the 1964 Lafayette alumni directory lists him as a member of the class of 1933. Edward worked for the FCC, was an electrical engineer for the State of New Mexico's Communications Department, and owned a radio repair shop. He retired to Florida and died there in 1988 at age 77. His many calls were the result of living in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Florida.

Lewis J. "Lew" Papp (W3MAC), age 38, was the eldest member of the group. After attending Churchman Business School and Lehigh University, in 1930 he worked as an electrician at a cement plant. But when he registered for the World War II draft in 1940, he was blind and not employed. He died in 1967 at age 59; his death certificate noted that he was disabled and retired. He was a well known and respected resident since the Easton Express ran his obituary on page 1; it noted his long-term amateur radio service, including the Edison Amateur Radio Award Special Citation for outstanding emergency communications work in the 1955 flood. Although he had never been a student at Lafayette, he was married at Lafayette College's Colton Chapel and his funeral was conducted by both the Lafayette chaplain and chaplain emeritus.

John H. "Jack" Smith (W3JPA, later W2ZQK), age 26, a native Eastonian, was a veteran and Lafayette student. Jack was a Lafayette student before World War II, left school to serve his country as a Navy aviation radioman, and returned to finish his degree. While at Lafayette, he was the station manager of the college radio station. He worked as an electrical engineer for Nytronics and later OPT Industries in Lopatcong Township, New Jersey. He died in 2003, age 82.

Ernest Smodish, (W3QBF), age 30, was a Bethlehem Township resident who had been a ham for at least 7 years when he became a founding member. He was a service manager for Bogar Electric Company for 20 years and then a self-employed building contractor for 25 years. As a member of the Lehigh Valley Astronomical Society, he helped design and supervised construction of that club's East Rock Road facility. Ernest served DLARC as club Secretary and Treasurer in the early 1950s and President in 1961 and 1962. When he died in 1990 at age 73, he had been a ham for 50 years.

Charles R. Thon (W3EOP), age 29, was named as a founding member by Bill Van Horn. During World War II he designed and installed a security radio system for Bethlehem Steel. He was the chief engineer for WGAL TV in Easton, and then a radio engineer for Valley Broadcasting in Lehigh. Charles was a UHF television pioneer, and his obituary claimed that he once held a world record for ham radio contacts. He was an ARRL A-1 Operators Club member. Charles died in 1996 at age 78.

William P. "Bill" Van Horn Jr., (W3LTO, later K3CP), age 25, was a newly licensed ham when he became a founding member of DLARC. Born in Bethlehem, he was an Army radio repair

technician in the Galapagos Islands during World War II. After his service, he worked for Western Electric for more than 35 years. At the time of his death in 2019 in Texas, he was the last living founding member of DLARC.

These seven organizers were soon joined by other hams who strengthened the club and helped guide DLARC through its first decade, which culminated with the great flood of 1955.

By 1963 (the first year for which we have club membership lists), only Eugene Smodish was still a member of DLARC.

COLLEGE CAMPUS, EASTON, PA.
CITY OF RESOURCES

Radio...Ur CW Sigs WDK Hr 3/30/27 at 5:10 PM EST
Wave 80 Meters Audibility R-2 ES 2 A.F.
QRM *nil* QRN *sum* QSB DC QSS *nil*

Receiver *Savant*
Tuner

3NF Xmitter 12 1/2 W
wid 550V
raw AC

Remarks *Sw. gl'd 950 omes hpe to often*

Pse QSL—VY—73's

1st Opr. *Ed. Hart*
2nd Opr.

Edward Hart Jr. 1927 QSL Card (Note address listed as College Campus



Edward Hart Jr. DLARC First President



Lewis Papp QSL Card, (date unknown)

COVID-19 VE SESSION



DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT WEARING A MASK

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST



Charlie / W3OPA and Pete / NL7XM at ARRL Headquarters, 2010

NTS & KINKS

Sealing PL-259 UHF Plugs and SO-239 UHF Connectors

Don Dorward / VA3DDN

The popular and low-cost PL-259 UHF plug and its mating SO-239 UHF connector were never designed to be waterproof. In spite of this, many of us find ourselves having to use these connectors out-of-doors for an antenna or cable connection and then have the experience of trying to apply some form of weatherproofing.

If this is not done, and done well, then intermittent connections soon result, especially with wet freezing and thawing conditions, resulting in moisture and corrosion getting into the connectors and even into the coax itself.

One well-known solution is to use a bondable rubber tape wrapping. That often seems to work using one of the soft, moldable, stretchable tapes that are available for the purpose. In practice, I have found that the hardest area to seal effectively using this method is the area from the rim of the male PL-259 shell to the mating SO-239 socket face. This is especially true when the SO-239 socket is located partially inside the cowl of the antenna mount (such as the Solarcon/Antron vertical or other similar types) and it is impossible to get sealing tape up into this tight location.

To overcome this problem, simply slip as many tight fitting O-ring(s) over the SO-239 barrel (see Figure) as needed to fill the space between the base of the SO-239 and the coupling ring. Lubricate the O-rings with a generous amount of silicone grease, often sold in the automotive part stores as "dielectric tune-up grease."

Important: Check that when the mating PL-259 plug is installed and tightened down, the outer rim of the PL-259 shell butts up against and slightly compresses the "O"-ring(s). The "O"-rings I used were ones I had on hand, about 9/16 inch ID x 0.10 inch thick. I am sure anything that's a snug fit will work. Of course, you will still need to wrap the lower half of the PL-29 shell and the spot where the coax exits the connector with tape to seal that part.



Place the O-ring(s) at the base of the SO-239 barrel and use the PL-259 coupling ring to compress them into a weather-tight seal.

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 February Program will be "TBA"

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.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 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 147.350 (DCS 315) W3OI Repeater.

QCWA Chapter 17 holds a net Monday evenings at 8:30 PM on 3960 +/- depending on conditions. Other inputs are the 146.85 repeater, (151.4 PL) and Echolink at K2PM-R.

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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020– 2021 OFFICERS

President – Jim Matlack / KC3MKP ----- president@dlarc.club
Vice President – Steve Harper / W3NAM ----- vicepresident@dlarc.club
Secretary – Larry Laplan / AB3TY ----- secretary@dlarc.club
Treasurer – Larry Butler / KC3JTK ----- treasurer@dlarc.club

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Gabe Lantos / KZ2A ----- gpl-3639@gmail.com
Dean Guth / AB3BD ----- babydean1@hotmail.com
Stephanie Koles / WX3K ----- wx3k@arrl.net
Steve Nordahl / NS3L ----- ns3l@yahoo.com
John Barbaz / NT3P ----- n3p@arrl.net

Last director to be filled at a later date

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)

Club Station Telephone Number – 484 291-1527 Email Address – w3ok146700@gmail.com

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.

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