

DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

NOVEMBER 2011



W3OK

CORRAL

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011 – 2012

At the October 6th DLARC meeting, the new executive committee for the up coming year were elected.

OFFICERS

President – Charles Lazarchak / W3OPA

Vice President – Dave Blankenship / N3EYT

Secretary – Joe Garvey / KB3VZP

Treasurer – Mike Gower / KB3LOD

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Gary De Mave / N2AUO

Bob Oppen / NE2C

Dave Mellman / KA3IWC

Jon Matson / NJ3I

Jay Mason / N3OW

George Wieland / N3SQD

MEETING PROGRAM

Jon / NJ3I on the LP-PAN Panadapter

MEETING THEME

Pajama Nite



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

I sit here with many things on mind in regards to what I should cover in my first presidents entry to the W3OK corral.

I think this month I should introduce myself because I may appear new to many of you since I worked nights the last 2-1/2 years.

I was first licensed in 1998 as a Technician (KB3DEA) and quickly followed that with my Tech Plus ticket. My plan Initially was to hold all the license classes on my way to Extra (with the 20 words per minute cw requirement). I was licensed with my friend Tom KB3DEB and initially the two of us bought handhelds and better after market antennas. We set to seeing how much better we sounded across Bethlehem when he was on his first floor as opposed to his second and I the same. We were about three or four miles apart. Then we took to seeing how many repeaters we could hit and how far. I was a member of the D.L.A.R.C. for a short time then (he's a member of W3OI but we still exchange Christmas cards...).

After a bit I lost interest and did some other things.

I don't recall when anymore, partly because I feel like I know him forever, I met Bryan AA3WM (I rejoined the D.L.A.R.C. when Bryan became president bringing Brad W3JXQ with me). In the midst of one of our early conversations I found out he was a new Ham and by way of the same conversation he let me know that the license structure was going to be changing and there would no longer be the Advanced class ticket. I had to get a move on if I wanted to reach my original goal. As it was I only had time to study and learn the cw enough to maybe get to Advanced (I had to get General). So I set my sites.

Reaching Advanced gave me a double sense of satisfaction. One, I had at least accomplished the 13 wpm requirement for the General before the change and two, the Advanced was really a piece of Ham history and I had it. At the time I decided to stay at Advanced for those two reasons.

Side bar: I took the written General and the 13 wpm code test the same night. I thought I had gotten off to a bad start because when the code test was done I only had 5 of the 7 answers needed to pass (Code test being given before the written). I sheepishly took my answer sheet up with my copy because you couldn't keep any of it. The proctor looked at my copy for a possible, I don't remember for sure, 25 characters copied in a row correctly which could also get you a passing mark. Sigh, I knew I didn't have that either. The first VE to look at my paper asked if I was sure I did not know the answer to two more questions.

"No." I replied.

He asked me to recheck my copy and on a second look sure enough there was one. A question had been, where is your antenna feed point rope attached. In my copy was attached to a "t" space space "e". Boy, I'm pretty sure that that is probably a tree. So I started playing hangman and got my seventh answer but I do not recall what that one was. It could have been superkalafragilisticexpialadocious for all I remember but I had the 13 wpm out of the way and was riding high.

You never hear a local FM or AM radio station with a KB in it and I wasn't gonna lose the three, but I could get a W. And so I became W3DEA which many people still can't seem to get around now that I am W3OPA. This is also the root of a catcall you may hear from time to time, "What's your call sign this week?" Hi Hi.

This last change, as I enjoy cw, was pointed out to me by Bill Goodman K3ANS (D.L.A.R.C. Lifetime Member) wasn't so wise for cw. I traded a cw "light" call for a "heavy" cw call. Dah-di-dit dit di-dah for dah-dah-dah di-dah-dah-dit di-dah. I'll explain the call change another time.

Within the D.L.A.R.C. I have been secretary, a board member at large, chairperson of WX3MAS, Field Day and the MS Walks (Easton and Allentown). I am also an Amy Zimmerman Award recipient for my Library Special event stations in an effort to try and bring attention to our local libraries and Ham radio (The award is for community service thru Ham radio and I share it with first time recipient, former member Jeff N3QZT, and Lifetime members both, Bob KE3AW and Al W3CE). I have also done a number of presentations for the general meetings, currently the awards chairperson and an ARRL VE which is why I eventually gained my Extra ticket.

As president I hope to still have my sense of humor, but rest assured, I will not lose focus of the of the position I have and the honor to have have it. I follow in the footsteps of many club members simply known by their first names and call-signs – no other description needed. Most recently George N3SQD! If I was half as smart as he, I think my skull would split open. Thank you George for your time as president.

Thank you also to the members leaving the board, the no longer most recent past president Al W3CE (D.L.A.R.C. Lifetime Member, Amy Zimmerman Awardee), Ben KB3CTX, Doreen KB3PDL, and Jeff N3QO.

I'll leave you with this for now, my message this month if you will.

I have met a lot of wonderful people in the midst of all the activities I listed just above. This is really something in a hobby that is inherently singular in its activity. You have "your" rig in "your" shack which is in "your" house. The club has a great way to bring you out into the light. As W3OK, "we" have a rig and its in "our" clubhouse. "We" meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. currently at the Nancy Run Fire Hall in Bethlehem Twp. If you haven't been there lately come out and bring a friend.

"We" have many events, to numerous to mention now, that are always looking for new faces to come along.

"We" are a club. "We" enjoy all modes, all bands. "We" are W3OK. Include yourself! There are all sorts of things. The board is set for now, but maybe YOU could write an article for the newsletter.

I know a quote; "Indifference is the invisible giant of the world." Come on out and help us kill a giant.

.. . . .
(de W3OPA 73 SK dit dit)

NOIVEMBER 2011 QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (W3CE)	3 DLARC MEETING	4 V. E. SESSION	5
6 Eastern Standard Time	7	8	9 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KC3II)	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (N3SQD)	17 NewsLetter Articles Deadline	18	19
20	21	22	23 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KR3U)	24  Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (NB3R)			

VE TEST SESSION

There will be a test session this month on November 4th at 7 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.

NEW MEMBER

The DLARC is continuing to grow, so be sure to greet our new member, shake his hands, and give him a warm welcome to our club. The newest member is **Dennis Balazs / N3XYB**

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.
Dorothy A. Navarre / N3WPN*

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 at nl7xm@arrl.net. The winner 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



OCTOBER BRAINTEASER ANSWER:

Each of the 3 cages hold 2 snakes; the forth cages hold
the other three cages. |



The winner is **Bob / KE3AW**

NOVEMBER BRAINTEASER

You are given eight coins and told that one of them is counterfeit. The counterfeit one is slightly heavier than the other seven. Otherwise, the coins look identical. Using a simple balance scale, can you determine which coin is counterfeit using the scale only twice?

NOVEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Hanover 5K – November 12th
Christmas City Special Event Station – December 10th & 11th



NEWS FROM THE MILKHOUSE

The Milk House was active during the PA QSO Party with the call sign W3OK. Led by John / NT3P, with Doreen / KB3PDL, and Jimmy / KB3WGE, they made 163 contacts during the contest.

In case you have been living under a rock for the past month, the band conditions have been spectacular. The operators at the Milk House have been working some great DX. Ten meters in particular is open to the South Pacific and Asia late into the night.

Highlights from **Ken / N3IYX** - log book (all SSB)

UN8LWF – Kostanay Club Radio Station – Kazakstan

ST2AR – Khartoum, Sudan

F0/F6CTL – Rimatara, Austral Islands (French Polynesia)

T32C- East Kiritimati Island info: www.t32c.com

ZL6RWC – Papakura, New Zealand, Rugby World Cup special even station

DU9RG – Cotabato City, Philippines

VR2XMT – Fanling, New Territories, Hong Kong, info: www.vr2xmt.com

VU2PAI – Mangalor, India

UA0IT – Magadan, Russia info: <http://r0i.qrz.ru/hams/files/ua0it.shtml>

Highlights from **Carolyn / K3JUMY** - log book (all SSB)

ST0R – Southern Sudan, info <http://www.dxfriends.com/SouthernSudan2011/index.php>

UA0SI – Irkutsk, Russia

3D2R – Rotuma Island DXpedition, info: <http://www.yt1ad.info/3d2r>

A45XR – Oman, info: <http://www.qsl.net/a45xr/index.html>

HZ1FI – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

TF3SA – Kopavogur, Iceland

Highlights from **Dave / NB3R** - log book (CW, RTTY, SSB)

KH2L – Yona, Guam

OX3XR – Nuuk, Greenland

D44AC – Midelo, Cape Verde, info: <http://www.qsl.net/d44ac>

BD1BYV – Beijing, China

DS5DNO – Busan, South Korea

TX3T – Marquesas DXpedition (Papete Tahiti), info: <http://www.tx7m.com/>

The Milk House is open every Tuesday and Wednesday evening, and most Saturdays. Stop by and work a few contacts at your club station

de **Dave / NB3R**

EMMAUS HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Emmaus Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 15, was one of the longest in many years, and drew record numbers of spectators. It also was a safe and well-run parade over all. Our many DLARC members helped insure that.

In the parade, driving their vehicles, were amateur radio operators watching for, and reporting incidents of unsafe, unruly, and illegal activities. Our 14 hams driving in the parade were: Bob / KE3AW, Rich / N3UB, David / N3EYT, Dave / KA3IWC, Chris / NU3L, Mark / AK3M, Ed / AA3OU, Jay / N3OW, Doreen / KB3PDL, Glenn / N3ULW, Terry / KB3VFB, Joe / KB3VZP, Charles / N3WXO, and Pete / NL7XM. Our Net Control operator was George / N3SQD. He was stationed with the Parade Marshal. In addition, other hams accompanied drivers. They were Andrew / WV1B, Larry / NR3R, and Jill / N3ZSR.

Rich / N3UB was called up from stand-by status on Saturday to fill in for a member who had to change his weekend plans. Andrew / WV1B was available for similar service, had there been a last minute cancellation of one of the assigned drivers. It pays to have a stand-by list!

A special thanks again goes to Phil / KB3PDM, who provided accommodations at his home for our cross-band repeater for 2 meter-70 cm reliable operation throughout the entire 2 ½ mile parade route.

After the parade most of our hams were able to gather at a local restaurant for a post-parade “Meeting B”. Unfortunately the restaurant was short staffed and service suffered. As said earlier, it pays to have a “Stand-By List”.

The Emmaus Halloween Parade Committee once again made a generous donation to DLARC as a show of their appreciation for our service. To this I, too, add my thanks to all who made this parade successful. Job well done.



Photos by NL7XM



de Bob / KE3AW



WHEELMEN GAP GALLOP 2011

de AI / W3CE Photos by Don / N0VGA



The DLARC once again helped out with communications at the 100+ mile bicycle ride of the Lehigh Valley Wheelmen.

The ride runs from Northampton County Community College to Delaware Water Gap and back with shorter options of 50 and 68 mile rides. We supplied operators at the college for net control and at three rest stops. We also had two SAG vehicles equipped with amateur radio.

The day had on and off rain showers which cut down on bike riders, but those that attended were enthusiastic. We did have four volunteers cancel at the last minute on Sunday morning but were able to fill in the spots with no problems. We did run late this year because of the weather, ending at about 6:30 in the evening. The Lehigh Valley Wheelmen were most appreciative of our help and look forward to us being back next year.



MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time, already! DUES are payable for the calendar year 2011. 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.

2012 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

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 though out this past year. If you would like to nominate someone, please give their name to one of the board members by the January 2012 general meeting.

FCC AND FEMA

How to Communicate Before, During and After a Major Disaster

by: Craig Fugate and Julius Genachowski

September 21st, 2011 **By Craig Fugate, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Julius Genachowski, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.**

Ask anyone who has lived through a significant disaster what that experience was like and – without a doubt – one of the things some people are likely to recall is how difficult it was to communicate from their mobile phones with friends, family and emergency services like 911 in the immediate aftermath.

Many of us were reminded of this last month, when both a 5.8 magnitude earthquake and Hurricane Irene struck parts of the East Coast. People immediately reached for their phones to call loved ones or 911. Unfortunately, in some cases, loss of power made communication difficult.

The FCC and FEMA are doing everything we can to empower the public to be prepared for all emergencies (you can visit Ready.gov or Listo.gov to learn more). But one of the lessons learned from that August earthquake was that we can do more to educate the public about the most effective ways to communicate before, during and after a disaster.

Today, we are pleased to release a set of new, easy-to-follow tips to help all Americans prepare their homes and mobile phones for a disaster. These tips are practical things everyone can do to better preserve the ability to communicate effectively during – and immediately after – a disaster.

While we don't have control over when or where the next disaster will strike, we do have control over what we do to prepare. Check out these tips and please, take one more step and share it with your networks. Use Twitter, Facebook, email or a good old-fashioned phone call to help us spread the word – and help more Americans get ready before the next disaster strikes.

Before a Disaster: How to Prepare Your Home and Mobile Device

Maintain a list of emergency phone numbers in your cell phone and in or near your home phone.

Keep charged batteries and car-phone chargers available for back-up power for your cell phone.

If you have a traditional landline (non-broadband or VOIP) phone, keep at least one non-cordless phone in your home because if it will work even if you lose power. Prepare a family contact sheet. This should include at least one out-of-town contact that may be better able to reach family members in an emergency. Program “In Case of Emergency” (ICE) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone. Let your ICE contacts know that they are programmed into your phone and inform them of any medical issues or other special needs you may have. If you are evacuated and have call-forwarding on your home phone, forward your home phone number to your cell phone number. If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use if needed during or after a disaster. Have a battery-powered radio or television available (with spare batteries). Subscribe to text alert services from local or state governments to receive alerts in the event of a disaster. Parents should sign up for their school district emergency alert system.

During and After a Disaster: How to Reach Friends, Loved Ones & Emergency Services

If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1. Remember that you cannot currently text 9-1-1. If you are not experiencing an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. If your area offers 3-1-1 service or another information system, call that number for non-emergencies. For non-emergency communications, use text messaging, e-mail, or social media instead of making voice calls on your cell phone to avoid tying up voice networks. Data-based services like texts and emails are less likely to experience network congestion. You can also use social media to post your status to let family and friends know you are okay. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, you can use resources such as the American Red Cross's [Safe and Well](#) program. Keep all phone calls brief. If you need to use a phone, try to convey only vital information to emergency personnel and/or family. If you are unsuccessful in completing a call using your cell phone, wait ten seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion. Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using that draw power, unless you need to use the phone. If you lose power, you can charge your cell phone in your car. Just be sure your car is in a well-ventilated place (remove it from the garage) and do not go to your car until any danger has passed. You can also listen to your car radio for important news alerts. Tune into broadcast television and radio for important news alerts. If applicable, be sure that you know how to activate the closed captioning or video description on your television. If you do not have a hands-free device in your car, stop driving or pull over to the side of the road before making a call. Do not text on a cell phone, talk, or “tweet” without a hands free device while driving. Immediately following a disaster, resist using your mobile device to watch streaming videos, download music or videos, or play video games, all of which can add to network congestion. Limiting use of these services can help potentially life-saving emergency calls get through to 9-1-1. Check Ready.gov regularly to find other helpful tips for preparing for disasters and other emergencies.

OCTOBER THEME WINNER

October's meeting brought out a Texas Ranger, a ghoul and a royal maiden. The maiden won and Doreen / KB3PDL was the unanimous winner, as the royal maiden. Don't forget next months theme is bedtime wear.



NOVEMBER CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

November 5th & 6th – Ukrainian DX Contest
November 12th & 13th – OK-OM DX Contest - CW
November 19th & 20th – LZ DX Contest
November 26th & 27th – CQ WW DX Contest - CW



HANOVER TOWNSHIP 5K WALK/RUN

I have been contacted again by Robert Cegin as the race director Hanover Township Community Center. On Saturday, November 12th there's a Coed 5K Walk/Run being held from the Community Center. We are asked to be at the Hanover Township 5K Walk/Run to help with communications support for the event and point the runners in the directions to run. We have helped to coordinate several of their other events, and those of you who have helped before know it's an easy event and a great community to be at. Which makes it perfect for 1st time helpers.

The event is on Saturday morning, November 12th. I was requested to have 12 to 15 operators to support the event for communications. At this time, I currently have 3 confirmed to help and we are just under 2 months away. I will be at the Hanover Township Community Center around 0800 to get things started, and will need operators with 2 meter HTs (and batteries) or mobiles. I will hold a pre-deployment meeting/briefing at the Community Center parking lot between 08:30 and 08:40 and for those coming to help, talk-in will be on the W3OK 146.700 repeater system. It is a rain or shine event and is located at 3660 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, Pa. Stations should be deployed to course locations (certain intersections and turns) between 08:45 and 08:50.

The start of the race is 09:00 with walkers at about 09:02, and expect to go to about 09:45 with the last walker crossing the finish line by 10 at the latest. They are expecting several hundred runners. Frequencies will finalized the morning of the race, but expect to be using 147.535 simplex and the W3OK repeater only as a backup. I will give further updates as I know more. Be sure to bring anything you may need (water, soda, snack foods, etc.) while deployed. If you are able to lend your services, please contact me directly with any of the information below.

I need to know in advance who I have available. If you are able help, please contact me regarding your intentions at your earliest convenience so I enough time to finalize plans and perform any other coordination activities. Thank you in advance for your response and support to the event and community.

Also, if you have an ARES vest, be sure to wear it. If not, other orange or yellow vest will also help to highlight you on the course. Contact me if you can help and thanks in advance.

Charlie / N3WXO (n3wxo@ptd.net)

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

The tables were loaded and interest seemed high as the DLARC Ham Fest II was held. Room was made in the home shacks for more gear and other members were able to pick up the gear they needed for what they hoped to be a complete shack. All in all, a good time was had by all.

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.

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.

BITTEN BY THE BUG

By Craig Miller, / W8CR

Ahhhhh, just put the kid on the bus, and the wife is on her way to the salt mine. Now, I have 45 minutes to see if I can scare up a quick QSO. 40 meters sounds pretty quiet this morning--no ear splitting static crashes. The usual morning CW junkies must have already headed off to work or out mowing the grass. I spin the dial down to 7.023 to see if any speedsters are still on. Some days, I can even keep up with them at 30-35 wpm. It must be later than I thought, though. Those guys are gone too.

Tuning back up to 7.030, I hear a couple of guys wrapping up a chat at about 20 wpm: "FB FRED MUST QRT TO WALK THE DOG 73 ES CUL..." (translation: "Good copy, Fred, but I really gotta go to the bathroom! Best regards and see you later."). I spin the dial up to 7.032, and don't hear any beeps or boops. I guess here is where I'll cast my line. "QRL?" (translation: "Anybody out there working that last rare DX station for your DXCC that I can't hear?"). Nuttin' heard. I'll QRL one more time before "CQ CQ CQ DE W8CR W8CR K". Silence. Again "CQ CQ...". Just the hiss out of the speaker. Well maybe this ain't gonna happen today. One more time...

Bam – I got one! He's got a nice strong signal too. But, wait. What the ...? What is he sending me? "DAAAAHHHHHHH DIT DIT DIT DIT DAAAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAAAHHHHH DIT DITDITDIT DIT DIT DITDITDITDAAAAAAHHHHHHH." NUTS! He's using a bug, a mechanical key dating back to the old railroad days. It's an ingenious mechanism for sending high speed code, but it takes a lot of practice to send clear, copyable code. I can barely make out my call sign let alone his – this isn't gonna be fun. I have two options:

1. Don't reply and pretend I didn't hear him. He's really strong, though, and most likely I am, too. He knows I can hear him. Plus, that's the coward's way out.
2. Answer him and tough it out.

I answer him. We exchange the usual stuff. My RST is 579, his name is Bill, and he lives in Niassa Fihls, errrrr, Niagara Falls, NY. "Niagara Falls, eh?" We've been wanting to visit there before our kid gets too old to even want to be seen with his parents, let alone ride in a car for 6 hours to look at water flowing over rocks. Plus, that's where Nikola Tesla built his hydro power station that illuminated Buffalo over a hundred years ago. I'm hooked now – lotsa questions for him.

As our conversation progresses, his dot-to-dash ratio varies all over the map, but I slowly get used his style of CW. It's like listening to British shows on PBS. At first, they're totally unintelligible, but over time, your brain figures it out. I have to give him credit, he's using something that is a passing skill. I have a bug I bought years ago, but could never master it well enough for me to feel comfortable subjecting others to the noise. Well, that 45 minutes passed fast. Time to get to work. I promised I would look him up whenever we get to Niagara. I guess it wasn't a total nightmare working him and his bug, after all. Kinda like talking to somebody with a thick accent.

After all, he is a New Yorker.

NOTE: Craig Miller, W8CR, began his ham career in 1974 as WN8TLC. He lives in Ostrander, Ohio. He enjoys HF CW ragchewing with a little bit of DXing and contesting tossed in. He is an active officer in the Delaware County (Ohio) ARES and a member of the DELARA (www.k8es.org) radio club.

ARRL ELECTION

If you are an ARRL member, you should have received your ballot for the up coming election for the director of the Atlantic Division.

Directors serve on the corporation's Board of Directors, without compensation, and are responsible for financial and administrative policy decisions in the day to day, and long range operations of the League. They serve a three year term and are voted upon by the members in their geographic division. The Atlantic Division Director represents 13,000 such members

The candidates are **Bill Edgar / N3LLR**, **John Mueller / K3BT** and **Phil Theis / K3TUF**.

In previous balloting for Director, the majority of ballots ended up in the trash; Please look for your ballot in the coming days and exercise your right to choose your representative at the ARRL Board of Directors. It's your choice.

The ballots must be received at the Glastonbury, Ct. office of J.H. Cohn LLP, no later than noon on November 18, 2011.



EASTERN STANDARD TIME BEGINS NOVEMBER 6th

DRACONID METEOR SCATTER OUTBURSTS

Draconids minor meteors shower cycles 6.5 every year while the Earth passes close to the edges of multiple filaments leftover from parent comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner during the 20th century.

Draconids are different compared to normal meteor showers due to the fact that it's highest elevation is lower over the horizon in the sky during the early evening hours vice late evening to early morning hours with atmospheric velocity speed being slower to about 20 km/s.

Meteor forecasters predicted that an opportunity may exist on October 8, 2011 between 16-21 coordinated universal time (UTC), 12-5 pm EDT, that it will produce several hundred meteors per hour. During this five hour window of opportunity, the radiant will be visible over three continents; Europe, Asia, and Africa with a slight possibility it will cast over northeastern Brazil of South America.

In North America, there is virtually no chance of visually sighting the shower due to a nearly full waxing gibbous moon, causing a washout effect on faint slow velocity meteors making it difficult catching yellow colored trails streaking across the horizon. Other factors that will impair visibility are local weather conditions such as overcast clouds, rain, snow, fog, etc.

I figured since I can not see them visually, then I have to use another technique. Meteor forward scatter propagation comes to mind. Even though there is a scant chance detecting them via amateur radio while they whiz westerly across the North Atlantic Ocean.

Amateurs along the eastern U.S./Canada coastline would have a greater chance of radio detection then I would being here in western central Florida, near the Gulf of Mexico due to them being closer to Europe.

To find out if it is feasible to intercept the meteor shower from multiple Havana, Cuba television stations at 526 km distance. Cuba continues to broadcast over-the-air analog and has not transitioned to digital the ATSC standard that has already taken place here in the United States and Canada which occurred on June 12, with an extension of a Nightlight Program ending on July 12, 2009.

Since there are multiple channel two TV networks in Havana my chances are 50/50 hearing a stray Draconid meteor via Television Meteor Scatter on analog channel two video carrier (55.25 MHz), audio carrier (59.75 MHz) which is just above the amateur radio 6-meter amateur band (50 MHz).

The first indication that something was amiss was an elevated signal to noise level appearing on the video carrier frequency, perhaps due to sporadic-e being induced with increasing amounts of meteor ionized trails at 1732 UTC.

At 1900, 2-meters (144 MHz) meteor scatter communications was occurring over central Europe between the United Kingdom to western Russia. Germany and Poland operators having a field-day with over 82 Zenithal Hourly Rate (ZHR) being observed. This is the number of meteors an observer would see under a very dark sky with the radiant of the shower in zenith.

At 2010, the ZHR had peaked to 298, resulting in stations from Sweden to Israel joining in on the fun. If you are wondering if I was successful with this approach from the southeast U.S., the answer is yes. Meteor forward scatter signals were observed at the following times - 1847, 1857, 1909 and 2000 UTC. with a bright white video raster scan flash being observed on the TV screen and/or audio ticks, whistles, pings lasting anywhere between a quarter to one second in duration.

You don't need professional grade equipment to achieve results. In my case it was done with minimum amount of hardware, a pre-1995 13" color television set that does not have video mute circuits (blue screen when no signal is present) with 25 feet of RG-6 low-loss satellite coax cable coupled to a non-amplified low-VHF "cut-to-band" yagi outdoor television antenna that is mounted 10 feet off the ground.

If you want to achieve more efficiency with increasing your meteor detection rates, obtain a low noise, medium to high gain (10-20 db) antenna preamplifier placed near the antenna feed-point.

Meteor scatter signals can be heard roughly from 300 to 1,000 km distance.

Hopefully this report will provide some enlightenment to radio amateurs to experiment using alternative techniques, even if the probability level is low or non-existent. If you do not attempt to make an effort, you might miss out on the next discovery.

For additional general and technical information on the subject matter, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/offices/meo/outreach/forward_scatter_detail.html

73's

Mike Schaffer / KA3JAW
Tampa, Florida
EL87

DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR MARATHON / HALF MARATHON

There is a need for radio operators for the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Marathon / Half Marathon, on October 23rd. The event starts in Northampton, proceeds through Slatington, up to Bowmanstown and returns to the Lehigh County boat launch at Lehigh Gap to finish. The race begins at 9AM and ends at 3PM. If anybody is interested in participating, please contact Brian Klock via email at kw3k@arrl.net. When responding please include your name, call sign, and home city, as we will do our best to minimize travel for operators.

WANTED: OLD CALLBOOKS

Pete / NL7XM is paying cash for OLD Callbooks. Contact him directly at: NL7XM@arrl.net

F.Y.I.

The winner of the October Prize was **Bill / KA3RBH**
The December Program will be Annual Christmas Get-together.

The D.L.A.R.C. meets the "FIRST" Thursday of each month. Membership, friends and interested persons meet at the Nancy Run Fire Company Social Hall (3564 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa. 18020) at 7:30 PM. Committee reports and announcements of all present and future activities will be presented at that time. Followed by that month's program.

The EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA District 2 ARES Net meets every Wednesday at 1930 hours local time. (Just after the DLARC Net) On 147.255 (pl 162.2). And linked to 449.375 on Blue Mountain, 443.350 in Allentown and 147.180 in Berks County.

D-Star Mid-Atlantic Regional net meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month on the 147.165 port with a number of other repeaters in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York City area .

The OK Corral is an organization publication for the purpose of informing members of the D.L.A.R.C. of educational and training opportunities, club events, relevant news articles and a monthly calendar of daily activities, meetings and dates. Every member of the D.L.A.R.C. Is welcome to contribute articles of interest to this newsletter. Opinions, items of interest, and even suggestions towards the improvement of newsletter and/or the DLARC, itself would also be accepted, as a sort of "Letters to the Editor" section.

The Milkhouse telephone number is 484-895-7038.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011 – 2012
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**PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DLARC
CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE / MEMBERSHIP LISTING
CLUB MEETINGS**

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. Are held on the first Thursday of each month at
7:30 PM at the Nancy Run Fire Company
TALK IN ON 146.700 (PL 151.4)

THE W3OK TRUSTEE --- Jon Matson / NJ3I

**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.

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