

**DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.**

**APRIL 2012**



# ***W3OK***

# ***CORRAL***

**Club Meeting April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM**  
**At the Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School**



**March Program – Mini Ham Fest**

## **MEETING PROGRAM**

**“Lightning, and what you should know”**

**Ray / W3TDF**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

I really struggled this month for something to write. My focus has been on my family as we go thru a trying time in regards to my mother's health.

I asked Don for an extension of one day thinking I might have something to write about after helping with the Cub Scouts in building their crystal radios.

And there it was - something I needed in more ways than one; HOPE.

In this case, hope for our future.

These kids did have their iPods and some did wonder when they could leave but a lot of them really put the effort into the radio kits.

I sat at a table with three boys and helped where I could. The one I talked with the most wants to be an electrical engineer when he grows up. He's ten. He recently received a Radio Shack electronics kit. He asked me about how the coil would work in regards to the crystal radio and how it would be powered. He seemed to sponge up everything I had to say about it.

I told him about some of the QRP radios I have built and he really liked the sound of that, especially the Rock Mite.

This was really a great time that all of the members of the DLARC had a chance to help with but the vast majority missed out on. I am glad I was there to see these young minds get exposed to radio on its simplest level. A level that certainly is not impossible but simply wonderful.

It took me back a number of years to when I experimented with the rudimentary theory behind spark gap radio. I think that's the term. Some D cells, wire, a file and a receiver on an open frequency.

So although the hobby may never see the numbers it has had in the past I came away today feeling positive that the hobby will continue on. When we are confronted with the huge changes life can toss at us, quite often the best feeling comes from knowing some things are constant regardless of other turbulences.

The mightiest of KUDOS to Al W3CE (Honorary Life Member) for taking this on. Look for more from him later on this event.

April brings fools day. I hope we all continue to think about safety as we move into the warmer weather and start looking at our towers and wires in trees, etc. Please do not take any "foolish" chances while being by yourself checking on the condition of your stuff after this "arduous" winter.

A little more than two months to Field Day. Start thinking about how you could help Tom KB3IUE in regards to this event.

The April meeting has our very own Honorary Lifetime Member Ray W3TDF doing a presentation on lightening. I know someone wants to ask him about how Noah dealt with grounding the Ark... I am sure this will be a wonderful, informative, evening from one of the true characters of the DLARC. Come out and glean some of the wealth of information Ray brings to any topic.

One more thing, e-mail me at [president@dlarc.org](mailto:president@dlarc.org) with how many times the capital letter D appeared in my write up

here and you will get a free raffle ticket at the April general meeting.

### APRIL 2011 QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 	2	3 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	4 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (NB3R)	5 DLARC MEETING	6 NO V. E. SESSION	7
8	9	10 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	11 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KB3CTX)	12	13	14 2012 DLARC SPRINT
15  EASTER	16	17 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	18 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (W3CE)	19	20	21
22	23	24 D-Star Mid – Atlantic 7:30 PM	25 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KC3II)	26	27	28 Hanoverville 5K
29 1/2 Marathon	30					

### APRIL VE TEST SESSION

There will not be a test session this month. The next session will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 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@arri.net](mailto:w3ce@arri.net).



## MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING

A general meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. was held at the Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School at 3300 Chester Avenue, Bethlehem, PA, on March 1, 2012.

**Call to Order:** The meeting convened at 1930 hrs. with George Wieland / N3SQD, Ex-President, presiding. President Charlie / W3OPA and Vice-President David / N3EYT were absent.

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

**Members in Attendance:** 47 and 2 guests.

**Recognition of Old Faces:** George / N3SQD welcomed some old faces that recently have been missed: Joe / KB3BTJ, Howard / WO3P and daughter, Carissa, Bob / WB3DTG?, Rowland / KB3YAI, Joe / K3NM, Wayne / K3EA, Luis / N3MUP, and a few others.

**Activities of Members:** George / N3SQD opened the meeting by asking the membership what they had been doing recently? George / N3SQD took a moment to remind the membership that the 10 meter band continues to be open and active, and George encouraged members, especially those of Technical class, to do some DXing on this band, a band that had been closed until recently. Barry / KU3X inquired whether George or any other hams had spent any radio time on 6 meters. The 6 meter band is another band where phone privileges are available to Tech's, and can be used, if conditions are right, to do some DXing. Comments from the floor indicated that the 6 meter band is open. Pete / NL7XM then reported to the membership that a new TV show has made an appearance (8 PM Tuesday nights), starring Tim Allen, called "Last Man Standing" in which Mr. Allen's character, Mike Baxter, is a harried businessman, husband and father. But, more importantly, he is a ham, call sign KA0XTT (fake). The fact that Mike Baxter is a ham will figure prominently as the character is developed, says the show's producer. Pete has been in communication with producer, John Amodeo, who is a real ham with the call sign NN6JA. Pete showed Club members the QSL card that he received from KA0XTT. Pete says, if you want a QSL for yourself, hurry, the supply is limited. BTW, Mike Baxter's shack contains an ICOM IC-9100 and an IC-92AD. Check out an article on the ARRL website that discusses the show. AI / W3CE reported that, in preparation for a radio session with the Cub Scouts during which the scouts will be instructed as to how to build a crystal radio set, he successfully made a crystal set at the Milk House a few nights previous. When connected to a Milk House antenna, the crystal set performed wonderfully to the delight and amazement of those present. BTW, AI / W3CE could use volunteers to help for the session with the scouts. Contact him if interested.

### REPORTS

**Approval of the Minutes:** George / N3SQD asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Jay / N3OW so moved; 2nd by Doreen / KB3PDL. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike / KB3LOD gave the January Treasurer's Report which was approved on a motion by Barry / KU3X and 2nd by Don / KC3II. **Motion carried.**

**Milk House:** Dave/NB3R reported that a few thousand QSO's have been recently logged at the Milk House by Ken / N3IYX, Jon / NJ3I, and Dave / NB3R. Dave encourages members to visit the Milk House on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday nights, and most Saturday afternoons. The Kenwood 590 is a sweet HF radio that is available for the members' use. Dave noted the contribution of Barry / KU3X who made some furniture for the Milk House. The Milk House phone number is 484-895-7038.

**Repeater:** Don / KC3II mentioned a problem that he had experienced when using the repeater. The signal on reception is breaking up so that there are gaps in the reception. Don will continue to monitor the situation to determine whether it's his environment or the repeater that is the problem.

**Web Page:** Nothing reported. At the previous meeting, George / N3SQD requested that members with any change information regarding their personal data be sent to him for processing.

**Technical Classes:** Bob / KE3AW reminded the membership that classes for those seeking their Technical or General license will start 7:00 pm, March 6th, at the 911 Center. The classes will run for 9 weeks.

**VE Session:** George / N3SQD informed the membership that a VE session was scheduled for the next night, March 2nd, at 7:00pm at the 911 Center. Participants are encouraged to arrive early to fill out the necessary paperwork.

**Membership:** George / N3SQD reported that a head count after the recent collection of dues is 150 members. He estimated that the "check is in the mail" for at an addition 10 members, and he informed the membership that a committee of three has been assigned the task of calling members and asking them to pay their dues and maintain their membership. Membership, when all is done, will total somewhere in excess of 160 members.

### NEW BUSINESS

**MS Walk:** Howard / WO3P informed the membership that he is again looking for volunteers to work the MS Walk on May 6th. The event will take place at Coca Cola Park starting at 9:00 AM and ending by 12:00 PM. A sign-up sheet was circulated among the membership during the meeting, but anyone interested in working this event should contact Howard.

**Hanover 5K:** George / N3SQD informed the membership that Charlie / N3WXO is again seeking volunteers for the Hanover 5K on April 28th. The event starts at 9:00 AM and is done by 12:00 PM. This is an easy and fun event. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Charlie, n3wxo@ptd.net.

**1/2 Marathon:** Mark / AK3M is seeking volunteers for a marathon to be held on April 29th. Contact Mark at ak3m@rcn.com for details.

**SkyWarn Certification:** Brian Klock / KW3K announced that anyone interested in spotting for the Skywarn Program of the National Weather Service must be certified. Anyone with a past certification needs to be re-certified. Training sessions for certification/re-certification will be conducted April 14th at 10 AM and 1PM at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Muhlenberg, 2545 Schoenersville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Contact Brian / KW3K at kw3k@arrl.net if you have any questions. You can also refer to a website, [www.delcoskywarn.net](http://www.delcoskywarn.net), for more information.

**Cub Scouts:** Al / W3CE announced the radio session with the local Cub Scout troop will take place at a church in Easton on March 17, 2012. Al and volunteers plan to teach the Cub Scouts how to build crystal radio sets. More volunteers are needed. Please contact Al / W3CE for details.

**Program Chairman:** George / N3SQD reminded the members that the Club is still without a Program Chairman. George pointed out the fact that the initial burden is light since all the program slots for 2012 are filled, and the person volunteering will have plenty of time to solicit volunteers for 2013. Truth be told, with the number of repeating programs like the mini-fest, a program on health -- which any medical practitioner interested in promoting his practice would be happy to fill -- and the Christmas party, the burden is not that difficult. Anyone interested in signing on should contact Charlie / W3OPA.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

**Adjournment:** With no other business to conduct a motion was made by Doreen / KB3PDL to adjourn. Motion was 2nd by Jay / N3OW. **Motion carried.**

**Scavenger Hunt:** No scavenger hunt this meeting.

**Raffle Drawing:** Raffle was won by Vic / N2OFF. The 1st door prize was won by Carolyn / K3UMY. The 2nd door prize was won by Steve / KB3WJY. The final door prize was won by Don / KC3II.

**Program:** "DLARC Mini-Hamfest"

Respectfully submitted by Joe Garvey / AB3OS, Secretary.

### **THE 2012 DLARC (2-METER) SPRINT**

This years event will be held on Saturday, April 14, from 10:00AM until 11:00AM EDST.

All activity will be 2-Meter FM SIMPLEX in the 146MHz portion of the band. Each individual simplex frequency will have a letter assigned as if it were a different band as hereby shown, 146.43=A, 146.46=B, 146.49=C, 146.52=D, 146.55=E and 146.58=F.

It is important that the letter designation must be entered in your log for each contact.

You are encouraged to make QSO's with each station on as many different frequencies as you can, (see scoring). Times should be entered for each contact.

The EXCHANGE will be a personally chosen 3 letter group. Suggested is the 3 letter abbreviations for the PA Counties as used in the PA QSO Parties. Or, you can use your personal initials. Choose one of the county abbrevs as shown here,

ARM, ADA, BUX, BRA, CMB, CAR, DAU, DCO, ERI, FAY, FRA, GRE, HUN, INN, JUN, LAW, LUZ, MGY, MER, NUM, NHA, PHI, POT, SCH, SUS, TIO, UNI, VEN, WAR, WAY, YOR.

SCORING will be ONE point for each contact, (all freqs totaled). A multiplier will be determined as follows; ONE mult will be awarded for each station that is contacted on a minimum of 4 different Freqs.

These requirements will make it truly a sprint atmosphere. Chit-chatting will be less productive, so be forewarned. If you want to make a real splash then be sure to have all the Freqs programmed into your radios.

LOG REQUIREMENTS are; Each page must show in the header your CALL and your chosen 3-LETTER exchange sent. The individual log entry must include; TIME, FREQ LETTER, CALL and PERSONAL 3-LETTER INFO RECEIVED.

Final score may be your arithmetic, but will be checked by the committee.

Logs may be mailed to Pete,NL7XM, or to me, or may be turned in at the May meeting. The winner awards will be made at the June meeting. A list of the scores will be available.

[If you work 25 people on all 6 Freqs, (that's 150 QSO's) which would give you a multiplier of 25, your score (max.) would be 3750 points. Surely possible, but? 150 Q's in one hour?]

**Questions? e-mail to [w3tdf@ptd.net](mailto:w3tdf@ptd.net)**

#### **WEBSITE OF THE MONTH**

The proper way to weatherproof coax connectors:

<http://www.dxengineering.com/pdf/WeatherProofingCoax-TechTip.pdf>

## *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.*

*Robert (Bob) Hancik / WA3MZO*

### 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



### MARCH BRAINTEASER ANSWER

1st - Jimmy, red car, 2nd - Kevin, blue car, 3rd - Larry, yellow car.  
4th - Mike, green car, 5th - Nader, orange car



The winner was Bob / KE3AW

### APRIL BRAINTEASER

In the movie Independence Day, military officers used which mode of ham radio?

a. SSB b. AM c. CW d. RTTY

### HANOVERVILLE 5K

I have been contacted by Sharon Friedman as the race director for Strides for Shelter. This is a 5K Walk/Run she hosts in memory of her brother which has all of the profits given to the Transplant House at Penn. We, as radio operators, are asked to be at the Hanover Township 5K Walk/Run to help with communications support for the event and to point the runners on their directions to run. We have assisted the Community Center for several with their 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, April 28th and will need operators to support the event for communications. 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 0850.

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. Sharon is expecting about 200 runners this year. 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.

Charles A. Zimmerman / N3WXO ([n3wxo@ptd.net](mailto:n3wxo@ptd.net))

### 1/2 MARATHON

I was finally contacted by Dr. Mike of the Lehigh Valley Road Runner's Assoc. They are again asking for our communications support for their 1/2 Marathon. The event will be held on **April 29, 2012**. If you can help with this event, please contact me at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com). We will need many operators so even if you have never operated in an ARES event, please consider helping with this one. So that I can start making the list of operators and the station list, please do not hesitate to volunteer as soon as you can.

TNX for your help!

Mark / AK3M [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)

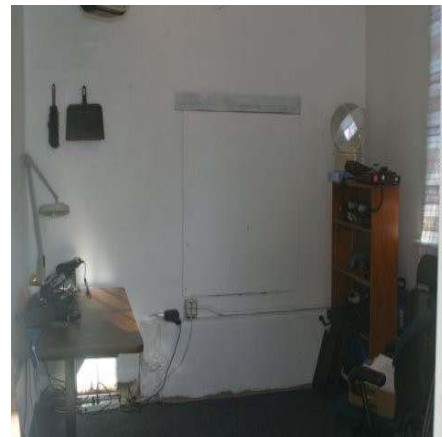


### APRIL CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

April 7 & 8 – SP DX Contest  
April 14 & 15 - JI DX CW Contest  
April 21 & 22 – YU DX Contest  
April 28 & 29 – SP DX RTTY Contest



## NEWS FROM THE MILK HOUSE



If you have not been to the Milk House in the past few months you will notice a lot of changes. Two repeater cabinets were removed opening a lot of space. The door to the old generator room was removed and nearly doubled the space of the club station. The generator room required a lot of work to make it usable. The air intake and exhaust ducting for the generator had to be removed and the openings blocked. The generator was mounted to a concrete slab and it had to be removed. The room was painted and NL7XM provided some nice carpet.

The club station has four antennas available.

1. Fan Dipole for 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m at 70 feet.
2. OCF for 80m, 40m, 20m, 17m, 12m, 10m, 6m, 2m at 40 feet.
3. Fan Dipole for 30m, 17m, 12m at 40 feet
4. Vertical for 20m, 17m, 15m, 10m at 20 feet.
5. Beverage receiving antenna, 400ft long.

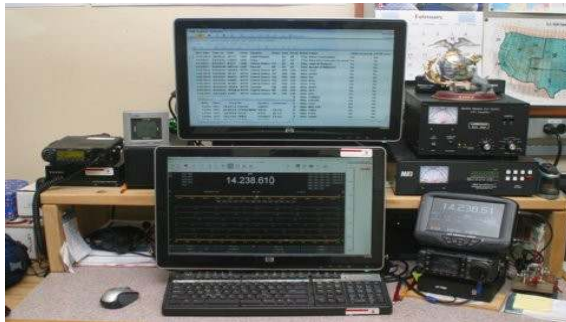
All antennas are connected to a ground bus with Poly Phasers and line isolators. All operating stations have access to any antenna with a patch panel. N3IYX and NB3R have loaned their band pass filters to allow up to four stations to operate at the same time.



The club station is well equipped with many new radios and accessories. The club's new Kenwood TS-590 is set up to run any mode on any band. Ken, N3IYX has lent the club his Ameritron AL-811H amplifier and LDG AT-1000Pro tuner. Barry, KU3X, provided two shelves to raise the operating positions of the radio and amplifier. N3IYX is operating his Icom IC-7000, Ameritron ALS-600 amplifier and MFJ-998 auto tuner at the Milk House. Ken's rig is capable of operating all bands and all modes. The photo below shows KB3WGE's Yaesu FT-857, N3IYX's Yaesu FT-1000D, and the W3CE's donated TM-700 that is set up as an APRS digipeater.



The club's Icom IC-706MKIIG is set up to run all modes all bands with computer rig control.



Dave also operates his Kenwood TS-480 remotely using the Remote Rig interfaces. The TS-480 is also integrated with the Tokyo Hy-Power amplifier and MFJ tuner and the can be controlled remotely as well. Dave, NB3R, operates his FlexRadio 5000a, Tokyo Hy-Power HL-1.5KFX amplifier, MFJ-998 auto tuner from the Milk House.

Ken and Dave welcome you to use their equipment with their supervision. Remember the Milk House is open every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Stop by and see your club station.

de NB3R

## 2012 MS WALK

The MS walk will be held Sunday May 8 2012 at Coca-cola park, Directions are: Take U.S. 22 W to Exit for Airport Road South. Merge Right off exit ramp onto Airport Road South. Make a Right on American Parkway (at light, with intersection). Make a Left into Coca-Cola Park complex.

**Registration starts at 9 A.M.**

**Walk starts at 10 A.M.  
(Rain or Shine)**

Our members should show up at 8:30 am to get into place,  
Thank you, Howard / WO3P

## F2 IONOSPHERIC PROPAGATION ON YOUR OBSOLETE ANALOG TV SET

In the July 2011 issue of OK Corral publication I introduced you to television DXing via sporadic-E (Es), an E layer propagation mode that peaks during the summer months of June and July. Keep in mind that Es can occur anytime during the day of any given season, and has been known to happen several hours after sunset.

When you use your high frequency amateur radio(s) to communicate with distant DX stations during the daylight hours you are reflecting, or refracting your signal off the E layer of the ionosphere that is roughly 56 – 75 miles above the surface of the Earth.

The middle, E layer is not the only layer that can reflect HF or VHF signals over the radio horizon. Less frequently, the highest F2 layer, also known as the Appleton layer which is roughly 200 miles above the surface of the Earth can propagate signals thousands of miles beyond their intended area of reception. This layer is the densest part of the ionosphere, meaning signals penetrating through it will then escape into space.

An F2 event is common during peak solar activity, approximately every 11 years. This is when the Earth receives sufficiently higher amounts of ultraviolet radiation from the Sun causing ionization of the gases with the layer. Like Es, it can occur at any time unexpectedly even during minimum solar activity.

The first indications will be noted on the upper HF bands, 27 MHz (CB) then the 28 MHz (10 meter), then rising towards the 50 MHz (6 meter), then hopefully up to 60 MHz, which is slightly above the analog NTSC TV channel (2) audio carrier at 59.750 MHz. F2 reception has a sharp cut-off once it reaches up to 60 MHz as it has not been seen by this observer on channel 3 or above.

Generally, the F2 maximum usable frequency (MUF) increases at a slower rate and occurs less often compared to Es MUF.

If you find yourself up on the amateur 50-54 MHz (6 meter band) making contact with another ham operator at a minimum air distance of 2,000 away up to a maximum distance of 3,000 miles than you just made an F2 single-hop mode contact. If it turns out to be further than 3,000 up to to say 11,000 miles distance, then it was a multi-hop F2 mode event.

This is when you take quick action for TV-DX. As soon as your finish with the contact on 6 meters disconnect your antenna coax transmission line from your amateur radio and connect to to your obsolete analog television set to channel (2) and hopefully you will detect ghostly images with muffled sounding audio of far off broadcasters in a continent other than yours.

Some of you might be thinking: Wait, didn't the U.S. transition to Digital TV on February 4, 2009? That answer is yes, but your not going to be concerned yourself with Digital TV.

Now that all full-powered channel (2) analog TV broadcaster have been off the air, you now have an increased opportunity to catch a DX TV signal originated in Central or South America because there are no longer any interference issues from domestic TV broadcasters.

To give you an idea of how far a signal could be captured if you were at the W3OK Milkhouse (club radio shack), it would be possible to receive signals from Managua, Nicaragua, Central America all the way down to Guayaquil, Ecuador, or the northern Amazonas in Brazil of South America.

A simple exterior 6 meter dipole can be used to detect F2, but you will have a much better success rate if you opt for a 6M 5 element horizontal yagi antenna with a rotator. Height of the antenna is not too much of an issue here relating to F2. It does not have to be on a 100 foot heavy duty crack up tower, a height of only 25 feet off the ground will be sufficient.

If your curious as to what a F2 propagated TV (2) signal looks like along with other types of propagation modes, visit to my main YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GACTV DX>

73's

Mike Schaffer / KA3JAW (Tampa, Florida)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please check the web page roster listing. It is important that your telephone number and email address are correct. This is the only way we can contact members. If you do not receive the newsletter in your email and are registered for the phone tree and do receive the notices by phone, your email address is incorrect on the roster, and the same for your telephone number.

## MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

March brought another opportunity to clear out your closets of some of that equipment, that you are no longer using. You know what I mean, the dust collecting items that your wife wonders about, that is only taking up space. The tables were full and members were showing a lot of interest. It appeared from the smiling faces that everybody was happy, sellers and buyers both. Remember this is a good way to help your fellow hams build up their own shacks and give yourself the money to purchase that new item that you just have to have.



## THE EXTRA CLASS QUESTION OF THE DAY

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

As many of you already know, I have written study guides for the Tech and General Class license exams ([www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual](http://www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual)). Until now, however, I've shied away from writing an Extra Class study guide. The two main reasons for this is that the material is much more complicated and there's a lot more of it.

This year, however, the NCVEC is updating the Extra Class question pool, and I've decided to bite the bullet and do it. So, I'm now in the process of writing a No-Nonsense Extra Class Study Guide.

After I got started on this, I had a D'oh! moment. It occurred to me that instead of just publishing this material in the study guide, I could also post some of it to my blog ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)). So, now I have the "Extra Class question of the Day" feature on KB6NU.Com.

In reality, it's usually more than just a single question because many of the questions are on the same topic. That's OK, though, because in reality, I don't post these every day. So, it all works out. Having said all that, here's an example. The correct answer to the question is in bold.

### Extra Class question of the day: meteor scatter

Amateur radio operators use many different ways to get signals from one spot to another. Perhaps one of the most interesting is meteor scatter propagation.

Meteor scatter propagation is possible because when a meteor strikes the Earth's atmosphere, a cylindrical region of free electrons is formed at **the E layer of the ionosphere. (E3A08) 28 - 148 MHz** is the frequency range that is well suited for meteor-scatter communications. (E3A09)

Unfortunately, these ionization trails are relatively short-lived, so to communicate via meteor scatter, you need to either be able to detect when these paths are available or be transmitting when the paths are available. **All of these choices are correct** when talking about good techniques for making meteor-scatter contacts (E3A10):

- 15 second timed transmission sequences with stations alternating based on location
- Use of high speed CW or digital modes
- Short transmission with rapidly repeated call signs and signal reports

For more information on meteor scatter, go to:

- G3WZT's Meteor Scatter page ([www.qsl.net/g3wzt/g3wzt\\_ms.html](http://www.qsl.net/g3wzt/g3wzt_ms.html))
- RSGB's Meteor Scatter page ([www.rsgb.org/psc/meteor-scatter.php](http://www.rsgb.org/psc/meteor-scatter.php))

For more Extra Class questions of the day, go to [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).



### MY FAVORITE ANIMAL

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again. The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was.

I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again. I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked us to tell her what famous person we admire most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now...

### ARTICLES WANTED

Many DLARC members have discovered various insights to our hobby. Insights which would be of help and interest to other club members. A small article on these discoveries in the newsletter will inform other club members, and assist them to the benefits of your expertise.

An article on your favorite part of ham radio and how you go about enjoying it, for example, QRP CW operations, as chasing DX or building items for your shack. This is another way to share your interests with other club members and maybe to find another member with your interests.

This article need not be long nor high tech, but just a way to spread such information to other club members and possibly find someone else to share your enthusiasm. It could open a window for a new ham or even re-open an old window for the long-time ham. It would be a good way to share the wealth of knowledge within our club.

de **Don / KC3II**, Editor

### 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](mailto: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.

### **PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON NEEDED**

A program chairperson is needed. The duties are easy for this year since the schedule is already filled. The only necessary requirements are to check with the scheduled presenter prior to their appearance as a reminder and to fill in any missing openings. Pete / NL7XM can give you more details if necessary.

### **HOW OUR GOVERNMENT WORKS**

Three contractors are bidding to fix a broken fence at the White House.

One is from Chicago, another is from Tennessee, and the third is from Montana . All three go with a White House official to examine the fence.

The Montana contractor takes out a tape measure and does some measuring, then works some figures with a pencil. "Well," he says, "I figure the job will run about \$900. That's \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew and \$100 profit for me."

The Tennessee contractor also does some measuring and figuring, then says, "I can do this job for \$700. That's \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew and \$100 profit for me."

The Chicago contractor doesn't measure or figure, but leans over to the White House official and whispers, "\$2,700." The official, incredulous, says, "You didn't even measure like the other guys. How did you come up with such a high figure?" The Chicago contractor whispers back, "\$1000 for me, \$1000 for you, and we hire the guy from Tennessee to fix the fence." "Done!" replies the government official.

And that, my friends, is how the Government Stimulus plan works.

### **HOW TO REGISTER ON THE DLARC WEB PAGE**

**Only club members can register to the site.**

Only club members can post to the site or gain access to the club rosters which includes addresses, phone#s, e-mail etc. I believe there will be more added later that members only have access. Scroll down on the front page. You will see on the left a place to log in. Under the log in spaces you will see:

- forgot your password?
- Forgot your user name?
- Create an account.

Click on "create an account"

Now you will see the registration form. All fields must be filled in.

We are a private forum/web page on the site so feel free to use your real name in the first space.

**!!!The user name MUST BE YOUR CALL SIGN!!!!**

Next a working e-mail address for your confirmation e-mail

Next pick a password

Next space re-type your password

Click the register button to the lower left.

You will then be brought back to the DLARC home page - at the top of the page will be this message:

"Your account has been created and an activation link has been sent to the e-mail address you entered. Note that you must activate the account by clicking on the activation link when you get the e-mail before you can log in."

Wait for the e-mail and follow the directions from there. The web master will check your call sign against the up to date / dues paid roster for 2009. If you are not on it you will be rejected. If you do not use your call sign you will be rejected.

The DLARC web page forum has a for sale section, a rag chew section etc.

Hope to see you on the site.

Any other questions - post them on the e-mail forum or contact the web master.

### **NOTICE**

Beginning with the January 5th monthly meeting, the D.L.A.R.C. Has been meeting at the Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School. Located at 3300 Chester Ave, Bethlehem, Pa. 8020. This location is only a few blocks NW of the Nancy Run Fire Company, which will be under going renovations. There is plenty of level parking, offering a welcome improvement to our Members, friends, and guests with accessibility issues. Here is a short cut to the Google Map for directions. <http://tinyurl.com/7ezjz3h>,

### **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.**

### **WANTED: OLD CALLBOOKS**

Pete / NL7XM is paying cash for OLD Callbooks. Contact him directly at: [NL7XM@arrl.net](mailto:NL7XM@arrl.net)

## THE 2011 DARWIN AWARDS

It's with great pleasure that I announce..... it's that time again.....The Darwin Awards are out! These Annual Honors are given to the persons who did the human gene pool the biggest service by killing themselves in the most extraordinarily stupid way. You may recall that last year's winner was the fellow who was killed by a Coke machine which toppled over on top of him as he was attempting to tip a free soda out.

This year's winner was a genuine Rocket Scientist...no jive! Read on...and remember that each and every one of these is a true story. The nominees were

### **Semifinalist #1**

A young Canadian man, searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply because he had no money with which to buy alcohol, mixed gasoline with milk. Not surprisingly, this concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the fireplace in his house. The resulting explosion and fire burned his house down, killing both he and his sister.

### **Semifinalist #2**

Three Brazilian men were flying in a light aircraft at low altitude when another plane approached. It appears that they decided to moon the occupants of the other plane, but lost control of their own aircraft and crashed. They were all found dead in the wreckage with their pants around their ankles.

### **Semifinalist #3**

A 22-year-old Reston, VA man was found dead after he tried to use octopus straps to bungee jump off a 70-foot rail road trestle. Fairfax County police said Eric Barcia, a fast-food worker, taped a bunch of these straps together, wrapped an end around one foot, anchored the other end to the trestle at Lake Accotink Park, jumped and hit the pavement. Warren Carmichael, a police spokesman, said investigators think Barcia was alone because his car was found nearby. "The length of the cord that he had assembled was greater than the distance between the trestle and the concrete," Carmichael said. Police say the apparent cause of death was "Major trauma."

### **Semifinalist #4**

A man in Alabama died from numerous rattlesnake bites. It seems that he and a friend were playing a game of catch, using the rattlesnake as a ball. The friend - no doubt a future Darwin Awards candidate - was hospitalized, but lived.

### **Semifinalist #5**

Employees in a medium-sized warehouse in west Texas noticed the smell of a gas leak. Sensibly, management evacuated the building, extinguishing all potential sources of ignition; lights, power, etc. After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the gas company were dispatched. Upon entering the building, they found they had difficulty navigating in the dark. To their frustration, none of the lights worked. Witnesses later described the sight of one of the technicians reaching into his pocket and retrieving an object that resembled a cigarette lighter. Upon operation of the lighter-like object, the gas in the warehouse exploded, sending pieces of it up to three miles away. Nothing was found of the technicians, but the lighter was virtually untouched by the explosion. The technician suspected of causing the blast had never been thought of as "especially bright" by his peers.

And now the winner of this year's Darwin Award; as always, awarded posthumously;

### **THE 2011 WINNER!**

Arizona Highway Patrol came upon a pile of smoldering metal embedded in the side of a cliff rising above the road at the apex of a curve. The wreckage resembled the site of an airplane crash, but it was a car. The type of car was unidentifiable at the scene. Police investigators finally pieced together the mystery. An amateur rocket scientist had somehow gotten hold of a JATO unit (Jet Assisted Take Off...actually a solid-fuel rocket) that is used to give heavy military transport planes an extra 'push' for taking off from short airfields. He had driven his Chevy Impala out into the desert and found a long, straight stretch of road. He attached the JATO unit to the car, jumped in, got up some speed and fired off the JATO! The facts as best could be determined are that the operator of the 1967 Impala hit the JATO ignition at a distance of approximately 3.0 miles from the crash site. This was established by the scorched and melted asphalt at that location.

The JATO, if operating properly, would have reached maximum thrust within 5 seconds, causing the Chevy to reach speeds well in excess of 350 mph and continuing at full power for an additional 20 -25 seconds. The driver, and soon-to-be pilot, would have experienced G-forces usually reserved for dog fighting F-14 jocks under full afterburners, causing him to become irrelevant for the remainder of the event. However, the automobile remained on the straight highway for about 2.5 miles (15-20 seconds) before the driver applied and completely melted the brakes, blowing the tires and leaving thick rubber marks on the road surface, then becoming airborne for an additional 1.4 miles and impacting the cliff face at a height of 125 feet, leaving a blackened crater 3 feet deep in the rock. Most of the driver's remains were not recoverable.

Epilogue: It has been calculated that this moron attained a ground speed of approximately 420-mph, though much of his voyage was not actually on the ground.

**Really.....we couldn't make this stuff up. People like these are all around us. They have kids and they vote!**

## 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.

**F.Y.I.**

The winners of the March Prizes were Vic / N2OFF, Carolyn / K3UMY, Steve / KB3WJY and Don / KC3II  
The May Program will be "Critical Tools of the Casual Operator" by Paul / N0KIA

The D.L.A.R.C. meets the "FIRST" Thursday of each month. Membership, friends and interested persons meet at the Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School ( 3300 Chester 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  
OFFICERS**

President – Charles Lazarchak / W3OPA ----- president@dlarc.org  
Vice President – Dave Blankenship / N3EYT ----- vicepresident@dlarc.org  
Secretary – Joe Garvey / AB3OS ----- secretary@dlarc.org  
Treasurer – Mike Gower / KB3LOD ----- treasurer@dlarc.org

**BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Gary De Mave / N2AUO ----- captiangdm@gmail.com  
Bob Oppen / NE2C ----- ne2c@arrl.net  
Dave Mellman / KA3IWC ----- dbm073@gmail.com  
Jon Matson / NJ3I ----- cjfishing@rcn.com  
Jay Mason / N3OW ----- n3ow@rcn.com  
George Wieland / N3SQD ----- George@bioserv.com

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

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

**THE W3OK TRUSTEE --- 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.

**THE NEWSLETTER STAFF**

Editor – Don Holmes / KC3II ----- editor@dlarc.org  
Web Master – Brad Snyder / W3JXQ ----- w3jxq@dlarc.org  
Photographer – Dave Arwood / NB3R ----- nb3r@nb3r.com  
Circulation – Pete Varounis / NL7XM ----- nl7xm@arrl.net