Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

January, 1998

PL Access, yes or no

An Open Forum on PL Access

by Joe, W3JD, president

The program for the **January 8th** club meeting will be devoted to an open discussion on PL access for the DLARC 146.70 repeater. Although the move to PL was given an affirmative vote at the June 1995 club meeting, some vocal opposition has arisen as the planned implementation date of February 1st draws near. The meeting will be an opportunity for those on both sides of the issue to enter into the discussion. Every club member with strong feelings on the matter should make a point of attending the meeting.

The four articles elsewhere in this newsletter regarding PL provide a good introduction to arguments on both sides of the issue. Give them careful consideration, form your own opinion, then bring your thoughts to the January meeting.

While there has been much discussion both on and off the repeater about both the benefits and the drawbacks of PL access, this open forum will be an opportunity to bring all aspects of the issue before the club membership. Because so much time has passed since the original vote concerning PL, the DLARC Board feels that it is important to determine the current sentiment of the membership. The Board will follow whatever direction is indicated during the January meeting. For that reason, it is extremely important for as many members as possible to take part in that meeting. That's **Thursday, January 8th, at 7:30 PM** in **Kiva Hall at Northampton Community College** in Bethlehem. Be there!

New years resolution suggestion for Techs

by Bob, KE3AW

DLARC's classes, designed to help hams upgrade to General Class, will start Monday, January 12. They will be held at the Greystone Building, Gracedale (near Nazareth). Classes will concentrate on the theory element for the General Class License. They will run for two hours each Monday evening from 7pm - 9pm for 6 sequential weeks -- barring adverse weather conditions. The instructor will be Chris/NU3L.



There is no cost to the participants. As in the past, for this level the amateur radio operators will be expected to obtain their own study manuals and materials. General Class study guides will NOT be available at the classes.

If you, or hams you know, want to register to upgrade and earn the privileges of the General Class License, or if you have questions about the classes, please let me know. We would like to have an idea of the potential size of the class, so contact me on **146.700**, at **ke3aw@juno.com,** or by **telephone**. *de Bob KE3AW*



FAR Scholarships for 1998

by Hugh Turnball, W3ABC

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, DC, plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1997-1998 to assist radio amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area amateur radio clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven (57) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school. The awards range from $500 to $2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in **Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin,** are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to **April 30, 1998** from:

FAR Scholarships
6903 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of amateur radio and those scientific, literary, and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC.

Kay Craigie reelected director

via ARRL Bulletin 071
via Randy N3ET

Kay Craigie, WT3P, of Paoli, PA, incumbent Director well know to our club as a very hard working director of the ARRL was reelected to the post of director of the Atlantic Division. Kay easily beat back a challenge from Jim Carson, WK2K, of Ithaca, NY. The vote tally was 4918 to 1573.

Dues Reminder

Check your mailing Label.

If your membership expires **12/31/97** your dues are due. Annual dues for each category of membership are as follows:

1. **Under age 18 - $12.00**
2. **From 18 to 64 years of age - $17.00**
3. **65 years of age and over - $12.00**
4. **Each Family member - $3.00**
5. **Associate member - $7.00**

Since membership is on a calendar year basis, members joining between July and December pay one-half the annual dues for the current year. There is an initiation fee of $1.00 for each new member. New applicants are approved for membership at the next monthly membership meeting. If paying dues at the Club meetings please put dues in a envelope with your call sign, thanks. Checks for dues should be made out to **DLARC.**

Dues can be mailed to the Club Treasurer

RICHARD A DECH / KA3MOU
120 MCILHANEY AVENUE
BATH PA 18014-1612

Lucent unveils smaller faster transistor

Scientists at Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs have come up with a transistor that is five times faster and one-fourth the size of conventional models. The tiny transistor -- about 1,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair -- is also a power miser, consuming between 60 and 160 times less power than transistors currently in use. The company has not said when the new technology will become commercially available, but industry experts project such transistors to be standard by the year 2010. ***via The Wall Street Journal and the Hudson Division loop***

The Vincent Van Gogh family ones...

via packet, WA6LIE

The grandfather who moved to Yugoslavia ..... U. Gogh

The brother who accidentally bleached all his clothes white Hue Gogh

The sister who wore a mini skirt and like to dance in bar... Go Gogh

The real obnoxious brother ..... Please Gogh

The brother who ate prunes ..... Gotta Gogh

The uncle who worked at a convenience store .....Stop N Gogh

His dizzy aunt .....Verti Gogh

The cousin that moved to Illinois .....Chica Gogh

His magician uncle .....Whererediddy Gogh

Nephew that drove a stage coach ..... Wells Far Gogh

Uncle who was constipated ..... Cant Gogh

Aunt who was a good dancer ..... Tan Gogh

The uncle who worked for Kellogg's..... Leggo My Egg Gogh

The ex-convict brother who moved to Africa ..... Con Gogh

The brother that was a closet fruit-cake ..... Man Gogh

The inventor of plastic toy building blocks ..... Lei Gogh

The sister who moved to southern California .. Sandy A. Gogh

The Gogh who always screws things up ..... Wayto Gogh

The brother who thought highly of himself ..... E. Gogh

The cousin who founded a rock group in the 70 ..... Poe Gogh

The pessimistic brother with an Italian accent ..... Noah Gogh

The aunt who retired in southern Florida ..... Kay Lara Gogh

The cousin who opened the take out Chinese restaurant . .... Tu Gogh

The cousin who opened the take out sandwich shopTow Gogh

The cousin who always left family gatherings early .....

Gah Tu Gogh

The cousin who was a little crazy ..... Wack Gogh

The cousin who was sadistic ..... Sike Gogh

Inventor of a popular strategy game ..... Strat E. Gogh

de, Scott WA6LIE

For Sale

Kenwood TS520 in mint condition (original non smoking owner)

Incldued CW fliter, digital readout/frequncy counter, VFO520 matching external VFO, SP520 matching speaker, extra final, mic, dust covers and manuals. Few hours of use, $520.00

Call Kim WA3KK ex WA2ZQS at 610 759-2826 or email to kkromer@erols.com

Val Sez

by Val, W3EFL

Kids say the darndest things. Some grade school teachers must agree with that, because they keep journals of amusing things their students have written in papers. Here are a few examples:

* The future of "I give" is "I take."
* The parts of speech are lungs and air.
* The inhabitants of Moscow are called Mosqitoes.
* A census taker is man who goes from house to house increasing the population.
* Water is composed of two gins. Oxygin and hydrogin. Oxygin is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water.
* (Define H2O and CO2.) H2O is hot water and CO2 is cold water.
* A virgin forest is a forest where the hand of man has never set foot.
* The general direction of the Alps is straight up.
* A city purifies its water supply by filtering the water then forcing it through an aviator.
* Most of the houses in France are made of plaster of Paris.
* The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 oppossums.
* The spinal column is a long bunch of bones. The head sits on the top and you sit on the bottom.
* We do not raise silk worms in the United States, because we get our silk from rayon. He is a larger worm and gives more silk.
* One of the main casues of dust is janitors.
* A scout obeys all to whom obedience is due and respects all duly constipated authorities.
* One by-product of raising cattle is calves.
* To prevent head colds, use an agonizer to spray into the nose until it drips into the throat.
* The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.
* The climate is hottest next to the Creator.
* Oliver Cromwell had a large red nose, but under it were deeply religious feelings.
* The word trousers is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
* Syntax is all the money collected at the church from sinners.
* The blood circulates through the body by flowing down one leg and up the other.
* In spring, the salmon swim upstream to spoon.
* Iron was discovered because someone smelt it.
* In the middle of the 18th century, all the morons moved to Utah.
* A person should take a bath once in the summer, not so often in the winter.



Just the Minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary

The December meeting of the DLARC was called to order by Joe, W3JD, a little after 7:30pm. There were 65 members and guests present. Amy, KD3TI, made the motion to acept the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Dave, N3LWY, seconded it. DIck, KA3MOU, gave the Treasurer's Report. The starting balance was $2,458.26. Income for the month was $659.40. Monthly expenses came to $318.75. The Ending Balance, as of November 30, is $2,798.91. Ed, W3APE, made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with Carl, AA3IX, seconded.



Joe, W3JD, made some announcements at the start of the meeting. **The proceeds that go to the club from the 50-50 will go to the ARRL's Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies. We will sell 3 tickets for $2.00.** This will continue for the next 3 months at least. The date for the Hamfest next year will be September 12.

Barry, N3NVA, informed the members present that there was trouble with the 440 machine. He found a board that somehow got moisture on it and was corroded. He did the necessary repairs and the repeater is up and running. He reminded everybody that it is getting closer to the February date for the PL. He said that the PL would be off for the nets.

Chris, NU3L, announced that he is stepping down as far as being the administrator of the club sponsored classes. He will still teach.

Bob, KE3AW, has stepped forward to be the administrator. Bob announced that General Classes would start on **January 12** and run for 6 weeks on Mondays.

Joe, W3JD, reminded everybody that the January meeting will be on **January 8** and that **VE Testing** will be on the **9**th. He also said that it was decided at the Executive Meeting to buy a new tape player for the test sessions.

DLARC welcomes the following as new members:

Chuck Drake, KD3SQ

Thomas Sulick, KB2NWF

Len, N2BSC, made the motion to accept them. Norm, K3NZ, seconded the motion.

Joe, W3JD, presented a plaque to Tom, N3LLL, for outstanding work he has done the past two years as club president. Tom will be leaving the area and moving to Houston, Texas very shortly. Tom made the announcement that he will be on HF by March. He is studying the code right now. Good luck, Tom!

Dan, W3ZF, was the speaker for the night. He put on a presentation about the Amateur Radio resources that you can find on the Internet. SOme is really interesting and informative. You can just about find anything on the Internet that would have to do with Ham radio. Be it a product or a logging program, you can find it on the Internet.

de John, N3IGA

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. Income & Loss Statement 11/1/97 Through 11/30/97

Balance 10/31/97		**$2,458.26**
INCOME		
Dues Arrl Misc	651.00	
Hamfest Sale of Books	8.40	
TOTAL INCOME	**659.40**	
EXPENSES		
Memory Of Nancy Kromer & Lisa Parris	50.00	
Newsletters - For December	148.40	
Refund Mark Farrell Overp	2.00	
Renewal	84.00	
Telephone	34.35	
TOTAL EXPENSES	**318.75**	
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES		**340.65**
Balance 11/31/97		**$2,798.91**

Total Membership 374

Welcome back Chuck Drake KD3SQ.

de Dick, KA3MOU Treasurer

From our president

Joe Chuk, W3JD

Following are two opinion pieces about the move of our 146.70 repeater to PL access, beginning February 1st. John, N3IGA, provides his perspective as area Skywarn coordinator. He provides a convincing argument for the need for PL at this time, and the strength of his beliefs is obvious. Barry, KU3X, offers some specific technical suggestions about how PL might be incorporated.

The opinions expressed both about the opposition of some DLARC members to introducing PL and about the way it is being introduced are just that -opinions. Others holding differing opinions are free to express them in these same pages in future issues of the newsletter. While the change will be taking place on February 1st, in accordance with a previous affirmative vote by the club membership, the way PL is activated on the repeater is certainly open to modification.

Joe, W3JD, DLARC President.

Stop Complaining

It seems that since the club has decided to use PL, all you hear is complaining. Is the PL going to be on during the nets, is it going to be on during an emergency, and why do we have to PL is all you hear on the repeater.

The following information has come from the Area Repeater Coordination Council of EPA/SNJ Fall 1997 newsletter, of which I am a member. The number of 2-meter repeaters has increased in the last 20 years from 107 to the current 294. That is a total increase of 187% just for EPA. There is an increase of 84% in SNJ. There has been an increase in 440 repeaters from 26 to 201. That is an increase of 673% in EPA.

With all these repeaters on the air and the power that the new radios have, there is a need for PL. There are places where you can hit two repeaters on the same frequency. That is another reason for PL. This is the only way to really reduce the interference that we have on our repeater. The question has been asked about taking the PL off in an emergency situation. How would you like to be the one who turns the PL off, and in the middle of an transmission, interference from another repeater or a ham using another repeater wipes out the transmission at a critical moment and you can not make contact again for a couple of minutes. Do you want it on your conscience that you took the PL off and missed that critical transmission?

We are not living in the 70s. So let's get out of that frame of mind. More and more repeaters are going to PL not to shut people out, but to make the repeater more useable without that nuisance interference. As the Lehigh Valley SKYWARN Coordinator, I would rather use a repeater that has PL and no interference for passing information, than one that may have interference or intermod during a thunderstorm. With PL, I know that my vital weather information will get through and maybe help somebody out before the severe weather gets to him or her. ***de John N3IGA***

To PL or Not PL ?

In February of 1998, the W3OK repeater is going PL. Is this the answer to the interference problems? I feel that it is. "BUT", I feel that the way it is going to be done is totally incorrect. By going full PL, this will lock numerous hams out of the machine. I for one have two radios that do not have PL in them and I am not going to spend the time or money to install it.

I now travel I-78 and route 309 daily. I have seen numerous accidents since traveling these roads. If the PL is installed on the repeater in the way that it is planned, I will not be able to get help. I feel that there is a better and more reasonable way to use the PL part of the repeater so it will not lock out as many hams and still cut back on the interference problems.

One repeater, in Washington, NJ, had their PL set up so anybody could hit their touch tone pad to unlock the PL for normal use. Even if you didn't have a TT mic, you could call on the repeater's output frequency for someone to turn off the PL so one could use the repeater for calling for help or normal usage.

The W3OI repeater (146.94) for years was set up the so the PL on the input of the machine was used to cut back on the squelch. In other words, if you were in a fringe area of the repeater, you could not open the squelch. You had three choices to overcome this problem. One was to get PL, two was to use you TT mic to open the squelch by turning off the PL, and three was to just use more power or get a better antenna (increase your ERP).

So, "To PL or not PL" ? Yes, PL will cut back on the interference but in my opinion it is not being done properly on the W3OK repeater with the user in mind. ***de Barry KU3X***

DX and Contests

by Bill, K3ANS, Contest editor

DX and contest news Wow!

Did you participate in the CQ (magazine) World Wide DX CW contest November 28, 29, and 30? If you missed it, as I almost did, you missed some of the best DX conditions ever. I had a conflict with buck deer hunting opening December 1, with a planned trip to my hunting camp in Potter County that same weekend. So some good friends came over and operated my station part time for that contest. The few hours I operated Saturday morning on 10, 80, and 160 meters were wonderful.



For example, I worked Japan (JA) and Hong Kong (VR97) on 10 meters with true 599 signals around 8 AM local time, with my beam aimed south east! Normally if we work those countries on 20, 15, or 10 meters, we aim our antennas north west at dusk, short path. This was long path. The signals peaked at our dawn and their dusk. Short path occurs at our dusk and their dawn. Signals often peak following the "gray line" which follows the sun's shadow on the earth. If you have access to the computer software programs which show this gray line (such as Terminate and GeoClock) you can see the moving edge of the shadow. Signals peak on the gray line on many frequencies, high as 10 meters, and low as 160 meters. Working the gray line is a technique to maximize your DXCC count per band.

160 and 80 meters have also been fine. December 9, many east coast stations, including K3ANS, K3NZ, N3DL of DLARC, worked TF3DX in Iceland, A45ZN in Oman in the Middle East, and C56/JA1OEM in The Gambia - Africa, with strong signal s. They also worked Japan on 160 meters at our dawn, again following the gray line. Conditions were excellent. The solar report from WWV showed the Solar Flux Index at 100, the Absorption Index at 0, and the K (constant) Index at 0. In 41 years of ham radio, this is the first time I remember the A and K indices at 0! The rising SFI helped 10 and 15 meters; and the low A and K indices helped 160 and 80 meters. How can you go wrong? It is time to dust off the low band radios, CW keys, antenna tuners, and log books. The low bands are humming! The Frankford Radio Club probably broke world records in this past CW DX contest in total club score. So if anyone tells you the low bands are poor, he has not been tuning or listening. Do not think you need yagis, quads, amplifiers, and hill top locations. Many stations in city lots, running 100 watts, with dipoles did fine in the CQ contest. I just spoke with VP9KK in Bermuda on 160 meters. He was 59 with his 100 watts and dipole

Many **DLARC** members participated, including: **N3DL, AA3JU, AA3TT, WF3H, K3YD, N3QQ, N3IYX, K3ZTJ, K3CP, N3MKZ, K3NZ, K3OO, N2TK (EX-WB2P), AE3T, KU3X, K3OO and K3ANS. For example N3DL, AA3TT, and AA3JU** operated just two stations at **N3DL** for 48 hours with little sleep and worked over 3000 DX stations on 6 bands, 160 through 10 meters. Hard work, but lots of fun. Contesters get a "runner's high", when making so many DX contacts. Try it. Did you hear that **K3OO** may have set a new world's record working **QRP (less than 5 watts)** on 20 meters? He used an MFJ QRP rig, since his favorite Kenwood TS-950SDX was being repaired. Want to try that feat? Borrow the **DLARC MFJ QRP rig.**

The ARRL 160 meter contest was December 6 and 7. I did not enter it, still deer hunting, but at our dusk, Saturday Dec. 6, I easily worked UA2FF in Kaliningradsk, eastern Europe. The operators, UA2FJ and UA2FM, visited me after the Dayton Hamvention in April 1996. I passed around pictures of their station at the following DLARC meeting. They erected a vertical over a salt marsh. It looks like the old 50,000 watt AM radio station antenna towers which used to be over the Meadowlands, near New York. Needless to say, they were loud! Their home brew amplifier was unique. Instead of tuning the final with variable capacitors, they tuned it with home brew variable inductors, by sliding a slug in and out of the coils. I still have the pictures if you would like to see them.

I received pictures and letters from DLARC member, **N3QZS, Jim Woof.** Jim is stationed with the US Army in Bosnia. He hopes to back in PA soon, perhaps by the time you read this. When you hear or see Jim, ask him about the ham stations there.

W3PYF mentioned the new 1998 CQ Magazine Contest Calendar which you can buy from CQ or ARRL. He did not tell you that the August 1998 picture is of K3ANS! It also features local outstanding DX contesters K3WW from Perkasie, PA, and N3RS from Glenmoore, PA (near Downingtown). Autographed copies are no extra charge, hi. If you entered these contests, be sure to submit your logs.

You will be pleased to see your call in print. It will bring recognition by your peers that you are mastering, or have mastered, operating skills. Your logs will be used for cross checking other logs. You will prevent other stations' logs from being rejected because they worked a non-existent station. Yes, if they work too many "unique" calls, their scores will be penalized. If you are the unique station because you did not submit your log, or you did not work many other contesters, you could hurt their success. DLARC member KW3W (now W3HQP - his original call) was touted as a unique call at the contest forum in the Dayton Hamvention several years ago. "Gunk" was rightly offended because he was a member of the Frankford Radio Club, although not very active His call was confused with K3WW, Dr. Charlie Fulp, an extremely active contester. N6AA, the speaker from CQ, was explaining how they cross check logs and reject those with the high unique rates. Years ago old time DLARC member W3PYF, was confused with W3BYF and old time Lehigh Valley Radio Club member. (W3BYF later changed his call to W3VQ). January and February bring some more fun contest events. Read about the CQ 160 CW contest January 24 and 26, 1998. If your CW speed is not comfortable at 50 wpm, try ARRL's Straight Key Night, Dec 31 to Jan. 1.

Can you send crisply on your old straight key after drinking a few Manhattans? Drunk driving is illegal and unhealthy; drunk sending is irresponsible but funny and a challenge to copy. Submit to QST your vote for the best (and worst fists). See you at the gray line!

de Bill, K3ANS.

VE test results December 5th

by Mark, K3MP

Name	Call	Class
~~Dale Adams~~	~~KB3BYS~~	~~Tech~~
James Mahoney	KB3BYU	Tech
Robert Roomberg	KB3BYT	Tech
Jonathan Ennis	KB3BYR	Tech-Plus

The following **VES** were present, **Cary, K2YIY, Harold, WZ3L, Tony, KE3RP** and **Mark, K3MP** A total of 14 elements were given to 6 examinees.

de K3MP, Team Liaison

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of December 1, 1997.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0GQ	KI0KU	++	KC0CIG
1	AA1SX	KE1IV	N1ZXA	KB1CFW
2	AB2EP	KG2ND	++	KC2CSQ
3	AA3QN	KF3AP	++	KB3BXZ
4	AF4GW	KU4MR	++	KF4UWW
5	AC5OG	KM5NI	++	KD5CUB
6	AD6DX	KQ6TM	++	KF6OTL
7	AB7WV	KK7KU	++	KC7ZTP
8	AB8BP	KI8ER	++	KC8IWZ
9	AA9VD	KG9MA	++	KB9RTD

++All call signs in this group have been issued in this district. ***via ARRL Letter***

A True story

from the collection of Eliot Hudes

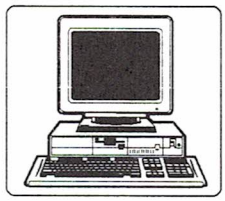
A motorist ws unknowingly caught in an automated speed trap that measured his speed using radar and photographed his car.

He later received in the mail a ticket for $40, and a photo of his car. Instead of payment, he sent the police department a photograph of $40.

Several days later, he received a leter from the police department that contained another picture, of handcuffs

reprinted from the ARNS bulletin, August 1997, Steve Auyer N2TKX editor

Spell Checker



I have a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye cannot sea.

When eye strike a quay, right a word
I weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar wright
It shows me strait aweigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two late
And eye can put the error rite
Its rarely, rarely grate.

I've run this poem threw it
I'm shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect in it's weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

Sauce unknown >>

Four Wheel Drive Vehicles

Northampton County Division of Emergency Mangement is currently seeking volunteers with **Four Wheel Drive Vehicles** and **Snow Mobile** capabilites to provide transportation of Nurses, Doctors and other health and emergency service personell during winter weather conditions and to assist with other snow emergency related situations.

Any person wishing to volunteer for emergency please call **Northampton County EMA** at **(610) 759-2600** or contact either **KA3MOU** or **W3PYF** and they will contact them for you.

Do's and Don'ts of Public Service

supplied by Mark, WA3KIF

As I was reading the January, 1998 issue of QST, I came across an article in **"The Doctor Is In "** section. There was a question posed and I feel the answer is beneficial for all **RACES/ARES** members. Although the question refers to a winter activity, it is appropriate for any public service activity.

The question:

Our club is going to provide communications for our town's Winter Carnival Sled Race and I am the coordinator. Can you give me some tips on this type of public service operation?

The answer:

Okay, how about some general Do's and one Don't for you and your team members?

Do use FM simplex if at all possible, with a repeater as a back-up and for talk-in. If your club doesn't have its own repeater, clear the function with the repeater group in writing, and do so well in advance.

Do arrange for someone who knows the area to handle talk-in for your people. Not everyone may know where they should go.

Do get a crystal-clear understanding of the needs of the group you are serving.

Do arrange for someone to be in charge as Net Control. Even small events can have can have messy communications, so the group needs a leader.

Do arrange for relief operators. Everybody needs lunch or coffee breaks.

Do arrange for your people well in advance , but check on them the week before to make sure they are still available. If you can have extra people or standbys available, do so. Excuse people as soon as you can as long as their job is finished and all other positions still needed are covered.

Do have the Net Control Station keep track of who is where and so he knows whom to call when asked to contact a person or checkpoint.

Do keep your Emergency Coordinator informed of what you are doing and who participates. He can help you arrange publicity.

Do tell your operators exactly what their assignments are and remind them of the general guidelines for public service events. Assignments and changes in these guidelines should be made known to the entire group before the event begins or during its progress if the change occurs then.

Do thank your operators and share any feedback you get with them. Courtesy and thoughtfulness pays off.

Do have Amateur Radio operators working in teams of at least two people if possible. Make sure that at least one member of the team is monitoring the radio at all times.

Do identify vehicles as Amateur Radio Communications Vehicles. Operators should be identified too. A call-sign badge, **ARES** or **RACES** patch is sufficient. Use baseball caps with an ARES patch or the group logo.

Do maintain a courteous, professional image. You may be working with several agencies including police, fire, first aid squads, National Guard, etc. Extend every possible courtesy to members of these groups. Make sure they know who you are and what your communications capabilities are.

Do use standard ARRL message forms when necessary for official requests and messages.

Don't over identify! You must identify your station only at 10-minute intervals during a series of transmissions. However, don't jump into the net every 10 minutes just to identify,

Do use tactical call signs. Check-point or unit numbers or other special identifiers are legal, provided the station requirements are fulfilled. Use standard Amateur Radio operating procedures for all communications.

Do make certain the frequency is clear before making a call. The channels can get very busy during "tactical operations." When you complete an exchange with another station, use the prowords "clear" or "out" so other stations will know the frequency is now available to them. Keep transmissions as short as possible. Resist the tendency to ragchew or ramble.

Do introduce yourself to the person or people you will be working with at your station. Let them know who you are and why you will be there. Stay at your post unless you are excused. Make sure both the Net Control Station (NCS) and the officials you are with know when you leave.

Do inform the events communications coordinator if you cannot make the event after agreeing to be there; the sooner this is relayed to the person in charge of amateur communications at the event, the better.

Do obey the instructions of the Net Control Station (NCS). The NCS is there to respond to general queries from the net or from other amateurs on the frequency. Even with only a few amateurs involved, the NCS is necessary for smooth functioning. Address requests to transmit to the NCS and obey his instructions just as on traffic nets.

Do transmit as little as possible. Silence is golden.

***Do** enjoy yourself ! Amateur Radio public service is fun !Source: QST, January, 1988 pp 59-60*

Mark S. Miller WA3KIF
District 4 Emergency Coordinator

Some thoughts about Amateur Radio

by Ahron 4XlAT

It might well be that some of my readers will disagree with my thoughts on Amateur Radio in today's world so I invite them to express their opinions in the HaGal International. I started in Amateur Radio back in 1948. In those days the Radio Amateur Handbook an old edition I received as a present from another ham was my bible. It was with me when I woke up and was with me when going to bed at night- I was learning constantly. I was an employee in a transformer shop, so winding all the required transformers for HT, filament or modulation wasn't a big problem. Building a complete station without any experience and knowledge was a different matter. So I built according to the `bible', a crystal controlled amplitude modulated station with parts available at the time in the junkyards of the British army. Crystal frequencies were changed by using a 4 by 4 inches piece of glass, with a little bit of very fine carborundum powder, gluing the old crystal wafer to another very small piece of glass and by moving it in a figure 8 motion grinding down the thickness of the crystal, thus increasing its frequency to reach the predetermined value. At that time 807's were available. So were lots of old condensers and resistors that could be removed from various obsolete equipment which was lying around. For me it was a very happy time. Finally the transmitter was ready for use. A simple Windom antenna was installed with a single lead coming down to my `shack', which was in essence a tea -table on wheels and the normal Phillips home receiver, which had a tuned RF stage.

The excitement of the first QSO, the first real DX connections, the first arriving QSL cards etc. was immense.

Why do I stress all these things? So much has changed since then. Some, or most of the new `Radio Amateurs' do not know how to handle a soldering iron do not know how to solder a coax connector, do not know the dangers, when using linear amplifiers, of high voltage. They are unaware of the possibility of improvising, not even knowing how to combine two resistors to reach a certain value. Nowadays everything is bought ready made, in a shop, plugged into the wall outlet and the `amateur' is ready to go. The basic knowledge required at the examinations is more or less a question of trying to remember some formulas, yet not knowing how and when to use them. Questions asked over the 2 meter and 70cm bands sometimes make me blush. They are so stupid that no genuine, well- meant explanation will make them able to understand.

At this point I would like to stress that I am not a highly qualified engineer. Everything had been learned since the beginning, from the above- mentioned Radio Amateur Handbook and the experience later gained with time. If during the exams I was asked to draw a final stage of a transmitter-it was no problem for me. I had built my own equipment and would know any value needed and could explain also the how's and why's.

To have 2 meter equipment in the car meant for example, that one was able to report conditions on the roads for the benefit of all, through another home -bound ham to the nearest broadcasting station. Even this was later forbidden because it contradicted the terms of our licenses! Nowadays, while every second car owner possesses a cellular phone, our efforts and services are not needed anymore.

The value of working the DXCC, with the large amount of `monkey business' done with QSL cards from valuable DX stations, the bad habit of one person working the DX for all his friends, has brought me to the decision that very unfortunately, the DXCC hasn't got any more meaning to me. I work the stations but almost never send an application with `green stamps' to receive the confirmation. I always QSL to any first QSO and of course, reply to every SWL report while first checking its validity. But then too, one sees that many reports are not genuine but copied out of some ham's logbook.

The Internet has given amateur radio a real jolt. There, anything and everything that is forbidden for any ham to do is 100% Kosher, correct and admissible. No exams are required. Every possible form of foul language or indecent picture is thirstily picked up. In effect it is the Golem or ghost that has arisen above his master. Of course the Internet has its very nice and valuable sides. Children and adults can pick up valuable information about countries and important events in the past or present. People, who previously weren't ready to open an encyclopedia to look up a certain item are now ready to sit for hours without end in front of the monitor to retrieve the same information from the Internet. Friendships are initiated the way we did over the radio for many years. Still, the very personal contact open for anybody to listen in the occasional interesting reports which make listening-in worthwhile and valuable do, to the best of my knowledge, only exist on the amateur bands.

I wonder if at any time, the Internet stood up to emergency traffic like amateur radio has done over the years when unselfish amateurs used their personal equipment and time, for the benefit of all. Amateur Radio is still my cup of tea. It has to adapt to modern times while many of us are still clinging to our glorious past like the elderly people who keep their old clothes and cannot part with them. Some of us `older generation' have computers to aid us while others still reject them as `metal monkeys'. I am happy, at the age of 71, to be young enough in mind to benefit from both worlds'. The past does appeal to me but so does the present while looking eagerly forward into the future hoping that none of my worlds will lose their value. In this harsh world. Amateur Radio is still a peaceful island and hopefully will continue to be so for many years to come..

de Ahron 4XlAT

from the December 1997 issue of Hagal, newsletter of Hagal International 4X1AT and 4X1MK editors

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate to the DLARC, RACES & ARES nets
on 146.70 W3OK/RPT with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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The W3OK CORRAL is published monthly and is the Official Publication of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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==1997-1998==

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CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70

Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to *(csnyder@fast.net}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
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