Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

January 2000

CLUB MEETING THURSDAY JANUARY 6

January Meeting

The January meeting will feature a talk on antennas both indoor and outdoor. The speaker will be one of our new members **Harold Uhl, WZ3L.** It should be a very interesting meeting. January Meeting WZ3L will talk on antennas

It will include: indoor HF antennas, particularly the magnetic loop; radiation patterns & effects of height above ground; cautions about safety; TVI; DX results.

PA QSO Placque

by Ray, W3TDF

The **MURGAS Club of Northeast Pennsylvania**, recaptures the coveted **PA QSO** Party Club Trophy. They last won it more than 10 years ago.

Their monumental effort pushed the Delaware-Lehigh ARC back to 2nd place. This is only the third time in the last 11 years that the DLARC has not finished first. Murgas won by a margin of about 280,000 Pts, ie. 1.81 Mil as opposed to 1.53 Mil for the DLARC

de Ray, W3TDF

Try to make it your business to check into the Wednesday and Sunday nets.

Putting some Ho-Ho into the holidays and spreading Christmas cheer around the globe...

de WD8SCX-John

WX3MAS concluded another successful weekend of contacting our brethren of the airwaves. 346 of them to be exact. Many thanks to al l who participated on all levels this year.



They are: **KC3QO**-Tim, who did some repairs to get us on the air, **KA3MOU**-Dick, **N3NGL**-Carl, **WO4H**-Al, **KB3DNA**-Stephanie, **KB3DFW**-Dennis, **N3ULW**-Glenn, **N3ZSR** –Jill, **N3SNZ**-Bob and YL, **N3QZT**-Jeff, **N2DH**-Bill, **W3BUD**-Bud, **KN3DZY**-Jim, **KE3NN**-Charlie, **KB3BYU**-Jim and son Joe, **KB3DJX**-David, **N3EYT**-David and XYL, **KE3AW**-Bob, **KA3JWE**-Don, and **K3YD**-Blair and daughter Monica.

Special thanks to Monica for her station operation. And a special citation to **Gerald-N5ZXJ** who operated until he dropped – and his XYL Karen. For those who also brought snacks and goodies, a big thanks, too. If I missed anyone I'm so sorry, but you know what you did!

Sorry also for the coffee! Come by next year and find out how much stronger it can get!

de John WD8SCX

The Prez Sez

by Don, KA3JWE, President

As we look back on the last one hundred years, you must admit that they have really been amazing.



We have progressed from spark-gap transmitters to frequency synthesized digital signal processed transceivers that fit into your shirt pocket. The "Dick Tracy" wrist radio is no longer a gadget of science fiction.

So, what's in store for us in the next century? Science fiction is becoming reality almost as fast as we can dream it up. New gadgets and technology are hitting the market so fast that we can barely keep track of it all. And we, as hams, can't get enough. We just have to take the covers off and peek inside. We marvel at the miniaturization and beauty of design. We still have to see what makes these gadgets tick.

The new millennium holds a lot of promise for advances in amateur radio and technology as well as some ominous signs of things to come. We are already feeling increased pressure from new technologies to use the portions of spectrum that we have enjoyed for so long. TV commercials are predicting wearable computers with displays that project images directly into your eye. These and other devices will be extremely limited if they cannot be linked into a network and wireless will be their mode of choice.

Will amateur radio be able to evolve to keep up with the rapidly changing times or will it fade into oblivion as newer technologies take over? Only time will tell.

de Don KA3JWE

ARRL to Seek Partial FCC Reconsideration Of PRB-1 Petition Denial

via ARRL Bulletin

The ARRL will ask the FCC to partially reconsider its dismissal of RM-8763, the League's 1996 petition that sought to strengthen and clarify the limited federal preemption policy governing Amateur Radio antennas known as PRB-1. The League also will fund a Florida antenna case with PRB-1 implications.

In its petition, the ARRL wanted the FCC to prevent states and localities from enacting provisions that frustrate the intent of PRB-1 or make it costly to apply for permission to erect an amateur antenna. The FCC dismissed the petition in its entirety November 19 and indicated it was unwilling to go beyond what is already spelled out in PRB-1. "We continue to believe that the standards the Commission set, that is 'reasonable accommodation' and 'minimum practicable regulation', have worked relatively well," the FCC said.

The League will ask the FCC to reconsider two important aspects of the original petition. Meeting December 4 in Texas, the ARRL Executive Committee voted to seek reconsideration of the FCC Order regarding the application of PRB-1 to restrictive covenants and to excessive costs that localities might levy or require in order to install an antenna structure.

In its dismissal, the FCC pointed out that PRB-1 excludes restrictive covenants in private contracts as "outside the reach of our limited preemption." The Commission added, however, that it "strongly encourages associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to follow the principle of reasonable accommodation" with respect to Amateur Radio.

In addressing zoning laws and application costs, the FCC dismissal Order asserted that the PRB-1 principles of "reasonable accommodation" and "minimum practicable regulation" already provide sufficient guidance to communities. Local zoning ordinances should be written so as to "not impinge on the needs of amateur operators to engage in amateur communications," the FCC said.

In a related action, the Executive Committee agreed to have the League fund an appeal in a Florida Amateur Radio tower case. Lenard Persin, WB4HZQ, had applied to Seminole County for a special exception to a 35-foot tower height limit to build an 80-foot tower on his nearly one-acre lot. Denied by the County, Persin appealed in federal court, and the ARRL filed a "friend of the court" brief in the case. On November 2, a US District Court in Florida ruled for the County, saying it had "properly balanced Mr. Persin's interests with the needs of the community."

In its Order two weeks later dismissing RM-8763, however, the FCC had declared that, given the express language of PRB-1, "it is clear that a 'balancing of interests' approach is not appropriate."

ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, has appointed a committee to study how the ARRL provides support for antenna cases.

December VE Session

by Stephanie KB3DNA

The December VE session was held on Friday, December 3rd. We had a very successful session this month, as 6 candidates passed 10 of 13 elementsadministered.

All 6 candidates earned either a new license or anupgrade.

They are:

Skip Kauffman	**Advanced**	**Upgrade**
Jeff Welsh	**Technician**	**New Ticket**
Bruce Mackes	**Technician**	**New Ticket**
James Loeffler	**General**	**Upgrade**
Paul Yeates	**Technician**	**New Ticket**
George Harris	**Tech Plus**	**New Ticket**

Thanks to December's VE's:

Bill Twaddell, N2DH; Cary Rufe,K2YIY; Bob Puharic, WF3H; and Dick Dech, KA3MOU.

The January 2000 test session is currently scheduled for **Friday, January 7th at 7 p.m.** As of press time, we will be having the session at the Greystone Building, but that is subject to change, so watch the club page.

Beginning with the January test session, candidates will now have to bring **EXACT CHANGE** in cash for the test fee, which is currently **$6.45.** We've had some difficulties making change for all those $20 bills, so people will need to bring exact change from now on. Congratulations to all of the new hams (and you upgraded folks too), and Happy New Year to everyone!!!

de Stephanie KB3DNA

E-Mail address up date for December

Jim KB3BYJ	**kb3byj@arrl.net**
Jim N3DFF	**n3dff@arrl.net**
Norm K3NZ	**k3nz@enter.net**
Peter K3RDT	**krosnest28@fast.net**
Joseph K3DVF	**k3dvf@juno.com**
Cliff W3ZL	**cliffw@prodigy.net**
Carl N3GRK	**n3grk@aol.com**

You can go to the **DLARC** home page and get the complete e-mail list. The Clubs home page address is on the back of the newsletter. If you change your e-mail address send the new e-mail address to.

Dick/KA3MOU ka3mou@enter.net

A "NEW" QST debuts in January 2000

The January 2000 issue of **QST** magazine, which should reach most members by mid December, will contain substantial style and content changes. The editorial revamp and redesign was based on the results of research conducted during the first half of 1999 by the QST editorial team.

The page design of QST was altered to improve readability, and to provide a more modern, attractive appearance. Three new columns will debut as well:

"QRP Power"--a monthly column by Rich Arland, K7SZ--will track developments in low-power hamming, one of the fastest-growing areas of Amateur Radio."Old Radio" by John Dilks, K2TQN, will focus each month on vintage radio collecting and restoration.

* "Radios to Go" by Roger Burch, WF4N, will be a bimonthly column highlighting mobile, maritime, aeronautical mobile and portable operating.

The highly successful "New Ham Companion" section of the magazine will get a new name and revised content. Starting in January it will become "QST Workbench." The new section still will contain long-time favorites such as "The Doctor is IN" and "Test Your Knowledge" and will incorporate "Hints and Kinks" as well. The content will continue to focus on "how-to" articles, but there will be more single-weekend or single-evening projects.

A new page titled "The Help Desk" will offer reference information such as schematic symbols, band plans and so on. "Workbench" also will feature software and hardware accessory reviews under the title "Short Takes."

QST Managing Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says the alterations were made in response to the changing needs and lifestyles of the ARRL members.

"Amateur Radio is undergoing a significant transformation, and license restructuring will only accelerate the process," he said. "The magazine must meet the needs of 21st century amateurs who are, as our survey data indicated, extremely busy individuals who are hard pressed to integrate ham radio into their active lifestyles. They want QST to provide information that they can read and use quickly."

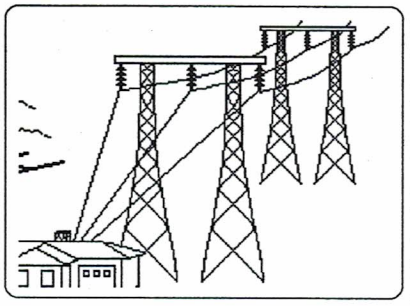
Ford says QST will continue to publish technically complex material. "There will always be a portion of the QST audience that's fascinated by the 'science' of Amateur Radio, as well as the more complex aspects of circuit design and construction," he said. "QST will continue to serve that audience." He pointed to an article by John Devoldere, ON4UN, in the January issue that discusses the effects of the 1999 European total solar eclipse on HF propagation.

The January 2000 QST will feature a special "collector's cover" celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio and 85 years of QST. The lead article, "Amateur Radio: 100 Years of Discovery," is a historical overview by ARRL Pacific Division Director-elect Jim Maxwell, W6CF.--Steve Ford, WB8IMY

via ARRL letter

FCC intervenes in power line noise complaints

Taking a new direction in a power-line interference case, the FCC has contacted a West Coast power company to remind the utility of its obligation to fix equipment problems that cause harmful radio interference. The case involved longstanding complaints by several northern California amateurs to Pacific Gas & Electric Company regarding severe power line noise on the ham bands.



On November 22, the FCC's Consumer Center wrote PG&E Senior VP James K. Randolph, who's also General Manager of Distribution and Customer Service requesting the company to correct the problem "within a reasonable time."

"It is a little bit unusual, but it had been ongoing for quite a while, and I had talked with the power company," said Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. He said the situation involved "a long history of non-response" by PG&E. "They've shown a lot of patience," he said of the amateurs who had complained, adding that he'd spoken to some of them during a West Coast visit earlier this year.

"The FCC has the responsibility to require that utility companies rectify such problems within a reasonable time if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment," the Commission's letter said.

Under FCC Part 15, utilities and others that fall under its provisions are obliged to not cause harmful interference to licensed services and to cease operating a device that's causing harmful interference upon FCC notification. The FCC said that while it remains confident that utilities can resolve such interference issues voluntarily, its letter was intended as a reminder that the unresolved interference problem "may be a violation of FCC rules and could result in a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence."

The FCC letter points out that the FCC encourages parties to resolve such problems "without FCC intervention" but says the FCC will step in when necessary. In this particular case, Hollingsworth said, the amateurs "had worked diligently with the power company and with the League, and we thought it appropriate for us to send a letter reminding them of what the Commission's rules and policies are."

Hollingsworth and ARRL Lab Supervisor, Ed Hare, W1RFI--the League's point man for interference-related issues--say that, before contacting the FCC to intervene as it did with the PG&E situation, affected amateurs first should attempt to work patiently with the utility and should contact the League for assistance.

The ARRL Technical Information Service has prepared a Web page, "RFI--Electrical and Power Line," at **http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfi-elec.html**. Amateurs suffering from interference believed to be emanating from power generation or transmission facilities also may contact Ed Hare, W1RFI, 860-594-0318; rfi@arrl.org..

via The ARRL letter

Trivia 156

The 450 million galons of oil in the spill of the Persian Gulf en 1991, were worth about $230 million... Oil from the spill could fuel the US, the world's biggest energy consumer for 15 hours 36 minutes.-

It took half a year for word to reach the Atlantic coast that gold had been discovered in California. The discovery was made in 1848, but John Augustus Sutter and James Marshall tried to keep it a secret. It wasn't until President Polk, in December 1848, announced the discovery that the gold rush of '49 began.

When the Continental Congress passed a resolution in 1777 creating the flag of the United States, members said it should have thirteen red and white stripes, but they did not mention whether the stripes should run horizontally or vertically.

Through she was born a Delaware Indian, Nancy Ward (1738-1822) was made "Beloved Woman" by the Cherokees and sat on their Council of Chiefs after taking command in a seccessful battle with the Creeks. After she married a white man, in 1760, she used her influence to keep peace with his people, but always managed to put the Cherokees' interests first.

de Armando, KC4JMF

Amateurs to assist NASA

via The Hudson Loop

Amateur Radio satellite operators will get a chance to contribute to a NASA satellite project by recording the data.

The Plasma Experiment Satellite Test (PEST) will ride on the Joint Air Force-Weber State University Satellite, or JAWSAT. A launch is set for early December. JAWSAT will serve as a bus for several deployable payloads and the attached PEST experiment.

The telemetry stream from JAWSAT -- which includes data from PEST -- will be transmitted on amateur frequencies. "Hams will be able to obtain data that characterizes certain aspects of the ionosphere above the D, E, and F layers where most of their signals are reflected," said PEST Project Manager Fred Berry, WA4IWY. "We're going to publish the data format in terms that everyone can understand," he said.

Data from PEST can be received using either a G3RUH modem or a GMSK modem. Data rates should be as high as 38.4 kb/s, transmitted on 437.175 MHz and/or 2403.2 MHz. NASA will publish instructions for sending in data so the PEST teams can use it. "It's an experiment," WA4IWY said. "We're hoping that high school and college students will get involved and learn something about the ionosphere and radio propagation." Deployable payloads aboard JAWSAT are the Orbiting PicoSat Automatic Launcher -- or OPAL -- and ASUSAT, provided by Arizona State University. ASUSAT itself will contain amateur packet hardware and a 2-meter/70-cm FM voice repeater. OPAL will release three tiny picosats -- one of them, called StenSat -will have a crossband repeater aboard that will operate much like the popular AO-27 satellite.

After JAWSAT reaches its desired polar orbit altitude of 420 miles, it will be about two weeks before PEST is first powered on. PEST will acquire data for at least a two-month period. For more information on the PEST project, visit **http://science.nasa.gov/newhome/headlines/ast04nov99_1.htm.**

– AMSAT News Service

Try it on 7.255

By Mark, KZ3DX

Rick, N3XR, has requested that I mention, he is available most of the time during the day, on ECARS frequency 7.2550. I have been in regular contact with him for quite some time.

I am, on occasion, net control for ECARS, and the new NightHawk version of ECARS on the same frequency. Rick is one of the regular checkins on both the **East Coast Amateur Radio Service**, and also the spinoff of **ECARS** in the evening, around 6 o'clock local time, known as the "Nighthawks". The evening net, runs until the "The Voice of America,"and the foreign broadcast cast stations become to overpowering.

Rick always has a very respectable 20 over S9 signal into the Keystone State, from the beautiful Virginia Beach area, and would like to here from some of his friends at DLARC. So next time your in the shack surfing the amateur bands, why not tune into 7.2550, and see if Rick is on frequency.

Just shout "contact", and net control will be glad to bring you in to make the call, and at the same time, check you into **ECARS.** I am certain Rick would really appreciate the contact. Thank You

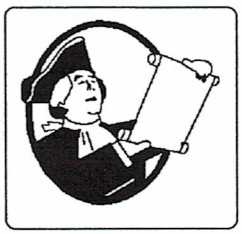
de Mark, KZ3DX



Just the Minutes

by Jim, N3DFF

The meeting was called to order at 07:30 PM, December 2, 1999 in Kiva Hall by Don, KA3JWE.



The minutes from the last meeting were approved without change on a motion by Ray, W3TDF with a second from Mark, K3MP.

The Treasurer's Report from Dick, KA3MOU showed:

Balance	**$4,449.73**	**31Oct1999**
Income	**254.00**	
Expenses	**317.36**	
Total	**$4,386.37**	**30Nov1999**

Total Membership: 319.

The Report was accepted on a motion from John, WX3C with a second from Bud, W3BUD. Bob, KE3AW reported that the attendance at the last several classes fell significantly. Several attendees have passed an element of the Amateur test or have received a license.

The next classes will be for a General Class license and will begin on Jan. 10, 2000. The classes will meet weekly for six weeks.

No current repeater report was available, however, Don reported that from the last Board meeting all repeaters were operating.

Two new members were introduced to the club by President Don.

Cliff Wagner W3ZL, and Bob Schuette N3SNZ, were approved for membership by a voice vote.

The Christmas City Special Event station will operate on Saturday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec 19 from 09:00 AM to 09:00 PM. This year the station will be located in room 215 of the Greystone Building.

Two presentations were made by Don, KA3JWE. The first to Carl, AA3IX for chairing the HamFest, the second was a ceremonial gavel presented to Joe, W3JD for his two years as President of DLARC.

Don announced the Board's decision to donate the club's portion of the 50/50 drawings to the ARRL Legal Defense Fund. This will be done for three months beginning in January.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Nick Tolenda asked for some people to be available on **New Year's Eve** and into **Jan. 1** in the case of communication failures. **Dick, KA3MOU** will start a net on the repeater in the evening, all are welcome to sign-in. For more information, contact Dick.

Stephanie, KB3DNA said the VE sessions are going well, but she still needs volunteers to help.

A motion to close was made at 08:00 PM by Carl, AA3IX with a second from Dennis, KB3DFW. Attendance at this meeting was 33.

The program was presented by Jim Burns of PP&L. Jim discussed the Y2K issue and the significant work done at PP&L to prepare for it. His message was that PP&L is prepared for the calendar change and will be staffing their major sites on New Year's Eve in the event of a problem. He noted that local outages frequently occur due to storm damage or auto accidents and that type of outage may occur on New Years.

de Jim, N3DFF, Secretary

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Income & Loss Statement

Balance		**$4,449.73**
INCOME		
Donation Income Fifty - Fifty	26.00	
Dues ARRL	228.00	
TOTAL INCOME	**254.00**	
EXPENSES		
Newsletters for December	100.00	
Postage	83.53	
Renewal ARRL	26.00	
Supplies		
Frames,Photo Paper,Gavel Ribbon	73.53	
Telephone	34.30	
TOTAL EXPENSES	**317.36**	
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSE	**-63.36**	
Balance 11/30/99		**$4,386.37**

Total Membership 321 as of 12/02/99

deDick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Don't forget dues are due

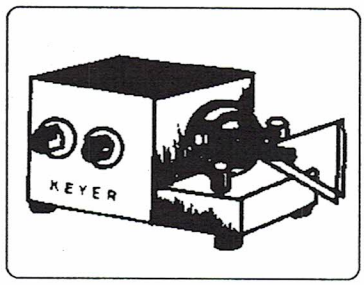
Let all members begin to remember that there are nets weekly on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. A turnout here can show that we are available in case of emergency and know what to do.

In addition, we need more to participate as control operators. If available contact Dick Dech, KA3MOU

A Very Special Visit

by Rich N3NXF

You know, it's funny. I find myself thinking more and more about sitting down with some CW tapes and relearning the code, but this time for fun, not because I have to for upgrading purposes. The idea of "conversing" with another ham using the Morse code is beginning to have a unique, classical appeal to it. After all, anyone can "talk" to someone overseas by simply picking up the telephone, but only hams would converse using CW. This represents a radical change in my thinking. Back in 1993 when I was working toward my General ticket, I vociferously disagreed with my need to learn CW (I still disagree with incentive licensing, but that's a story for a different article).



Now, I'm relating all of this to you because it puts a fine point on the true irony of the following admission: I met one of my BEST Ham buddies during a horrible CW contact in December of 1993. One evening just before supper time, I was fooling around in the CW portion of 15 meters. I found an empty spot on 21.135, and began sending

C Q, C Q d e N 3 N X F

slow enough to match my copy speed (like most, I can send a mile a minute, but it's the copy speed that I have trouble with) in hopes that some overseas station would answer. To my great surprise (and horror, because if someone answers you that means you have to try and copy them) I began to hear a station calling back to me with my call sign followed by his own. There was so much QSB that I never did hear his whole call sign. It was a G0P something. I also managed to copy that he was sending from somewhere in the UK, but that was about it. There was so much noise I was unable to make out a signal report, or anything about his station. Oh yes, I was also able to copy that his name was Kevin.

We worked hard at that conversation, easily twenty minutes went into sending and resending just the basic information, but it was no use. Either I was very tired (you know how your brain gets so frazzled trying to copy code that it just shuts down), or the QSB was that bad, but I was unable to copy a QTH or a complete call sign. Eventually we each sent along our 73's and ended the contact. I felt so horrible, and so defeated because I wasn't even "good enough" to make out Kevin's call sign that I didn't even bother to log the contact, hoping to forever forget that the contact ever even took place. Two weeks later I received a paper bag colored envelope in the mail with a British stamp on it. The return address on it was a Kevin Green G0PHP, Barton-upon-Humber. Inside the envelope was Kevin's QSL card thanking me for, and confirming our "FB" CW QSO on 21.135 MHz, December 5, at 1325 GMT. It also said he was using 100W from a FT-101 transmitter in to a "V"-beam. The signal report was a 559 QSB. There was also a note saying that he sent a card via the bureau (which I finally got 5 years later), but he had hoped that I would get this card faster. I didn't quite know what to do. I remember thinking that this guy must really need US QSL cards badly to want to send me one for that lousy contact. So I decided that I would send him a card and be as honest as I could about the contact. I wrote out the card basically copying the information that he sent me, and on the back I put a little note explaining how bad conditions were, and how bad I was at copying code. I also apologized for not sending out a card right away, but that I didn't even have the heart to log the contact, etc.

"Now", I thought as the mailbox door closed behind the envelope, "I can finally put this contact behind me", but this was not to be. You can imagine how surprised I was when several weeks later I got a 2 page letter from Kevin telling me about himself, and about where he lived in England. At the end of the letter he penned something that I thought was really kind of strange and nice. He said that he had always wanted to have an American "Pen Pal" and he wondered if I would be interested in the position. I showed the letter to my wife and she was almost as excited as I was when she told me she thought I should write a letter back to Kevin.

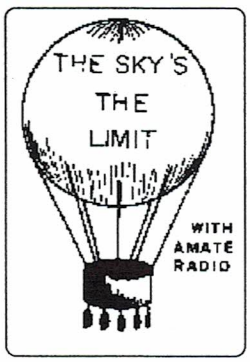
Many letters, Christmas cards, presents, and telephone calls made their way across the Atlantic. At one point Kevin and I decided that packet radio might be the way to go with these messages, and we tried that for a while, but some messages took up to a month or more to reach us, still the friendship endured (by now I had enrolled Kevin as a member of the DLARC, and some of you were packet messaging him too).

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

When we each had e-mail capabilities, we started sending messages to each other that way too, but it never quite had the homey feeling of a hand written letter.

In 1996 my wife Wendy and I traveled to England and actually met Kevin, his wife Anji, his son Mark and his daughter Sarah for the first time.Kevin, Anji, Wendy, and I spent a week driving around Scotland and the Yorkshire dales together. It was a wonderful time, and we all thought it was amazing how terrifically we all got along considering we had never really met each other before. When we left, of course, we invited them to come and see America (they had never been here before), and enjoy our hospitality. Well, the plans for a trip the next year got changed (as plans often do) to the following year, and then to "sometime we'll have to get there". Then one day early this year, quite by surprise (and I think with a gentle nudge from Anji) Kevin asked me if it would be all right if they came to visit in the fall.



The date we all decided on for the trip would coincide with my Thanksgiving vacation giving me maximum time to spend with the Greens. Wendy and I thought about interesting places to take them, but their main request was to see New York City (of course, I thought, on Black Friday weekend, the busiest traffic time of the year). Anji also requested some "retail therapy", and my wife eagerly agreed to its necessity.

We picked them up in Newark airport at 3:00 PM on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and had a wonderful, hug filled reunion. My kids (Max and Danny) also met their Uncle Kevin and Auntie Anji for the first time. Now, I'm not going to bore you with the intimate day to day details of their trip. We did do lots of outlet shopping, we walked through Jacobsburg park and around Nazareth, we introduced them to Sam's Club (were Anji bought a needed camera) and oh yes, we visited New York City. Ham Radio played an important role in the New York trip. You see Anji had seen Macys for years in the movies and on TV, and wanted to walk around. My wife wanted to walk around too but in a different direction. Kevin and I were able to find each other in the sea of people there using our HT's (HINT: if you ever need to use your HT in the NYC Macys, put it on High Power). For some reason, which I have yet to fathom, Kevin and Anji were positively giddy about taking Anji's picture with a NYC Police officer. Well, I guess folks take pictures with London Bobbies so I shouldn't think it so strange. Before they left, Wendy asked Anji what was her favorite part of the trip. After mentioning a few other things she said that it would have to be walking down 5th Avenue.

Sunday morning of their trip, some Hams got together at the Nazareth Diner with the idea of meeting Kevin (Kevin and Anji had never had a real American breakfast before, so it was a double treat). After we parked, but before we actually got into the diner, we heard Bob KE3AW on the repeater. Bob had packetted Kevin several times in the past, so Kevin was happy to get a chance to chat with Bob on .70 for a few minutes. Those in attendance at the breakfast were Dick KA3MOU and his lovely wife Maryann, Jeff N3QZT, Brad KA1RAH, Dave N3LWY, Charlie KE3NN, and of course, Kevin, Anji, Wendy, Max, Danny, and myself. We all had a great time.

KA3MOU brought his new toy (a digital camera) and took some pictures so all of us could remember this momentous occasion.

Their trip had to end sometime, and unfortunately that meant taking them back to Newark Airport at 2:00 PM on the Monday after Thanksgiving. They told us it was a busy, yet relaxing wonderful trip for them, and they would love to come back. Of course, we told them they were always welcome anytime. We also made some plans for visiting them again in England (they told us that after they got home they discussed where they were going to take us when we visited again...).

It seems we arrived at the airport, and they got checked in with just about 10 minutes to spare before boarding. So we said our quick, tear filled good-byes, left them at the gate, and headed for home. It was an interesting turn around for my oldest son Max (4 years old). In 5 days he went from just meeting the faces behind the voices on the telephone, to saying between the tears "my heart is broken" as they left. Our hearts were broken too, but we are buoyed by the fact that we all had such a wonderful time (Wendy and I both truly felt like they "belonged" at the house), and that there are MANY more wonderful times to come. In the end, I am forced to admit that some absolutely marvelous things can come from even a relatively unreadable string of dits and dahs..

de Rich, N3NXF

Riley Hollingsworth to keynote Dayton Hamvention

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will be the keynote speaker at the 2000 Dayton Hamvention banquet on Saturday, May 20. For the first time ever, the Dayton Hamvention will host the ARRL National Convention, and Hamvention 2000 promises to be the biggest and best ever. Because it's also the League's national convention, Dayton Hamvention 2000 will include an expanded forum schedule.

Hollingsworth already is well known to the amateur community, and his appearances at last year's Hamvention drew large and enthusiastic audiences. He says he's pleased to be invited back to Dayton and honored to be the banquet speaker for Hamvention 2000.

In the fall of 1998, Hollingsworth--who's headquartered at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office--spearheaded an Amateur Radio enforcement initiative that reversed a long period of Commission inattention and apathy. Hams across the US have credited Hollingsworth with helping to reduce malicious interference and other problem behavior, both on and off the air. The result has been a marked upswing in morale within the amateur community.

Hollingsworth says his message is a simple one. "Our communications services in America, whether our telephone system or our computer networks, are the envy of the rest of the world," he said. "Our Amateur Radio Service should be, too. There's no reason why our Amateur Radio Service can't be the finest radio service in the world."

A native of South Carolina and a ham for 39 years, Hollingsworth holds an Advanced class ticket. He's a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University Law School. Now an FCC veteran, Hollingsworth, 53, previously served in several prominent positions within the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

Hollingsworth joined the former Compliance and Information Bureau as Legal Advisor for Enforcement in 1998. As a result of the FCC reorganization in November, Hollingsworth became Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement within the FCC's new Enforcement Bureau.

In addition to his enforcement duties--which include the Land Mobile Service in addition to Amateur Service--Hollingsworth has been temporarily detailed to the new FCC Consumer Information Bureau to manage the Gettysburg Consumer Center.

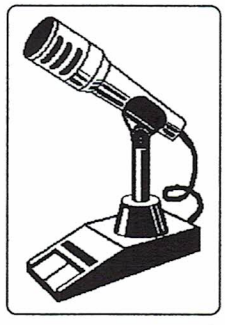
A member of the ARRL, Hollingsworth also belongs to the Quarter Century Wireless Association and the Radio Club of America.

Dayton Hamvention will take place May 19-21, 2000. As part of the banquet festivities, the sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association will present awards for Dayton Hamvention Amateur of the Year, Technical Excellence and Special Achievement.

Advanced registration now is available. Call 937-276-6930 or e-mail tickets@hamvention.org. For more information on Dayton Hamvention 2000, visit **http://www.hamvention.org,** e-mail info@hamvention.org or call 937-276-6930 weekdays 10 AM-5 PM. ***via ARRL letter***

FCC turns away ham broadcasting petition

The **FCC** has turned down a request by Michael R. Reynolds, W0KIE, to permit amateurs to make one-way transmissions intended for reception by the general public on Amateur Service frequencies above 420 MHz. Reynolds had said that, if adopted, his proposal would provide new opportunities for noncommercial, community-oriented radio and additional diversity on the radio dial. He also asserted that Amateur Service frequencies above 420 MHz are "seriously underutilized."



The FCC dismissed the petition November 18, apparently without ever assigning it a rulemaking number or soliciting comments.

In dismissing the petition, the FCC said that the Amateur Service was not intended to be used for broadcasting, that authorizing broadcasting in the 420-450 MHz band could cause harmful interference to other stations that share the band with amateurs, that the band is well-populated with repeaters, and that 420 MHz is the lowest amateur frequency available for spread spectrum and ATV. The FCC also noted the pending petition to create a low-power FM broadcasting service.

via ARRL letter and W5YI Report

Skywarn TC Meeting Minutes

by John, WX3TAZ

The **SKYWARN** Technical Committee quarterly meeting was held on December 5 at the NWSFO in Mount Holly. The following attended the meeting: Joe Miketta; Rob, WX3ROB; John, WX3TAZ; Cully, N3HTZ; Bob, WA3PZO; Lou, KQ6TWO; Dave, N2VRC; Kathy, W2KAT; Stephanie, WX3K, and John Quagliariello.

The link system (Bears & Complex Repeater Group) is up and running, and everything is working well. It looks like there will be a new 2M link into Morris County, NJ. There is still some testing being done right now, so it will just be a matter of time. This will help Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties access the Thursday Night Net.

A topic of discussion was the Thursday Night Nets. Lou, KQ6TWO, volunteered to be the Net Control Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer to be a NC, please contact Lou via email at mailto:kq6two@ureach.com. If you want more information, please check the WX2PHI website at http://wx2phi.skywarn.net/skywarn.html for the frequencies that are used. Starting January 6, 2000, the Nets will start at 8pm instead of 9pm. There will be someone from the NWS as a guest speaker that night.

The **NWS SKYWARN Special Event Station** will be held in March at the **NWSFO.** The date hasn't been set up yet because Pennsylvania has yet decided when they have their Severe Weather Awareness Week. **John, WX3TAZ,** is going to be the Chairperson for the event. He also volunteered to be the QSL Manager for the event.

The next TC meeting will coincide with the County Coordinators' meeting at Fort Dix. Joe will check with Fort Dix for the place and date.

Respectfully submitted, John Holmes, WX3TAZ Secretary/Vice-Chairman SKYWARN Technical Committee NWSFO, Mt. Holly, NJ.



College Scholarships offered

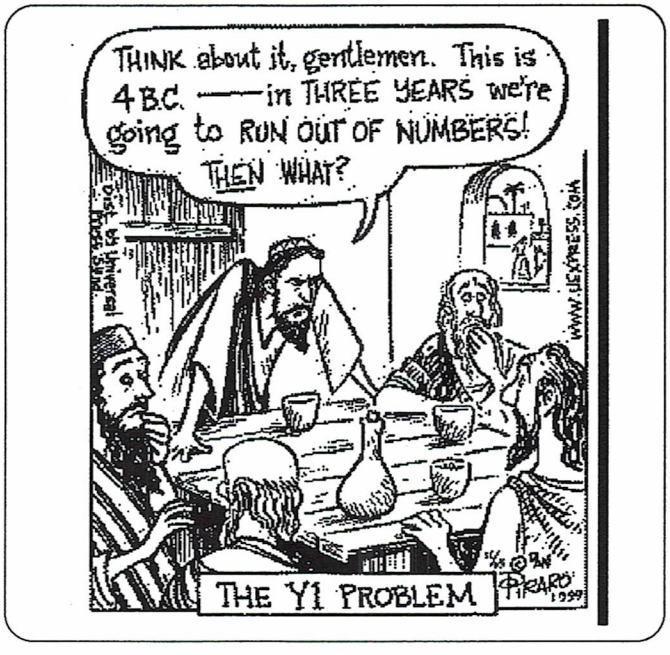
by Hugh Trumbull, W3ABC

The **Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc.,** a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington DC., plans to administer seventy-three (73) scholarships for he academic year 2000-2001 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation composed of local Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds ten of these scholarships wit the income from grants and income of its annual Hamfest. The remaining sixty-three (63) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may complete 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 prefernce given in some cases to residents of specified geograpical areas or the pursit of certain study programs.

Aditional information and application form may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to Apil 30 2000.

Far Scholarships,
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale Md 20738



FCC audits South Carolina exam session

via ARRL letter

Following up on allegations of irregularities, the FCC is auditing a July 14 W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio examination session in Clemson, South Carolina. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth this month sent inquiries to several individuals said to have been involved with the session, including four W5YI-VEC Volunteer Examiners. Several licensees who took and passed examinations at the session also were designated for retesting.

"We had some very serious allegations from some of the examiners that their signature appeared on the 610 forms as well as the manifest for the exam and they weren't present," Hollingsworth said this week. "We have some other evidence that we're not revealing at this time, but we're just auditing the Clemson exam and we'll be looking at some other tests as part of this same investigation."

At the core of the issue is an examination "sub-session" arranged following a regularly scheduled test session the same day in Clemson. The W5YI-VEC, which has cooperated with the FCC in the investigation, says there's reason to believe that VEC paperwork may have been forged, some of the alleged volunteer examiners actually were impostors, and one examiner also was an examinee.

Hollingsworth has written volunteer examiners Eugene D. Watring, AF4DB; "Dale" Martin, KT4NY; Grady P. Robinson, AK4N; and Mikel T. Blackwell, N4OPD, asking each if he signed the manifest or any Forms 610 or authorized anyone to sign on his behalf; if he was present for the exam session or any part of it, and, if so, the time and location; the nature of his involvement, if any, in the July 14 examination session, and, if he were not present, how he became aware that "your purported signature appeared" on the exam session documents.

In a prepared statement, Fred Maia, W5YI, said the FCC is especially interested in the circumstances of the upgrade of William J. Browning, AB4BB (ex-AF4PJ and KE4BWS), from General to Amateur Extra. Maia says Browning "upgraded his General class license at a second session held after he acted as team leader at his regular examination session held the same day at the same location." Maia says the second exam session appears to be "a concocted session to upgrade a specific licensee."

Maia says Browning asked Watring to assist in both examination sessions, and Watring served as team leader at the second one. He says that when Watring showed up to help monitor the second session "he was introduced to other VEs whom he did not know." The other VEs-- Blackwell, Martin and Robinson--furnished signed letters to the W5YI-VEC stating they did not participate in either examination session. "It appears that Watring, Blackwell, Martin and Robinson may be totally innocent,." Maia said.

Robinson and Blackwell are shown as VEs on Browning's application as well on those of examinees Frank D. Cox, KF4UJQ; Joseph A. Cox, KF4RMH; and James F. Chambers, KF4PWF. The FCC has requested that Browning, Frank Cox, Joseph Cox, and Chambers retake their Amateur Radio examinations before January 31, 2000.

Following up on an audit of a May 2, 1999, examination session in Yonkers, New York, Hollingsworth also posed similar questions to ARRL-VEC volunteer examiner James Bonnett, KA2ZSA. Hollingsworth asked Bonnett on December 8 if he actually signed Form 610s for two examinees at the session or authorized anyone to sign for him; the nature of his involvement, if any, in the May 2 session; and if he was not present how he came to know that his "purported signature" appeared on the forms. Hollingsworth also asked if Bonnett had applied any of the marks found on answer sheets from the session.

Hollingsworth also wrote to session examinee Winston Tulloch, KC2ALN, who had attempted to upgrade from General to Advanced at the session. The FCC subsequently dismissed applications from Tulloch and others because of alleged irregularities and put a cloud over their future amateur applications.

In his December 8 letter, Hollingsworth encouraged Tulloch to retake the examination and said his application "would be processed routinely." Alleged irregularities at the session, Hollingsworth told Tulloch, "were not your fault and in no way reflect adversely on your qualifications to be a licensee." .

The ARRL Letter

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate to the DLARC, RACES & ARES nets on
146.70 and 443.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) 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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==1999-2000==

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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
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visit our web page

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