Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2001

Meeting on January 4 at IU20 Building

WX3MAS Christmas City Station

16 & 17 December 2000

by Bob, KB3CSS

The Christmas City Special Event Station got underway at 9:44 and Tom **N3BMD** from Allentown was the first QSO. Prior to that first call several people were working behind the scenes setting up the radio and transmission line.Credits go to: Barry **N3NVA**, Bob **KE3AW,** Ken **N3IYX,** Jeff **N3QZT**, Charlie **KE3NN** and Dick **KA3MOU** for the initial set up (and there were probably others I forgot to mention).

On Saturday, Dick **KA3MOU**, John **WD8SCX** and Jeff **N3QZT** took the 9-11 shift. Mark **K3MP**, Carl **AA3IX** and Rich **KB3DEC** were on the 11-1 shift. Jim **KB3BYU**, Bob **N3SNZ** and Dave **N3EYT** manned the 1-3 shift. Taking the 3-5 shift were Bill **N2DH** and XYL **KB3CSR**. Bryan **KB3FGL**, Jim **KB3BYU** and Bob **KB3CSS** took the 5-7 slot, and Dick **KA3MOU**, Glenn **N3ULW** and others helped with the 7-9 [graveyard] shift, with hardly any QSO's past 8 PM.

At the end of the night we had 322 QSO's, and netted 45 states, and several foreign countries including Canada, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Queensland Australia, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Madiera Islands Portugal (off the Northwest coast of Africa), Greece, France and the UK.

On Sunday, Bob **KE3AW** and Mark **N3NBL** took the 9-11 shift. The 11-1 shift was also taken by Bob **KE3AW** along with Bryan **KB3FGL**. Blair **K3YD** and daughter Monica took the 1-3 shift with Bob **KB3CSS** and Chris **N3SIG** assisting. The 3-5 shift saw Bud **W3BUD** and Bob **W3HJ**. Sara **KB3CLQ** and Rick **K3OO** took the 5-7 slot, and the 7-9 final shift was taken by Don **KA3JWE** and Dick **KA3MOU** with assistance from Glenn N3ULW. The ever present Jeff **N3QZT** manned the laptop on both days making use of the QRZ callsign data base, sending e-mails to the club net, as well as sending e-mail QSL's to some individuals who requested it.

At the end of the event, we had 518 QSO's and all the states except Utah, Idaho, Hawaii and Alaska. We also added Japan and the Canadian provinces such as BC, Manitoba, and Newfoundland, which wetted our appetites for the possibility of picking up Hawaii or Alaska, but it didn't happen. All in all it was a successful weekend, as well as an enjoyable one.

Refreshments were provided by Bob **KB3CSS,** Dick **KA3MOU**, Jill **N3ZSR** and others, and no one left hungry. Jill and Glenn also provided us with a draft of the certificates, and a final decision will soon be made in that regard. Closing up shop were the members of the 9-11 shift as well as Ken **N3IYX.**

Some history of the event was provided by **Rick K3OO,** who tells us that the first WX3MAS was 1968 when our club was first granted the use of this call by the FCC. Ours was one of the first such special events, and many others followed suit with similar events. Callers from around the country boasted that this was not their first WX3MAS. In fact, our own Gerald **N5ZXJ** boasted that he had contacted us on 40, 20 and 10 meters. We had only 3 contacts on 15 m and , and we didn't try 80 or 160 m.

The club's Kenwood 430S radio was used for the HF contacts and we also had a 2 meter station to keep in touch with club members interested in the HF frequency we were currently working.

Thanks to all who participated in the event and made it all happen. It was truly a team effort with much cooperation and sharing of radio roles. Everyone who wanted to was able to make that DX, and for some it was their first. The club has a fine traditional event, one that is respected around the country and around the world. Wishing all of you a Merry **WX3MAS,** this is **KB3CSS** signing off, and preparing for a Christmas visit to son Jonathan and his wife Amy in Fairbanks Alaska.

de Bob, KB3CSS

Just the Minutes

Jill Brodt, N3ZSR

President Don Reamer, **KA3JWE** called the December 7th club meeting to order at 7:33 PM, with 34 members and 8 guests present.



The meeting minutes for November were accepted as they appeared in the newsletter with a motion from **Bob, KE3AW**, and seconded by **J.P., N3GWR.**

The Treasurer's Report shown elsewhere in this newletter was accepted with a motion from **Bill, N2DH,** and seconded by **Bob, N3SNZ**. There are presently 281 club members.

Barry, N3NVA reported that we are almost there with the voters. That he got permission to put another cabinet to go in at the 911 site. Hopefully some of the voters would be put in the weekend of December 8th. The 440 repeater had been off line for about a month. The 440 has been giving Barry problems off and on since the water damage this past summer, even though the factory worked on it at no cost. Barry is in the process of putting together another master2, that he will be waiting for about 4 more weeks for new crystals, than we will have (2) 440's up there. Barry has a 6-meter repeater on hand, and needs to get coordinated. Barry also reported there was nothing new on the Club Home Page, but reminded everyone to use www.dlarc.org.

Bob, KE3AW reported that classes would be starting around Easter.

The VE Session for December will be held at Gracedale. **Stephanie KB3DNA**, has resigned as coordinator as of this session and **Bill, N2DH** and his wife **Thalia, KB3CSR** are going to take over.

Barry KB3FMI, **Ed KB3FTH** and wife, **Phil KH2EI, Larry KB3FLO, Ed N3MSK**, John Andrews and son Sean were all welcomed as guest for the evening.

Don, KA3JWE reported that we still need to find a Program Chairperson. To please contact any board member for program ideas, know someone who you think would do a program, or someone that will be Program Chairperson..

Bob, KB3CSS who is Chairman for Christmas City this year, (who I might add could pass as the jolly ol elf himself in city clothes) reported (in his Santa voice) that there are still a few time slots to be filled. He also asked for donations of snacks (especially cookies) to help feed his many hungry workers.

Carl AA3IX, Hamfest Chairman for 2001 reported that the September 15th date had been accepted by the ARRL.

Blair, K3YD, presented the program on wire antenna's (half square) for H.F.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM on a motion from **John, WX3C** and seconded by **Norm, K3NZ.**

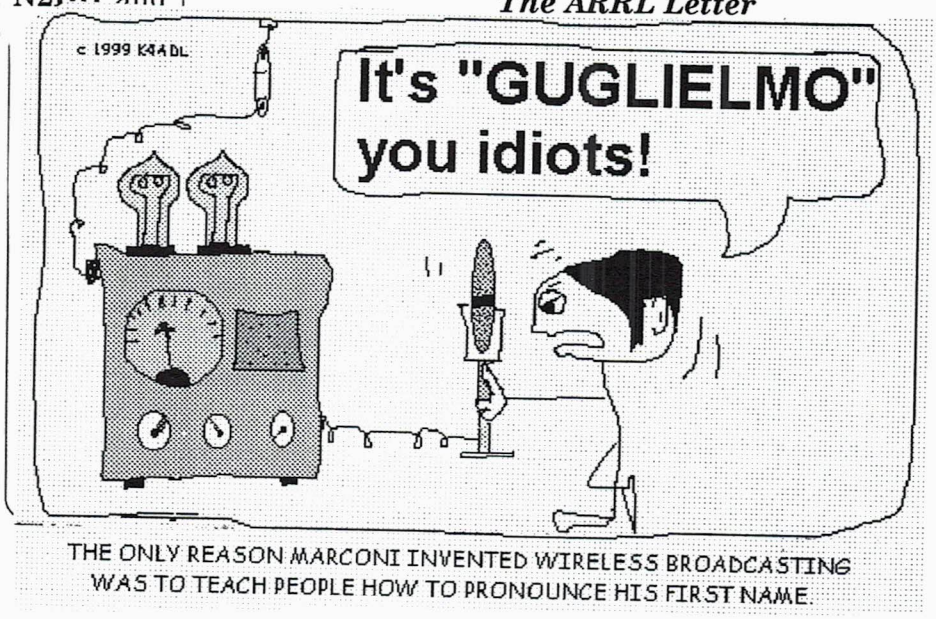
Jill, N3ZSR, Secretary

Amateur Radio to the rescue

Ham radio relay brings helicopter help to ill hunter: According to a report in the Eugene Register-Guard, a Coos Bay, Oregon, man who fell ill while hunting November 12 can thank Amateur Radio for his rescue. James Pichette, 58, was hunting east of Reedsport with his stepson, Matt Grigsby, KC7PZH, when Pichette experienced apparent heart problems.

Grigsby called for help via ham radio. The call was picked up by an unidentified ham in Florence who relayed the message to one of Pichette's sons. The son called Reedsport police, who, in turn, contacted the Coos Bay Coast Guard office. The Coast Guard transported Pichette to a Eugene hospital. Grigsby says his stepfather has been transferred out of intensive care and is doing fine.--thanks to Patrick Roberson, WA7PAT

The ARRL Letter



Our New Section Manager

by Eric WB3EFL

Greetings to everyone. For those of you who do not know me I have been selected to fill the ARRL Eastern Pa. Section Manager's position from January 1, 2001 until 2002. I am definitely not a new comer to the Eastern Pa. Section. I was first licensed in 1977 and in 1979 I assumed the duties of Emergency Coordinator in Berks County.

In August of 1988 I became District Emergency Coordinator (Berks, Schuylkill and Carbon Counties). In April of 1990 I became Section Emergency Coordinator for E. Pa.

In October of 1992 I resigned as SEC due to employment change but I remained on the E. Pa. section staff as Assistant Section Manager, serving as ASM until 1996.

In August of 1994 I was asked to again be SEC. I remained as SEC until assuming the duties as SM. Since approximately 1990 I have been representing the ARRL and all volunteer radio organizations at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management (PEMA) Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disasters Committee (VOAD). My professional duties also reflect my commitment to radio communications.

I retired in 1992 after twenty-five and one half years with the Pennsylvania State Police. Six of those years I was the assistant and the Troop Communications Specialist.

I retired from the PSP to become Assistant Director of Communications at the Berks County Communications Center. In October of 2000 I retired from County employment so that I can devote more of my time to handling the duties that come with the volunteer position, SM. (not to mention my XYL's "honey do" list).

I feel extremely lucky to be retired at 56 and be able to pursue pleasures and responsibilities that come with such a great hobby as amateur radio. The only items I bring to the table as SM is what can I and my staff do for our fellow E. Pa. amateurs and what could we do to help promote amateur radio as a great and varied hobby. As I always advised the employees at the county communications center, my door is always open for what ever you need to discuss. I may not know all of the answers but I will certainly do my best to bring any question or problem to a reasonable solution.

Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL

New Member

Thomas A. McDonald, N3MQL

Tom was born in Philadelphia in 1973. He graduated from LaSalle High School and College and earned a BS in Computer Science. He then attended Allentown College, St. Francis de Sales and secured a BA in Business Management.

While in college he interned at Lehigh Portland Cement as a Computer Helpdesk Technician. Afterwards he joined Strategic Weather Services in Wayne, Pennsylvania and specialized in Client Services working with meteorologists developing long-range weather forecasts. He also worked as a Network Administrator. Tom returned to the Lehigh Valley and joined Air Products where he is employed as an IT Specialist working with the Electronic Software Engineering Group.

Tom got into Amateur Radio when a friend of his Dad's introduced him to the hobby in 1991. He earned a Technician Class license. Previously he was a member of the Philmont Radio Club. Tom currently lives in Whitehall with his wife Katie whom he has been encouraging to also get a Ham Ticket.

With Tom's educational and work background it goes without saying that he is a computer enthusiast. Other hobbies include fishing, skiing, and diving. Tom's chief hobby is flying since he became a licensed pilot.

supplied by Al, WO4H

He was approved for membership at the November 2nd meeting, but was missed in the last newsletter.

How you did it!

I am looking for stories on how you became an amateur radio operator for the news letter. If you can please email it to me..

Clarence, W3PYF

The Night Owls

by Dewi, W3CQU

After about eighteen years a Lehigh Valley institution has come to an end. At midnight, from it's beginning almost until his death a voice would announce on the "70" machine, "This is **woubelue three Wee Que,** are there any night owls out there?"

Then Preston Schuler, pencil in hand listed the call signs of all check-ins. Although not technically a net, he ran it as though it were. I guess the best description would be, a directed rag chew.

Many of the original members have joined together in the shack of the next life. Amateurs from all over the valley and beyond participated, poking fun at each other and sharing their cares and worries and remembering birthdays and anniversaries. It was on the air every night of the year except field day.

The night owls were not a function of any club and were always grateful to DLARC for the use of the repeater. There were participants from both clubs in the Lehigh Valley, W3OK and W3OI.

It is safe to say that many "check-ins" with no club affiliation eventually became members of one or both clubs. I recall W3OI's Pres Schuler (W3VQ) and W3OK's John Marazzi (W3BAL) inviting each other to join the "best" club. Roy Buss (KA3MNY), then treasurer I think of DLARC would keep peace.

Often one of us would stimulate Billy Pflugler to call Pres and poke some fun. Billy wasn't able to get on two meters at the time.

Calling the roll, KA3PZI (Judy Wireback), "What are you up to Girl?" and Judy would give her news and in a subtle barb of some kind turn it back to W3VQ. "Where's that stupid cat?, N3FNW (That was my call) "That stupid cat? She is the only truly sensible one here, she is sleeping rather than talking to a piece of plastic." Goldie is still here, sitting on my desk watching me type this, waiting for an opening to climb on my lap. She will be seventeen years old on April 1, next year. There were so many callers and the friendships and camaraderie that developed are impossible to fathom.

After Preston's earth key silenced, there were several formats for running the chat. After a few months we prevailed on Ed Romig, (KD3NH) to take over. The time was changed to 11:30PM to accommodate the working members. Since December 1991 he logged in 466 different operators checking into the net (oops, rag chew). A couple years ago, dwindling checkins made it more practical to reduce the net to one nite a week, Thursday. Recently, the group was further reduced due to the late hour and the early wake up call for many. Now, with usually only a few loyal subjects it has been decided to discontinue the net.

Through the years our antics were enjoyed by many listeners, some who eventually became licensed operators and participants. I once estimated, tongue in cheek of course that we had more listeners than the Tonight Show. We had members stay on the air long after the net closed to help struggling, lost or travelers just needing company to keep awake. In a few instances emergency assistance was summoned for hams in distress. It was a good thing, much like my first introduction to amateur radio in the late 1930's and I will miss it..

de Dewi, W3CQU

Do you want a tower?

by Pete, K3RDT

You may remember my friend, Juan Arenas. He was at one time deep into ham radio, but then got involved in other hobbies (like sailing his 34 ft. sailboat to Spain and back via the Azore Islands,the Caribbean Islands, etc.) I've tried to get him back into ham radio, but I'm afraid he's not going to do it. He has asked me to see if there's anyone interested in his antennas. He can't give me brand names, but he always buys the top of the line equipment. I'll put it into an ad for the W3OK Corral:

Free for the taking: A freestanding tower(approximately 35 ft.), a tri-band beam, heavy duty rotator, 2 meter beam, 2 meter vertical, and a coaxial switch. Free to whoever takes it down and removes it. Call **Juan Arenas (610) 867-7988** or **Pete, K3RDT (610) 866-4485.**

de Pete. K3RDT



President signs CB enforcemet act

President Bill Clinton has signed legislation that permits the enforcement of certain FCC Citizens Band regulations by state and local governments. Amateur Radio operators are exempt from the provisions of the law, now PL 106-521.

Congressional lawmakers saw the measure as a way to give a voice to those experiencing radio frequency interference resulting from illegal CB radio operation. The FCC will not yield its authority to regulate Citizens Band or other radio services, however.

In short, the measure authorizes states and localities to enact laws that prohibit the use of unauthorized CB equipment--consistent with FCC regulations. This would include the use of high-power linear amplifiers or equipment that was not FCC-certificated.

FCC-licensed stations in any radio service--including the Amateur Service--are excluded from such state or local enforcement, and state or local laws enacted under this legislation must identify this exemption.

The bill--HR.2346 is the House version; it was S.2767 in the Senate--actually is the old Senate "Feingold bill" from several sessions ago. The bill's sponsor, Rep Vernon Ehlers of Michigan says local hams asked him to support the bill because of the bad rap they were getting from illegal CBers using high-power linear amplifiers that resulted in TV and telephone interference while the CBers involved hid behind federal preemption.

As did Feingold before him, Ehlers asked the ARRL to review his measure to ensure that it would not unintentionally harm Amateur Radio.

The ARRL Letter

Board to consider Morce Code policy review

The ARRL Board of Directors will review the League's position on the Morse code as an international licensing requirement when it gathers for its annual meeting in January. Because the issue is expected to come up at the IARU Region 2 Conference next October, the ARRL Executive Committee decided at its November 11 meeting in Irving, Texas, to place the issue on the Board's January agenda.

The ARRL's Morse policy was formalized by Board resolution in 1993. It supports the retention in the International Radio Regulations of the provision obliging administrations to require that applicants demonstrate ability to send and receive Morse code before they may operate below 30 MHz. Consistent with that policy, ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, cast the lone dissenting vote earlier this year at the IARU Region 3 Conference in Australia on a motion calling for the eventual elimination of Morse as an ITU requirement for HF operation.

In January, the Board may decide to reaffirm this policy, to modify it, or to seek additional input from members. In the past, a majority of members has supported the policy.

The Executive Committee also proposed that the Board determine a process for soliciting membership input on possible repartitioning of the HF bands in restructuring's wake. As part of its original restructuring package, the League had proposed "refarming" the current Novice bands to allow for more efficient use of the most crowded HF allocations. The FCC has declined to take up any possible repartitioning, however, until it's had a chance to gauge the effects of restructuring. Amateur Radio license restructuring became effective last April 15.

In other action, Stafford and ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported briefly on preparations for WRC-2003. Stafford is focusing on developing support for the Amateur Radio 7 MHz position within Region 2. The IARU seeks a 300-kHz worldwide amateur allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Sumner has been named to the core IARU delegation to that conference.

The Executive Committee also heard a wide-ranging update of other FCC matters, including the League's efforts to gain primary amateur status at 2400 to 2402 MHz and at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

Sumner observed during the meeting that the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bills--HR 783 and S 2183--were not likely to be enacted during the "lame duck" session of Congress that's just ahead. Principal sponsors of both bills are returning to Congress in January and may be asked to reintroduce the legislation.

The Executive Committee also briefly discussed legislative restrictions on the use of cell phones that have been popping up in various localities. Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, noted that an effort is under way in New Jersey to exempt Amateur Radio operation from the effects of such legislation.

The ARRL Letter

How I became one

by Bryan, KB3FGL

I remember I found an old analog muli-band shortwave reciever in the basement of my grandmother's house. That was 1984 and I was in the seventh grade. I brought it up and plugged it in. It didn't have a back on it, nor did it have any antennae to speak of. I started listening and playing with the buttons that night. I heard police calls on the VHF band. I then turned the knob to SW-1 and heard stations from all over the world and didn' t believe what I was hearing. I told my parents that I was listening to Russia and the BBC in London and they didnt believe me. They dismissed it as a childhood 'fib'. But I knew better. Slowly I began to tune around on that radio all night long. I discovered just by listening that the stations seemed to come in better at night. One night my father came up and heard the stations from all over the world coming in through the radio. He began to believe in me, and moreso in the radio. The magical grip of radio slowly took hold of me and woul d never let go. I can still remember the sound of the radio and the more popular broadcasters out there. There still was no antenna.

My father intimated to me that an antenna strung out the window sometimes improves reception. Sure enough there was an "ext. ant. jack' on the side, so in goes a piece of wire; the other end being flung out the window. Voila` more stations, but more interference (QRM, today). Maybe only 2 db gain in reality but for my ears at least a 100 db gain !!! I was hooked.

In those days my good ole' dad was working for an electronics outlet store and for Easter he brought me home a better multi-band reciever. This one had a back and antennae to boot. Ripped open on the floor was the box and the radio was on desk and operating at full power (hi hi). I knew by now where to tune in even though the dial was still vague, labeled with numbers 1- 12. Back then I remember that analog recievers were still quite common. I didnt know that there were digital ones yet.

As I tuned around that old radio (I still have it here in the shack - it smiles at me as I smile right back) I came across these guys talking a lot about the weather. They used all kinds of terms and abbreviations to rival only the military jargon uttered by my grandfather. Once again my fathers suggested to me that I read up on the subject. There ought to be magazines devoted to the radio art. There was! I found this one called 73 and then Popular Communications and Monitoring Times. I had to go the big mall in the next city over the hill to find these mags, and only then there was never more than two on the shelf. Even today, when I go back home, they are still anchored right there next to the 'mens' magazines' - never could figure that one out. QST came much later after I met a couple of hams.

I found out that what I was hearing was Amateur Radio - ham radio. I told my mom that I wanted to be a ham, and she said, "you are a ham, with the way you danced at your aunt's wedding!" Well, anyway, almost 16 years later she sees in my shack what kind of ham I was speaking of.

She did though, introduce me to a neighbour down the street who was a real - life ham! His name was Ike Reed - K3ALR (SK). Mr. Reed gave me books on ham radio to read and told me I would have to know morse code just to get a Novice ticket. I looked through the catalogs to show my parents how much money would need to be spent to satisfy my educational needs - hi hi. (I was a junior political spin meister) He showed me his 'rigs' in his house. He turned them on and let me listen. Ike couldn't transmit those big boys on account of his having a pace maker. But he did let me take a whack at his mobile transciever! Wow, you can put one of these bad boys in your car? Like a cop? I think back to that radio and compare that to what we put in our cars now. Sure enough I was talking to some guy up the line on a repeater owned by a club that I am now proudly a member of. I was talking to a man named John Smith - K3SLJ. He invited me to his shack as well. I dont think my father r ealized what he was in for. John's hobby occupied an entire room! I still have his QSL card with his shack's photo on it. I looked at my dad and told him I wanted a room like this. Sure!

Well, today both of their QSL's hang with pride in a frame right above my operating position. I hold my Icom 746 on the same pedestal as that radio my father bought me years back. I am going to give him a copy of this letter to show him how much I appreciated what he did for me. I still talk to John Smith on the repeater and hope to get up to see him for the holidays. I love this hobby. I hope I can pass it along to my kids. I have one on the way and I am tapping out morse code on my wife's belly. If it works perhaps my babies first words will be dit-dah.

Bryan Smith KB3FGL

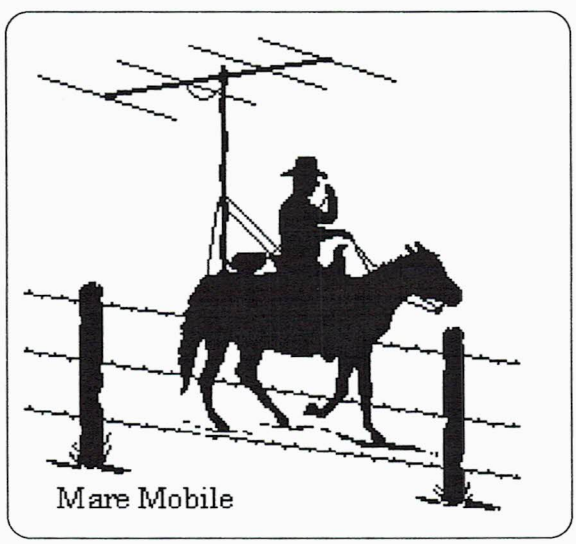
ARRL VEC anticipates $10 test fee for 2001

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the ARRL VEC plans to set its test fee for calendar year **2001 at $10.** The current fee of **$6.65** is based on a provision in the Communications Act, adopted in 1984, that established a $4 cap on reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs with an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. More recent legislation removed this cap. An FCC announcement of changes in its rules, reflecting the change in the law, is expected toward the end of the year.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the higher fee reflects the fact that the ARRL VEC is doing more of the work on behalf of the FCC than was envisioned at the time Congress set the original cap. "We're doing the data entry for all new and upgrade license applications that are handled by the ARRL Volunteer Examiners," Sumner explained. "Originally, we simply reviewed and organized the paperwork and the FCC staff did the data entry. The current system is better for the applicants because they get their licenses faster, but it's also more costly for us."

Jahnke said a **$10 ARRL VEC** test fee will be formalized as soon as the FCC gives the word that it has made the necessary adjustments to Part 97 to bring it in line with the updated Communications Act. As soon as that happens, the ARRL VEC will make a formal announcement to establish the new fee.

Until then, **ARRL VEC** volunteer examiners will continue to charge applicants at the 2000 test fee rate of **$6.65.**.***The ARRL Letter***



Mare Mobile

Operation on 911 for LehighCounty

by Chris Post N3SIG

In the past several months' calls have been placed to the County of Lehigh's Emergency Communications Center by radio patches via the local ham repeaters. This letter comes in concern that our telecommunications operators may misinterpret calls placed by Amateur Radio Operators. In light of the recent occurrences we have developed the following guidelines for use when making an emergency autopatch.

a.. It is more important that you identify that you are on a "RADIO PATCH" and that only one person can talk at a time, it is not necessary that you give your call sign we do not need this nor does it have any meaning to us.

b.. In place of your Amateur Radio Call Sign please use your real name when identifying.

c.. It is important that you give the Telecommunications Operator your location and type of problem. Be specific use landmarks, addresses and or intersections.

d.. When you converse with the telecommunications operator we suggest that you use the proword "OVER" or "GO AHEAD" to signal that it is the other persons turn to talk.

e.. Do not tell the dispatcher what you think her or she needs to know, let them ask the questions. You may give information that is not needed and tie up the air wasting precious time in a true emergency.

f.. Leave adequate breaks in the conversation in case the Telecommunications Operator needs to ask you a question or to transfer you to another communications center.

g.. When you make a call to the Lehigh County Communications Center your call is routed to a 10-digit number **(610-437-5252)** and is also recorded. If there are any concerns, questions or comments please contact me at **610-782-3073**. Remember these guidelines are not just Lehigh County specific; follow these rules in all areas to get the help that is needed in the shortest amount of time possible.

Chris Post, N3SIG

Communications Coordinator

Emergency Management / Lehigh County

*Pennsylvania ham snags ISS contact:

It was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time, says ARRL member Randy Shriver, KG3N, of Hanover, Pennsylvania. He managed to snag the first--and so far only--"informal" contact with ISS Expedition 1 crew commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, early on the morning of November 13.

"I only had 20 seconds or so," said Shriver. Space Station Alpha was over Newfoundland at the time and had just completed an "engineering pass" contact with NN1SS at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland when Shriver dropped in a quick call, and Shepherd came back to him using his own call sign. "Well Randy, you are my first contact from the space station," Shepherd responded. A ham for about 20 years, Shriver says he built his station specifically for SAREX contacts (he's got four stacked 22-element arrays and 100 W). In 1985, Shriver worked Tony England, W0ORE, aboard the shuttle Challenger. WGAL-TV, Channel 8 in Lancaster included a report on Shriver's ISS QSO in its newscasts.

The ARRL Letter

Half-square antennas

by Blair, K3YD

I've been asked a lot of questions about half-square antennas after my talk on that subject at the December **Delaware Leigh Amateur Radio Club.**. If you missed the talk, or just want to learn more about this very interesting antenna, I recommend the following sources:

ON THE WEB: http://www.cebik.com. Not specific to half squares, but a great resource on HF and VHF antennas of many types. Cebik's paper on phasing is particularly relevant. Also read about the Moxon antenna.

MAGAZINES

"A DX Antenna for 15 Meters" by Paul Carr, N4PC; CQ, July 2000, P. 60 (The overheads I used in my talk came from this article.) Another article on half-squares by Carr appeared in September 1994 CQ, page ref. not available.

"Rotate the Bobtail Curtain"; Jerrold Swank, W8HXR; 73, May 1985, P. 48. Discusses using a quarter wave stub to make the half-square an end-fire array.

"The Half-Square Antenna"; Ben Vester, K3BC; QST, March 1974, P. 11. "Before the 4-square, there was the half-square array."

BOOKS:

ARRL Antenna, 18th Edition, Chapter 6, PPS. 6-13 to 6-16. (NOTE: The 19th edition just came out in November, I'm not sure how much the coverage on half-squares may have changed in the new book.)

A copy of a recent edition of this book belongs in every ham's library. Are you listening, Santa? Another application note. Several folks have mentioned that they intend to try the half-square on 30 or 17 meters in order to have a resonant antenna for either of these WARC bands. It should sure beat a COAX fed 80 meter dipole, or 20 meter beam, fed through a tuner.

Thanks to Barry Kery, KU3X, Preseident and chief antenna maker of Hy-Power Antenna Co. for his donation of a model Half-Square which was awared to a lucky attendee at the conclussion of the program. Barry has models for most bands available for most bands. See his web site at **htttp://ww6.bcity.com/hypac**

Happy building and good DX!

de Blair, K3YD

Twelve O'Clock High

by Val, W3EFL

When it's exactly midnight, is it A.M. or P.M.?



The Answer:

Welcome to the Twilight Zone. The correct answer is "neither." Midnight is a transitional, imaginary moment in time, neither here nor there.

Midnight is defined as twelve hours after noon. At noon the sun reaches its zenith or high point -- the "meridian" in A. M. (before the meridian) and P. M. (after it). But since the sun never actually stops, that "point" doesn't really exist -- it's just a convenience. Similarly, midnight is the transitional moment between (P. M.) after the meridian, and (A. M.) before it. In reality the time may be just before (A. M.) or after (P. M.) midnight, but never midnight on the dot.

Noon, at least, is in the middle of the day, whereas midnight is the dividing line between days. Poor midnight: it never has a nice -- or any -- day.

by Val, W3EFL

The Prez Sez

by Don, KA3JWE, President

As the year 2000 comes to a close I am still watching Democrats and Republicans claim that their candidate won the election. They are still filing lawsuits, counter-lawsuits, and appeal after appeal, and arguing from the local courts all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court with no end in sight. As I listened and watched reporters interview historians and scholars about past elections, I realized how many things have changed in the last hundred years.



Radio, television, satellites and the Internet have given us the opportunity to watch history in the making in real time. And with every second recorded for posterity it will allow future generations to actually see and here what transpired. As technology advances, the crisp, clear sound and sharp, detailed images that we have today will undoubtedly look and sound like the old newsreels that we have from years past. With digital sound recording equipment and high definition digital video already in use we are seeing a marked improvement in the quality of sound and pictures.

It's always fun to look back at the predictions that were made about how life would be in the future. I remember the exhibits at the New York World's Fair and the Knoxville World's Fair where they depicted life in the year 2000. It's amazing how far off they were on some things and amazing how accurate they were on others. Automation was always one of the visions for the future. The prediction that robots would be doing most of the mundane chores around the house still hasn't become a reality, much to the disappointment of homemakers everywhere, but automation has made inroads in almost everyone's life.

With the building of the International Space Station currently underway and all of the new technologies on the horizon, the twenty-first century might just be when we see some of the predictions made in the 50's and 60's come true. And with the visions of the entrepreneurs of today, we will undoubtedly see some things that we never even imagined.

Happy New Year - 2001

de Don - KA3JWE

Geotech Chemical Fire

by Bruce, KA3ONZ

At about 9:40 pm on Monday 12/04/00 a fire was reported at the Geotech chemical plant in suburban Allentown. In the next few minutes, it became obvious that the would be a protracted fire with multiple alarms called in.

The Lehigh County Emergency Management Coordinator, **Chris Post (N3SIG)** determined that a RACES net would be of assistance in handling various messages in addition to the regular public service communications. After an unsuccessful attempt to contact **Bruce Hull (KA3ONZ)** by radio, **Barry (N3NVA)** called Bruce on the phone and relayed the request to activate a net on 146.94.

During the next four hours or so, 5 operators were active at the fire scene **(N3SIG, KB3FIH, N3UBT, N3RPV and N3MFT)**. 3 operators manned the EOC **(KD3NH, N3XRL**, and **KP3N).** In addition, 7 operators checked into the net and monitored from their homes in case it became necessary to relieve other operators.

They were **N3KEC, N3HKX, KA3ZAT, N3QZT, WA3KIF, AA3IX,** and **KB3FLO.** The net was closed at 2:36 am with the fire contained and burning itself out. The HAM community of the Lehigh Valley is to be commended for yet another example of stepping up during an emergency to offer their assistance.

de Bruce, KA3ONZ

DLARC VE Tests

by Bill N2DH

December 8, 2000 VE Test Session Results

Edward Thomas KB3FTH to General
James Bjornbak KF4ERW to General
Steven Hischar KB3ERG to General
James Mahoney KB3BYU to General
Richard Dewalk Technician(no code)
John Andrews Techniciak (no code)
Kenneth Derstine WA3MRY to Extra
Cristopher Merring N3BWV to General
Sara Saeger KB3CLQ to General

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

Balance 10/31/00		**$5,498.75**
INCOME		
Donation Income Emmaus/Parade	100.00	
Donation Income Club Patch	2.50	
Donation Income Fifty-Fifty	33.00	
Dues	796.00	
Class Book	14.00	

TOTAL INCOME		**945.50**
EXPENSES		
Guest Meal	8.46	
Newsletters October November	159.00	
Postage	113.00	
Supplies Printer Cartridge	28.83	
Telephone	31.84	

TOTAL EXPENSES	**341.13**	
TOTAL INCOME-EXPENSES	**604.37**	
Balance 11/30/00		**$6,103.12**

Total membership 281 as of 12/7/00
de Dick,KA3MOU, Treasurer

It's that time again

by Dick, KA3MOU, treasurer

If your **DUES** are not paid by **MARCH 1, 2001** membership will be terminated. Reinstatement to membership after the **MARCH** meeting, you will have to fill out and application to be reinstated for membership.

Dues Reminder for **2001 Dues** are due check you're mailing label.

If the label is **EXP. 12/31/00** your dues are **PAST DUE**. Here is the dues amount and how to pay your 2001 dues.

Membership 18-65 years of age
Jan. to Dec. $17.00
July to Dec. $8.50
Under 17 years, 65 years or Retired (no age limit).
Jan. to Dec. $12.00
July to Dec. $6.00
Additional family Member, each $3.00
Associate Membership $7.00

If paying your dues at a meeting. Use an envelope with your call on the outside of the envelope. If paying dues by check make the check out to DLARC. **If you mail your dues, mail the dues to: RICHARD A DECH / KA3MOU 120 MCILHANEY AVENUE BATH PA 18014-1612 Any questions about dues you can call Dick / KA3MOU at 837-1585. 73, de Dick Treasurer of DLARC W3OK**

Foundation for Amateur Radio announces 2001-2002 Scholarships

The **Foundation For Amateur Radio Inc.**, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, DC, plans to administer 67 scholarships for the 2001-2002 academic year to assist radio amateurs. **FAR** invites applications from qualified amateurs.

The Foundation--composed of more than 75 local area Amateur Radio clubs--fully funds 10 of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining 57 are administered by FAR without cost to the various donors.

Amateur Radio operators holding a valid license 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, 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 are available by letter or QSL card request postmarked prior to April 30, 2001. Address requests to

FAR Scholarships,
PO Box 831,
Riverdale, MD 20738.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under °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.

ARRL Letter

FCC denies another untimely renewal petition

The FCC has denied a Petition for Reconsideration from a former ham who filed for license renewal beyond his two-year grace period. The FCC ultimately turned down the petition from Richard Josslin, ex-W7CXW, of Bainbridge Island, Washington, because Josslin had not properly filed his reconsideration petition. But the FCC also told Josslin that ignorance of FCC rules was no excuse and that he should have known he needed to renew his ticket on time.

The FCC said that Josslin's ham ticket already had been expired for more than two years when he attempted to register with the Universal Licensing System. Josslin was informed that his W7CXW call sign no longer was in the FCC database. The following month--nearly three years after his license had expired--Josslin applied for renewal by writing his renewal request on the Report he got back from the FCC instead of on the required FCC Form. The FCC dismissed the renewal attempt because Josslin was well beyond the two-year grace period. The FCC advised him that he had to take his exams again to hold an amateur license.

Josslin attempted to get the FCC to change its mind, claiming that he failed to renew his license because of an erroneous belief that his license was good for life.

The FCC was unmoved, however. It said Josslin failed to file his petition within 30 days of the release date of the Commission's action and, by sending it to Gettysburg, did not send it to the right place. Petitions for reconsideration must be timely filed with the FCC Secretary in Washington, DC.

The FCC noted, however, that Josslin's application for renewal was properly dismissed in the first place because it wasn't filed on the correct form. Beyond that, the FCC said, Josslin's erroneous understanding about his license term "is not sufficient justification" to reinstate his license. "As Josslin concedes, the face of his license contained an expiration date," the FCC said, "yet it is evident that he made no attempt to verify or familiarize himself with the Commission's Rules." The FCC said Josslin's reliance on something he'd read "was at his own peril.".

The ARRL Letter

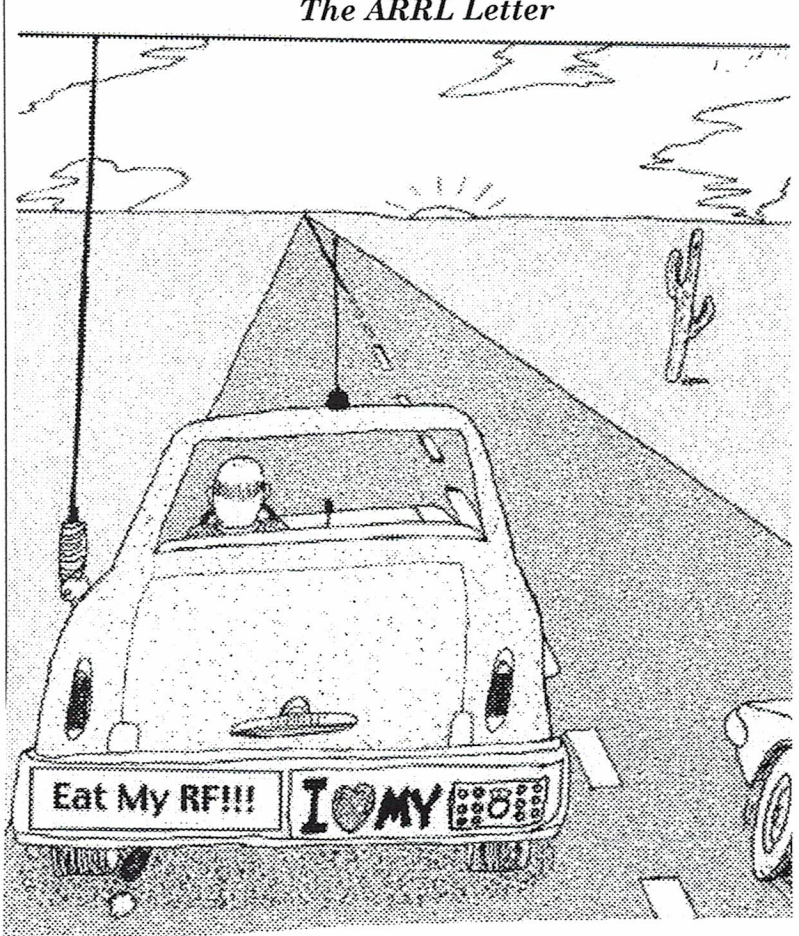
Dayton Hamvention Awards

Hamvention award nominations deadline is January 31: The Dayton Hamvention is accepting nominations for its **Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, and Technical Excellence Award** until January 31, 2001.

All amateurs are eligible for these awards that are aimed at recognizing outstanding Amateur Radio operators. Awards are determined by the Awards Committee based, in part, on the information accompanying nominations. Magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, videos and other documentation can better inform the Awards Committee of a nominee's particular accomplishments. The Amateur of the Year Award goes to a well-rounded licensee who is committed to the advancement of Amateur Radio and has made an outstanding contribution. The Special Achievement Award typically goes to an individual who has spearheaded a significant Amateur Radio project. The Technical Excellence Award recognizes outstanding Amateur Radio technical advancement. Nominations go to

Hamvention Awards,
PO Box 964,
Dayton, OH 45401-0964

The ARRL Letter



All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate to the DLARC, RACES & ARES nets on
146.70 and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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==2000-2001==

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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 IU 20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to *(w3pyf @aol.com}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
717 Porter Street, Easton, PA 18042-1548
visit our web page
http://www.dlarc.org

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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