Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2005

Meeting January 6th at IU20

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM



Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a Merry and Blessed Christmas and Holidays as well. I am looking forward to a great 2005 for the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club. With the help of several club members, the club's stations at the milk house are continuing to see more use on more bands and with more modes. Why not make 2005 the year you get more involved in using the club's equipment - either as someone looking to improve his skills, or perhaps as someone who comes along side a new licensee as an elmer and encourages that ham to explore new forms of communication in the world of amateur radio.

Of course, since it is the beginning of the year, DUES ARE PAST DUE! Check out the mailing label on this newsletter. If it has something like "EXP 12 31 04" then your dues are in fact due.

As winter comes upon us, there is also a threat of bad weather. One of the services provided by members of our club is emergency transportation during bad weather. If you have a vehicle that is capable of transport duty during bad weather, such as a four-wheel drive SUV or truck (that has room for passengers), and you are willing to help out during such an emergency - contact Dick Dech, KA3MOU, and let him know. In years past, we have been called on for this service, and we need to be prepared again this year.

Each March, in memory of Amy Zimmerman, KD3TI, the DLARC Executive Committee seeks to present the Amy Zimmerman Memorial Award to an amateur radio operator "In Appreciation for Unselfish Services Rendered to Amateur Radio and the Community". The Executive Committee would like your input into this process by having you nominate an amateur radio operator that has exhibited these traits through out this past year. If you would like to nominate someone, please give their name to me or to one of the other board members by the January 20, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting.

Looking further into 2005, we will have MS Walks in April and May, the MS 150 PA Dutch Tour and Field Day in June, the Lehigh River Run and Derriere in the Delaware in July, our Picnic and Hamfest in September, as well as other events and services. Some of these events still require a chairman or coordinator, and each of the events will require club members' participation and support. As you can see, there will be ample opportunity for you to get involved in the club's activities in 2005! Talk with a current board member to see where you might help.

I am looking forward to a great 2005 for DLARC!

de Bryan, AA3WM

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 10/31/04	**$5,209.33**
INCOME	
Club Dues	$213.00
Donation Income 50 – 50	22.00
Interest Checking	4.52
TOTAL INCOME	$239.52
EXPENSES	
Donation White Doves FL Children	$200.00
Equipment Al Wiemann -MFJ1128 LDGZ 100	249.90
Memory Of Ruth Reamer	25.00
Newsletters Oct. & Nov.	106.00
Postage	70.00
Refund Chris Hornaman Overpayment Dues	5.00
Telephone	17.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	$673.63
Balance 11/30/04	**$4,775.22**

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

D.L.A.R.C. General Meeting Minutes - December 2, 2004

by Charlie, W3DEA

7:35PM called to order by Bryan AA3WM, 39 members present

REPORTS:

Secretary – Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ No changes, 1st – Bill N2DH, 2nd – Carl AA3IX, Passed

Treasurer – Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ No changes, 1st – Bud W3BUD, 2nd – Mark, K3MP, Passed

Repeater / Web Page – Barry N3NVA

- ✓ Try to monitor the .700 repeater input to try and narrow down vicinity of the heavy ker-chunker
- ✓ Barry just got his computer back on line, so web page updates will begin

VE Session – Bill N2DH

- ✓ No registrants for 12/3 testing
- ✓ If you are a VE and can help with testing, please contact Bill

W3OK (Milkhouse) – Al W3CE & Ken N3IYX

- ✓ Some cleaning has been done
- ✓ Clarence will be by to get his picture taken at the club station for an article in the newsletter celebrating his 50th anniversary as a member of the ARRL
- ✓ The club station is open Wednesday nights – so come on by and check it out and/or do some operating

NEW MEMBERS / REINSTATEMENTS / VISITORS – Bryan AA3WM & Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ Visitors: Briana Lazarchak
- ✓ Voting: Ricky KB3LLM (present) 1st-Charlie W3DEA, 2nd – Ken N3IYX, Accepted
- ✓ New membership application: Ronald Jackson KB3LPS (not present), will be voted on at next meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ✓ WX3MAS (Al W3CE) – December 1&12. Set up at 7AM Saturday – take down on Sunday when the bands close. Monitor the repeater for info. WX3MAS will have two stations set up with the option to work from the milkhouse.
- ✓ Amy Zimmerman award (Bryan AA3WM) – If you have any nominations for the award contact anyone on the board
- ✓ If you have any old QST's contact Bob KE3AW – They can be left in public places to raise interest in the hobby

- ✓ Hamfest 2005 needs a chairperson by the January general meeting or it will be cancelled.
- ✓ Tonight's program – the annual holiday get together – January will be on restoring vintage radios

RECOGNITION AWARDS:

- ✓ Jeff N3QZT received a gavel plaque in appreciation for his efforts as a former DLARC president.
- ✓ Ken N3IYX received a certificate in appreciation for his overall continued support of the DLARC

ADJOURN

- ✓ 1st – KA3MOU, 2nd – George N3SQD, Passed



Norm Zoltack, 1969 event

WX3MAS Report

by Al, W3CE

The Christmas City special event station, WX3MAS, was in operation the 11th and 12th of December. We had a dozen operators who made 294 contacts in 41 states and 6 DX countries. Compare this with our first operation in 1969 when we were on the air for two weeks and 20 club members made 7,168 contacts in all 50 states and 102 countries. We could have used a few more ops on Sunday, but not as much as we could have used more sunspots. Twenty meters was only open between noon and five PM and this was our best band. The bright spot on Saturday was Briana Lazarchak making most of the contacts during the afternoon with the help of her father. I think we will have newly licensed YL in the club real soon. This is the second time I helped run the event. The first time was 35 years ago, and I had as much fun as then. A big thank you to all the people who helped with setting up, operating, providing goodies to eat, and finally tearing everything down on Sunday evening.



Briana Lazarchak, 2004 event

de Al, W3CE

The W3OK Corral Newsletter is seeking submissions from DLARC members. You can submit anything that is somewhat "ham" related! Pictures are welcome. Some topics could be – a review of that new rig you bought, a picture / description of your shack, a favorite QSL card, etc. Please submit articles to kb3jxq@snycomp.com.

Due to technical difficulties, this whole newsletter is printed upside-down. Sorry....

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release.

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-five (55) scholarships for the academic year 2005-2006 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Ten are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-two (42) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio 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, 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, 2005 from:

FAR SCHOLARSHIPS
POST OFFICE BOX 831
RIVERDALE MD 20738

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.

Submitted by,
Dick / KA3MOU for ARRL

DLARC Dues

by Dick, KA3MOU

It's the time of the year that dues are due.

If your DUES are not paid by FEBRUARY 5, 2005 your membership will be terminated. Reinstatement to membership by the MARCH meeting will be accepted without penalty. Thereafter, reinstatement application shall be the same as for a new member.

Dues Reminder for 2005
Dues are due. Check your mailing label. If the label has EXP. 12/31/04 your dues are PAST DUE.

Dues are as follows:

Membership 18-65 years of age
Jan. - Dec. $17.00
July - Dec. $8.50
Under 17 years, 65 or over or Retired (no age limit).
Jan. - Dec. $12.00
July - Dec. $6.00
Additional family member, each $3.00
Associate Membership $10.00

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

If you have any questions about dues, you can call Dick / KA3MOU at 610-837-1585.

73, de Dick Treasurer of DLARC W3OK



Pictures From The December Meeting

by Dick, KA3MOU

Bryan / AA3WM our club President presenting Ken / N3IYX with a appreciation award. This award is for the work Ken does for the club.



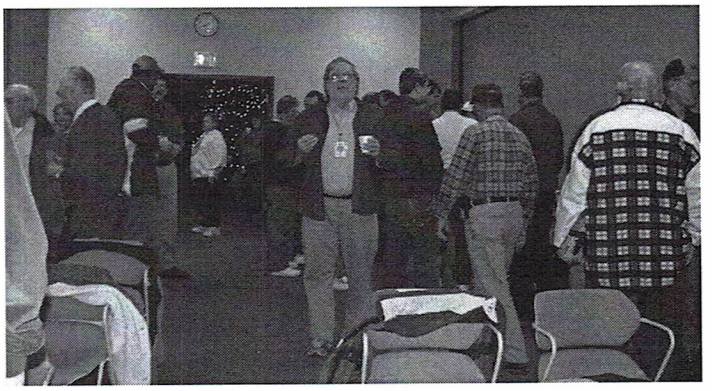
Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

Bryan / AA3WM our club President presenting Jeff / N3QZT a plaque for serving DLARC / W3OK as past President for two years.



Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

These are some of the club members enjoy the treats at the club meeting, December 2, 2004. Happy and Safe Holidays to all our Club Members.



de Dick, KA3MOU

ARRL 11/17/04 Rate Sheet

(Reprinted from the November 17, 2004 ARRL Contest Rate Sheet. Used with permission)

TECHNICAL

Jim N5IB writes, "With the large solar flare recently rekindling interest in things solar, do a Web search for "jam jar magnetometer." You will find several articles showing how very common materials can be used to make an extremely sensitive detector of the direction (not intensity) of the Earth's magnetic field. It is sensitive enough to detect some disturbances associated with big flares and aurora events.

A free reference on the use and selection of ferrite materials is available from Fair-Rite Materials at http://www.fair-rite.com . Click on the big, red "Catalog" and download it - more than 160 pages including reference tables and technical articles. Good stuff! (Thanks, Jim K9YC)

A discussion on eliminating noise caused by cheap PC supplies led back to an article by John W0UN - http://dayton.akorn.net/pipermail/rfi/1998-May/000195.html. By replacing the ac power cord connector with a filtered variety, John had great success in turning noise generators into docile shack-friendly beasts. (Thanks, Bill W4ZV and John W0UN)

CONVERSATION

Read The ... Rules!

Man, oh, man, it sure is contest season, isn't it? (All the sufferin' spouses nod their heads vigorously in the up and down direction.) Beginning in September, the fall weekends pile up with "majors, peaking in the seven-week period between CQ WW SSB and ARRL 10-Meter. Like a miniature baby boom, thirty days later the log submissions peak in the sponsor's post and email. Then it's time for the log checking to begin. Or is it?

Well, not really, because first they have to process all of the logs that were submitted. Piece of cake, right? Let's listen in as the contest manager gets started..."I'll just open up this email attachment and...what format is this in? The subject just says 'Contest Log,' so whose log is this? Sheesh. Maybe I'll start with the paper logs. R-r-r-r-i-i-p-p-p-p-p! Oh, no - they didn't include a summary sheet. I'll have to count the mults by hand. Oops, the abbreviations are non-standard. Sigh. Honey, where's the aspirin?"

Speaking as one who handles some of a state QSO party's logs and who occasionally transgresses in his own submissions, I can tell you that many of us - prepare yourself - do not read or follow the log submission instructions. Until you actually work on a contest committee, you won't understand the magnitude of the problem, but I can assure you that handling the log submissions is a major drain on time, energy, and enthusiasm. Ever wonder why it takes so long to get results and certificates done? It starts with the excessive amount of time it takes to get the discrepant log data into a checkable format.

Some of the big contest sponsors have robot software that only accepts logs that have the correct format and all of the necessary identification data. Before a standard log format (Cabrillo) was developed a few years ago, the really big contests were drowning in log format problems. Sweepstakes logs were submitted in over 80 different formats. Yes, 80, and that's only the electronic logs! How much time do you think it took to get all of those handled correctly and ready for the log checkers? If any QSOs were lost (or heaven forbid, a whole log) you can bet that angry phone calls and emails started flying, as well. While there was a lot of squawking about Cabrillo at first, the robot log submission process has done away with a lot of error-prone drudgery.

But what of the so-called "minors?" The state QSO parties, smaller DX contests, specialty mode or band contests, etc. most likely don't have the resources for robot log submission. They may not have the tools to process Cabrillo format logs. They depend on the entrants providing logs in a format they can process manually and generally spell this out in their rules. Yet many logs are submitted in wildly varying formats, without summaries or other supporting documentation, and occasionally very poorly identified. If contesters want the smaller contests to prosper, then they're going to have to minimize the burden on the sponsors.

First - you, the contester, need to pay attention to what the sponsor asks for in the rules for log submission. If they say "ASCII text", then send them a text-only file. Don't send your CT BIN file or an XLS spreadsheet. If they require a summary sheet, be sure to fill one out and send it. If you've written your own logging software, bully for you, but be sure its output is usable by the contest sponsors and includes all of the required information.

Identify your submissions. If you send the log by email, and most do, be sure the subject line of the email message includes the contest name and your call. If the contest covers more than one mode (such as Sweepstakes), include the mode in the message. For example, "N0AX CW Sweepstakes Log". It is depressing to look at an Inbox full of messages titled "Contest Log."

Should you send Cabrillo? Unless the sponsors request Cabrillo or say that they accept it, don't send your log in Cabrillo format. Why not? Because Cabrillo does not identify new multipliers, manually scoring logs becomes a royal pain. Most logging software has the option of generating logs in several different common formats and one will surely indicate each new multiplier.

Be extra sure that your log includes all of the required information with each QSO, including your complete exchange. If standard abbreviations are offered for counties or regions, use them! If the sponsor has a standard summary sheet form, use it! If there is an on-line log submission form or Web page, use it! If there are different types of multipliers or bonus points, be sure they're tallied separately as the scoring rules require.

Now sponsors, you also have an obligation to make your log submission rules and requirements crystal clear. If you don't tell entrants what you want, you surely can't complain when you get a heap of logs in wildly divergent formats. Your rules don't have to be full of legalese, but they need to be clear. Have someone relatively unfamiliar with your contest read them and tell you what they think would be an acceptable log. You might be surprised! Ask yourself how different kinds of logs should be submitted - paper, diskette, email. Have someone go through the process and see if it works. Save the committee hours and hours of unnecessary labor by spending a little time up front on the log submission rules.

There's another guy or gal just like you handling those precious logs. They'd rather be on the air, just like you! You'll make the sponsor's job easier (which leads to quicker reporting) and reduce the effort required to check your log (which leads to fewer missed mults or bonuses and to higher scores). Needless to say, all this time saving leads to more time for contesting! Just put yourself in the "sponsor's moccasins" for a mile or two before clicking the "Send" button.

73, Ward N0AX

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

2005 JANUARY 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	6 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	7 VE Testing 7:00 pm	8
9	10 Newsletter Deadline	11	12 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30	31	Send submissions for the calendar to kb3jxq@snycomp.com				

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and ARES nets: 51.76, 146.70, and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11 (pl 151.4)
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

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

== 2004-2005 ==

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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 IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
4260 Cedar Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088

visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

18052+7204 04

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-05
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