Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006

Meeting January 5th at the 911 center

Bylaw Amendment Notice

At the December General meeting of the DLARC, a motion to amend the Bylaws of the DLARC was made and seconded, and then tabled for consideration and referred to committee, in accordance with Article XI (Amendments). This notice, also a requirement of Article XI, is to inform the membership that the motion, described below, will be brought to the floor for vote at the next (January) General meeting of the DLARC. The adoption of this motion requires 75% of the voting members present.

AMENDMENT MOTION

The motion made was to amend Article V, Section 2 by replacing the word "mailed" with the words "made available". The complete wording of the amended Article V, Section 2 would read as follows (changed words are bolded and underlined for reference only):

> Section 2. Meeting notices shall be in the form of a monthly newsletter, The W3OK CORRAL, which will be **made available** to all, except "family" members prior to regular meetings.

This proposed change in the bylaws will allow the possibility of the newsletter being distributed using methods other than just mailing it. Please consider this motion to amend the Bylaws of the DLARC carefully, and come to the January General meeting prepared to vote on it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the DLARC Executive Committee.

The Prez Sez

by Bill, N2DH



The December Christmas meeting was a great event!

Not only did we have the opportunity to feast on some goodies (less the meatballs),

We were graced with the presence of several wives.

It was nice to see some faces that brightened up the room for a change.

It was a long agenda but we were able to get a lot done.

You should be reading the changes to the constitution in this January News Letter, that the board is recommending that the membership approve to give us the flexibility to consider alternate means to distribute the new letter.

By now Christmas City has come and gone, and thought illness kept me away from attending I was there is spirit.

W3CE will be giving us a final report at the January meeting.

Don't forget the committee on the "Hamfest" that AA3WM is chairing.

We will need to decide if there is going to be a Hamfest in 2006 very quickly.

This committee is not to run the Hamfest only to decide if we can have one. Join Brian and help us decide

It is also not too early to be thinking about "Field day". We will need a chairperson to run the event.

If you are interested please contact some one on the executive committee or myself and give us a heads-up!

Finally let me wish all the best for 2006.

I hope it will be a prosperous one for each and everyone and for our club.

73 and Good DX

de Bill, N2DH

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 10/31/05	**$5,004.63**
INCOME	
Class Materials	$34.00
Club Dues	112.00
Donation Income Emmaus Parade	200.00
Donation Income 50-50	24.00
Interest Checking	1.53
TOTAL INCOME	**$371.53**
EXPENSES	
Newsletters November	$64.00
Picnic Bob Green	10.99
Postage	140.00
Supplies Staples Labels	24.37
Telephone	17.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$257.06**
Balance 11/30/05	**$5,119.10**

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer of DLARC / W3OK

DLARC General Meeting - December 1, 2005

by Charlie, W3DEA

Meeting called to order by Bill N2DH at 7:30PM
42 members present - 25 members needed for quorum

***Moment of silence for Loring Fisher W2GQ

REPORTS:

Secretary - Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ Correction of call sign to K3CT - 1st George N3SQD, 2nd Bob KE3AW - Passed with correction

Treasurer - Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ No changes, 1st Bryan AA3WM, 2nd Mark K3MP - Passed

Repeater / Web Page - Barry N3NVA

- ✓ Nothing to report

VE - Bill N2DH

- ✓ January will be last test session for DLARC unless someone new takes it over

W3OK Club Station - Al W3CE / Ken N3IYX

- ✓ Nothing to report

Announcements or information from the membership:

- ✓ Bill K3ANS talked about Loring W2GQ/SK

Old Business:

- ✓ Classes - Bob KE3AW classes have ended
- ✓ WX3MAS Christmas City Special Event is coming up, update from Al W3CE
- ✓ Voting results will be supplied to the news letter for January by Bob KE3AW
- ✓ As of January 2006 the DLARC will no longer send donations in memory of's
- ✓ Bryan AA3WM will be looking to form a Hamfest committee at the January meeting to look into the feasibility of a hamfest for 2006
- ✓ Motion to change the by-laws in reference to the newsletter (See elsewhere in this newsletter - the proposed changes) 1st - George N3SQD, 2nd Chris NU3L NO VOTE as it must go before the board first and will be put before the membership at the January meeting

New Business:

- ✓ Bryan will form a committee for nominations for the Amy Zimmerman award - Nominations to be made by the membership
- ✓ Board will discuss new voting procedures submitted by Jeff N3QZT
- ✓ Donation for Toys For Tots being made in the amount of $200.00 1st Bryan AA3WM, 2nd Ken N3IYX, Passed
- ✓ Board has requested a budget proposal from Al W3CE, Ken N3IYX and George N3SQD in regards to the club station for 2006

Membership:

- ✓ Welcome Peicheng Chu KB3MUF (Voting 1st George N3SQD, 2nd Chris NU3L, Passed)

Adjourn:

- ✓ 1st - Carl AA3IX, 2nd George N3SQD, Passed

de Charlie, W3DEA

Dues are due!

by Dick, KA3MOU

It is that time of the year! **Dues are due for 2006.** Read below and you will see how to pay your dues. Please when paying dues by mail included your call sign either on your check or the envelope.

If your DUES are not paid by **FEBRUARY 2, 2006** 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 2006

Dues are due. Check your mailing label. If the label has **EXP. 12/31/05** 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

News From The ARRL

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

The following is from the ARRL's Dec 14, 2005 Rate Sheet. Reprinted with permission. [ed]

NEWS & PRESS RELEASES

Icom has a whole bunch of new ham radio videos on their Web site at http://icomamerica.com/amateur/video. There are a trio on the 2005 Dayton Hamvention, a D-STAR presentation by N5MIJ and N5ZPR, two on ham radio in India featuring VU2RBI, and a feature on ham radio from Channel 12 TV in Chattanooga, TN.

West Mountain Radio (http://www.westmountainradio.com) has a new rig control product, the "RIGtalk USB Rig Control Interface." New laptops and PCs often don't have RS-232 ports, so the USB interface becomes ever more important. The interface works with the Icom and Ten-Tec CI-V interface and the Yaesu CAT interface and costs $49.95.

ARRL DX CW operators are licking their chops in anticipation of the 3Y0X Peter I multiplier, the DXpedition planning on being active during the contest. DX Engineering (http://www.dxengineering.com) has supplied them with a special, ruggedized 75/80-meter vertical to withstand the rugged climate and put out a big low-band signal. You can also purchase a 3Y0X hat, just right for winter-time antenna work, that will support the expedition.

Have any antenna modelers in the family? AntenneX has just released CD-ROM #13 with 1133 articles plus free software for antenna utilities, antenna & network designs and modeling. The CD is available at http://www.antennex.com/news/index.html.

Dave K1TTT has just published "Building a Super Station" covering over 20 years of building a contest station. There are lots of operating pictures and bunches of technical and contesting tidbits. It's available in a full color printed version or for download at: http://www.lulu.com/content/182762. Whether you're a serious contester or not, you'll find plenty of value here.

Clark W8TN wrote to let me know that he has written BasicLog 1.0, an Excel spreadsheet that greatly speeds up the process of converting paper log data to ADIF for uploading to Logbook of the World or importing into logging programs. The program is free for downloading along with a printable manual at http://www.w8tn.com/software.htm.

The VHF & Up Register is a Web site for listing the capabilities of VHF+ contesters from far and wide. You can learn more, including how to contribute a list of your own station, at

http://www.aa1yn.com/register-info.html. (Thanks, Lee AA1YN)

While you're busy DXing over the holidays, here's some different ways to wish your contacts well, courtesy of the Radio Amateur's Conversation Guide by Jukka Heikinheimo OH2BR/OH1BR and Miika OH2BAD and several on-line translation services.

- English - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Holiday)
- German - Frohe Weihnachten und ein gliickliches Neues Jahr. (Feiertag)
- French - Joyeux noel et bonne annee. (Vacances)
- Italian - Buon natale e felice anno nuovo. (Festa)
- Spanish - Feliz navidad y ano nuevo. (Dia de fiesta)
- Portuguese- Feliz Natal e Prospero Ano Novo. (Feriado)
- Russian - Visjolava razdestva i snovyim godam! (Prazhdink)
- Japanese - Christmas omedetogozaimasu, Tanoshii Christmas-o, Shinnen
- omedetogozaimasu, Yoi otoshio. (Horidei)

RESULTS AND RECORDS

If you have submitted your log to the ssb@cqww.com or cw@cqww.com email addresses and have not received an acknowledgment reply from the CQWW Robot, at least one ISP (AOL) has apparently lost some email. Whether you are an AOL user or not, first check your "spam box" for the CQWW Robot reply. Your ISP may have "filtered" it for you. Or you may have filtered it for yourself if you're using your own spam solution. Regardless, even if you have received a confirmation number, check these Web pages to make sure your log has been received: SSB: http://www.cqww.com/logs-received_ssb.htm, CW: http://www.cqww.com/logs-received_cw.htm. The lists are auto-updated at least daily. (Thanks, Dave KM3T)

TECHNICAL

K0TO made some measurements that were to be used to design BN86 replacement units. He looked at some type 30 material that many folks across the US acquired recently in a "Big Buy" and compared it with type 61 material. The results are posted at http://www.k0to.us/HAM/Balun/choke_balun.htm. Check out the dual-dipole article while you're there, as well. (Thanks, Tod, K0TO)

In a related RF concern about the worthiness of UHF connectors at VHF and up, John W0UN contributed a link that debunks some of the myths of UHF connectors. It's a tech note on UHF connectors by K2RIW on the Roadrunners Microwave Group web site: http://www.k5rmg.org/UHF-con.html. Great reading!

Dave K8CC contributes a not-so-well-known transmission-line trick - the 1/12th wavelength transformer. Dave's station uses surplus 75-ohm CATV hardline, matching the antennas to 75 ohms, then matching the transmission lines to the rig's preferred 50 ohms with the transformer. Place a 1/12th wavelength section of 75-ohm impedance in series with another 1/12th wavelength section of 50-ohm cable. Connect the 50-ohm section to the 75-ohm load and you'll see a 50-ohm at the output of the 75-ohm section. It looks like this: 50 ohms in ===75===[]===50=== 75-ohm load.

Jim WA7KYI recently found this page while perusing the AC6V Website. He suggests that it's a great tutorial for those new hams you're Elmering on how to make a CW contact and the procedures normally used during the contact. Send your proteges to http://www.netwalk.com/~fsv/CWguide.htm.

Can't figure out what section you (or someone you're contacting) are in? Try http://www.arrl.org/sections. There is a county map of each section. Or, if you know the city, http://www.arrl.org/locate/locate.html will give you the section along with grid square and other information.

I have had several requests for "searchable archives" for the Rate Sheet. Give the new Google-based ARRL search function a try. Enter "rate sheet" and your topic. The search is greatly improved from the previous ARRL search engine.

Those of you working with long Beverage runs, elevated radials, or the like may be interested in the following article on working with "hi-tensile wire" from the University of California Farm Extension program.
http://www.foothill.net/~ringram/hitensle.htm
(Thanks, Bob K0RC)

More on Beverages - "Memorandum on the Beverage Wave Antenna for Reception of Frequencies in the 550 - 1500 Kilocycle Band" by Benjamin Wolf and Adolph Anderson. Original Artilcle, http://www.akdart.com/bev/bev.html. Converted to HTML for better legibility: http://www.akdart.com/bev/bev2a.html (Thanks, John W0UN)

For those of us who wear glasses, headphones can be a pain, literally. Airline pilots have a solution with David Clark "Stop-Gap" eyeglass frame cushions. (http://davidclark.com/PDFFiles/TwoWayBrochure.pdf) Placed on eyeglass frame temples, Stop-Gaps provide added comfort and stop noise from leaking through the ear seal. These are available from many aviation supply shops. (Thanks, Bob N6TV and John VE3EJ)

Speaking of headphones, so to speak, their foam earphone pads can take a beating over a contest season, degenerating into grubby, foam-shedding gunk. RadioShack has several replacement foam pad sets and I've found model number 33-380 to be a good fit for the Heil BM boomsets, for example. Heil's prices and service for replacements are quite good, but if you find yourself needing new ones on contest day, the local RadioShack may have them on the rack.

Did the cat knock your paddle on the floor? Here's a novel idea for replacing broken paddle fingerpieces - guitar picks. (Thanks, Neal WA6OCP)

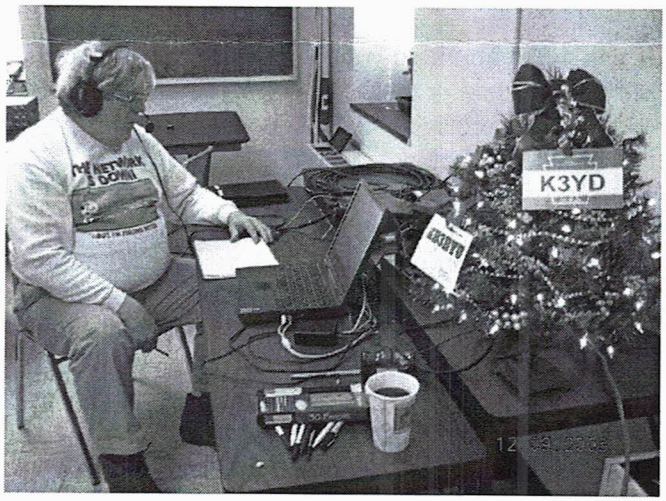
Steve K8JQ was concerned that replacing his #18 ladder line with heavier stuff would lead to disaster if something (such as a tree limb) fell on it, wrecking whatever it was attached to (such as a window feedthrough). After some discussion, the solution selected was to put a short piece of #18 ladder line in series with the heavier stuff as a "mechanical fuse." Banana plugs at the feedthrough were also suggested and considered.

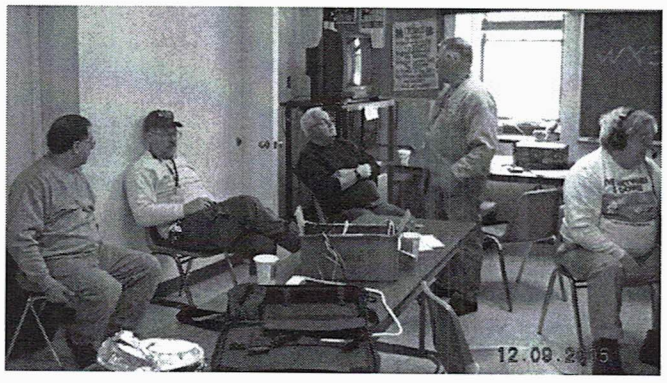
Here is an animation (1.8 Mb in size) of 10-meter conditions in North America for the preceding 24 hour period - http://propnet.findu.com/yesterday.gif. Data is gathered by volunteers using PSK31. For more information and additional maps, browse to http://www.PropNET.org. (Thanks, Ev W2EV)

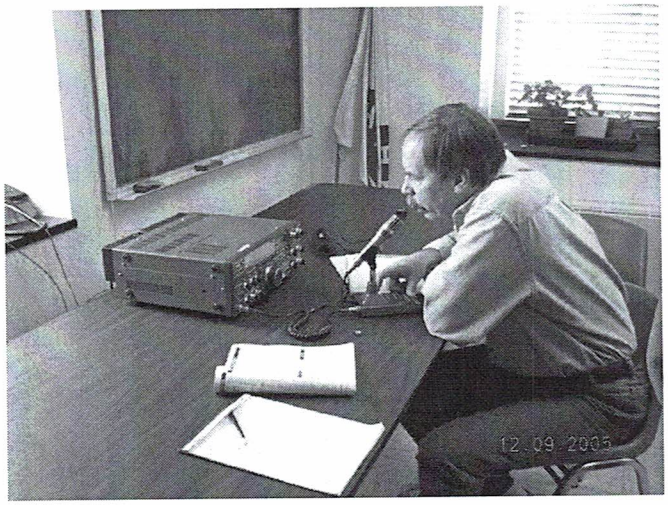
The winter solstice approaches and with it, the annual Determination of True North Festival. If you know the time of your local solar noon a simple sundial will suffice to point the way. John W0UN chimes in again to point out how to determine local solar noon. "Go to your newspaper weather forecast column (or almanac section) and get local sunrise and sunset times. Half-way between those two times is local solar noon." He notes that the same information is available at http://www.weather.com or http://www.weatherunderground.com by entering your zip code. "Plumb a stick and at the calculated time the shadow is true north. With a long enough stick and a bright sun you should be able to obtain true north with greater than one degree accuracy." No word on the effect of accuracy should a plastic owl perch upon the stick.

WX3MAS pictures

photos by Tim Snyder, KC3QO









2006			January			2006
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm TechNet 8:00 pm	5 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	6	7
8	9	10	11 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	19 Executive Committee Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	26	27	28
29	30	31	Send newsletter / calendar submissions to the editor at 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.

== 2005-2006 ==

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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 the Northampton County 911 Center.
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
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visit our web page
http://www.dlarc.org

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-06
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
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