DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

JANUARY 2011

W3OK CORRAL

Club Meeting At the Nancy Run Fire Company
7:30 PM January 6th 2011



MEETING PROGRAM

Jon Matson / N3INJ

“Review and Demonstration of the Elecraft K3 HF Radio”

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



Another Year Passes Into History

I am writing this after the end of the Christmas City Special Event. This is the last event of the DLARC year (with the exception of the board meeting next week for a few of us). Now I have operated in this event for quite a number of years, but this year Sunday morning was different. I started up on 20M at 9AM and within about 15 minutes had a pile-up including quite a number of European stations. There were so many stations calling that I was having a hard time making out calls. Many times I was sorting the pile-up on just a couple of letters. I ran this way for about an hour and then handed it off to another operator. I always have fun at our events, but it is really exciting to be at the receiving end of a pile-up. Curiously enough, one of the stations I worked was PB0XMAS, another holiday special event station. I'll be interested in hearing the number of contacts for the weekend.

Looking back on the year, I am pleased with our accomplishments. The club station has been expanded and can now accommodate more visitors (at one time). That said, we still are quite crowded on most Wednesdays. We are now QRO capable at the station. Our failed multi-band antenna has been replaced and we now have a pulley located up on the tower. The club station is well equipped to run three positions simultaneously (with a lot of filtering and line isolation). DLARC now has both analog and D-star VHF repeater capability.

The Milk-house continues to have good attendance on Wednesday evenings. In addition, it is open most Tuesday evenings and most contest weekends.

On the event front, we introduced some new events this year. Both the Easton Garlic Fest and the Black Bear Bike Ride were added in the fall. Again this year, we helped the Lehigh Wheelmen with their fall bike event. I suspect that most of these events will become a permanent fixture in our calendar. We continue to assist the MS Walk, MS 150 Bike Ride and the Emmaus Halloween Parade.

Other regular events like Field Day and the picnic are well attended. And, we seem to be on our way to having regular fox hunts. With all the events and the Milk-house openings it is possible to do something in the club every week. Indeed, there have been times this past year when something was happening every day!

Our club meetings continue to be well attended. This is a huge improvement over a few years ago when we had a couple of meeting where a quorum was in doubt. With our busy schedules, I'm sure the “phone tree” reminder system is a big help in keeping attendance up. Well, that, and a schedule of interesting and entertaining programs.

All things considered 2010 was a great year. Here's hoping that 2011 will be even better!

Let me take the opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73 de N3SQD

Silent Key

The D.L.A.R.C. Wishes to honor and to express its sadness at the passing of a club member or former club member.

Frank Kenna / KA3MQI

Silent Key

The D.L.A.R.C. Wishes to express its sadness at the passing of the wife of club member Blair / K3YD

Felicia Bates

EDITOR'S NOTE

Pete / NL7XM, Circulation Manager for this newsletter has set up a “PUSH' system where as all members will receive the monthly issue direct to their email address. The problem has arisen where as not all the members have maintained up to date email addresses, causing their newsletter to be returned to Pete. If you did not receive a December newsletter in your email, your address may be wrong. So go to the members listing on the web page and check your email address and correct if necessary. Your correction may be made by going to “Create an Account” list on the web page an entering your corrected email address.



MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2nd MEETING

The general membership meeting of the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. was held at the Nancy Run Fire Company in Bethlehem Township on December 2nd 2010
Call to order :The meeting convened at 1930 hours, President **George / N3SQD** presiding.
Moment of Silence – Felicia XYL of **Blair / K3YD**

REPORTS:

Approval of the minutes: 1st **Dave / K3GMT,** 2nd **Jay / N3OW - Motion Carried**
Approval of the treasurer's report: Club dues are due: checks preferred
Bayer Cycling
1st **Carl / AA3IX**, 2nd **Bill / NC3P – Motion Carried**
Repeater - Web Page: No Issues, Intermittent noises
VE Session; To be held January 7, 2011 at the Northampton County 911 Center at 7 PM
Club Station Report: Dave K3GMT – 140 visitors, County removed 2 large cabinets, replaced dipole, Nazareth Fire Department helped with ladder truck, fixed vertical, added line insulators, and added second 24 hr. clock.
Membership Report: Dave / K3GMT, 226 members with applications for **Rick Santomauro / WA2NLC**
1st **Bob / NE2C**, 2nd **Carl / AA3IX. Bob Davis / NQ3X** 1st **Ken / N3IYX**, 2nd **Jay N3OW**
Both Approved

EVENTS:

Fox Hunt: more information to follow
WX3MAS Christmas City Special Event Station– December 11-12 - **Louis / KB3VCI**
Honorary Lifetime Membership: Presented by **Charlie / W3OPA** to
Al / W3CE, **Ken / N3IYX**, **Pete / NL7XM** and **Barry / KU3X**

OLD BUSINESS

W1AW Trip: preference for day during the week – sign up sheet being passed around
CQ Marathon: Jay / N3OW to participate check on CQ Web-site
Newsletter Push: Pete / NL7XM -if you would like the monthly newsletter sent to your e-mail, check club roster on web page and correct your email address if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Club History: George / N3SQD is organizing and trying to produce a club history; contact older members for any information, and/or sequence of past presidents
Elmer Time/Antenna's available on tower at MH (ATV): Radio issue: Pair up with a person, Barry KU3X willing to help; before meeting, Elmer time to get people together
Sale; Pete / NL7MM selling Christmas Stationery proceeds go to club
Gordon West will make an appearance at the HAM Radio Store in Caldwell, N.J.
Ray secured 11th place in CQ contesting

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned by **George / N3SQD**
1st **Rich / N3UB**, 2nd **Jon / N3INJ**
Respectfully submitted, **Doreen / KB3PDL**, Secretary

JANUARY 2011



D.L.A..R.C. Treasurer's Report

Ending Balance November 30th 2010 **N/A**

Mike Gower / KB3LOD
Treasurer / D.L.A.R.C.



HARD COPY SUBSCRIPTION

You must sign up if you want a hard copy newsletter subscription The rate stays the same this year at $10. This is exclusively for the newsletter only to cover printing and mailing. The price of maintaining a Bulk Mailing Permit is too expensive to justify with the size of our Membership, thus the first class postage requirement. This will squarely cover the cost of paper and printing supplies for 12 issues. To subscribe contact Pete / NL7XM at nl7xm@arrl.net

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE OVERDUE!

This is your last chance! DUES are payable for the calendar year 2011. Here's how easy it is to remit your club DUES and keep your valuable D.L.A.R.C. Membership current. Whether in person or by mail, **CHECKS made payable to the D.L.A.R.C.** are the preferred method of payment to more accurately record your timely renewal. Please ensure that your callsign appears somewhere on the instrument, such as in the memo field. Paying with cash is discouraged.

If your DUES are not paid by February 1st, your membership will expire and you will be removed from the roster, and you cannot participate in the D.L.A.R.C. 2m Sprint.

2011 DUES Rates / No Changes
Regular Membership 18-64 years of age:
Jan. - Dec. $17.-
65 and over, or retired from all forms of employment (no age limit)
Jan. - Dec. $12.-
Additional Family member
each $3.-
Associate Individual Membership$10.-

Please MAIL your DUES forthwith, to:

D.L.A.R.C.
c/o M. Gower / KB3LOD

1511 Shelbourne Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18018-2234

NEW MEMBERS

The DLARC is continuing to grow, so be sure to greet our new members, shake their hands, and give them a warm welcome to our club. The newest members are **Bob Davis / NQ3X** and **Rick Santomauro/ WA2NLC**.

JANUARY 2011 QUICK CHECK CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
2	3	4	5 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KB3CTX)	6 DLARC MEETING	7 VE Session	8
9	10	11	12 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (W3CE)	13	14	15 NewsLetter Articles Deadline
16	17	18	19 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (KC3II)	20 Executive Committee Meeting	21	22
23	24	25	26 DLARC RACES/ARES Net (N3SQD)	27	28	29
30	31					

Honorary Lifetime Membership in the D.L.A.R.C. Awarded to four members at the Christmas Meeting.

Chas. Lazarchak / W3OPA - D.L.A.R.C. Awards Chairman

The Honorary Lifetime Membership is rarefied air for a Club which is 60-plus years old. Nominations are given to the existing Honorary Life Members and they vote on those nominations. At the moment a simple majority is all that is needed to be voted into the group.

This year the award went to four very deserving Members.

To a degree, you can put them under one umbrella as far as their credentials for nomination go. They all devote a major amount of their free time to the Club, encourage everyone to get as much as they can from what the Club offers, and encourage hams and non-hams to be active in the hobby in general.

Al W3CE gives his time in just about all, if not all areas requiring a volunteer. He is very generous with his time in regard to the Club Picnic, Fox-hunts and is one of the founders of the WX3MAS Special Event Station. Al is a former DLARC President and Amy Zimmerman award winner. He has donated numerous pieces of equipment to the Club. He encourages home-brew, qrp, a long time supporter of the Milk-house and has done presentations for the Club.

There was a time when you would go to the Milk-house and only find **Kenny N3IYX** every Wednesday night. Kenny would always encourage the Membership to avail itself of the use of the Club station. The Club station's success today is in no small part due to Kenny's efforts (**Al W3CE** and **George N3SQD** will attest to this). Kenny has received numerous certificates over the years for his support and encouragement to the Club and its members. while he himself is always experimenting with new modes he encourages all hams to immerse themselves in their interests and get the most they can from them. He is always willing to lend personal items to Club, most notably his trailer, for events and at the Club station. He is almost always on the repeater willing to answer a question or get you to the right person to get the answer.

Pete NL7XM looked at the Club roster and decided that there was plenty of room to make the Club grow. Taking his idea of a Membership Drive, he all but single-handedly nearly tripled the membership from 79 to two-hundred twenty-five members. He registered the Club as the SES for the 2008 PA QSO Party and organized over twenty members across various bands and covering CW, SSB and PSK in many counties. He has put together three of the best years in recent memory of Programs, and delivered hundreds of Door Prizes to benefit Members, and produced quality printed promotional material and merchandise to raise money. Most notably too, is the rescuing of our Non Profit 501 (c) (3) Charitable Organization status. This required many, many hours of research as well as hours on the phone with the IRS. Constantly employing unique ways towards fund raising, Pete also has us in an affiliation with a school in New York City where a ham station is being installed and our Club exclusively is the wheels behind the operation.

The man in the pink engineers hat indicates an antenna presentation is about to be given. **Barry KU3X** is another Member who devotes his time liberally to the DLARC in many ways. Although not as visually recognizable, his call sign goes a long way. He is known in many circles in and out of the Club as an antenna guru. That being said, he doesn't just encourage hams to increase their knowledge of antennas, but he is also a big proponent of home-brewing in general. He encourages all the members to become more active in radio, not just at the Milk-house but through his "Mini Field Days" at the park though out the summer. (All are welcome). He has made and donated many antennas to the Club and is always on hand to diagnose any transmission line issues the club may be experiencing. Barry has written many articles for this Newsletter, and in the past has handled awards for the Club. He's another member who can be frequently found on the repeater answering questions or getting you to the right person in order to get your correct answer.

For all, it is hard to put into words their value to the DLARC. This little article just scratches the surface, and I know that I probably have forgotten something for all of these guys.

Their efforts and donation of time makes them all something for the rest of us to aspire to. Their commitment to the Club and the community it serves, is something to envy. Once again I want to congratulate these DLARC members on attaining the highest Honor our Club has to offer, Honorary Life Membership.

Fine Business, Al, Kenny, Pete and Barry.



REDNERS' SUPERMARKETS SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

Here's how it works:

Redner's has a terrific program to support the Club **AT NO COST TO THEM**, if our members simply sign up for a Gas Card that records their shopping points, and give their cash register receipts to, **Pete / NL7XM,** He'll do the rest.

Note: This does not affect your gas points in any way.

HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Donate your old, empty printer ink cartridges to the Club for recycling. Any brand, model, size or shape; color or black. Please bring them to the meeting in a leak proof ziplock type baggie and give them to Pete / NL7XM. This simple act can help your Club by reducing recurring expenses, and make you feel a lot better about your environment.



JANUARY CONTESTING AT THE OK CORRAL

January 1st & 2th – Original QRP Contest
January 8th & 9th – North American QSO Party - CW
January 15th & 16th - Hungarian DX Contest
January 22nd & 23rd – ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
January 29th & 30th – CQ 160 Meter Contest – CW



MONTHLY BRAIN TEASER

"A special prize awaits the first Club Member to submit the correct answer to this month's Brainteaser to the Treasurer via E-mail. He must be present at the next Meeting to receive it, or it goes unrewarded. Officers, Board members, and Brain Teaser Authors are not eligible to win."

de **NL7XM**

DECEMBER BRAINTEASER ANSWER

How many times can you subtract the number 5 from 25?

Answer: Only once, then you are subtracting it from 20.

The winner was **Rich / N3UB**



JANUARY BRAINTEASER

One letter stands for another, single letters,apostrophes,
the length and formation of the words are all hints



Abcdefg Hdcij: Hdkfl lm knj okhlcijok oficdp kl knj qjdrjok oficdp kndk d obokje tdc hjoulca kl qfknfc d oujgfmfja pjwjp lm afoklhkflc. Knj qjdrjok oficdp fo kbuftdppb xyok okhlcijh kndc knj obokje'o fckjhcdp clfoj. Ijcjhdppb, d nfin abcdefg hdcij fo d ajofhdzpj dkkhfzykj lm d obokje, oygn do d hdafl hjgjfwjh, fcafgdkfci nlq qjpp fk gdc hjoulca kl d qjdr oficdp fc knj uhjojcgj lm okhlci oficdpo lc daxdgjck tndccjpo.

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting featured the awarding of four Honorary Life Memberships to **Al / W3CE, Ken / N3IYX, Barry / KU3X** and **Pete / NL7XM.** This award is to acknowledged the long term contributions and service to the D.L.A.R.C. above and beyond normal participation. Also honored were the annual “Took The Bull By The Horns” awards again for the precipitants who chaired committees and otherwise guided the D.L.A.R.C. through the successful past year. All this was followed by the annual Holiday Party in which good food and friendship was shared by all.

EPAEPTN NET IS MOVING AGAIN

Effective December 11, due to the poor propagation on 75 meters at 6 pm,the EPAEPTN net is moving. The new time and frequency is: 3.905 LSB at 5:30 pm local time. This change will continue until conditions improve at 6 pm.

73,

Charles Schmell / KS3Z, EPAEPTN Net Manager

VE TEST SESSION

There will be a test session this month on January 7th at 7 PM at the Northampton County 911 center. Pretest registration is required. Contact **George / N3SQD** at george@bioserv.com or **Al / W3CE** at w3ce@arrl.net.

HINTS & KINKS

Sealing PL-259 UHF Plugs and SO-239 UHF Connectors

Don Dorward / VA3DDN

The popular and low-cost PL-259 UHF plug and its mating SO-239 UHF connector were never designed to be waterproof. In spite of this, many of us find ourselves having to use these connectors out-of-doors for an antenna or cable connection and then have the experience of trying to apply some form of weatherproofing.

If this is not done, and done well, then intermittent connections soon result, especially with wet freezing and thawing conditions, resulting in moisture and corrosion getting into the connectors and even into the coax itself.

One well-known solution is to use a bondable rubber tape wrapping. That often seems to work using one of the soft, moldable, stretchable tapes that are available for the purpose. In practice, I have found that the hardest area to seal effectively using this method is the area from the rim of the male PL-259 shell to the mating SO-239 socket face. This is especially true when the SO-239 socket is located partially inside the cowl of the antenna mount (such as the Solarcon/Antron vertical or other similar types) and it is impossible to get sealing tape up into this tight location.

To overcome this problem, simply slip as many tight fitting O-ring(s) over the SO-239 barrel (see Figure) as needed to fill the space between the base of the SO-239 and the coupling ring. Lubricate the O-rings with a generous amount of silicone grease, often sold in the automotive part stores as "dielectric tune-up grease."



Place the O-ring(s) at the base of the SO-239 barrel and use the PL-259 coupling ring to compress them into a weather-tight seal.

Important: Check that when the mating PL-259 plug is installed and tightened down, the outer rim of the PL-259 shell butts up against and slightly compresses the "O"-ring(s). The "O"-rings I used were ones I had on hand, about 9/16 inch ID × 0.10 inch thick. I am sure anything that's a snug fit will work. Of course, you will still need to wrap the lower half of the PL-259 shell and the spot where the coax exits the connector with tape to seal that part.

DECEMBER AWARDS

The annual **"Taking the Bull by the Horns"** certificate honors the members who chair events or go out of their way to enhance an area of the club, such as the general meeting programs.



This years recipients are: **Bob / KE3AW**, **Charlie / W3OPA**, **Brad / W3JXQ**, **Barry / KU3X**, **Bob / NE2C**, **Dave / N3EYT**, **Tom / KB3IUE**, **Lou / KB2VCI, Vic / N2OFF, Al / W3CE, Don / KC3II, Doreen / KB3PDL, Pete / NL7XM, Ben / KB3CTX** and **George / N3SQD** who were all present at the meeting. Not in attendance: **Howard / WO3P, Tracy / KB3TAE, Charlie / K3HKZ, Mel / W3SQ, Ray / W3TDF, Barry / N3NVA, Bryan / AA3WM, Paul / N0KIA**, and **Don / KA3JWE** who were all missed.

This years winner of the **"Electric Fence"** award for the outstanding newsletter article was **Paul / KB3LIC** for his article on audio amplifiers on page 10 of the June issue.

de **Charlie / W3OPA**

CQ DX MARATHON

Happy New Year to all
Well January 01 2011 will be here real soon; do you know what that means? It is time to the 2011 CQ DX MARITHON
Now this is going to be an ongoing task till December 31 2011. If you look at the at the information below you will see this is not a real hard hitting contest this is more a year long DX chase. The plan that I have brought to the board is that any station wishing to participate will share their log with me so that I can keep a log for the club as a whole and I will do a presentation as to the progress that is being made throughout the year. If this is something you would like to participate in please contact me at jay@n3ow.com and I will provide you with the 2011 sheet and will add you to the master log. Lets all have fun and work a lot of good DX

73's **Jay / N3OW**

The 2011 edition of the CQ DX Marathon begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2011 and runs through 2359 UTC on December 31, 2011. The goal, as always, is to work as many countries and CQ zones as possible at least once during the calendar year. *There are no changes to the rules this year.* Once again we will use a down loadable Microsoft Excel® template (or equivalent) which may be filled in and emailed to a special address as your log entry. Conversion programs are available to automatically populate the template from your logging program. See the DX Marathon website for details. Here are the 2011 rules for the CQ DX Marathon:

Rules, 2011 CQ DX Marathon Activity period:

The CQ DX Marathon is a year-long activity, beginning at 000 UTC January 1 and ending at 2359 UTC December 31. Each year's event is separate.

Frequencies: Any authorized amateur frequency may be used. Contacts through repeaters or satellites are not allowed for credit, nor are contacts with maritime or aeronautical mobile stations. All contacts must be made entirely over amateur radio frequencies—i.e., Echolink-type contacts do not count.

Modes: Any authorized amateur mode may be used. Three modes will be recognized in the DX Marathon: CW, SSB, and Digital. All modes other than CW and SSB will count as Digital. Submissions with all contacts utilizing a single mode will be recognized.

Categories: All awards are for single operator only. Entries with two or more callsigns will only count as a single entry if all contacts were made by the same (single) operator at the same station using the same antennas. There are two entry classes, "Formula" and "Unlimited." *Formula:* An entrant may choose one of two options in this class: (1) All contacts must be made with a maximum output power of 10 watts, regardless of band or mode; or (2) the operator may run a maximum of 100 watts output to a simple antenna, such as a vertical or dipole (see the appendix later on in these rules for further rules on antennas used in either option for Formula class). An operator in Formula class must select QRP (10 watts or less) or 100 watts and limited antennas at the beginning of the year's DX Marathon, and may not switch between entry modes during the year. All contacts must be made without assistance of any sort, including, but not limited to, lists, passes, or use of higher power or prohibited antennas to initially secure the contact. Use of spotting nets such as a DX Cluster® is allowed. *Unlimited:* Any antenna may be used, along with any power level for which the operator is licensed. Use of spotting nets such as DX Cluster® is allowed.

Scoring: Each country worked is worth one point. Each CQ zone worked is worth one point. The total score is the sum of zones and countries worked, on any mode and any authorized band. There are no multipliers of any kind. Each country and zone count only once. A single QSO may count for both a country and a zone. If in the course of the year you work 238 countries and 37 zones, your score is 275. If you work all 40 zones and 150 countries, your score is 190. The CQ DX Countries List and the CQ Zone List constitute the official lists. The lists are available on the DX Marathon web site. In the case of ties, the operator whose last scoring contact was earlier chronologically will be judged the winner. Decisions of the Marathon Manager are final.

Submissions: Submissions must be made electronically, via e-mail to <scores@dxmarathon.com>. A Microsoft Excel® template into which contacts may be entered is available for download from the CQ DX Marathon website at <http://www.dxmarathon.com>. *The website also provides other options for those without access to Excel®.* All scores must be received by January 31 following the close of each DX Marathon.

Verification: QSLs are not required. The operator is expected to claim contacts only from stations the operator has every reason to believe are legitimate, and only to claim contacts in which an accurate two-way exchange was clearly accomplished (see Appendix for further explanation). Scores will be adjusted by the DX Marathon committee for claimed contacts with pirates or any station not considered legitimate. Submissions may be penalized or voided in cases of fraud or poor sportsmanship. Submissions that do not provide clear descriptions of Formula class antennas to show that the antennas meet the Formula class antenna rules may be re-classified to Unlimited class. Decisions of the Marathon Manager are final.

Clubs: Clubs are strongly encouraged to use the framework of this contest for intramural and regional competitions.

Claimed Scores: Competitors are encouraged to submit claimed scores to the DX Marathon website throughout the year. The claims will be updated regularly and posted on the website.

Results: The final listing of official scores will be posted on the DX Marathon website after the annual summary of entire winning scores and details is published in *CQ* magazine.

Awards:
Certificates: Certificates will be issued to the winners from**CQ DX Marathon Administrator* each CQ zone and each CQ country. Where there is sufficient activity, additional certificates may be issued for other high scorers or for scores using a single mode.
Plaques: The CQ DX Marathon Committee will award plaques to the top scorer in each class. Additional sponsors are welcome. In all cases, the rulings of the CQ DX Marathon Committee and the CQ DX Marathon Manager are final.
Announcing:
The 2011 CQ DX Marathon
BY JOHN SWEENEY,* K9EL/VA3CDX
Appendix
Formula Class antennas, option 1: Operators selecting the 10-watt option are limited to antennas on a single tower and whose height does not exceed 65 feet or 20 meters above ground elevation, within 330 feet or 100 meters of the tower base. Wire antennas may also be used but must meet the criteria of the 100-watt option, and may be tower-supported at only one point.
Formula Class antennas, option 2: Antennas for operators choosing the 100-watt option must be either simple verticals or wire antennas lacking significant gain. No arrays are allowed, whether vertical or horizontal, nor are long wires exceeding 130 feet or 40 meters, except on 80 and 160 meters. The base of vertical antennas used must not be more than 33 feet or 10 meters higher than the station floor and may not exceed 65 feet or 20 meters in total height. Dipoles or other wire antennas must not be more than 60 feet above ground. Yagis, quads, or tower mounted antennas (except wire antennas meeting the height limits above) may not be used in this category.
Contacts: Each contact for a claimed country or zone must be a solid contact. The station claiming a contact with another station is expected to have had his or her callsign fully and accurately received and transmitted by the other station, and to have copied his/her own call being correctly sent by the other station. For example, K2MGA may not claim credit for a QSO with a DX station who had his call as K3MGA, even though in many cases the DX station would QSL the contact with the correction made (after receiving a card from K2MGA, realizing the error and correcting his/her log). For a contact to count, both stations must correctly copy all of both callsigns.

2010 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2010 was another banner year for the Delaware Lehigh ARC. The year began with **C.R. Phillips / N3HTZ** explaining the infrastructure of the Pa Turnpike radio system.

February began with our first in house ham fest, which from all appearances seemed to be a success. All those items in our shacks covered with dust from lack of use, became available to others with a need for those items. **Ray / W3TDF** won the K3NZ Award for high score in the 2009 PA QSO Party. The annual 2 meter sprint was held.

March had **Barry / KU3X** explaining baluns and their proper use. **Dave / K3GMT** became chairman of the club station. Plans were begun for the various projects and events that the club would be involved with this year. Spring Tech, General and Extra class license classes were held.

April had **Al / W3CE** and **George / N3SQD** presenting their program of astrophotography. **Charlie / W3OPA** and **Bryan /AA3WM** were co-winners of the Amy Zimmerman award.

May brought past member, **Mel / W3PYF** back to present a picture history of the DLARC based on photos, taken by his father, **Clarence / W3PYF.** G**ary / N2AUO** won the DLARC Sprint and **Laurie / KB3SIK** won the contest for thr new DLARC QSO card.. The DLARC again supplied communications for the Lehigh Valley MS Walk.

June and **Mel / W3SQ** was recruiting operators for Army Mars. June also brings the annual Field day, which again was a success with the addition of several new antenna systems, and a gourmet dinning experience.

July: **Ben / KB3CTX** was our program presenter with his experiences at tracking and resolving RFI. The DLARC again supplied communications for the MS 150 Bike Tour, which enabled another trouble free event.

August and **Joe Dozpat / WA3UVP,** ARRL Technical Coordinator told us of how the ARRL was available for any problems and / or situations .More improvements were made in the milkhouse to aid in the contesting that will be coming in the near future.

September and contesting is on the horizon. **Paul / N0KIA** presented a program on kit building for everyone. Heath Kits may no longer be around, but there are still a lot of kits available. Fall Tech, general and Extra classes began. The annual picnic was held at Louise Moore Park, with a fox hunt as an added extra.

October was a busy month. **Rich Moesen / W2VU**, editor of CQ Magazine spoke on the growth of amateur radio. We had an operating display at the Easton's Garlic festival with much interest be shown by the spectators. Then covered the Lehigh Valley Wheelmans Century Run, supplying safety communication coverage. Then on to the Pennsylvania SQO Party the next weekend with the Milkhouse and members on the air. The Black Bear 100 Mile Bike run came next and on the same day the DLARC supplied safety communications for the Emmaus Halloween parade. The Milkhouse was on the air for the CQ WW DX SSB Contest.

November brought **Mel / W3SQ** back, speaking this time on electronic missile guidance systems. The newly elected Executive Committee began its role in the continued growth of the DLARC. More improvement in the milkhouse and a new antenna was installed.

December and the annual Holiday Get together in which a good time was had by all. Followed by the Christmas City Special Event Station in its 41st year of operation.

2010 was a year of growth in membership and activities. Fun for all and all for fun!



NEWS FROM THE MILK HOUSE

The Milk House continues to host 100 plus visitors last month.



Station upgrades include line isolators for each antenna.

Al / W3CE has many members interested in ARPS. The Milk House is running a digipeater and Al assisted **Gary / N2AUO** in setting up his APRS digipeater. Al also demonstrated his recent APRS purchase. Kenwood's new TH-D72 APRS HT (replacement for the TH-D7).







Dave / K3GMT replaced his Flex-3000 with a Flex- 5000 with two receivers. Below is photo of the new Flex and a screen shot of the PowerSDR software that controls all Flex radios.





The Milk House is open every Wednesdays and most Weekends. Stop by and see your Club Station.

de **K3GMT**

ZEN AND THE ART OF RADIOTELEGRAPHY

By **Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

One thing that I find amusing about Morse Code is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are that rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I said "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column.

Having said that, let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy by Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ. This book is available as a free download in the original Italian (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_ita_v20100826.pdf) and in an English translation (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf).

What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse Code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill. To succeed in learning Morse Code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning:

"When learning CW, therefore, we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and pleasure. When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learn from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness.

This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day: you can take care of your 'more serious' stuff later on."

Consoli also has some interesting things to say about getting faster. He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key.

He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators. If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is to program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and one day, you will be one.

That seems to have worked for him. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm.

Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your code speed, then Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

F.Y.I.

The winners of the December Prizes were all the attending DLARC members.
The February Meeting Program will be **Jeff Welsh / N3QO** on "Computers in the Ham Shack"

The D.L.A.R.C. meets the "FIRST" Thursday of each month. Membership, friends and interested persons meet at the Nancy Run Fire Company Social Hall (3564 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa. 18020) at 7:30 PM. Committee reports and announcements of all present and future activities will be presented at that time. Followed by that month's program.

The EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA District 2 ARES Net meets every Wednesday at 1930 hours local time. (Just after the DLARC Net) On 147.255 (pl 162.2). And linked to 449.375 on Blue Mountain, 443.350 in Allentown and 147.180 in Berks County.

D-Star Mid-Atlantic Regional net meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month on the 147.165 port with a number of other repeaters in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York City area .

The OK Corral is an organization publication for the purpose of informing members of the D.L.A.R.C. of educational and training opportunities, club events, relevant news articles and a monthly calendar of daily activities, meetings and dates. Every member of the D.L.A.R.C. Is welcome to contribute articles of interest to this newsletter. Opinions, items of interest, and even suggestions towards the improvement of newsletter and/or the DLARC, itself would also be accepted, as a sort of "Letters to the Editor" section.

The Milkhouse now as a phone with the number 484-895-7038.

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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 at 7:30 PM at the Nancy Run Fire Company
TALK IN ON 146.700 (PL 151.4)

THE W3OK TRUSTEE --- DON REAMER / KA3JWE

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ARES, RACES AND DLARC NET

All Radio Amateurs are welcome to participate in the ARES, RACES and DLARC net. This net meets Wednesday at 1900 hours local time, on the W3OK Repeater 51.76, 146.70 and 444.90 (pl 151.4). With an alternate frequency of 147.370 (167.9) W3OI Repeater.

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