THE DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

NEWS

****
* FEBRUARY 1, 1990 *
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RD #4
GREYSTONE BUILDING
NAZARETH, PA
18064

DUES ARE DUE

HAVE RADIO WILL TRAVEL

The speaker for this meeting will be Andy Rossanese, W3XM. His talk will be on his trip some years ago when he and his wife wanted to give a much wanted graduation and birthday gift to his daughter Andrea.

His daughter made up the itinerary of the countries and things she rally wanted to see, and Andy and his wife added a few place they were interested in.

Of course, as the tourist attractions were near most of the large cities, Andy was sure that his list included the cities where he had talked to hams in the preceding 6 months.

He will tell us of his escapades in meeting Amateurs from Luxembourg, Germany, Italy and Czechoslovakia. They included DK5WV, DJ3YW, I3MAU, OK2JS and OK2ABU.

In addition, his wife Anne, was able to meet her aunt, (her Mother's youngest sister); as all she had was an address taken from an old letter written may years before. Anne's both parents had died some years ago. Since none of her relatives spoke English, Anne had to translate to Andy all that was going on.

Come hear of a very interesting trip.

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RAFFLE DRAWING THIS MEETING

MAKE SURE ALL YOUR MONEY AND TICKETS ARE IN TO BROWNIE, W3CJI. THIS IS THE MEETING AT WHICH WE WILL HAVE THE DRAWING FOR ALL THE GOOD PRIZES..TICKETS AND OR MONEY SHOULD BE IN BEFORE THIS MEETING.

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LAST MEETING TO PAY DUES

NEW NOVICE CLASSES TO BEGIN
March 12th

The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club will again sponsor classes leading to a novice grade license in classes that will begin on Monday, March 12th at the Greystone Building, Nazareth.

Beginning at 7:00PM on that night, the classes will continue for 9 weeks. Courses will cover radio theory and other knowledge needed for getting the Amateur License. It will include Morse code and theory.

There is no charge for the course, except for course materials.

If you know of anyone who is interested have them contact either Robin, KD3HS at 820-0944, Daryl at 866-4286 or Chris, NU3L, at 965-4151. The class will be handled by these members and other members who wish to help.

If you can help, contact either of the above instructors.

Preregistration is encouraged, as soon as possible by contacting one of the above. Those that pre-register can pick up their text books at the first class session.

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SEND IN YOUR ARES APPLICATIONS

With last months newsletter, you received an application to join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Send your application to Vern Burden, N5IEP, at his home at 1916 Hopewell Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Lets try to get 100% of our club enrolled in this program. Also make the ARES nets on Wednesday nights @19:00 hours on 146.70.

CONTESTING -- Novice Style (Part 1)

by Alex N3CZC

The PA QSO Party in October is now history, but as my first contest, I endured many trials and tribulations (as we all do) in preparing for and operating in this contest. In this article, I will relate my experiences from the viewpoint of a rookie contester and summarize ideas gleaned from hardcore contesters (such as K3ANS, W3TDF and K3YD), QST articles (bibliography presented in Part 2), and last, but not least, The ARRL Operating Manual 3rd ed. (Chapter 7). In Part 2 next month, I will describe how I grew my antenna farm, some contest operating tips and experiences, a QST Novice contester bibliography, and some final thoughts. I hope that the material presented here will enlighten and encourage prospective Novice contesters, just in time for Novice Roundup.

My interest in the PA QSO party came about unexpectedly. Freshly infected with QSO fever after making a few on the Novice station during Field Day, I drooled and planned my own station setup for contests FAR into the future, such as Novice Roundup 1990. I had no idea of the number of upcoming contests nor my qualifications for participation. It was just a few brief words with W3TDF (in the clogged Field Day porcelain planning room) and K3ANS (victoriously flush with picnic checkmate chills) that convinced me that the PA QSO Party was ripe for the operating by a novice Technician such as myself. Having this revelation two and a half months before the contest brings me to my first rule.

N3CZC's Rule #1: PREPARE IN ADVANCE

Knowing nothing, I scoured Chapter 7 of The ARRL Operating Manual and back issues of QST, and I talked to as many different amateurs as I could for ideas. I also sent away for the contest rules to ascertain the most effective bands and modes for scoring.

From my experience with Field Day and an SWL of Novice Roundup many years ago (before Novice phone was available), I figured that 80M/40M CW would net me the most points at 2 or 1.5 points a pop, and I knew from recent operating that the Novice 40M CW band was wide-open. I therefore planned my station around these bands. I was kindly reminded by W3TDF that most activity on the Novice bands would be on 10M SSB, and at 200 WPM (as opposed to 3-12 WPM on CW), the QSO rate would be far higher. So, I added 10M to my list. Thus began my station preparation.

N3CZC's Rule #2: IF YOU CAN'T HEAR 'EM, YOU CAN'T WORK 'EM

In other words, set up the biggest and highest antenna(s) you can handle (financially, physically, property-wise, XYL-wise). The 40M drooping dipole centered INSIDE my attic had to go. I talked to many hams (as I encourage you to) to get ideas for my limited real estate and power line encroachment problem (K3ANS, K3YD, K3EX, KD3NH, N5IEP, N2FSY, and others), and I also visited several shacks. I eventually set up antennas to cover all four Novice HF bands. Details next month.

N3CZC's Rule #3: MAKE OPERATING AND LOGGING IN YOUR STATION AS CONVENIENT AND SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE

A comfortable chair and writing desk for logging go without saying. Some not so obvious ideas are a digital 24-hour clock set to UTC so you don't have to do mental gymnastics during the contest to translate analog, 12-hour, or local time to UTC for log entries. Headphones are recommended both for better frequency response and for saving the rest of the household from incessant din of QSO's. For SSB, I would have preferred a mobile-style mike over my desk mike -- but maybe that's because the VOX didn't work.

Make antenna changing and tuneup painless. I had four antenna leads (both coax and twin leads) entering the shack, so I attached four properly labeled clothes pins to a shelf brace near my antenna tuner. Having each antenna lead clipped in a separate clothes pin allowed quick antenna changes without fishing or searching for antenna leads. In addition, I tested my antennas in advance and wrote the tuner and rig settings on a separate index card for each band/antenna to prominently display while operating. Then, at a glance I would know which antenna was connected, my band limits, and my rig and tuner settings for a particular antenna. This facilitated quick setup with minimal tuneup time

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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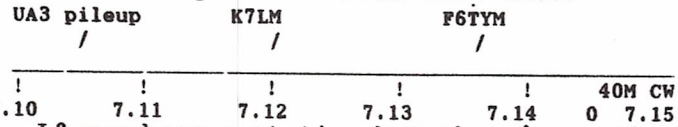
to get on the air on a particular band/antenna.

Some additional ideas from The ARRL Operating Manual follow. I prelabeled dupe sheets for the various bands. I also made some band maps which look like this:



If you hear a station but there's a pileup or a long QSO, you can pencil in the call at the approximate frequency and then return later. You can also note pockets of contest activity. In addition, The ARRL Operating Manual recommends studying the QST propagation charts to get an approximate idea of the band opening times. Then listen to the bands 28 days before the contest (the sun rotates once every 28 days), and the days immediately preceding the contest to get a better fix on band openings.

A computer program (like K3CP's) can ease the logging chores if you're familiar with the program or you have a logger, but usually it's faster just to log (and optionally dupe) by hand. During high QSO rates, it's faster and more effective to pick up the QSO's and figure out the dupes after the contest.

Last minute preparation included cooling off my "hot" rig. Overheating would knock out my 10M and 15M sections, so I lay a window screen fan on top of the rig to keep things cool. To get an idea of contest exchanges, I tuned in to the CA QSO Party the week before. This also gave me an idea of the approximate band openings, the status of my rig and antennas, and my tuneup and operating procedures. That was a good warm-up. Finally, get a good night's rest, and don't be setting up antennas a half hour before the contest. I broke both rules and fatigued out during crucial band openings.

N3CZC's Rule #4: IF YOU WANT TO "CLEAN UP" IN THE PA QSO PARTY, GET AT LEAST YOUR GENERAL CLASS TICKET -- YOU CANNOT WORK PA COUNTIES ON 10M SSB. Well, that wraps up the preparation. Next month, I'll talk about some antenna ideas, my operating experiences during the PA QSO party, a QST bibliography, and some final thoughts.

de Alex N3CZC

SO YOU CAN'T GET THE COAX CABLES IN

by Wendell, W3IRX

In the past, I've been involved in discussions about how to get coax cables etc. from the shack to the tower when traditional methods were not practical or convenient.

In those cases where your tower is not attached to your house and, as in my case, cables can't be run in an underground conduit (you have heard about my rock farm haven't you ?) why not consider using a messenger cable from the house to the tower.

My tower is located 20-30 feet from my house. I brought my cables, (one coax, and two control cables) through the cellar wall and up the outside wall to an anchor under the overhang of the roof. At this point I placed a large eye bolt anchored in the exterior brick wall. Using a length of left-over guy wire, I ran a messenger from the eye bolt to the tower, including a turnbuckle to adjust tension.

Now I was ready to suspend the cables from the messenger out to the tower and I resolved this problem by buying some plastic shower curtain hangers at the dime store. These when in place, resemble an inverted key-hole with the smaller part hanging from the messenger and the larger part suspended down to carry the cables. I used one of these about every 2-1/2 feet and a wrap or two of electrical tape keeps the hanger in place and properly spaced. The cross section of the hangers seems sufficient to keep the cables from indenting on the hangers. I also use a simple strain relief rig at each end of the cable run to keep every thing from slipping and accumulating slack at any point in the run.

This set-up has been in continuous use at my QTH (oops, excuse me Ray) for 12 years or so and is still doing its job. The plastic hangers appear to have changed color from the sun exposure but otherwise are still serviceable. de Wendell, W3IRX

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ANSWERS LAST MONTHS QUIZ
de W3TDF

1. N3FWU(Dave), 2. KA3IJL(Amy), 3. W3BAL(John), 4. N3CVH(Tony), 5. WA3ENE(Les), 6. W3ICD(Earl), 7. K3NZ(Norm), 8. KA3TIU)Bruce), 9. W3PYF(Clarence) 10. KA3TEQ(Carl). Georgia=159 counties. Other states with high number of counties; Kentucky=120, Missouri=115, Kansas=105, Illinois=102, N.Carolina=100.

INDUCTORS
part 2
by Van K3CP

In the first part of this article Elmer had explained to Ima Lidd that a transformer could be used to step up or step down voltages. Ima thought he could take a 1.5 volt flashlight battery and get 15 volts to run his radio. Elmer said no. Remember what Elmer said. The magnetic field is only produced in the secondary when the current in the primary was changing. If Ima wanted his transformer to work, he would have to use A.C. "Oh well" said Ima - nothing's easy. Most transformers consist of a coil that is connected to the source voltage. This coil customarily is called the primary. The secondary, which is generally wound around the same core as the primary but insulated from it, consists of one or more coils. The voltage at the secondary windings can be higher, lower or the same as the primary. Some other transformers are wound with one coil with taps for the different voltage desired. These are known as auto transformers. A magnetic field is created when an alternating current flows through a coil. The polarity of this field is determined by the direction of current flow. This field opposes the change in current flow. The strength of this field is determined by the construction of the coil or inductor - the number of turns, the core material, the length and diameter of the coil, etc. This characteristic is the inductance. It is measured in units called henrys. While the henry is the basic unit, millihenrys and microhenries are more practical units for RF applications. The millihenry is 1/1000 and the microhenry is 1/1,000,000. Elmer reminded Ima of the powers of ten discussion they had in an earlier talk. 1/1000 is equal to .001 or 1 times 10 to the -3 and 1/1,000,000 is equal to .000001 or 1 times 10 to the -6. Elmer told Ima that to convert from one unit to another when using powers of ten he should move the decimal to the right when going to smaller units and to the left when going to larger units.

The opposition to the change in current flow is inductive reactance and is measured in ohms. The higher the frequency of the current, the higher the reactance. This property of inductors is useful when needing to exclude AC from the circuit. Another use for inductors is as filters. If an AC voltage is applied to a rectifier (as in a power supply) a DC voltage is produced. This voltage contains some AC fluctuation known as ripple. If this fluctuating current is fed to an inductor, the ripple will be smoothed. When the ripple current is increasing the field about the coil will increase and oppose any further increase in ripple and when the ripple is decreasing the field will collapse and hold the current at a more constant level.

A magnetic field can be generated by varying the current through an inductor. A voltage can be generated by placing a coil in a moving magnetic field. In the first example we have a motor in the second a generator. In the case of the motor, the voltage applied supplies the power to make it run and represents an example of converting electrical power to mechanical. In the case of the generator, a motor or engine supplies the power to generate electricity and represents an example of converting mechanical power to electrical. Elmer asked Ima if the speed of the motor or generator was important. Ima said that it was very important because it affected the rate at which the magnetic lines of force cut through the inductors.

The same ideas are used in tape recorders - audio or video. When playing a previously recorded tape the magnetized material on the tape induces a voltage in the coil (playback head) which is amplified and fed to the speakers. When recording a tape from an audio or video source the varying current in the coil (record head) magnetizes the tape in accordance with the program being recorded.

Ima Lidd remembered that Elmer had said that all electronic circuits contained resistors, capacitors, inductors, tubes and semiconductors. Ima knew that if he understood how these five component parts worked, he would understand how the circuits worked. He told Elmer that he was beginning to understand capacitors and coils and was looking forward to future talks. Elmer was pleased with Ima's progress and promised to continue the talks on the building blocks of electronic circuit. He said that their next discussion would examine what happens when capacitors and inductors are combined into a circuit.

de Van, K3CP

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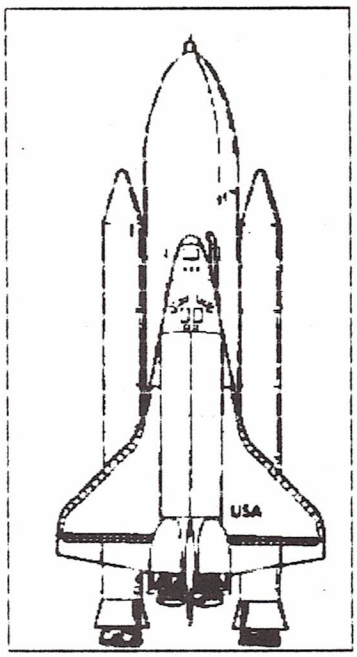
SAREX "Blasts Off" in 1990

From the ARRL Letter

The Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) will have a big year this year. So much so, it has been dubbed "SAREX-90".

STS-35-Space Shuttle *Columbia* is scheduled for a 10 day mission, to be launched on the evening of April 26th. Dr. Ron Parise WA4SIR, a payload specialist, has been cleared by NASA to operate voice and packet radio during his flight.

STS-37-Space Shuttle *Atlantis* is scheduled for a five-day mission to be launched June 4th. Marine Corps Lt. Col Ken Cameron, KB5AWP, the Pilot has been authorized to operate voice, packet, slow scan TV and ATV. A prime objective of both missions is school participation.



Both flights will use the amateur 2-meter band. The equipment is now undergoing final testing at Johnson Space Center, In Houston. Packet operations will be continuous for periods of about 12 hours daily. Voice and TV operations will be dependent on the astronaut's work schedules.; but early flight plans indicate that they should have an hour or more available daily.

Much more of the details will follow, but the word now is that a Teleconference Net is planned, to feed most amateur repeater stations in the United States. This will permit easy access to schools.

I hope that our technical committee and those active in satellite work, will work out the details so that if possible W3OK and or W3PYF/r will be connected.

de W3PYF Clarence

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BATTERIES AND HOW THEY GROW

courtesy Val, W3EFL

Miniature batteries thinner than a piece of paper could be on the market within a few years. Some batteries available now use a gel or solution suspended in plastic to replace the liquid electrolyte. In contrast, the new technology is totally solid-state. The electrolyte in the tiny batteries is made from a thin plastic film treated with a salt.. Besides the advantage of their small size, the batteries are able to operate over a broader temperature range because there is no liquid to freeze in extreme cold or boil in extreme heat. The ultrathin batteries are likely to compete with button cell batteries to power consumer electronics items such as wristwatches, calculators, cameras and "smart" credit cards. They could also be put on integrated circuits, to provide on site power for computer memory chips.

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MOBILE RIG, DEAD BATTERY

by Ray, W3TDF

I recently heard a conversation on .70 regarding the pros and cons of leaving the mobile rig turned ON overnight, and whether or not it would draw the battery down. Since I have left my ICOM dual-bander on sometimes for several days and not had a problem, I was skeptical as to some peoples conclusions. But then, alas, Mr. Murphy paid a visit to Pleasant Valley. I had not used my 'fairly new' truck for 4 days with the radio left on, and as you guessed, there wasn't enough to start it. Then I did some research. Most auto/small truck batteries are of the (approx) 55 amp-hour variety. My Icom draws .5 amps in squelched condition. The Yeasu draws .6 amps. With the Icom left on for 4 days I drained 48 amp-hours from the battery! There wasn't enough oomph left to start the truck. Conclusion: If your battery is in reasonably good condition and the engine isn't standing in zero degree environment, then leaving the rig on for 8 to 12 hours shouldn't have any detrimental effect. Second conclusion; I don't leave my rig turned on anymore. de Ray W3TDF

REMEMBER, IF THERE IS A RED MARK ON YOUR MAIL LABEL..SEE ROY!

VAL SEZ
by Val, W3EFL

Remember when *HIPPIE* meant big in the hips? And *TRIP* meant travel in cars, planes and ships?

When *POT* was a vessel for cooking things in? And *HOOKED* was what Grandma's rug might have been?

When *FIX* was a verb that meant mend or repair? And *BE-IN* meant simply existing somewhere?

When *NEAT* meant well-organized, tidy and clean? And *GRASS* was a ground cover normally green?

When *LIGHTS*, not people, were switched on and off? And the *PILL* might've been what you took for a cough?

When *GROOVY* meant furrowed with channels and hollows? And *BIRDS* were winged creatures like robins and swallows?

When *FUZZ* was a substance fluffy like lint? And *BREAD* came from bakeries and not from the mint?

When *ROLL* meant a bun and *ROCK* was a stone? And *HANG-UP* was something you did to a phone?

When *CHICKEN* meant poultry and *BAG* meant a sack? And *JUNK* trashy cast offs and old bric-a-brac?

And *DIG* meant to shovel and spade in the dirt? And *PUT-ON* was what you did with a shirt?

When *TOUGH* described meat too unwieldy to chew? And *MAKING A SCENE* was a rude thing to do?

Words once so sensible, sober and serious,
Are making our Continent psycho-delirious!

It's groovy, man, groovy, but English it's not,
Me thinks that the language has gone straight to pot!

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YOU CAN TALK TO THE FCC

THE FCC PUBLIC-ACCESS INFORMATION SYSTEM

Every electronics equipment such as, amateur radio, personal computer, microwave oven, VCR and cordless phone sold in the United States must bear an FCC identification number because they are considered to be potential generators of radio-frequency. This number identifies which company manufactured the unit. If you have one of these product and can't identify the manufacturer, you can contact the FCC through its public-access system and find out.

There are tow ways to get this information: via telephone or via computer and modem by contacting the public-access bulletin board. The FCC prefers to have people use direct computer-to-computer contact.

To contact the FCC bulletin board, you must have a computer and a modem capable of 300 baud or 1200 baud. The number to call, in Maryland (just outside of Washington, DC), is 301-727-1072. Dialing this number should get you in direct contact with the bulletin board. Just follow the instructions.. Your call will be limited to 15 minutes.

The other method of obtaining this information is to call 301-725-1585, Monday through Thursday between 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm and ask to be connected to the status desk. The individual who answers will relay your question to the bulletin board via a computer terminal, and will then relay the information it provides to you.

Obviously, if you have a computer with a modem, it makes far more sense to contact the computer directly. You'll cut out the middleman, and, of course, you can contact the computer anytime.

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C O M P U T E R F A I R & S A L E
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1990 11 AM - 5 PM

T R E X L E R M A L L

5 miles West of Allentown, Pa. on route 222
One mile East of Intersection of routes 222 and 100
Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Computer Group
Up to 150 Tables No Admission Charge
Door Prizes
COMPUTER SYSTEMS - HARDWARE - SOFTWARE
Drives-Printers-Disks-Modems-Cables-lots More

DISCUSS YOUR COMPUTER QUESTIONS WITH LVCG EXPERTS

JUST THE MINUTES
by Dave, N3EYT

The January meeting of the DLARC was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by Clarence Snyder, W3PYF, presiding. A total of 74 members and guests attended the meeting held in the Greystone building at the Gracedale complex in Nazareth. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as they appeared in the DLARC NEWS. The Treasurer's report given by Roy, KA3MNY, was also approved as submitted.

Old Business
Ray, W3TDF, said the verdict is still out on the PA QSO Party results. K3SO of the Nittaney club was unable to finish the calculations on the logs and will be unavailable to complete them until mid-March. W3OK was on the air as the Christmas City station thanks to six operators who compiled over 190 QSOs during the Holidays. Thanks to Ray, W3TDF, for organizing the effort. Tony, N3CVH, was the recipient of the club's WAS award. Congratulations Tony! This is the 13th award the club has presented.

New Business
ARRL Handbooks will be provided to the Public Libraries of Bethlehem and Easton. The club decided to donate 1990 handbooks with club identification on the books to the libraries as soon as possible. Handbooks could also be donated to high schools in the area, several each year, until the schools have them. Updating the handbooks is another consideration and should be done every five to ten years. Bob, KA3TER, is still contacting new hams in the area by letter in order to welcome them to the hobby and inform them of the DLARC.
There will be an alternate frequency announcement on W3OK, programmed to make the announcement periodically. The alternate frequency is 145.11 MHz. The announcement can be changed in one or two months to reflect another option as alternate frequency. The desired result is that repeater users will become more aware of options to the 146.70 repeater.
Club membership now stands at 305, this is a good size organization! New members this month include: John, KA3USK; John Holmes of Bath, PA; Jim, WX4D; and Nick, N3DYD. Congratulations to the ten new club members who received a free one-year club membership via the Novice licensing class. These new members include: Bob Puharic, Jackson Mayo, John Hoffnagle, John Holmes, Paul Stadler, Peter Ryan, Patricia Vassilaros, Sean Vassilaros, Robert Nail, Debra Nail and Joseph Harakal. The next scheduled Novice class should get underway in mid-March. Applications for customized license plates for Amateur call signs were made available at the meeting.
The Boy Scouts need some help with the Klondike Derby on January 27th at camp Trexler. Most operators will be able to stay in a warm vehicle. All interested were encouraged to contact Vern, N5IEP.
New software is up and running on the local Packet Bulletin Board, 144.97MHz. Now available is multi-user, multi-port communication software, according to Tom, KB3UD. The general meeting ended at 8:07p.m. and a program on contesting was presented by Steve, W3BGN.

de Dave N3EYT

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FAMOUS HAM FORTUNE COOKIES

Classic:

Help! I'm a prisoner in a Chinese cookie factory.

Contemporary:

Your beam is stuck on JA

Your transmitter plate meter reads 5% low.

Your receiver is switched to standby.

You will be blessed with a power leak.

Your neighbor just cut your guy wires.

Your tower has buckled in the center.

A windstorm will strip gears in your rotator.

Your memory keyer is programed with the wrong call.

Your winning contest log was lost in the mail.

You lost the SS by 150 points; one dupe was missed.

That YL ham the next table wants a date.

Your convention prize is a 2N404.

Your digital frequency display reads backward.

You put a high-pass filter in yur speech processor.

Your VSWR is low because you left the dummy load on.

Your wife went out with a boy friend while you were busy in the DX contest.

VARIOUS PACKET METHODS

by Joel, K9TBD

Many hams have gotten into packet. The questions arise, what kind of packet TNC should I get? Is there a best way? If I only want to play two-meter packet what should I get? How about the KAM, the AEA, MFJ, and Digicom? What about the Heathkit look-a-like? After you read this article, I will not have answered any of these questions directly, but, instead give you a few things to look for which may optimize your dollar investment in Digital Communications.

First: there is no superior packet box today. The electronics industry has done a fine job and nearly all are equivalent. And, today, it is not buying a "pig-in-the-poke" - most systems are comparable. The significant differences arise when you talk about 'multi-mode' boxes. Those pieces of electronics that do everything..... I mean everything - really!

Second: You can get a packet box - and that is just what you need if you are a new comer to packet - just a packet box on 2 meters. It will be inexpensive and a whole lot of fun to play with. You will spend about a year trying to figure out all of the buttons to push and at what time etc. If you wish to get serious with this mode, get a box that 'sports' low-band operation 'with the right filters'. It really is necessary. Most major manufacturers provide such systems. If you wish to get into being a 'big gun' and nodding and stuff, please look elsewhere for information as this article is for the newcomer to packet that just wants to get on and have fun.

Third: I have a bias! I have been playing Ham Radio for about 35 years now and have gone through QRQ CW to RTTY and now Packet is my pleasure. That is what our hobby is all about - many diverse interests and always something to do. My current bias is using DIGICOM, a unique system developed for the Commodore C64 computer. I also have the PK232MBX and an ST-6 (does anyone recall the origination of digital communications - started at Bell Labs - the Bell 101 modem?) Same design, and the author of the 101 passes through the Lehigh Valley from NJ from time to time (haven't heard him lately - hope he is not a silent key).

Fourth: Just get on, it does not make significant difference what computer you use - all have some sort of terminal emulation program, it doesn't make much difference what packet box you select - (really can not go wrong today as most are reliable - unlike early days of packet). Just get on and start enjoying some of the nifty benefits of packet. Here is an example: My brother, Van WA9FIO, is in Wisconsin - I launch a packet message to him nearly weekly - in a day or so (minimum turn-around time has been 4 hours) - I will get his response. All by the magic of packet and the growing network. There are about 400 to 500 thousand hams in the USA today and at last poll, about 25 percent are on packet. We have the largest "wireless" network in the world!

Fifth: Get in there and start playing with this wonderful new mode - P A C K E T - Send a message to your friend in Hong Kong, or maybe even Lake Woebegon - (that is in Minnesota)! The cost is minimal. All you need is a terminal (or terminal emulator), a packet box - (any of the above), a radio, and willingness to learn something new!

Epilogue: If I sound like a packet enthusiast - don't get me wrong! I am! But then when one of the students asked me if I liked computers - my response was -"Can't stand them! They drive you nuts!" I never should have brought one home! - "Enough is enough! She said, "Ya-but, you really like them don't you? You can't fool me." She was right!! Take them back to the factory!" I guess it is sort of like another part of life - "You can't live with them - you can't live without them!".

My advice is to get into the most fascinating hobby in the world - Ham Radio -then if you have inclinations towards the digital realm - get into packet and rtty and amtor and the finest mode of personal communications try QRQ CW.

de Joel, K9TBD

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RAY WILL BE PRACTICING

Weather permitting, our PA QSO party chairman for last year RAY, W3TDF will be practicing for this years contest. He and his wife Gloria will be in New Hampshire for the New Hampshire QSO party on Feb 3rd and 4th.

Look for Ray on CW 3535 & 7035 and SSB 3870, 3935 and 7240

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yankee doodling

SURVEY RESULTS

A few months ago I asked all of you for a little information-to build a profile of the club. After many hours of number crunching, here's who & what we are.

HOW MANY REPLIED.

At the time the survey was written, DLARC had about 275 members. Twenty seven of you replied, or about 10%. This is about typical for a survey.

LICENSE CLASS

Here's the survey breakdown:

NOVICE	0%
TECHNICIAN	30%
GENERAL	11%
ADVANCED	15%
EXTRA CLASS	44%

Are we that smart or do more extra's (write &) answer surveys?

YEAR LICENSED

Here's where we get a lot of numbers. The average member was licensed in 1970, with a range of license dates between 1935-1989. Some of the early dates distort the average, though. Nearly 40% of us were licensed since 1980.

1930's	3.7%
1940's	14.8%
1950's	33.3%
1960's	11.1%
1970's	18.5%
1980's	37.0%

EQUIPMENT BRAND PREFERENCES

BRAND	HF	VHF
Kenwood	46%	41%
ICOM	13%	35%
Yaesu	21%	17%
Heathkit	4%	4%
Ten-Tec	13%	n/a
Other	1%	3%

Any surprises here?

FAVORITE ANTENNAS

TYPE	160-30M.	20-10M.	VHF+
Dipole	46%	22%	
Vertical	26%	34%	74%
Random Wire	6%	0%	
Sloper	9%	6%	
Yagi Beam	6%	29%	26%
Δ-Loop	9%	6%	
Quad(multi-el)	0%	3%	

Barry, KU3X, has made some loop converts. We tend to be FM oriented on VHF, thus lots of verticals.

CW KEYING DEVICES

A real mix here, with limited response. About 20% like straight keys, 20% use bugs. Most of the rest use keyers, although computer generated CW from the keyboard (or memory) is coming.. Three prefer Vibroplex paddles, 1 likes Brown Bros., 1 NYE. Two keyers mentioned by name, "N4YG Smartkeyer" & MFJ.

RADIO SPECTRUM OPERATING PREFERENCES

HF	VHF	BOTH
7%	11%	82%

FAVORITE BANDS

HF BAND	HF	VHF BAND	VHF
160	4%	6	3%
80/75	9%	2	74%
40	9%	220	n/a
20	30%	440	23%
15	17%	ABOVE	0%
10	30%		

FAVORITE HF OPERATING ACTIVITY (one choice)

ACTIVITY	%
Ragchewing	42%
Award Hunting	0%
DX-ing	42%
Contesting	13%
Traffic	0%
MARS	0%
OTHER/No Pref.	3%

FAVORITE MODES/MODES OPERATED

HF	% of Σ	VHF	% Active
SSB	67	SSB	28%
CW	33	CW	20%
other		FM	100%
		AM	8%
		PACKET	48%
		OSCAR	8%

(Different questions here. On HF, your single preferred mode; on VHF all modes which you operate.)

Technicians really like SSB DX-ing on 10 meters.

MICROPHONE PREFERENCES

Here we tend to follow the lead of the radio manufacturer. Only 15% choose anything of another brand; the individualists like: the Turner 256, Astatic D104, & 10DA, and Shure 444D; all very punchy!

TOWERS

About 48%, or half responding, have a tower; 30% of these have 2 or more. Average tower height is 63 feet, but this ranges from 20' (rooftop ?) to one megatower of 200 feet!

AGE

I saved the worst for last, and it is bad news. The average age of the people responding to the survey is 51! (The Std. Dev. is 13.7 yrs.) Our age range is from 31 (youngest) to 77 (oldest). Where is the new blood of amateur radio? The average current age of the folks licensed in the 1980's is 45. Has ham radio become too expensive for kids, or is Nintendo™ more interesting? Are we not recruiting or offering classes at the right time or place? Any ideas? (If you're a 13-year old Novice with Drake gear, please answer my next questionaire. I'd like to know that you're out there)

02.90 **73 de K3YD**

THE DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

NEWS

RD #4
GREYSTONE BUILDING
NAZARETH, PA
18064

David Blankenship
405 W. Broad Street
Bethlehem Pa. 18018

N3EYT

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to participate in the DLARC, ARES, EMA Nets on 146.70 W3OK/rpt.
The Nets are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM and on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.
The alternate repeater for these Nets is 145.11 W3PYF/rpt.

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1990

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CLUB MEETING NIGHT

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Greystone Building at Gracedale.
Phone....759-2600

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Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to
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