Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

February, 1998

PL on 146.70 on February 1

SKYWARD and APRS

by John, N3IGA

Paul Toth, KB2WNZ, will be our February speaker. His topic will be **APRS *(Automatic Position Reporting System).*** He has been an Amateur Radio operator for a relatively short period...just over two years. He has been a SKYWARN spotter for over 20 years. He got started with the program in Wisconsin (his home state) in the days when he operated on 11 meters. He was the County Communications Officer in Marathon Co.(Wausau area) in 1977 when a tornado hit metro Wausau causing considerable damage. However...because of an active SKYWARN program which he directed there, the warning that was provided prevented injury.

He is a member of the SKYWARN Technical Committee for the NWSFO Mt holly and as such has helped re-organize how SKYWARN functions and which technologies are used to support the program. He was appointed Section Emergency Coordinator for Northern NJ last May. This appointment has enabled him better organize the SKYWARN program and integrate it with ARES in NNJ.

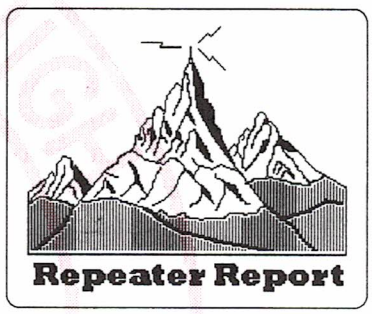
Paul has been quoted as saying "APRS is one of the most important innovations to hit Amateur Radio in decades". Paul will put on a demonstration to show how APRS works. This is an easy and effective way to help your community and show others what Amateur Radio is all about. Come and see a new way to communicate.

de John, N3IGA

Repeater update

by Barry, N3NVA

Feb 1st PL of 151.4 is the date of the **W3OK 146.700** repeater to go CTCSS access. If you do not have CTCSS in your radio and do have DTMF enter the **CODE 11** and this will change the repeater to carrier access. The repeater will return back to CTCSS access automatically after 90 seconds of no activity on it's input. During Emergencies, and Special Events that require the need for carrier access we will switch the repeater to carrier access if required.



All Net Controllers are advised to enter the code **11** just prior to your Nets. This **CODE 11** and the **CTCSS of 151.4** may and should be given out to any and all. If you here anyone passing through the area it would be a good idea to advise them also. The PL will be in the ARRL Rept. Handbook and announced on the 10 min. ID

de Barry N3NVA

DLARC MEETING on Feb 5th in KIVA Hall, Northampton County Community College

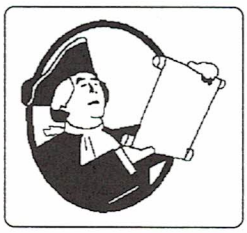
7:30 PM.

Talk in on 146.70 if needed

Just the Minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary

The business meeting of the DLARC was called to order by President Joe Chuk, W3JD, at 7:30pm on January 8, 1998. There were 72 members and guests present.



Amy, KD3TI, moved to approve the minutes of the December Meeting as printed in the January issue of the W3OK Corral. Barry, N3NVA, seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by the membership.

Dick, KA3MOU, presented the Treasurer's Report. The Starting Balance as of December 1 was $2,798.91. Income is $1,977.00. Expenses for the month is $527.68. The Ending Balance as of December 31, 1997 is $4,248.23. Thomas, N3YRP, made a motion to accept the Report and JP, N3GWR, seconded the motion.

Joe, W3JD, announced that the business meeting would continue after the break. This was done so that the discussions would be on record and also any decisions. The meeting continued until everything was finished.

Ray, W3TDF, talked about the PA QSO Party and Christmas City Special Event Station. Ray contacted Doug, W3HDH, about sending the whole trophy back or just the plate, and also asked him about receiving Chris's, NU3L, log. Doug left Ray a message that he didn't receive Chris's log. He told Ray to send back the whole trophy. He also said that the log checking was not all done yet and to send a copy of Chris's log ASAP. Chris's score would make a difference as far as winning the trophy. The Christmas City Special Event was a success. Only 22 contacts less than last year. Ray announced that he would not chair the event next year. He thanked Norm, K3NZ, and Bill, KA3OEG, for the great job on the certificates.

New members were brought into the club. Len, N2BSC, moved and Jim, N3QZS, seconded that the following individuals be approved for membership:

Charles Giannetta, WA3RSQ
Jonathan Ennis, KB3BYR
Loretta Brickman
Eugene Tierney

Joe, W3JD, read some acknowledgments of gifts from DLARC in memoriam.

Bob, KE3AW, announced that General Classes would start January 12 and run for six weeks. Novice-Tech Classes will start in the Spring.

Jim, N3QZS, got up and told us about his experience in Bosnia. He talked about meeting hams, life over there as a Ham, and even met some Bosnia hams. It was very interesting.

Joe, W3JD, and John, N3IGA, informed the members present about the Section Manager Election for Eastern PA. Joe read a letter from Al Breiner, W3TI, the incumbent. John read a letter from Bob Stanhope, KB3YS, and also a letter that he wrote to clubs as the Affiliated Club Coordinator.

Barry, KU3X, showed us the remote antenna switch he built from a design he found in the January 1996 issue of CQ. It will work great at home or for a portable setup.

Bill, K3ANS, informed us that Carl, KA3TEQ, could use some help. His wife, Marcia, is dying of cancer. What Carl really needs is somebody, who lives near Dorneyville, to take him to Sacred Heart Hospital to see his wife. His family is helping out as much as possible, but there are times when they can't take him. So if you can help, please give Carl a phone call. His number is in the club roster.

Joe, W3JD, set the rules down on how the PL discussion would go. One person would speak at a time. If it got out of hand, Joe would take control to get it back under control. Barry, N3NVA, started off first. He found out that the PL could be taken off through DTMF pad even if you don't have PL. This way the repeater is not really closed. You have to take PL to use the phone patch if you don't have PL. The code to turn the PL will be announced on the repeater ID, so that people from out of the area can use the repeater. as soon as Barry gets the code together, it will be announced. After Barry was done, various people expressed their views. There were some questions, which Barry was able to answer. At the end of the discussion, Joe asked for a show of hands from members present for those in favor of taking another vote on PL. Nobody raised his or her hand. Everybody seemed satisfied. Joe announced that the discussion had ended on and the PL will go in effect as of February first.

de John, N3IGA

New Call Signs

More new call signs:

The FCC on January 14 processed more vanity call sign receipts. Gettysburg has processed all applications received through December 12, 1997, including all work in process or WIPs. Notable among the most recent batch was a new call sign for ARRL President Rod Stafford, who is now W6ROD (he was KB6ZV). Lots of other call sign "name suffix" combinations were granted in the most recent vanity batch. ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director JP Kleinhaus, W2XX, was able to obtain W2AA for the "Big Gun Contest Club" of which he is the trustee. Eastern New York DEC April Stack, formerly KA2QIG, got K2ZCZ, the former call sign of New York Governor George Pataki.

Coping with your new call sign: Changing your call sign entails a bit of housekeeping. For instance, if you have a new vanity call sign and are active on packet, you should alert the sysop of your packet BBS of your new on-air identity. You'll also need to change the call sign in your packet TNC firmware and in your ham radio software (communication and logging software, for example). If your call sign is also part of your e-mail address, you'll want to update that with your Internet service provider, as well. ARRL field appointees should alert section managers too. A new call sign also can mean a new club or ARRL field appointment badge, new QSL cards, new business cards (if they carry your call sign), and maybe new license plates. The list goes on. automatically changed as the FCC database is updated.--*thanks to This Week in Amateur Radio.*

WX3MAS 1997



FCC issues Gate 4 calls

via ARRL Bulletin 002 (via N3ET)

Be on the lookout for another round of new call signs. Right on schedule on January 7, the FCC issued more than 600 new call signs to those who were among the 1000 or so who filed vanity call sign applications on December 2, the opening day for Gate 4.

Earlier this week, the FCC in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, set the stage by processing all vanity applications received through December 1, 1997, the day before vanity Gate 4 opened. The FCC granted 120 new call signs on January 6. The FCC received more than 800 electronically filed vanity applications on December 2 and an unspecified number of hard copy applications.

The Furr family of Chapel Hill, North Carolina--home of the University of North Carolina--took advantage of Gate 4 to standardize their suffixes to, what else, UNC. Mom and Dad are UNC graduates, and one of their daughters (19-year-old Mary, K5UNC) is about to graduate. Dad is Walter "Buddy" Furr III, who got his K4UNC call sign under Gate 2. Mom, Judy, is K2UNC. The couple's other two daughters are nine-year-old Cindy, K1UNC and 16-year-old Rebecca, K3UNC, a high school junior. Judy Furr says her husband is "a major UNC fan." The youngest daughter, Cindy, holds a General ticket and has passed her 20 WPM code test on her way to the Extra. The Furr family plans to debut their new call signs on a local 2-meter net. In the same vein, WE4UNC went to Judy Smith of Pulaski, Tennessee.

Among the other new call signs were KB1USA, WA7AAA, and KZ8ZZZ Deb McKay of Hamburg, New York, formerly N2TTP, obtained WX2DEB. KA1THY went to Kathy Swann of Coventry, Rhode Island. Many other "name" and "initial" call signs were among the batch issued on January 7.

Follows is a note received by Chris, NU3L:

Dear Chris,

Thank you for teaching my Novice/Technician class. I took the test on 12/15/97 and passed. I am now a Tech Plus. Would you please sign my application for the DLARC membership.
Thank you very much

Jonathan Ennis

Jonathan is now KB3BYR, de W3MP

Where they are!

via ARRL Bulletin 002 (via N3ET)

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signsissued as of January 5, 1998. Note that the last Group C call sign has been issued in the First District.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0GT	KI0LF	++	KC0CNK
1	AA1TA	KE1IZ	N1ZZZ	KB1CHB
2	AB2EQ	KG2NJ	++	KC2CWL
3	AA3QP	KF3AT	++	KB3BZY
4	AF4HM	KU4NR	++	KF4VIK
5	AC5OQ	KM5NZ	++	KD5DAE
6	AD6EF	KQ6TW	++	KF6PBV
7	AB7XB	KK7LM	++	KC7ZYZ
8	AB8BT	KI8EV	++	KC8JBN
9	AA9VI	KG9MH	++	KB9RXH

++All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.

Human "genius" at work:

Here's the set up:

I rented a movie from Blockbuster. Before the movie begins a message comes on the screen saying,
"This movie has been altered to fit your television screen."
Comment from person: "How do they know what size screen I have?"

Check you label

If your label shows Membership expires 12/31/97, you will be removed from the mail list and not be included in the directory which will be issued with the March issue.

Make your check out to: DLARC and mail it to:
Richard Dech, Treasurer
120 McIlhaney Ave
Bath, PA 18014-1612

The Prez Sez

The PLain Truth

by Joe Chuk, W3JD, DLARC President

Evidently the publicity worked: Once club members knew that the program for the January meeting would be a discussion of **PL** on the **146.70** machine, they showed up in what seemed, by my observation at least, record numbers for a January evening (the secretary's records may prove me wrong, but that's not really the point). In any event, there certainly were more members than usual who stayed around after the break.

Interest in the topic was obviously high. A part from the **W3OK Corral** articles in the January issue and numerous conversations both on and off the repeater, I personally received a number of email messages about implementing PL -- both strongly in favor and strongly against it. My response to everyone was the same: Come to the meeting and listen to what BOTH sides have to say, and then add to the discussion whatever wasn't covered.

My implicit faith in the good will and reasonableness of the **DLARC** membership was not misplaced. The discussion was a good one, with a number of people contributing both some good questions and some equally good answers. Although there were several members whose obvious familiarity with PL operation helped provide a factual foundation for the discussion, I would be remiss if I didn't specifically point out the efforts of our Repeater Committee chair, **Barry Vogt, N3NVA.**

Most of the time, this is a committee of one (with some help from others as it's needed), so Barry felt a personal responsibility to plan the details of the mandated PL implementation in a way that served the most people in the best way. It became clear during the meeting that he succeeded in doing just that. The PL access will get rid of out-of-area interference, but no club member will be forced to modify old radios or buy new ones, because anyone with a DTMF pad will be able to disable the PL at will. The next time you hear **N3NVA** on the air, thank him for a job well done!

Fortunately, the DLARC means much more than a PL-controlled repeater. The meeting also provided the chance to share notes of thanks for memorials sent by the club as expressions of sympathy for the families of two club members **(N3VJA** and **K3NZ)** who suffered recent losses. We heard about the two candidates for the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager position (ballots from ARRL members need to be received by 20 February).

Jim, N3QZS, gave us the benefit of his recent experience in Bosnia by describing the state of amateur radio in that country. And **Barry, KU3X,** showed us a simple circuit for a remote antenna switch that could be built with parts from -- believe it or not -- "America's Technology Store."

My personal hope is that the fine attendance we had for the January program was an indication of a trend for the rest of 1998. We have a number of worthwhile programs planned for the months to come. APRS is on the slate for February, with the second annual auction scheduled for March. The months to follow will see programs on the county 911 system, DXing, contest logging, weather forecasting, and more. Let's show our support both for the members who are organizing these programs and the guests who are kind enough to present them for us. As you'll hear in future meetings and editions of the W3OK Corral, we have an exciting year ahead of us. Make a point of being part of it!

de Joe, W3JD

Dues Reminder

Check your mailing Label.

If your membership expires **12/31/97** your dues are due. Annual dues for each category of membership are as follows:

1.Under age 18 -	$12.00
2.From 18 to 64 years of age -	$17.00
3.65 years of age and over -	$12.00
4.Family member -	$3.00
5.Associate member -	$7.00

Since membership is on a calendar year basis, members joining between July and December pay one-half the annual dues for the current year. There is an initiation fee of $1.00 for each new member. New applicants are approved for membership at the next monthly membership meeting. If paying dues at the Club meetings please put dues in a envelope with your call sign, thanks. Checks for dues should be made out to DLARC. Dues can be mail to the Club Treasurer Dick Dech.

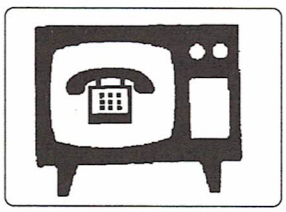
Richard A Dech / KA3MOU
120 MCILHANEY AVENUE
BATH PA 18014-1612

de Dick/ KA3MOU

New Media Systems
Getting From Here to There

by Joe Chuk, W3JD

Much has already been said about the changes television broadcasters will have to make to begin providing



Digital Television (DTV) service, which includes, but is not limited to, the higher-quality HDTV transmissions that have gotten the bulk of the attention in the general circulation press. Previous columns in this space have focused on the need for creating an entirely digital signal chain from the cameras to the transmitters. The transmitters themselves will have to be fed to dedicated antennas on towers that, in most cases, are separate from those that will continue to be used for analog transmissions until the year 2006. But there's another part of the system that hasn't been mentioned here yet -- the studio-to-transmitter link (STL).

While some radio and television stations have their transmitters and towers at the same location as their studios, there are many that have the two separated by distances of many miles. This is often a practical necessity. For effective direct-wave propagation of VHF and UHF signals, the three most important considerations are the same as in the real estate business: location, location, and location. With due attention to avoiding co-channel and adjacent channel interference, it's usually a case of the higher the location, the better. That usually means putting the transmitting tower on top of a convenient mountain (or, at least, higher ground -- as in the case of the Roxborough antenna farm for the Philadelphia television stations. Philadelphia doesn't have any mountains.).

Since the tops of mountains aren't always the easiest places to get to for television station staff, program guests, visitors, FCC inspectors, etc., many stations have their studios located in more accessible areas closer to sea level. Here in the Lehigh Valley, one television station (WFMZ) has its studios and transmitter together on top of a mountain, and another (WLVT) also has its studios on a mountain -- but its transmitter is actually on another mountain, so it needs an STL! The third area TV station (WBPH) also needs an STL, with downtown Bethlehem studios and a mountain-top transmitting site.

I've had recent personal experience with just how important an STL is in the broadcast signal chain. As an announcer at the Lehigh Valley public radio station WDIY, with studios located in downtown South Bethlehem, I have a particular interest in one rack-mounted piece of equipment in the on-air studio -- the STL transmitter. Operating in the 900 MHz region, this little transmitter puts out less power than most of our amateur HTs: one watt. But that RF link is absolutely necessary for programming to continue.

That became all too clear during a week in November when ice falling from a higher section of the tower on which both the station's transmitting antenna and the STL receiving antenna are sited hit the link antenna. Although the little STL transmitter at the studios was still working fine, the yagi that had the job of picking up the signal at the broadcast transmitter site was knocked out of alignment. Because it was 500 feet up on the tower, riggers had to be brought in from outside the area to climb the tower to get the link working again. In an industry where down time is counted in seconds, WDIY was off the air for several days (including the day on which I regularly host a network morning news program -- giving me a few more hours of sleep!).

The point behind this story is that, for many television broadcasters, the transition from analog to digital transmission technology will have to include an initial digital transmission from the studio location to the transmitter site. And that link will need the same data-carrying capacity as that required for the broadcast DTV transmitter: 19.39 Mbps. Stations will need to install what are essentially flea-power DTV transmitters at their studios to get the same quality signal to their tower sites as they will be transmitting to the public. Obviously, existing analog microwave links won't be able to do the job.

As a sidebar, WDIY's STL is actually a digital link, with the audio being changed back to analog information before transmission to the public. The amount of data needed for an audio stream, however, is significantly less than that demanded by full-motion high definition video.

One alternative to an RF link would be a fiber optic line. In most cases, though, a fiber optic link would have to be provided by the local telephone company (unless the station owns all the real estate between the studios and the transmitter to be able to run its own line!), and the telcos aren't currently experiencing demand for such high-capacity connections. So, even though they're expanding their plants with fiber, they're generally not able to offer so much capacity (or such a fast connection, depending on how you look at it) at a reasonable cost to a single subscriber.

Digital television is coming quickly (no pun intended, for those of you paying attention). In fact, the 24 major network owned-and-operated stations in the top ten markets have agreed to have a DTV signal on the air by November 1 of this year. Since that includes the Philadelphia stations broadcasting on channels 3, 6, and 10, those stations are sure to be checking prices right now on those little digital transmitters to get their programming to the hills of Roxborough -- or wherever the DTV transmitters will be constructed..

de Joe, W3JD

I have Bill's radio

by George, AA3JU

I have been reading some of the mail regarding the SK'd ZS6DX and his widow. One stuck out that said maybe those letters are just in a box someplace.



And then I remember that I have Bill's Radio.

Oh you probably don't know **Bill Messenger**, **W3VMH**. He really wasn't much of a DXer from what I am told. Actually I never met him either he died before I got the chance. What Bill really liked 160 meter and 80 meter AM.

Well, after he died lots of nice young hams came along and bought up the more modern of Bill's gear real fast. But on his desk was HIS radio. A beamoth Viking Valliant and a Hammerlund HQ 110 along with home made relay boxes and wires of every sort. Nothing on the radio is stock and lord knows he didn't document any of the changes. After all, it was his radio.

Well I met his wife the day I came to buy Bill's radio. Money wasn't important to her, really. She was going to donate it all to charity anyway. She apologized for not being able to tell me much about the gear and just wanted to know that I would give it a good home. She also wondered if I would turn on the big radio and that even static would be ok. She said this from the door of Bill's shack See, she could not bring herself to enter that room. She just wanted to hear that radio one last time.

So, I fired up on the AM freq of 75 phone, around 3.895, and told the world that Bill's radio was on the air and that it was going home with me. And when I was done working some fellows in NJ and NY I shut her down and started to disconnect her. Damn what a shock I got from the power supply. Guess the rig wanted to know that I would never really be more than a curator.

And in the other room his wife just cried and cried. I tried to console her but it was for naught. See she was never going to hear that sound again. She missed the man she loved very much. I don't think she cares a whit about ham radio or QSL cards or much of anything else. See, her husband of all her life, her best friend in the whole world was gone forever and she would never again bring him a cold 807 or yell at him for ripping up the TV or be awakened far too early by an alarm on a Hamfest Sunday.

So I have Bill's radio and really that's the whole story save to say I think I will fire her up this week. And maybe I will give Mrs. Messinger a call and see how she is doing.

de George,AA3JU.

editors note:.

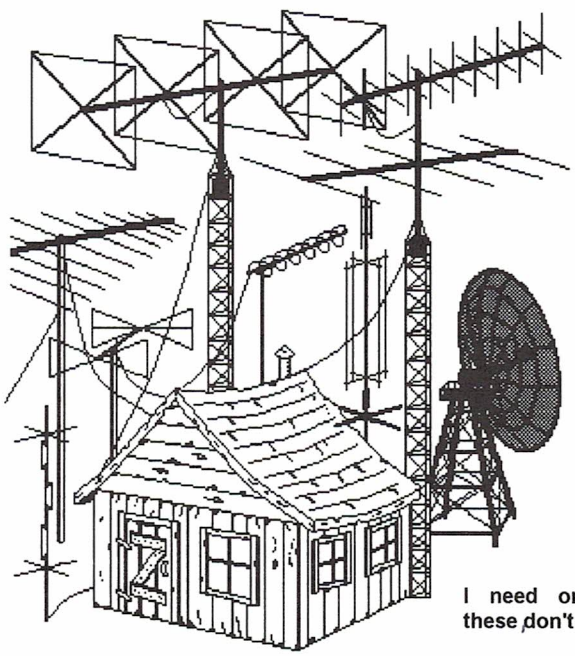
***KA3ONZ** found this on packet and forwarded it to me. Bill was a member of our club.*

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc. Income & Loss Statement 12/1/97 Through 12/31/97

Balance 11/30/97	**$2,798.91**
INCOME	
Dues Arrl Misc	1927.00
Gift from Lehigh Wheelmen	50.00
TOTAL INCOME	**1977.00**
EXPENSES	
Memory Of Raymond Zoltack	25.00
Newsletters - January	169.60
Postage	64.00
Refund Charles Briner Overpayment	3.00
Renewal	133.00
Supplies	98.86
Telephone	34.22
TOTAL EXPENSES	527.68
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	1449.32
Balance 12/31/97	**$4,248.23**

Total Membership 377

de Dick, KA3MOU Treasurer



I need one of these,don't you?

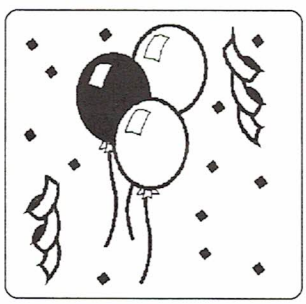
KC5VPF does space walk

US astronaut **David Wolf, KC5VPF**, carried out his first space walk from Mir on January 14, accompanied by Russian flight commander Anatoly Solovyov. During the nearly four-hour-long foray, the pair examined the space station's outer hull for possible leaks. Wolf will return home later this month after spending approximately four months on the Russian space outpost. According to news reports, Wolf, 41, enjoyed the space walk so much he was reluctant to return to Mir when it was time to go back. Wolf got Solovyov to take a picture of him in space. "This is a great moment in life," he said.--thanks to **Roy Neal, K6DUE**


Soviet spacestation MIR

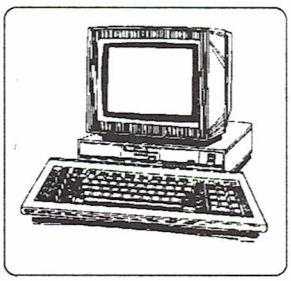
KB6LQS survives balloon failure

Dick Rutan, KB6LQS, and an accomplice were forced to abort an around-the-world balloon flight attempt January 9, parachuting from the craft just an hour after launch from a site near Albuquerque, New Mexico. The fabric in the propane-fueled balloon developed a flaw which forced the occupants to abandon the so-called "Global Hilton." Rutan, who won acclaim for circumnavigating the globe in an ultralight aircraft in 1991, was only slightly injured. The other crew member, Dave Melton, suffered a dislocated hip. According to Rutan, the jump was the safest option as the crew faced the prospect of an explosion onboard the craft. Following the crew's evacuation, the balloon caromed out of control at about 100 miles per hour before it crashed into electric lines and caught fire in Texas. Rutan's flight was another in a recent series of unsuccessful attempts to circle the globe by balloon.--*This Week in Amateur Radio.*



FCC "Internet fee" notice is old news

The FCC's trying to staunch a flow of e-mail concerning a non-existent issue. Several individuals, including some hams, have circulated or posted "warnings" on the Internet concerning the possibility that telephone companies would be permitted to charge by the minute for Internet access. Some recipients of this "warning" were advised that the telephone companies were trying to slip this past the public before users realized what was happening. The "warning" mentioned a February 1998 date to send comments to the FCC. In short, this is old news. The FCC did issue a Notice of Inquiry on this topic in late 1996 (with a reply comment deadline in February 1997), but it subsequently rejected the idea. The FCC now has posted a message to this effect on its Web site



"There is no open comment period in this proceeding. If you have recently seen a message on the Internet stating that in response to a request from local telephone companies, the FCC is requesting comments to isp@fcc.gov by February 1998, be aware that this information is inaccurate."

The preceeding three stories are from the ARRL Newsletter

ARRL instructor of the year nominations open

via ARRL

Nominations are due to ARRL Section Managers by **February 28, 1998** for the ARRL Instructor of the Year awards.

Each year, the ARRL Board of Directors selects recipients for each of four award categories. The ARRL Herb S. Brier (W9AD) Instructor of the Year Award is presented to an unpaid volunteer instructor. The ARRL Professional Educator of the Year Award is presented to a paid, professional, state-certified teacher. The ARRL Professional Instructor of the Year Award is presented to a paid instructor who is not state-certified. The ARRL Excellence in Recruiting Award is presented to an individual who recruits more than teaches.

Section Managers forward nominations to the Educational Activities Department at ARRL, and EAD will send details to nominees about how to compete for the awards. See page 12 in any QST for your Section Manager's name and address. More information and nominating forms can be found on the For further information, e-mail **ead@arrl.org.**

ARRL DX Contest coming!

Get ready. ARRL DX CW and SSB contests are coming very soon, February 21 and 22, 1998 and March 7 and 8, 1998, respectively. They run 48 hours from 0000Z to 0000Z. Wait a minute, that means they start Feb. 20 and March 6 in Pennsylvania. That is right, 0000Z means 1900R or 7 PM EST. "Z" = UTC in Greenwich, England. "R" = EST and "S" = EDST. So get ready the weeks before, so you are ready to jump into your cockpit seat as soon as you arrive home from work, Friday evening. You can work DXCC on 5 bands in one weekend! The hottest times for DXing are our sunrise, our sunset, DX sunrise, and DX sunset. The highest volume and rate of DX QSOs will be at our sunrise into Europe, approximately 7 AM EST until 12 noon EST. So do not sleep late Saturday and Sunday morning. Rates of DX QSOs can be 100+ per hour, approaching 150 and 175 per hour, if you are loud and efficient. That is for Americans! Yet we are not rare. We just represent large quantities of stations for others to to work. DX stations might average 200+ per hour. Imagine my surprise when a DX station says I am his first Pennsylvanian? Many DX stations are seeking Worked All States and Worked All Counties. You will be in demand. Unlike the CQ WW DX contests in October and November, these are not world wide DX contests, but they are almost as popular. The world wants to work the USA and Canada. We want to work the world. In CQ contests, the USA is just one more country, so it is not so important to the world, except in quantities of QSOs. In the ARRL DX contests, foreign stations get multipliers for USA and Canadian sections. We do not work Canada or the USA, unlike the CQ contest. Foreign stations and we exchange signal reports, almost always 59 or 599. Foreign stations also give us their power levels, often using abbreviations on CW such as "ATT" for 100 watts,"NNN" for 999 watts,"K" for 1000 watts, etc. It takes you a while to catch on. Sometimes to be distinctive they will give a strange power level, such 99 watts, 237 watts, 999 watts, etc. You may get a power level report of "NNN". They also use "5NN" for 599 in RST So do not be surprised to get a report of "5NN NNN". It saves time. If they can save 5 seconds per QSO, they might make a hundred more QSOs and win! That is how competitive this contest is. We give them our USA or Canadian state or province. On CW say "PA". We do not give our power level. CW is much easier to copy than SSB, since we do not have to contend with accents. Also CW signals take about 0.500 kcs. per station, but SSB stations take about 2.500 kcs. So we can squeeze 5 CW stations in the same space as one SSB station. CW stations do not splatter. We can pick out several CW stations on about the same frequency when they vary their freq. by only a couple of cycles, to change pitch. So we can increase the band utilization beyond 5 stations per 2.5 kcs. We can also separate them on the same frequency, if they vary their speeds of keying giving them distinct patterns. CW is far superior for communication than SSB. I work far more DX on CW than on SSB. It is much easier to hear and copy clearly. Often, we make bigger scores on CW than on SSB. Some clever stations purposely add some chirp by deregulating their power supplies to give them distinct sounds. Sounds unethical, but it is done. If you work Cubans be sure your filter is set wide. Their chirp and drift are frequently very wide, since they lack the necessary electronic parts to maintain voltage stability and clean signals. The 75 meter (SSB) DX window is from 3790 kcs. to 3800 kcs. Most foreign, stations operate below 3800 kcs, often below 3750 kcs., listening split up the band for the USA. USA stations call CQ between 3800 kcs. and 3850 kcs. listening split, down the band below 3750 kcs. Then there is a mob of stations who squeeze between 3750 kcs. and 3800 kcs., trying to work DX simplex. What a circus, but much fun! 80 CW usually covers from 3500 to 3550 kcs., so we have much more space. Do you know what QSX means? Look it up in the ARRL Operating Manual. You will hear it stated all the time. The 40 meter SSB operation is also complicated. As you know, USA stations can not operate SSB below 7150 kcs., and foreign stations usually stay below 7150 kcs. In CQ DX SSB contest, USA stations get frustrated listening to choice DX stations working each other, simplex below 7150 kcs., not listening for USA. But in the ARRL DX contest, they must work USA, so they usually listen split above 7150 kcs. while transmitting below 7150 kcs. QRM from USA novice CW stations, other USA CW stations, packet, RTTY, etc. is a problem between 7025 kcs. and 7100 kcs., so hearing the DX stations is a challenge. Who says the bands are not utilized? Listen during these contests, and you will be hard pressed to find 100 cycles free! 160 meters has a DX window too, but it is not well observed. Usually DX CW stations transmit between 1825 and 1840 kcs. and USA stations try to work split. The DX window is defined as 1830 to 1835 kcs., but I like to respect a wider window. Some DX stations are not permitted to operate above 1850 kcs. or low near 1800 kcs. Yet when the band is crowded, it is hard to find a clear spot to transmit near that DX window. Poor Japan transmits only from about 1905 kcs. to 1915 kcs. listening split, usually around 1810 kcs. to 1830 kcs. Of course that path is good for only about an hour at our sunrise and their sunrise. The rest of the contest, USA ignores above 1900 kcs. for contesting. Speaking of 160 meters, the popular CQ 160 meter CW contest was January 24 to 26. Did you try it? On 160 meters we have no official separation of CW and SSB operations. Generally SSB stays above 1845 kcs. I try to stay above 1850 kcs. except during a crowded SSB contest when the whole band is SSB. Occasionally, proposals are made to the ARRL and FCC to split the band for CW and SSB, as on 80, 40, 20 meters, etc. Personally, I favor it, but I am in the minority. SSB QRM of weak CW DX stations is very annoying. Many naive Americans invade the normal CW DX areas, not just the DX windows, causing QRM. Often that occurs just when the weak DX station is giving our calls! The popular argument against the separation is that the band is big enough to accomodate both CW and SSB at the same time, except during contests. Those low band antennas are usually not very good for wide band coverage, because they are not full size. Frequently, they do resonate more than 50 kcs. wide. So 160 stations would be restricted to only CW or phone operation. My 160 meter ground plane is 1.5 to 1.0 SWR across the entire band but it is an enormous full size antenna, 125' high and 520' diameter, with large top loading. 20 meters and 15 meters have similar band plans. Foreign stations may usually operate SSB below 14150 and 21200 kcs. USA stations are not permitted SSB operation below 14150 and 21200 kcs. Of course I am citing extra class license frequency rules. Most serious DX contesters are extra class, so they may use the choice DXing frequencies. General and advance class operators are restricted to higher portions of these bands where DX rarely strays except in crowded contests. 10 meters you probably all know. Most of the SSB activity is between 28300 and 28550 kcs., much of which is in the USA novice band. Do not forget that other countries have novice bands too. For example, Argentina has a novice SSB band around 28600 kcs., so listen up there. CW contest band plan is much easier to explain. All the action is in the lowest 25 to 50 kcs. of each band. As you know the lowest 25 kcs. is reserved for the extra class hams. That makes good sense, because lower class hams usually do not know DX protocol, proper or standard DX operating procedure. So they learn those procedures while listening below the .025 mc. frequency and transmitting just above it. Many DX stations transmit on .024 mcs. and listen just above .025 mcs., for example 14024 kcs. and 14030 kcs. So you lower class hams still can work lots of DX! Very few CW contesting stations operate split, unless they are extremely rare. Many are very fast operators trying to work the calling stations quickly, reducing the pile up. Listen to pros such as 8P9DX, P40W (W2GD), HC8A, OH2MM, 6V6U (K3IPK), TM2X, etc. They buzz along at 50 WPM, but continually have stations calling them. You can listen to them for a half hour to slowly pick out the calls and make the QSO after you are ready. Meanwhile they are churning away. Many lower class hams get their start in DX contesting, guest operating at extra class ham stations, particularly multi-multi stations. That means they have multiple transmitters, usually one or two per band, with many operators taking shifts and operating different bands simultaneously. Most of the ops are extra class, so they are control operators for the lower class guests. Do not be discouraged. We all started at the bottom. Some of us worked hard to progress up the ladder, with the DX dangling as a lure. If you chase DX nightly (or daily) you will be primed for DX contesting. Each DX pileup is a mini contest. You will master the skills. Then the contest is a series of high speed quick DX QSOs. You will be right at home. DLARC has many serious DX contesters. Some multi-multi and multi-single stations seeking good operators include W3EA, N3DL, K3ANS, K3CP, and AA3JU. If you are ambitious fire up at home or the DLARC club station, W3OK. I wish it had better and higher antennas. It is just laying idle. I hope someday our club station is improved and used regularly. Or visit a friend ham who has a good station, but is not in the contest. Maybe your enthusiasm will excite the host into participating more. I hear "contesting is not for everyone", but I think that is a "cop out" for those hams who have not upgraded or mastered operating skills. Contesting brings out the best skills of ham radio. You do not have to be in the marathon for 48 hours. Take a short shift or operate part time. K3OO often makes 500 DX QSOs in just a few hours of part time but intensive operating. Check out the periodic "sprints", which last only a few hours. You can make many fine ham friends during these DX and contest QSOs. Rag chew before and after with them. Eventually, you will be able to visit any city in the world and find friends you have spoken with regularly. Most serious contesters use computer software for logging, rig control, and DX packet cluster interface. However, you can keep a manual log. I like K1EA's CT and K8CC's NA contest logging software. Another popular model is by N6TR. As I told you for the CQ contests, submit your log to the ARRL. Read the details in QST. In future columns I'll tell you about the DX and contesting journals, DX bulletins, DX Packet Cluster, DXpeditions, QSLing, station design, propogation, DX antennas, amplifiers, desirable features in transceivers, DX awards, computer interfacing, etc. Stay tuned. Remember, there is more to ham radio than a HT. See you in the lower 25.

73, Bill, K3ANS

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate to the DLARC, RACES & ARES nets
on 146.70 W3OK/RPT with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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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 Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70
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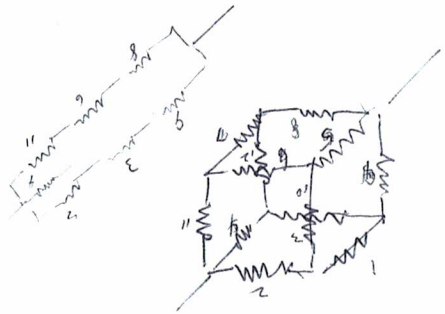

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