Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

February 2000

Club Meeting February 4

Internet Commerce

by Rich, KB3DEC

Our speaker for the February 4th meeting of the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club meeting at NCC room 234 will be John B. Murdoch. he is from the local area, north of the Lehigh Valley. He has experience writing software for things like the recent Y2K coverage by ABC news, and also has, as I understand it, software running on four continents around the world right now.

His talk will be titled, "Internet Commerce". As I understand it, he is in the software business and is involved in a Wind Gap Technology Group as part of that. It should be interesting to note that he has been through the US, Canada, and Japan doing this sort of thing. It should be an interesting session. .

de Rich KB3DEC

Follows a letter I received from Nick Tylenda, Coordinator for the Northampton County Emergency Management de W3PYF

To: Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, FROM: Nick Tylenda, Coordinator

I wish to thank the membership that participated in the Y2K readiness event on New Years Eve. It was gratifying to see the number of individuals who devoted their time to put themselves on alert during the holiday period and were willing to be assigned to various locations as needed.

Fortunately, the concerns many of us had with the Y2K event did not materialize. However, the preparedness efforts of all of us who were involved during the past year were not a waste.

Many of the planning and preparedness issues are the same whether the incidents are natural or man-made and I believe all of us are better prepared to deal with emergencies.

If the circumstances had been different I know that we would be able to count on the membership for a timely response that would ultimately benefit our residents.

Again, thank you for your help

Sincerely,

Nick Tylenda, Coordinator

FCC shifts license color:

The ARRL has learned that the FCC's Gettysburg office has begun issuing new Amateur Radio license documents on blue paper instead of the beige stock that hams have become accustomed to for many years.

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau personnel say the new licenses are printed on whatever color "safety paper" stock they have available. "Our policy/procedure is to print all licenses on safety paper, so they can be easily identified as our official documents, but we don't have a requirement as to the color," an FCC spokesperson told the ARRL. "When the last shipment was received they were blue." The change apparently has nothing to do with the recently announced FCC license restructuring.

The ARRL Letter

Dues are due:

by Dick, KA3MOU

Dues Reminder for 2000

Dues are due check youre mailing label. If the label is **EXP. 12/31/99** your dues are due. Here is the dues amount and how to pay your **2000** dues.

Membership 18-65 years of age Jan. Dec.	**$17.00**
July Dec.	**$8.50**
Under 18 years, 65 years or Retired (no age limit).	
Jan. Dec.	**$12.00**
July Dec.	**$6.00**
Additional family Member,	**each $3.00**
Associate Membership	**$7.00**

If paying your dues at a meeting. Use an envelope with your call on the outside of the envelope. If paying dues by check make the check out to DLARC. If you mail your dues, mail the dues to:

RICHARD A DECH / KA3MOU

120 MCILHANEY AVENUE

BATH PA 18014-1612

Any questions about dues you can call me at

610 837-1585.,

de Dick KA3MOU Treasurer

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

Balance		**$4,386.37**
INCOME		
Donation Income Fifty - Fifty	24.00	
Dues Arrl	1729.00	
VE Test Session 10/8 & 11/05/99	32.00	
TOTAL INCOME	**1785.00**	
EXPENSES		
Memory Of Wilson Brodt Jr	25.00	
Newsletters for January	120.00	
Postage	146.00	
Refund Dues Overpayment	10.00	
RENEWAL ARRL	159.00	
Supplies Frames,,Milk,Coffee,Envelopes,Stamps	51.00	
Telephone	33.50	
TOTAL EXPENSES	**544.50**	
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	**240.50**	
Balance 12/31/99		**$5,626.87**

Total Membership 320 as of 01/06/00

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Y2K!

by Dick, KA3MOU

From a request of Nick Tylenda, Northampton County Emergency Management Director for Amateur Radio Operators, the Delaware-Lehigh Radio Club had members on standby for the City of Easton and at UGI Industrial Park Bethlehem.

The net was started at 10:30 PM and cleared at 12:47 AM. There were a total of 39 club members who responded to this request on New Year's Eve. I would like to thank the club members who helped with stand by New Year's Eve. Jeff, N3QZT; Tim, KC3QO; Gerald, N5ZXJ; Curt KA3MOB; Barry, N3NVA; were all at Northampton County 911 Center. Jeff, N3QZT, was also on stand by for the City of Easton.

On stand by at UGI Industrial Park, Bethlehem, were Tom, N2TTQ; Paul, KA3MTY; and Dave, N3LWY. A donation was given to the club from UGI.

Stand bys from home were Glenn, N3ULW; Bob, KE3AW; Dennis, KB3DFW; Stephanie, KB3DNA; Don, W3LR; Josh, N3VJA; Bill, N3DH; Bob, W3HJ; David, N3YET; Ken, N3IYX; Bill, W3FYK; Dan, KA3ZAT; Bruce, KA3ONZ; Malcolm, N3XRL; Paul, N3UGH; Bob, WA3IQU; Bob, N3NET; Charles, W3MIU; Joe, WF2O; Jim, KN3DZY; Bud, W3BUD; Mark, WA3KIF; Eddie, W3APE; Bill, N3WA; Bob, N3QZR; Harry, W3TEB; Richard, KB3DEC; Jim, KB3BYU and Jeff, N3MFT who was at Lehigh County Court House.

There were three members on stand by with generators: Don, W3LR; Glenn, N3ULW and Ken, N3IYX. Dick, KA3MOU was control operator from home.

Bob, KE3AW did pass a message to PEMA on HF frequency with a request from Nick Tylenda. Thanks to Jim, N3DFF for sending out e-mail for requesting help with stand by for Y2K. Through the mailing there was club members getting back to have their names added to the list.

Thanks to all for helping with Y2K and standing by on New Year's Eve.

de Dick, KA3MOU



Leonard Peterson, W3HFI of Bethlehem Township became a silent key on **29 DEC 99**. He had heart surgery on Tuesday 28 DEC and died the following morning.

He is survived by his only daughter, Kimberly Peterson Wilson. Pete was a member of the DLARC and was well known as a builder and tinkerer. Although it was rare to hear him on the air, his soldering irons were fired up almost every night. He was a retired Master Gunnery Seargent, U.S. Marine Corps.

His 26 years of service included WWII occupation forces, Korean Conflict and Vietnam War.

de Bill, N3CP

Work begun to revise Amateur Radio examinations

via ARRL Bulletin

The nation's Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, including the ARRL-VEC, now are under the gun to meet the April 15 implementation date of the FCC's recently announced Amateur Radio restructuring plan.

The FCC's momentous action on December 30, 1999, reduced the number of license classes to three and established 5 WPM as the sole Morse code examination element. More than half of those responding to an informal poll on the ARRL Web site indicate they plan to upgrade during 2000. Brisk demand for study materials suggests that many amateurs will be hitting the books in the coming weeks.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. The FCC's new licensing scheme simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra. There are fewer written examinations and total questions. Those wishing HF privileges also would need to pass the single 5 WPM code test.

The FCC has left it in the hands of VECs to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the NCVEC Question Pool Committee has been meeting by telephone and e-mail to get the updating process under way. Jahnke said the revised question pools will be out "well in advance" of April 15.

The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to review the FCC Report and Order and discuss its implications when it meets January 21-22 in Memphis.

Details of the restructuring plan and a list of frequently asked questions are available on the ARRL Web site, **http://www.arrl.org.**

ARRL Bulletin 001

Need Space

by Cliff, W3ZL

"Need someone to host my remote HF station by allowing me a small space for my Kachina rig & the mounting of a R-7000 vertical. I, of course, will pay for the phone line, electricity & rent. Please call **610-838-4871** or e-mail **cliffw@prodigy.net**".

I have just moved into an apartment where they will not let me use any antennas.'

73-Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL"

Letter to the Editor

Hearing about the license restructuring a week ago has generated a lot of traffic on the repeater. Most of the talk I have overheard has been at best, skeptical that this new plan will work. A lot of people seem convinced that "it means the end of Amateur Radio, as a lot of idiots will now get licenses and turn this into another CB. I am disturbed hearing these conversations and wish to clarify the situation for a few of these skeptics.

I have to express several points:

1) The people who want to be hams MUST still study and prepare, then find and get to a place that can offer the tests. This alone indicates that they have displayed a certain amount of determination and a willingness to join the amateur fraternity.

2) As the "Elmers",we must recognize a certain willingness, and indeed **RESPONSIBILITY**to welcome these newcomers and help them become skilled, accepted and valued members of the amateur community. This is in accord with Amateur tradition dating back to the very beginnings of our hobby.

3) Don't be overly concerned about "ruining the bands", just listen around a few evenings or weekends...there are already plenty of bad operators out there who have passes the "more difficult" requirements of yesterday. There are always a few newcomers who, through ignorance, or through being ignored by "good Elmers", follow their bad example. Again, it is up to us to welcome and help them. There must always be a first time- was your first PL-259 connector PERFECT?

4) Amateur radio has increasingly become a "grey hobby"- if new members are not introduced, amateur activity will surely decrease, and it will certainly be the death of amateur radio when the last licensed op becomes a Silent Key.

I will try to do my part, and I encourage all hams to do the same to encourage, teach and guide these newcomers into the wonderful world of amateur radio and help them become skilled and considerate operators.

Please dust off your ARRL Handbook and check out "The Amateur's Code"- the amateur is considerate, loyal, friendly...think about it.

73 de Amy, KD3TI

Question pool committee eyes February release date

A revised Amateur Radio question pool that reflects the April 15, 2000, restructuring rules could be out by February 1. Chairman Ray Adams, W4CPA, of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee says the QPC is in "band aid" mode right now and will try to get "something usable into public domain for all three of the new written pools by February 1 or very shortly thereafter."

Adams says that a Technician class syllabus already has been drafted and approved. The various QPC members have been keeping in touch by telephone and e-mail since the FCC announced the restructuring rules December 30.

"We will go back over the newly configured pools, refining them and updating in a methodical manner with the order to be decided by the NCVEC when next in session," Adams said this week. He said the revised question pools will follow the established format.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. **Novice and Advanced** licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. Applicants desiring HF privileges will only have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The new licensing regime has four examination elements: Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test; Element 2, a 35-question Technician test; Element 3, a 35-question General test, and Element 4, a 50-question Amateur Extra test.

The ARRL Letter

Can you use these items?

by Pete K3RDT

Free to a good home (or it gets recycled):

1. Bud Co. open back rack panel 41 inches high with aluminum panels & l chassis.
2. Equipment cabinet with front panel & top door 18"wide by 11" deep by 8" high.
3. Instrument panel with sloping front 14" by 8" by 8"
4. Heathkit phone patch.

Call Pete Kromayer, K3RDT (610) 866-4485

Just the Minutes

by Jim, N3DFF, Secretary

The January meeting was held in room 220 of the College Center and began at 07:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by President Don Reamer, KA3JWE.

The meeting minutes for December were approved on a motion by Ray, W3TDF with a second from Joe, W3JD.

Treasurer's Report

Balance 11/30/99 $4,386.37 Income 1,785.00
Expense 544.50 Balance 12/31/99 $5,626.87

Total members 320. One member became a silent key, Pete W3HFI.

The Treasurer's report was accepted with a motion from Bob, KB3CSS and a second from Eddie, W3APE.

Barry, N3NVA reported progress with updating the status of the repeater with the ARCC. He also reported that N3QZR has completed a bench for the club station in the Milk House. We're now waiting for the County to remove some remaining items before we can complete the station preparations by painting and installing the desk. Barry asked for volunteers to help with the painting. He noted that the paint will be donated by Charlie Adams, K3HKZ. Once the station is completed, the key will be available in the 911 Center. To obtain it, a valid DLARC membership card must be presented.

The repeater controller proved not to be Y2K compliant. After the turn of the year, none of the date and time features worked. Barry was able to find information detailing how to unlock the clock and reset it.

The General Class classes were canceled for lack of attendees. The classes were scheduled to begin this month.

Three or four VE's have resigned following the announcement by the FCC of the new license structure.

Stephanie KB3DNA, would greatly appreciate anyone who is able to step in to help out. Please get in contact with her to find out how to become a VE or to volunteer.

We were pleased to recognize four visitors to the meeting, Brian Williams of Easton, Ed Stahler, K3IFE, Dave Mellman KA3IWC, and Jeff Welsh, KB3ELT. One former member, Don Meinhart N3FEA, was reinstated.

Glen, N3ULW and George, N3SQD were given certificates honoring their commitment to conducting the Novice and General classes over the years.

Kay Craigie W3TP, sent a letter of thanks to the club for the decision to donate the club's portion of the 50/50 drawing to the ARRL Legal Defense Fund. The club will make this donation for the proceeds for January, February, and March of 2000.

Ray, W3TDF reported that the Murgass club won the PA QSO Party this year. The DLARC club had a total of 45 participants.

John, WD8SCX chaired the Christmas City Special Event station and reported a total of 346 contacts. We had about 15 operators for the event. The certificates will be available soon.

For the Y2K preparedness, DLARC had three members at the UGI headquarters and two at the County. A total of 39 members participated in the net that began and 11:00 PM. UGI donated a $100 to the club in appreciation for the help.

A first floor room was secured in the Gracedale building for the VE testing. This room is handicapped accessible.

Rich, KB3DEC is the Program Chairman and announced he would appreciate someone giving him a hand. If you would like to participate in the club this way, please let Rich know.

The Amateur Radio library of Leonard (Pete) Peterson, W3HFI (SK) was donated by his daughter and placed on a table for anyone interested. The books consisted of numerous ARRL manuals, mostly the Handbook. The books were brought in by Bill Fahs, NC3P.

Bob, KB3CSS made a donation to the club in memory of W3HFI.

The new license class structure announced by the FCC was discussed briefly.

Glenn, N3ULW won the 50/50 drawing and donated his portion to the ARRL Legal Defense Fund.

The program this evening was presented by Cliff, W3ZL. He spoke about antenna design with an emphasis on limited space antennas. He brought in his MFJ magnetic antenna to display and described his experiences with it. Cliff is an avid DXer and is quite pleased with the antenna's performance.

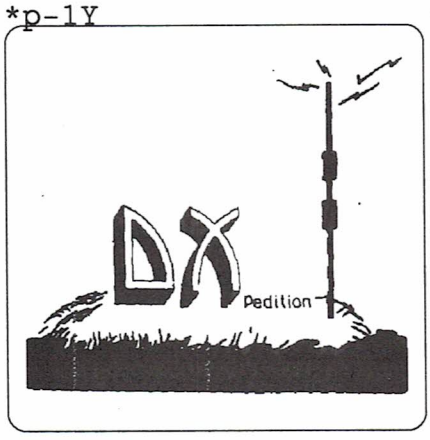
de Jim, N3DFF

Remember the Wednesday and Sunday Drills.. Be there

ARRL purchases communications quarterly.

The ARRL has purchased the Amateur Radio technical journal Communications Quarterly from CQ Communications and will merge the publication with the League's technical journal QEX. The change becomes effective for subscribers starting with the March/April issue of QEX. The new combined publication initially will serve a joint readership of more than 7000. The magazine will bear the legend, "QEX, incorporating Communications Quarterly."

*p-1Y



ARRL Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League is pleased to have the opportunity to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to technical excellence in Amateur Radio through the combined publication. "Merging Communications Quarterly into QEX provides a rare synergistic opportunity to turn two good publications into one that's even better," he said.

The purchase arrangement followed extensive discussions with Communications Quarterly publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA. Conversations about the viability of Communications Quarterly and of QEX as standalone magazines--combined with the League's commitment to maintaining a publication devoted to technical and experimental topics--resulted in an ARRL offer to purchase Communications Quarterly. Ross called the deal "a win-win situation." The purchase price was not disclosed.

Published for the past nine years under the editorship of Terry Northup Littlefield, KA1STC, Communications Quarterly has billed itself as "the philosophical successor of Ham Radio magazine." Littlefield was Ham Radio's editor when CQ Communications purchased the magazine in 1990, incorporating the general-interest portion of the magazine's content into CQ and launching Communications Quarterly as a venue for more highly technical material. Ross said he regrets that neither CQ nor the League has an opening for Littlefield, who is exploring new opportunities. "We're going to miss her," Ross said.

QEX Editor Doug Smith, KF6DX, will continue at the helm of the combined publication. Smith called the pairing of Communications Quarterly and QEX "a logical economic move" that ensures the availability of a top-quality technical forum for experimenters. Smith invited technical articles as well as specific suggestions for articles or topics to be covered in future editions of the magazine.

Submit articles or suggestions to Doug Smith, KF6DX, kf6dx@arrl.org; QEX/Communications Quarterly, ARRL, 225 Main ST, Newington, CT 06111.

Current Communications Quarterly subscribers will receive the combined QEX/Communications Quarterly every other month, and subscriptions will be extended according to a formula spelled out in a letter to subscribers. A subscription to the new, combined QEX/Communications Quarterly is $34, discounted to $22 for ARRL members. Direct subscription questions to Circulation Department, ARRL, circulation@arrl.org; 860-594-0355.

the ARRL letter

New Amateur classes to begin in March

by Bob, KE3AW

The **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio** will provide free classes to anyone wishing to prepare for their FCC entry level amateur radio license. The series of class sessions are planned to run for **10 weeks, beginning Monday, March 13, 7 pm. at Gracedale (immediately west of Nazare th).**



If you know anyone interested in becoming an amateur radio operator, please have them contact me for further details by radio, phone, or internet **ke3aw@juno.com.**

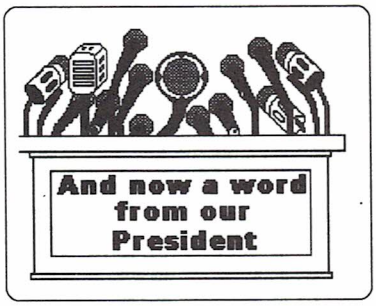
de Bob, KE3AW

Try to make your schedule fit our regular Drills on Sunday at 9:30 am and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.

The Prez Sez

by Don, KA3JWE, President

Like the Bob Dylan song says, "Oh, the times, they are a changin'." Ever since the FCC's announcement of license restructuring at the end of last month, the debates rage on as to whether the new licensing structure will help or harm Amateur Radio.



It wasn't too long ago that we learned that the number of Technician class license holders outnumbered all other license classes combined. It also wasn't too long ago that the last use of CW by a government agency was curtailed. So, we should have expected that amateur radio would be next on the list. Still, it comes as a bit of a shock to some and a bit of a relief to others.

Ever since the FCC began issuing the Codeless Tech license there has been a division among Amateurs. Even though the Codeless Tech license has allowed some really fine operators to get a start in Amateur Radio, there still exists an attitude that they have gotten something for nothing. They have not. They have followed the rules set forth by the FCC and obtained a license to operate an Amateur station.

Still the attitude persists simply because of CW. Is that so bad? It used to be that having an Amateur license was like being a member of an exclusive club. The starting point used to be the Novice class of license. You had to answer some questions and pass 5 WPM to get in. You also had an incentive to upgrade because a Novice license would expire after a year. Even if you never upgraded past the Technician class (now known as Tech Plus) you were still a member of the club.

It used to be that an experienced ham would take you under his wing and would be your Elmer. Unfortunately, that is not the case any longer. In general, cooperation has declined between the Codeless and the Coded and has even gotten to the point of an adversarial relationship. And both sides are guilty of perpetuating the problem. This is what is hurting Amateur Radio.

We all must abide by the rules set forth by the FCC, whatever they are. Fighting amongst ourselves just harms the hobby that we all, Codeless and Coded, enjoy. We should all strive to be the best operators possible with whatever mode that we use, class of license that we hold, and frequency that we operate. And we should all try to help each other improve our knowledge and skills, with or without CW.

de Don, KA3JWE

Here are the new up dates on the e-mail address for club members

Al Luisser W3EUD ajluisser@cs.com
Eugene Hoffman WA2EPT hoffman@etetr.com
Tom Shanahan N2TTQ tshanahan1@juno.com
for any additions or corrections, please email Dick Dech, KA3MOU. ka3mou@enter.net

New Study Pool

From ARRL to Bob Green, KE3AW

The new Technician question pool being developed by the Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee right now is going to be a combination of the current Novice and Technician question pools. The new General pool will probably be adapted from the current General pool. The new Extra class pool will probably be a combination of the current Advanced and Extra question pools. We don't know the exact content of the new pools yet -the QPC is expected to releast new pools in early February -- but the goal appears to be that someone currently studying for an exam with the current study guides should be able to pass the exam. In other words, there probably won't be any NEW material included in the question pool. There may be some variations. And of course there are some new Rules now, so the Rules questions will probably have to be modified to cover those new Rules. (That includes not only the changes brought about by restructuring, but also the changes brought about by the Universal Licensing System and the new Form 605 instead of the 610.) That is one area where students will have to be updated compared to most of the current study guides.

As for dates, well study guides based on the new pools can only be developed after we know what those new pools are. ARRL will be producing a new study guide for the Technician license, and then for the General and Extra. We don't really have expected publication dates yet, but we'll have new booksas soon as practical.

If you have classes starting now, or in the next couple of months, I would recommend the current ARRL books -- Now You're Talking!, (or ARRL's Tech Q & A for those who want a question and answer format), The ARRL General Class License Manual, The ARRL Advanced Class License Manual and The ARRL Extra Class License Manual.

I hope that helps, Bob. Good luck with your classes.

(I used to know several people from your club. Is Diane Smith still a member? If so, tell her Hi. I can't remember her old call sign anymore. If anyone else there still remembers me from my days in Eastern PA, say hello. My old call was WA3VIL.)

Larry Wolfgang, WR1B SeniorAssistantTechnical Editor

Introduction to Entry level Amateur Radio Classes

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate to the DLARC, RACES & ARES nets on
146.70 and 443.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) 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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The W3OK CORRAL is published monthly and is the Official Publication of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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==1999-2000==

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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
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to *(w3pyf @aol.com)* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
717 Porter Street, Easton, PA 18042-1548
visit our web page
http://www.kutztown.edu/faculty/chuk/dlarc/

The W3OK CORRAL
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DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-00
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
346 CREST DRIVE
WHITEHALL PA 18052-7204

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Lehigh Valley, PA
PERMIT No. 138