Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2004

Meeting February 5th at IU20

February Topic - Geocaching

By Phillip W. Bigg, KB3HMK

When the GPS signal degradation called Select Availability (SA) was removed by the Clinton Administration May 1st, 2000 (statement), it opened up the possibility of games like this one.

On May 3rd, a container of goodies was hidden by a someone outside of Portland, Oregon - in celebration of the removing of Selective Availability. By May 6th the cache was visited twice, and logged in the logbook once.

continued on page 5

VE Test Results - January 2004

By Thalia, KB3CSR

There were 2 people that tested, resulting in one upgrade.

Congratulations to:

Charles Lazarchak, KB3DEA - upgraded from Advanced to Extra

VE's were: Bob, KE3AW; Bill, N2DH; and Bryan, AA3WM. Thank you!

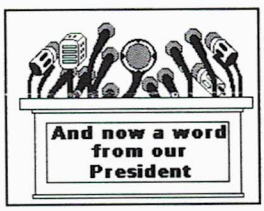
de Thalia, KB3CSR

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM

Step by Step, Closer to a Cure . . .

Did you know, the National MS Society invests more money into MS research than any national voluntary health organization in the world? In 2003, the National MS Society was able to fund $380 million in vital medical research into the cause and cure of MS.



Since its inception, the National MS Society has been the leading provider of programs for people with MS and their families living with MS. At the current time, the National MS Society is funding over 300 new research projects.

Volunteering is a great way top get involved in the MS Walk and to make a difference in the fight against MS. It's also a great way to give back to the community.

DLARC has, over the years, supported this worthwhile cause by providing resources and volunteers in the vital area of communication during fundraising events. The MS organization has come to appreciate and rely on the DLARC's help during these events, and each year, many of you have helped make these events better through communication. The events

that the DLARC members and other area hams volunteer for are:

- Sunday, April 18, 2004 - Hugh Moore Canal Park, Easton, PA
- Sunday, May 2, 2004 - Rose Garden Pavilions, Allentown, PA
- June 12-13, 2004 - MS150 PA Dutch Bike Tour

Did you know that we still need someone to volunteer to coordinate the amateur radio volunteers that are willing to help with these events? This position will take some time and work, but it is a vital position, and there are many in the club that will help whoever takes over this responsibility and position. If you are interested in finding out more, see one of the board members

de Bryan, AA3WM

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU

Here is a corrected report for the month of November.

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

Balance 10/31/03	$6,890.09
INCOME	
Class Materials	$12.00
Club Dues	383.00
Donation Income 50 - 50 12/04	19.00
Interest Checking	5.97
TOTAL INCOME	$419.97
EXPENSES	
Newsletters Sept., Oct. & Nov.	$156.00
Postage Stamps & Permit	107.00
Renewal 9 Year Domain Name	135.00
Supplies DLARC Vinyl Signs	212.95
Telephone	21.05
TOTAL EXPENSES	$632.00
Balance 11/30/03	**$6,678.06**

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU

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

Balance 11/30/03	$6,678.06
INCOME	
Club Dues	$1,191.00
Donation Income 50 – 50	24.50
Interest Checking	6.14
TOTAL INCOME	$1,221.64
EXPENSES	
Equipment FT857 & FT8800 W/P/S	$1,387.93
Memory Of Julia Petruno	25.00
Newsletters December	52.00
Postage	70.00
Telephone	21.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	$1,556.18
Balance 12/31/03	**$6,343.52**

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

By Charles, KB3DEA

Bryan AA3WM called meeting to order at 7:30PM

December minutes
Corrections - none
1st Dave N3QZR
2nd Pete NL7XM



Treasurer report
Corrections - none
1st Dave (missed call)

2nd Bill NC3P

Web / Repeater
Hang your mics up
Please get club event info into the web page

VE session
4 registered

Club station
New radio up and running

WX3MAS report
Bryan AA3WM thanked members who helped pull the event together

Visitors
Louis KF2WO -- application read
Richard KB3KIO -- application read

Old business
Need chairperson(s) for:
-MS bike tour
-MS walkathon
-Field day

New business
-Discussed site and date for club picnic
---Site is Louise Moore Park with date to be set by the board.

Programs
February - Geo cache
Tonight - Antennas

Motion to close 7:54PM
1st Lamar N3AT
2nd Bill N2DH

de Charles, KB3DEA

Dues Reminder for 2004

By Dick, KA3MOU

Check your mailing label. If the EXP date is 12/31/03 your dues are past due. Mail your dues to my home address with the check made out to DLARC. If your dues are not paid by February 5, 2004 your name will not be in the club directory.

Full Membership: 18 - 64 $17.00
Under 18 years, 65 years (Plus) + or retired (at any age): $12.00
Additional family member, (each) $3.00
Associate Membership: $10.00

RICHARD A DECH KA3MOU
120 MCILHANEY AVENUE
BATH PA 18014-1612

73,de, Dick KA3MOU

What is killing amateur radio?

By Thomas G. Shanahan Media Ecologist B.A. NJCU N2TTQ

In the U.S. property ownership is held with the highest of esteem. It is this principle that differentiates the ideals of our country from others. The quest for complete and utter control of any thing in sight. Despite first amendment rights to freedom of the press and information, we still have a right to privacy. When in public we like to perceive and believe we have privacy. We have laws that protect our rights to privacy in public. Anti stalking laws do such that. Despite the fact we are in public we still maintain our basic rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

A repeater is like a mobile home on a public highway. [97.205(e)]. Just because a repeater may use some form of coded access, such as CTCSS, does not necessarily mean that it is a "closed" repeater. Many "open" repeaters employ coded access to eliminate or reduce various types of interference, not to restrict who is welcome to use the machine. Also, there is no FCC rule that requires a repeater's licensee or sponsor to build a repeater or allow use by other operators. A repeater is not a public utility - you don't have a "right" to use it. If you use that station in a manner that the owner finds objectionable, for whatever reason, that person has every right to revoke your privilege of using it!
(http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/9912081.pdf)
The intent of repeaters was not to give one a "fat head" either in terms of control and deciding, based on content of a conversation that some one is to be asked to leave the repeater. Some have asked what is freedom of speech? How come we cannot say what we want on radio? We do have complete freedom of

speech. One does not go to jail for hollering fire in a crowded theater. One goes to jail for the riot or panic one incites that follows from the statement. Under US law there is a thing called affirmative action. This law seemly does not apply to amateur radio or to property ownership for that matter. No law requires one to have a certain number of women, disabled or other minorities in their home every day. Same on repeater. If one did not invite to one's home a specific group of persons for any reason, the law cannot force such. To place a sign outside one's home that no DISABLED are permitted in my home. Maybe it will incite a condition of rebellion to exist. Same on a repeater. To ask only certain people to leave, without specifying why is within the above definition. But, after listening for a period of time and to note it is always persons of the same definition can cause one to conclude the intent of the owner. Our VE's who give so freely and willing of their time to teach and introduce persons to amateur radio, cause to bestowed upon new entrants to amateur radio license permitting them access to it's privileges. Then to be met with a closed door and welcome mat removed afterwards is like a slap in the face to those VE's. How many of us have invited others to the bands. Did we just ask our immediate family? Did we go to a minority and canvas them to take a test? Were we selective in the clientel we invite? My feeling is that one may conduct themselves like Minister of Propaganda Dr. Joseph Goebbels and ones right to put up a digital voice recording on ones repeater saying no mentally ill people, no Irish, no Jewish , no Italian , no German, no Iraqi, no Islamic, no FBI directors that wear red pumps, or former US Presidents that have extra-marital affairs, or person that stole a loaf of bread, no people smarter than me, no people stupider than me, or only people that make me look good, etc. etc. etc. but the law may uphold your right to do so under freedom of speech and the any reason what so ever clause. One may go to jail for human rights violations or a riot that ensues from that announcement or hidden practice of screening who is acceptable or not, and perhaps the repeater will be left in operation as long as you are in control of it from the jail. The intent of a repeater and amateur radio in general is a HOBBY. It is not a site to investigate others financial holding, secondary security checks in case the government overlooked something in others background, retesting stations for the FCC, evaluation as to whether one is a psychopath, sociopath, or any other medical evaluations, nor a station to determine who is more intelligent either. Although there does not seem to be a rule banning brain to brain contesting. The business rule that was set up was intended to aid amateur providing voluntary services to access certain business related services to accommodate those voluntary services. Not an open invitation for telemarketing. The bottom line however, is that one can decide who is on ones repeater, but the frequencies belong to the people of the United States, the majority of which are unlicensed. They can decide who to kick off what frequencies, inevitably, in the voting booth. So for now, kick off who you want, use it as a friend or foe analytical tool, and later reap the rewards of the people of the United States. In other word don't grow up and bring your ill mannered, anarchistic rule of CB to the bands or leave them at the door before you get your license. VIVA AMERICA! Oh, by the way, the main reason the code is being lost is due to inconsiderate behavior. Under the Americans with disability act to bar some one from a HOBBY as amateur radio due to a disability would certainly meet violations of accepted international law under the Geneva Convention. Many hams have in a bona fide manner attempted to learn the code. They simply could not understand or demonstrate the minimum proficiency to copy 5 wpm. Imagine this is a "HOBBY". But then again would we want some one performing brain surgery that had a learning disability on oneself? Should a club not be entitled under federal law for funds to help those with learning disabilities to learn code?

C.F.R. 300.7(c)(10) Specific learning Disability is defined as follows: (i) General. The term means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.

De Tom, N2TTQ

If you want to see the pictures that are in the newsletter in color, you can go to the club's website and download the .pdf file.

Geocaching (continued from page 1)

Mike Teague was the first to find the container, and built his personal web page to document these containers and their locations that were posted to the sci.geo.satellite-nav newsgroup.

In July of 2000, Jeremy Irish found Mike Teague's web site and found his first cache outside of Seattle, Washington. Recognizing the potential of the game (but never expected the growth), Jeremy approached Mike Teague with a new site design, used the name Geocaching, and developed a new web site adding virtual logs, maps, and a way to make it easier to maintain caches as the sport grew. The site was alive for a while, but the official torch was passed to Jeremy on September 6.

Since the launch of the web site, the Geocaching sport has grown to caches in all 50 states and over 100 countries. There are now many variations of the game, including virtual caches, offset caches, puzzle caches, and multi-stage caches. New ideas and new great games crop up every day.

From its inception, Geocaching.com has been developed and maintained by Jeremy, with the assistance of Geocachers around the world. Many thanks to the Geocaching community for making the game it is today. The official web site for Geocaching is Geocaching.com.

de Phillip, KB3HMK

Cool Web Links

From Brad, KB3JXQ:

Following is a link to download a program called InterACE. It allows you to send pictures to other hams over the internet, similar to SSTV.

When you start up the program, be sure to put in acetv.mcc.ac.uk for the server and use port 72.

What people are doing is running Echolink and InterACE at the same time, and while talking on Echolink, you can trade pictures via InterACE.

When you enter the following url, be sure to capitalize exactly at shown here.

www.mwenterprises.co.uk/InteraceDownloads.htm

If you want to submit a web site to be included in the newsletter, please email the link to the newsletter editor at kb3jxq@snycomp.com . You may submit your own site or a site that you found and want to share with others.

Proposal For A Club Event

By Tom, N2TTQ

Does anyone remember the days after a graduation from a school, where one would join in with a group and go from house to house on what was called a party hop? Well, how about the W3OK sponsored repeater hop. We all gather on a given repeater, perhaps .70. Then move to another repeater in the region, exchange call signs, and signal reports, then move on to the next repeater. We would have to have volunteering repeaters to participate in the event. How about it?

de Tom N2TTQ

News From The ARRL

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

The following is from the ARRL's Jan 14, 2004 Rate Sheet. Reprinted with permission. [ed]

TECHNICAL & TECHNIQUE

If you are wondering which modes are supported by Logbook of The World, there is an online FAQ with the details at https://www.arrl.org/lotw/faq#modes. (Thanks, Tom K1KI)

Diane NH6HE contributes this very cool site on the early history of radio - http://earlyradiohistory.us.

Rus K2UA sends this short book review for all of us would-be shack re-wire-ers. "Taunton Press has a

fantastic book called "Wiring a House", by Rex Cauldwell (ISBN 1561585270). This book is very readable, full of good advice, and really helps avoid pitfalls with code issues like box fill, derating and wire selection. I highly recommend this book in combination with the National Electrical Code (NEC)."

Climbing safety is discussed in an article in Occupational Health & Safety magazine, Vol. 27, No. 3, pages 86-90, March 2003 by Weems and Bishop, titled "Will Your Safety Harness Kill You?" It describes possible post-fall trauma that can cause death in minutes and precautions and actions to take to lessen the risks of post-fall trauma. Every climber and potential rescuer (that's all of us!) should read and remember the article's plain English principles posted at http://www.cdc.gov/elcosh/docs/d0500/d000568/d000568.html. There is also a PDF file version. (Thanks, Bob AA0CY and others)

Tired of playing surface-mount tiddly winks and shooting those tiny parts off into the dust bunnies? Try cutting the pointed tip off a wooden toothpick to the size desired and use a very small bit of plumber's putty on the tip. Press it onto the SMD device and it will hold the item stable while you solder with your other hand. Be sure to clean both the PCB and metal leads with alcohol to remove traces of oils. The small amount of putty comes right off with alcohol along with the flux. (Thanks, Ed AL7EB)

David N9KT contributes links to three useful freeware programs. Master.dta (http://www.netvampire.com/ham) is an editor to view and edit the Master Callsign Database file used in many contesting programs, import and export callsigns, auto-download announced DX operations. Audacity (http://audacity.sourceforge.net/) is an audio editor that handles recording and editing of WAV, AIFF, MP3 files and more. David uses it to produce files for my DVK. QuickMix (http://www.msaxon.com/quickmix/) allows you to store all or part of the current state of your audio mixer controls in a settings file, and to restore the mixer to that state whenever you want. Very useful if you are using a sound card DVK or RTTY, PSK31, or SSTV programs.

Ed N4XY contributed a note about this incredibly jam-packed site for looking up component data sheets and circuits - http://users.otenet.gr/~athsam/index.htm. "Sam Electronic Circuits" lists are over 400 component datasheets and circuits. The data sheets are all useful, common parts of the type you're likely to use regularly if you are a builder.

Tom W8JI has done some extensive comparison testing of various baluns; air-wound coax, ferrite bead "current," and voltage baluns. The results can be seen on Tom's Web site at http://www.w8ji.com/Baluns/balun_test.htm.

Everybody needs right-angle 8-pin right microphone connectors. Turns out they are Philmore part T700RA (http://www.philmore-datak.com/Page%2055.pdf) or Buxcomm C8R (http://www.buxcomm.com/page1/bccpage1.htm). If the regular right-angle phone plugs scratch up your rig, the Radio Shack 274-902 is a kinder-gentler right angle adapter. Two of those in series fold back alongside the radio to get the cables out of the way. (Thanks, Dave K1TTT)

SWL sites worth bookmarking include http://www.hfradio.org/swl with lots of useful links and http://www.hard-core-dx.com which also has a lot of technical discussion, including low-band receiving of interest to 160 and 80-meter operation. "Passport to World-Band Radio" is an excellent bookshelf reference and there is a supporting Web site at http://www.passband.com.

CONVERSATION

Silly Amplifiers

In the course of technology's relentless march, occasionally devices and services will appear that greatly expand our innate ability to perform publicly in ways only describable as "silly." Most advances of the radio art enhance our capacity to communicate, but as with most silver clouds, there is a darker lining.

An early Silly Amplifier was the so-called "automatic key," or "bug" to its aficionados. It was definitely possible to send ever-so-much faster with a bug. And with really, um, unusual code weighting. Lake Erie

Swing was the term for those long, drawling dashes and busy, numerous dits, needed or not. At least one could copy Lake Erie Swing. Some operators, intoxicated with the bug's ability to send 50 wpm dits, forgot that their coordination extended only to about 25 wpm and the result was extraordinary, not unlike a spastic jackhammer being electrocuted. Very silly.

Oh, for those innocent days of yore! The Silly Amplifier of the 1960's and 1970's was the microphone. Freed from the burdensome yoke of Morse Code, operators flocked to the phone bands and talked about...nothing. It turned out that the average thought process was well-suited to the 20-25 wpm of a good Morse ragchew, but when accelerated to the rate of speech, data content was still mired at the old rate. Tuning the bands, it is clear that many operators are using a wide bandwidth mode to transmit low bandwidth information. No cure has ever been found for this silly behavior.

With the introduction of Tubes of Serious Power, the next Silly Amplifier on the scene was...the Amplifer! The saying "It's better to be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt" was never so true as when modified to say, "open your mouth into a full gallon." Now, instead of just irritating the guys across town, silliness was flung far and wide around the globe. JA and ZS alike could experience our silliness and we theirs. World-wide silliness, indeed!

In the 1990's, contesters discovered the F1 key and found that it enabled massive silliness, but which pales in comparison to the Silly Amplifier of the Current Propagational Slump--packet spotting. Oh, what silliness this enables! The Busted Callsign, once only an occasional error, is now raised to an art form. Listen? Who listens anymore? That's so-o-o-o twentieth century. Point, click, call, log, click. Ready, fire, aim! It's a log checker's delight, my silly friends.

Some of the casual operators from rarer climes now avoid getting on and "handing out a few QSOs." They know they will be set upon by a ravenous horde in a "packet pileup," beset by bad manners and rude behavior. Better to just answer CQ's instead, which leaves the search-and-pouncing Little Pistol out of the picture. Some just leave the radio dark, a loss to all. This silliness is having a measurable negative impact.

At the frontier of silliness, with one foot into stupid, are the packet cheaters. These are Very Silliest Operators. They think—get this--that we don't know they are cheating! Oh, how silly they look as they pop in and out of pileups with the network spots, yet still submit their logs as unassisted. With a little on-line detective work, self-spotters have become transparently obvious. They will look even sillier when they make that exclusive Disqualification listing. Will they make the Silly Hall of Fame?

Now, I don't hold myself to be immune from the siren signal of the Silly Amplifier. Every new trinket or program has the power to lure me onto the rocks of Silliness unless I keep myself lashed to the mast, steering a true course. I'm not one for New Year's resolutions, but perhaps I can redouble my resolve to stay within the spirit of the rules, whether or not a loophole to silliness beckons.

Pictures From Jan. Meeting

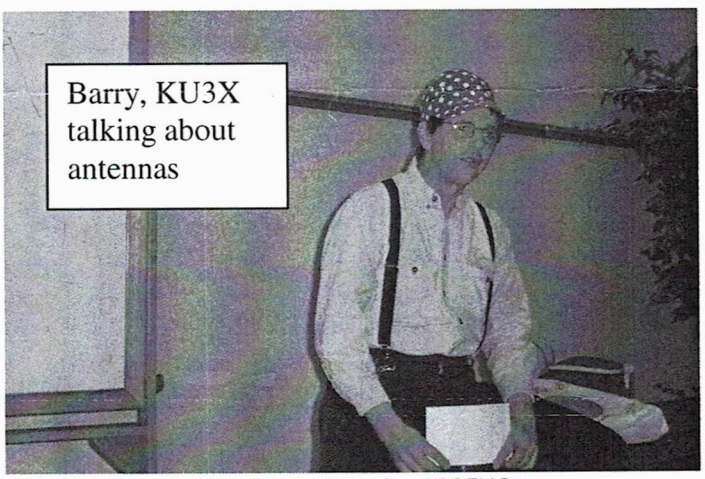


Photo by Brad Snyder, KB3JXQ



Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and ARES nets
146.70 and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

The W3OK CORRAL is published monthly and is the Official Publication
of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

== 2003-2004 ==

CLUB OFFICERS

President – S. Bryan Williams, AA3WM (sbw1@enter.net)..... 610-258-9470
Vice President – William Twaddell, N2DH (n2dh@rcn.com) 610-923-7904
Secretary – Charles Lazarchak, KB3DEA (reader7@snycomp.com)..... 610-954-5285
Treasurer – Dick Dech, KA3MOU (ka3mou@enter.net) 610-837-1585

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joe Chuk, W3JD (chuk@kutztown.edu)..... 610-799-0337
Barry Vogt, N3NVA (n3nva@enter.net)..... 610-863-7294
Jeff Keller, N3QZT (n3qzt@ptd.net)..... 610-928-3897
Dave Blankenship, N3EYT (n3eyt@aol.com)..... 610-974-8749
Bob Yankovich, N3QZR (n3qzr@yahoo.com)..... 610-866-9162
Al Wiemann, W3CE (w3ce@entermail.net)..... 610-262-6977

NEWS STAFF

Editor – Brad Snyder, KB3JXQ (kb3jxq@snycomp.com) 610-760-9737
Circulation – Richard Dech, KA3MOU & YL Maryann..... 610-837-1585
Mailing List – Richard Dech, KA3MOU (ka3mou@enter.net)..... 610-837-1585

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 IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
4260 Cedar Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088

visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

18032+7204 04

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-04
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
346 CREST DRIVE
WHITEHALL PA 18052-7204

The W3OK CORRAL
Greystone Building, Gracedale Complex
RR 8
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064-9278

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