1989

THE DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

NEWS

RD #4
GREYSTONE BUILDING
NAZARETH, PA
18064

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** MARCH 2 **
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TALKING THROUGH THE BIRDS

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N3CXP TO TALK ON SATTELITE COMMUNICATIONS

So you think talking to the JA's on 20 meters is something, why not do it on 440 or 144 Mhz. Tom Daniels, using a TS440 with a transverter and a 9130 Kenwood All mode rig is doing it.

This meeting on March 2nd should be one of the highlights of the season. With audio tapes of some of his contacts, and a slide presentation, Tom will tell of some of his round the world contacts through our Amsat Oscar 10 and 13 as well as the Russian RS10 and 11.

How he does it and how you can do it as well, will be the subject of this talk.

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NEW CHAPTER OF QCWA FORMED

Through the efforts of Brownie, W3CJI, Chapter 17, the ABE Chapter became a reality on February 10th when the charter was issued by the National Headquarters of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

With 16 charter members, any one interested in membership, providing they have the 25 years as a licensed amateur, as a prerequisite, is welcome to contact either Brownie or Clarence, W3PYF.

MY VISIT TO 6K24SO
by Joe KA3CQY

As an employee of local television station WLVT-TV, I had a chance to go to Seoul Korea to work during the 1988 Summer Olympic games, when NBC leased our mobile television unit and 2 maintenance technicians to be used for the coverage of the games.

During my 6 week stay I had a chance to visit 6K24SO, one of the special event stations used to commemorate the Seoul Olympics. The station was housed in a Catholic religious center located in the athletes village. The stations were operating 24 hours a day and were run by the Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL), the organization much like our ARRL. They have a publication just like QST but not as many pages and fewer advertisements.

The station was well equipped with setups on most of all of the different bands. A computer network that was linked to olympic activites and personel.

The day I visited the station, I was welcomed by HL2LW (Jo), HL1Ie (Yong) and HL1AYE (Gwon). Jo spoke the best English and did most of the talking. They were excited to see an amateur from the US as I as to be in Korea. They all took their cameras out and took a lot of pictures. One of them appeared in the last issue of QST.

The only disappointment was that I was only able to visit 1 day and only for a short amount of time. My particular working credentials did not permit me to travel freely in and out of the athletes village. Because of the tight security, we had to get special papers to go to the village and although the stations were on 24 hrs a day, we were only allowed to visit from 10 AM to 7 PM daily.

The city of Seoul and country side is very modern and the Koreans were very cordial and friendly. It is an experience I shall never forget, taking part in the biggest sporting events in the world. After seeing Joe's picture in QST, I invited him to write the above story.

de W3PYF, editor

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM GROUNDING
BY Jim, KA3AHO

No matter where you go and how closely you look, virtually every electrical installation has at least one defect in it. This does not mean that the installation is not good but only that it has not been installed in accordance with practices which have been proven to be the safest.

Luckily, we have a group of people who have banded together and called themselves "The National Fire Protection Association". These folks get together periodically and discuss their experiences in order that others may share the knowledge they have gained since they last met. All of them are currently active in the electrical fields of endeavor. After they have concluded their discussions and made their notes legible, they generate what they call a "pre-print" of the next "National Electrical Code".

This "pre-print is then circulated to all interested parties for comment (and there are plenty). When the smoke dies down the association then "goes to press". The result of all this is that a new edition of the "National Electrical Code" (NFPA publication No. 70) is put out every three years or so. Sometimes the hassle goes on past the press deadline and the new publication is a year late.

Now that the new "code" book is on the market, there is a major scramble by every interested person to obtain one. The lucky ones get their copy and read it intensely for a short period, record the important changes in their mind and then lay it aside until they get into trouble.

Like any other "code" book, The National Electric Code is very dry reading. It is NOT a training manual, has NO plot, and becomes more confusing as time goes by. However, through the years, the concepts expounded by the "code" have protected us all to a great extent from the disastrous effects of violent releases of electrical energy and the fires which result.

Who cares about all of the above? Not many of us, I'm sorry to say. Good electrical contractors do; insurance companies do; electrical inspectors do; conscientious engineers do; and some financial institutions do.

What has all of this to do with electrical systems grounding? Simply this: From the many discussions and meetings held by our esteemed association members, it was learned that certain methods provided long-term positive results. This has been especially true in the distribution of electrical energy at a level suitable for general household use.

A major consideration, of course, since electrical energy was first introduced into general household use was that it's use should be safe, not injure or kill it's users, and not create fires in the user's buildings.

Through the years, many different experiments were undertaken, some of them disastrous, others very successful. It was found that the successful ones consistently used specific methods of connecting energy sources. These, of course, stood out like a "sore thumb" and rapidly became the "norm". Accordingly, the association members adopted these methods which are used exclusively today.

In order that electrical contractors, municipalities, fire underwriters, engineers, and inspectors can work together from a common reference. The National Fire Protection Association publishes many publications, one being the National Electrical Code. It is called NFPA publication No. 70. This publication is the guiding document governing all types of electrical installations throughout the United States and is adopted in virtually every responsible municipality as the standard for electrical installations.

(to be continued next month)

A FEW MINUTES WITH NQ3D
by Mike, NQ3D

The monthly meeting of the DLARC was held on February 2, 1989 at the Greystone Building, Nazareth. There were 73 members and guests present. The meeting was opened by W3PYF, president. The minutes of the January meeting were read by NQ3D and approved as read. KA3MNY reported a balance in the treasury of $3460.95.

Four new members were elected to membership. The were:

WA3RBW Robert Steininger WA3IUI Kurt Eifert
WA3NPB Marge Steininger KA3UAQ David Moser

Under old business, KA3RBH made a final request for volunteers for the Boy Scout Klondike Derby to be held at Camp Trexler on February 4th.

Under new business, The banquet committee, led by Bill, K3ANS and Ray, W3TDF is searching for a dining hall to hold this years club banquet. Bill asked for volunteers interested in dining at the Riverton Hotel at 7:00 PM on February 7 to contact him and perhaps aide in choosing a site.

Barry, KU3X, showed the design for a delta loop antenna cut fore 18.110 MHZ. Barry also announced that K3NZ has printed endorsement stickers for the DLARC DX-100 Award. These endorsements are for 50 country increments. Applications will be accepted by KU3K or KA3MND. For new members it was explained hat QSL cards are not required to obtain either the Worked All States or DX-100 Awards. Applicants must submit the official forms long with their log book to KU3X.

Bill, K3ANS, announced that his brother Bruce Goodman, who spoke to our club some months ago, is being considered for the position of Commissioner of the FCC. Those wishing to voice their support for Bruce may contact Don Ritter's office.

President, W3PYF reminded members that those wishing to join the ABE chapter of QCWA should contact Brownie, W3CJI. A discussion followed led by W3PYF, indicating that now that we are an ARRL Special Service Club, we should be doing more to get involved with you people. Members volunteering to assist in Novice training courses were K3EX, K3YD, W3YXS and KD3GW. It was suggested that the classes be held on Friday evenings, except for the Friday after meetings, since this is testing night. Clarence also extended the membership's thanks to Ray, W3TDF, for his "GENTLE" nudging of members before the PA QSO Party. Thanks to the "Tired Dirt Farmer", the DLARC jumped from 9th place in 1987 to 3rd in 1988.

The winners of the annual raffle were:

VCR: Wally Green, W3YXS
Cordless Telephone: Les Lohrman WA3ENE
Walkman: Lauren Gifford

The winners of the "Incentive Awards" for most ticket sales were:

1989 ARRL Handbook Ray, W3TDF
1989 USA Callbook, Bill, K3ANS
QSL Card Gift Certificate, Bob, KB3RI
1 Year Club Dues, Brownie, W3CJI

A preliminary vote was taken to determine if the membership would like to move our meetings to a larger room in the main building of Gracedale because of the large increase in our membership. It was decided that more discussion would be required.

the business meeting was adjourned and Bob, KW3W presented a very informative video about the life of the "First Ham", Marconi

de Mike, NQ3D

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KLONDIKE
by Bill, KA3RBH

Even though there was no snow, the Boy Scout Klondike, Minsi Trails District 3 still went on as usual on February 4th. The only difference is that they used litters instead of sleds. It was warm enough to be comfortable during the day, but cold enough in late afternoon to freeze my van tires in the mud.

Club members Mike, NQ3D; Van, K3CP;, Tom, KA3LAM; Meryl, W3LPB; Carl, N3GRK; Amy, KA3IJL; Paul, KA3MTY; and Dave, N3FDU joined me as net control and all who participated did a great job. Having no major injuries, we all learned a great deal from it.

I want to thank each person who participated in this event, it was a great club project and the two club HT's did a great job. Once more we proved we are a Special Service Club.

THE PREZ SEZ
by Clarence, W3PYF

Well, this has been a great month with a great raffle and great participation by most members. I want to thank Brownie, W3CJI and his committee for the great job in running the club money maker for this year. I cannot forget, to thank Bart, W2SPK for the procurement of prizes. The three winners among the club members for selling the most tickets were:

1st W3TDF; 2nd K3ANS; 3rd KB3RI and 4th W3CJI.

Now I want to bring one thing to the attention of all the members of this club. We need more participation by our members in club activities. Let's not make this only a repeater club.

What I am driving at now, is the fact we cannot get anyone to lead the classes for novices and technicians at the **Club Room at County EMA.**

It is only once a week for three weeks a month, and many of our members can do the job. There is enough technical expertise within the club to do this here. Chuck, KC3SM has done well but the classes were not held at our own location. It is my hope that he will continue to help with the classes when they start at the "club room". Some have volunteered at the last meeting but at least 2 more are needed, contact me if you are available.

I hope that we can install a packet setup in the Radio Room at County to give a chance to those who have not had a chance to try this new method of communication, and probably help with the operation of a club "mail-box".

My thanks to W3BI for his help in the procurement of the copy machine for the club. With Ray, W3TDF and crew it has been moved to our radio room and is available for members to make copies as they wish. The new drum for it has been procured at no expense to the club and it should make it like a new one.

The first meeting of the Derriere in the Delaware Committee was held recently and we will of course be supplying the communications. More to follow.

HAMFESTS IN ATLANTIC DIVISION ARRL
by Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC

Note: + denotes ARRL Sanction

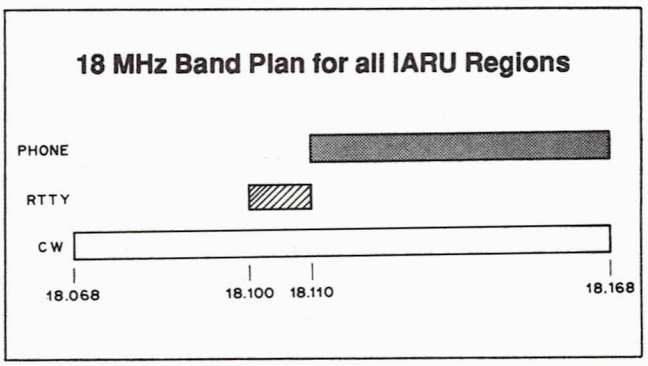
+Mar	5	York Winterfest, Dover, PA
+Mar	5	TRARC, Belle Vernon, PA
Mar	11	SPARC, Egg Harbor, NJ
Mar	12	DVARA, Lawrenceville, NJ
Mar	25	Drumlins ARC, Newark, NY
Apr	1-2	BARC, Timonium, MD
+Apr	16	Pine Grove Repeater Group, Pine Grove, PA
Apr	23	Carroll Co. ARC, Westminster, MD
May	7	Southern Tier, Owego, NY
May	21	Warminster ARC, Wrightstown,
+May	21	Tamaqua Transmitting Society,
May	19-21	ATLANTIC DIVISION CONVENTION, ROCHESTER, NY
Jun	2-4	ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION, DALLAS TX
Jun	4	Breezeshooters, Pittsburgh,
+Jul	1	Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre, PA
Jul	9	North Hills ARC, N. Hills, PA
+Jul	9	Genesee RA, Batavia, NY
+Aug	20	Kent ARC, Dover, DE
Sep	9	Uniontown, PA
+Sep	10	Butler ARA, Butler, PA
Sep	10	Gaithersburg MD
+Oct	1	Penn Wireless, Bensalem, PA
Oct	8	Pack Rats, Warrington, PA

73 de Hugh Turnbull W3ABC
ARRL Atlantic Division Director

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17 METER BAND OPEN

On January 31st the 17 meter amateur band was opened according to the ARRL announcement. The band which is opened to all General, Advanced and Extra class licenses has a maximum power output of 1500 watts. This band will be exclusively amateur in July of 1989.



TVI Problems - Part 2
By Van K3CP

Ima Lidd continued his talk with his Elmer about his Television interference problems. He told Elmer that he had taken the following steps.

1. Operated on 20 meters and had TVI on Channels 2 through 6.
2. Installed a high pass filter in the TV lead in.
3. Installed an AC line filter at the TV set.

Elmer said that although Ima had taken the proper action it was sometimes necessary to operate the rig into a dummy load to reveal other ways that fundamental overload problems could be caused. He had cleaned up the TVI on some channels. Why not all? Because he had done nothing to reduce the harmonics in his signal. His Elmer pointed out that channels 2, 4 & 6 are harmonically related to 20 meters whereas 3 & 5 are not. Channels above 6 generally will be clean after the lower order harmonics are minimized. Suppose Ima's frequency was 14.25 Mhz then some of the pertinent frequencies would be:-

Channel Number	Low end Freq.	High end Freq	Harmonic Freq.	Harmonic Order
2	54	60	57.0	4th
4	66	72	71.25	5th
6	82	88	85.5	6th
8	180	186	185.25	13th
11	198	204	199.5	14th
13	210	216	213.75	15th

If interference is observed only on the above channels then it's probable that it is of the harmonic type as opposed to over load and the solution must be implemented at the transmitter. Fundamental over load is the only type of interference that can be eliminated at the TV set. It also is the most common type that is caused by deficiencies in the design of the TV set. The approach to solving interference problems can not be made correctly until it is determined which type of interference exists. OK. Mr. Lidd is making progress, but he has to get rid of the TVI on channels 2, 4 & 6. He wondered why the hi pass filter he had put in the TV's lead in wire had not eliminated all the interference. Were the filters of poor design? He decided to ask Elmer. Elmer told Ima that there was nothing wrong with the filters but that his rig was sending harmonics through the coax and antenna to the TV set. For example. The 4th harmonic of 14.25 is 57 Mhz. What's going to happen if the TV set is tuned to channel 2 (54 to 60 Mhz)? Even a well designed TV set can't distinguish between desired and undesired signals if they are both the same frequency. Ima knew he had to eliminate or reduce the harmonic content of his signal. He had read that the proper lo pass filters would pass Amateur frequencies (1.8 - 30 Mhz) and reject TV frequencies (54 Mhz and up). He also knew he could make one or buy one. Either way the filter would remove most of the harmonics from his signal and he could enjoy his hobby knowing that he wasn't interfering with anybody's else pleasure. Ima Lidd had solved the common types of TV interference. Elmer congratulated Ima for his sensible and systematic approach to solving the problem and for not looking for mysterious rusty rain gutters, parasitic oscillations or stray rectifying junctions. The time for these investigations is only after the fundamental steps listed above have been taken. The most important lesson of all is to look for the problem in your own set whenever you make any changes in the shack or antenna system.

Interference to non RF devices such as telephones, electronic organs, record and tape players and public address amplifiers must be corrected at those devices since they are not designed to receive radio frequencies they should not do so. About the only thing the Ham can do is to move his antenna as far from telephone wires and power lines as practical. Moving the antenna as little as ten feet could make enough difference because the amount of interference goes down as the square of the distance.

Some of Ima's friends are now call ing him Ima Learning.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS
by Joel, K9TBD

This column of Questions and answers which began last month, Joel continues with his question and answers to your digital problems...

Q: "My C64 keyboard latches sometimes and sprinkles funny characters on the screen. What may be the problem." - WA3HVR and W3TEB

A: C64's were never intended for continuous duty. The power supply was under-designed. Replace it with a servicable power supply. Watch your 5VDC line on the user port and wiggle your power connector to the computer - quite often there is a cold solder joint on the C64 mother board - retouch the solder. The sprinkling of characters quite often associated with the joy-stick may be a bad joy-stick as the keyboard and port #1 are scanned by the same CIA chip. Unplug the joy-stick and see if the problem goes away - if so get another joy-stick. If not replace the CIA chip (Complex Interface Adapter).

Q: "How do I send non-text files on packet?" - N3GRH

A: The best way to send anything on packet is to send pure text with no special word processing stuff in it. Use pure 7-bit ASCII which from a word processor means (Non-Document Mode) or use a post translator to get the information into ASCII. See my last months article. There are times that you may wish to exchange programs. For an arbitrary computer (PC, C64, Apple, etc) use the programs usually called HEX and DEHEX (which are specific for the computer you are using). The HEX program translates a binary file into sets of two-byte hex characters for each 8 bit byte. This is pure ASCII and may be sent to a mailbox etc. The other station downloads the HEX'ed file and runs it through the DEHEX program on his computer. If you are a PC user the most commonly used program for transferring binary files is called YAPP (Yet Another Packet Program).

Q: "What file size limitations do you have on packet?" - NC3P

A: None. The protocol AX.25 breaks whatever data stream you submit to it into things called packets. Packets have minimum and maximum number of user bytes. The default for a packet is 128 user bytes. File limitations are only dependent on the end user's computer system and not the network.

Q: "How do I put my connect message to more than one line?" N4GVA

A: In your manual, there is a 'Pass Character' - mine is CTRL V. If you type this pass character, the next character is taken literally and put into the text. To put a carriage return (usually used as the send packet character) into your message, t y p e CTRL V followed by the carriage return.

Q: "How should you prepare newsletter material for sending over packet?" - W3PYF

A: Get your text in pure ASCII. Do not use any special editing features such as underline, centering, bold, etc. If your word processor does not have a way to get pure ASCII (7 bit) then do a print to disk. Use that file to send over packet. Please re-read my January Digital Communications column.

Q: How do I get my new TNC to forward mail.- N2IOF

A: Don't believe that you can forward mail - Check your manual. Full bbs's like KB3UD and WB3DTG can, but the private ones, cannot. The larger BBS's can forward to the PBBS's but they do not have that capability for the most part to forward. That is actually good because if all did then we would clog up the airwaves real quick. Liken it to forwarding a phone in one of the modern phone systems, you can figure out a way to make a loop and jam up the whole system.

I hope that a number of these common questions will help. If you like this format, send me more questions.

73 Joel Braaaaap!

WINTER DOLDRUMS
by Dewi, N3FNW

I'm sure that the title of this has stimulated much thinking among many of the readers. Well, lets use the winter to prepare for the coming summer months. I'm sure that you will be able to add to my list of things to do to ease the pain of being housebound. I'll start with a simple list, the usual stuff that you all get involved with probably, at the hands of XYL's or XYM which ever applies to your individual case.

Here's Ida's list of things in my job jar: Clean the basement, Clean up my office, straighten out my radio gear so when we have company they won't see the mess. I am an incurable slob like most of the radio operators I've met. The kitchen floor needs some work, a couple of tiles are curling from the leak in the dishwasher. Three (3) rooms need painting this year..OOPS, I nearly forgot the biggie from uncle, taxes. In case you are wondering, so far I've mailed fourteen envelopes for 88 and I'm only half through. Its sort of a double standard, every time a new tax form is introduced it bears the words "Part of the Paperwork Reduction Act". Isn't it great, until they started to reduce the paperwork, I only had to send about six envelopes per year. I sure hoe that the forest fires of 88 left enough trees to make the additional paper so that they can reduce the paperwork more.

Now for my list. Get the golf clubs ready for opening day. Wash all of the balls in my bag to save time at the first tee. Put up the long wire antenna in the attic (I neglected to mention that one to Ida, so mums the word). Take the 440 antenna down and put up a 10 meter antenna in its place. Clean out the trunk of the car to make room for my golf clubs. Now for the biggie: How about a radio controlled golf ball? Think of it, all I would have to do is hit the thing, pick up my transmitter and alter the trajectory to the direction I intended to hit it in the first place. On the putting green, just hit the ball and direct it with the little black box. If you ever watched the pros on TV, you can appreciate the time value of such a device.

Now to ease the discomfort of cabin fever, several of the "OWLS" (the midnight 70 group) have come up with a new type of malady, intestinal flu. W3BAL's audio was so low we had to ask him to repeat several times. He said he was afraid to talk too loud because the strain might cause him further problems. Now for the real block buster, He had to swear off the suds for the duration. WeeQue feels tarred earlier and earlier and picks on KA3PZI and calls her the Long Island Ferry. Story has it that when Pres visited TEB's store Richard got a new pit bull just for his visit. KA3QOM and N3FWU went to Florida and said that thy would try to get back on ten, but they were all taken by the bikinis and were waiting for straps to break. Yours truly lost a bundle at Vegas, five dollars, what a tragedy. I think that KA3TEQ is sharpening his lawnmower and trying to design a similar control to the one I'm making for my golf balls.

How about KA3SVU, one evening his pulse was so fast they rushed him to the hospital. In case you don't know what is fast, normal is 78-80 beats per minute. His was 140, and missing beats every so often. I don't know what caused it, but they sent him home and said all was okay, but I know what starts my heart beating fast.

KA3PGW's dad had a close encounter the other day. It seems that as he was driving in the Fountain Hill section the other day and a car was coming in the opposite direction on the wrong side of the road at an excessive rate. He swerved and avoided contact, but the driver behind him didn't and was pronounced dead at the scene. MORAL, let's all take a defensive driving course. Contact the AAA for details and maybe the AA for input on who to defend ourselves against.

Until next month, de
N3FNW



DE AJ3H

FRANZ JOSEF LAND - UA1OT on 28,026 KHz from 2230 UTC. Try various beam headings for optimum signal-path. QSL via Alex Demchik, UB5KW, P.O. Box 261, Rovno 266000, U.S.S.R.

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IVORY COAST - TU4CO is a "fixture" on 21,013 KHz daily from 2100 UTC. From 2230 UTC he roams 3510 to 3530 KHz with a big signal from his new antenna. QSL to P.O. Box 12, BP-54, Abidjan 12, Ivory Coast, Africa.

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LACCADIVES - No formal notification at presstime on the exact starting date of the VU-team. Stay alert!

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MONGOLIA - JT1BG often opens near 14,165 KHz at about 0300 UTC and then progressively eases up to 14,185 KHz during his 2-hour nightly sessions. QSL Bator to his CBA with an s.a.e. and one greenstamp. (No IRCs).

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MONTSERRAT - VP2M/F2JD almost continuously on random frequencies in the 10, 15 and 20-meter cw and ssb bands. QSL via F6AJA.

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NEPAL - 9N1MM, back in Katmandu after his exhausting Stateside agenda, is frequently in the 14,236 KHz Net from about 0100 UTC. The "list" for his scheduled appearances is taken at least an hour beforehand. QSL via N7EB.

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NORFOLK I. - VK9NS, frequently on 28,530-535 KHz from 2230 UTC, is a goldmine of information on current South Pacific operations. QSL Jim to his CBA (add via Australia).

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RWANDA - 9X5AA on 21,020 KHz at 2015 UTC, 14,165 at 2230 and 7030 KHz from about 0130 UTC. QSL via W4FRU.

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TAIWAN - BV2A on 28,540-545 KHz daily at 2330 UTC. QSL Tim via K2CM.

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U.S.S.R. - If your DXCC still lacks a few elusive Soviet prefixes, prowl 20-meters from 0200 to 0400 UTC. A few of the "regulars" include: UH8AAC near 14,227 KHz, UI8FM on 14,244, UL7PP on 14,250 and UM8MK around 14,255 KHz. All have good signals.

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ANTARCTICA - KC4AAA on the Amundsen-Scott Base at the South Pole is usually around 14,205-210 KHz from 0230 UTC. QSL via NC6J.

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ASCENSION I. - In addition to previously-reported activity here, ZD8RP is often near 21,250 KHz from 1300 UTC. QSL to the CBA of GØBNA but to Box 32 instead of Street.

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MARSHALL IS. - KX6BU likes 28,540-545 KHz daily from 0030 UTC. QSL to his CBA.

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MINAMI TORISHIMA - JH7EAY/JD1 on 28,550 KHz, QSX up about 5 KHz, from 0001 UTC every evening. QSL to home CBA.

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NO. YEMEN - 4WØPA, Hans, is a Doctor on a 2-year assignment there. Presently limited to a simple wire antenna, he is near 14,178 KHz daily from 1900 UTC. QSL via PA3CXC, P.O. Box 1168, NL-6801 BD, Arnhem, Netherlands.

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OMAN - A47RS on 21,200-210 KHz regularly from 1630 UTC. QSL via the A4 Bureau.

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SOMALIA - T53RC on 21,280 KHz daily from 1900 UTC. QSL via I2JSB.

YANKEE DOODLING

"WHAT'S MURPHY'S LAW?"

I was recently asked by an aspiring Novice. "Will I have to learn it for my exam?"

For that Novice and those of you who just aren't sure that Murphy exists, here's the story of the 1989 K3ANS (m/s) ARRL DX Contest. Let there be no doubt, MURPHY LIVES!

"Once upon a time K3ANS decided to participate somewhat seriously in the 1989 DX contest. He had most of the tools good DX'ers need. A location on top of a hill out in the country with lots of space for antennas, a 70' tower with a beam, a state-of-the-art transceiver, a good linear amplifier, and a packet DX-alert system. Because he planned to use the packet system and would be classified as a multi-operator station, he invited other DX-chasing, contest-loving hams to help out during the contest. That way, everybody could get some sleep during the 48-hours of the contest and the station could stay on the air continuously. That was the theory, anyway!

Thursday night Murphy came to visit! In the guise of an innocent visitor to the 'ANS qth he contaminated the antenna. All of a sudden, the TA-33 which had been working perfectly, didn't! SWR was about 3:1 or worse, there was RF all-over the shack, and the Linear was arc-ing.

Friday the problems continued. K3YD, one of the K3ANS operators, was delayed in Lancaster on a business trip and didn't get home till 6:40 P.M. His memory keyer had been at the manufacturer for an up-grade. Even though it was supposed to be returned by Feb. 10th, the keyer didn't arrive till the day of the contest. No time to test it out or learn the new features!

LET THE GAMES BEGIN! With the contest already an hour old, K3YD arrived at 'ANS's. Bill was hard at work re-doing coax connectors, cause he found water in the coax. 'YD jumped in to operate on 40 meters. "Where's the keyer cable to connect the memory keyer to the transceiver?" "It was here last night!" You're right...MURPHY TOOK IT! Soldering irons were smoking, tool boxes and junk boxes pulled apart and soon a cable was ready.

Program the memories, and start the first CQ. "What's this, the keyer locked up?" Linear-off, try again. Works ok! Linear-on, same problem. Looks like RF is getting into the keyer. Eighty is open to Europe now, let's try that! Good the keyer works...the station is operating, finally, about, 3 hours late.

MEANWHILE BACK ON THE REPEATER, word had spread about the problem with the beam. Help started to mobilize. From K3CP "I have some new coax, I'll bring it up." From KA4NYO "I have my climbing belt in the car, I'll climb but I need some heavy leather gloves." From W2SPK(who always has at least 3 of everything) "I have gloves, I'll bring 2 pairs." It was starting to look like a midwinter Field Day. By floodlight, the coax was completely replaced from shack to beam. End result, a bit better! The antenna was now pretty good on 10, OK on 15, sorta-uh on 20.

Things still were't perfect. Occasionally RF feedback would bite one of us; with a KW that stings. The feedback would also cause the keyer to go crazy, and would sometimes make the transceiver jump frequency while we were operating (i.e. from 28.027 to 21.003), that's good for the 3-500Z's! The higher frequency bands were great with DX from all over the world. We could work most anything we called but just could't do much with CQ's, an unusual situation from the 'ANS location.

Murphy had left a few delayed bombs behind, too. KU3K who was supposed to be operating, was down with the FLU. We never did see Bob, but that's ok--nobody else wanted the flu! Ol' Murph didn't know about our secret weapon, KD3HS, so Robin was able to make it to the K3ANS station and home unscathed. By Sunday afternoon, it was obvious that the beam had real problems and it had to be checked. Sooo, down it came. Lessee, blown trap, & cracked insulators in the parasitic elements, carboned-up...it's a wonder it worked at all!

So that's it, folks, evidence beyond a doubt that MURPHY lives and that he will come to visit--especially when he's not wanted--during contest weekends. Murphy's law, "If anything can possibly go wrong, it will", it one of the most fundamental principles of our hobby.

ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET both K3OO and K3NZ(with KU3X & KA3MND) had great weekends. Norm had over 1700 qso's(>35/hour for 48 hours) and Rick over 2500(>52/hour for 48 hours). Both found their new TS940/Ten-Tec Titan combination to be a super contest station.

WHAT'S NEXT? Well, there are always more of these contests if you want to find the weak link in YOUR station. Mar 4 & 5 is ARRL DX Phone, Mar 18-19 is the Bermuda contest (1st prize is an all-expenses paid trip to Bermuda next October to collect your trophy), and Mar. 25-26 is the CQ WPX Phone contest. See you on the air, and at the parts store after the contest.

73 de K3YD.

WANTED 12 V.,20 A + POWER SUPPLY. PREFER ASTRON. K3YD @ 865-0687 EVENINGS OR ON .70.

ARRL

THE DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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DLARC NEWS

Raymond Bilger W3TDF
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Coopersburg Pa. 18036

MAR 89





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

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1989

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CLUB MEETING NIGHT

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Greystone Building at Gracedale.
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Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to
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