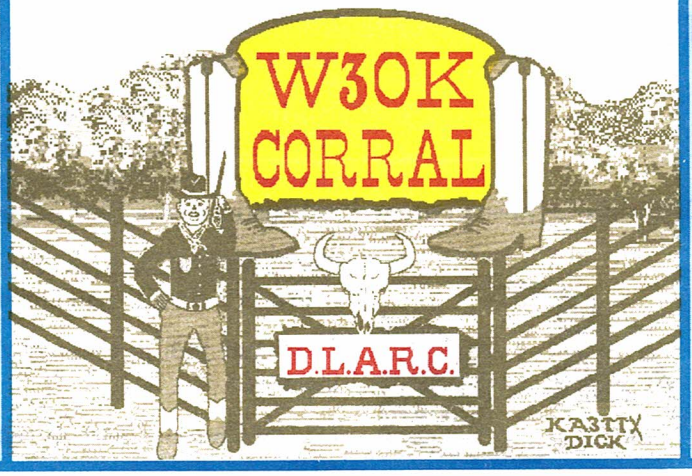
DELAWARE - LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W3OK

March 1995




SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB
ARRL

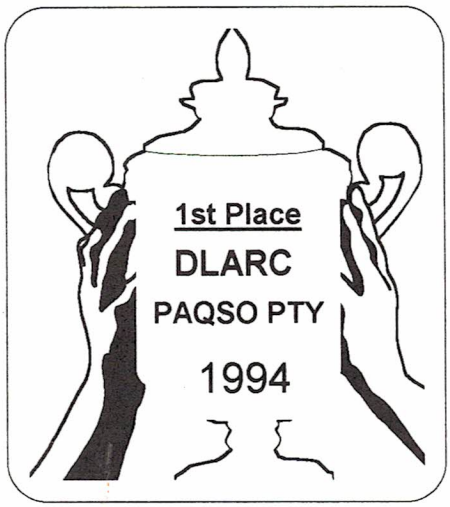
ARRL Affiliated Club

# DLARC WINS 1994 PAQSO PARTY

## We did it again

*by Clarence, W3PYF*

Once again, according to the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club has won the trophy. According to Ray Bilger, **W3TDF,** DLARC PAQSO party chairman, he has received word from Penn State that we did it again.




With 64 members involved, the trophy remains in our possession for another year. Full information will follow in a future issue of the **W3OK Corral.**

## Toroids, Baluns, and Antennas

*by Ray, W3TDF*

At the March 2nd meeting at Northampton Community College in Room 261-262, same as the February meeting, I will try again.

My talk on toroids, baluns and the like, having been postponed at the January meeting was for a good substitute, the Atlantic Division Director, W3ABC. . Hopefully I will be able to enlighten you with a few tidbits of information and partially lift the curtain of mystery relative to these interesting subjects. A BALUN does not necessarily use a toroid. Nor is a TOROID only used to make a balun.

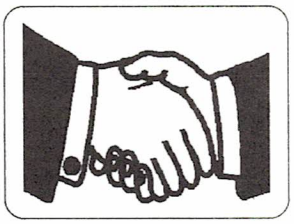
Having had a little 'hands-on' experience, taught me the fact that I didn't know diddly-squat about these little monsters. What I did learn was pure basics, to which I have added by studying 'the books'. Maybe I can help you understand them a bit better, but don't expect all the formulas and engineering jazz. See you after the business meeting.

*de Ray, W3TDF*

## What has happened?

*An editorial by Clarence, W3PYF*

For many years, W3OK has been know as the friendly repeater.



As one who has for years, done a lot of listening on the repeater, I hear, time and time again someone come on and say XXXX listening. Nobody answers. If I am available I will usually at least say hello, but I am sure that there are more of our 400 plus members who are listening.

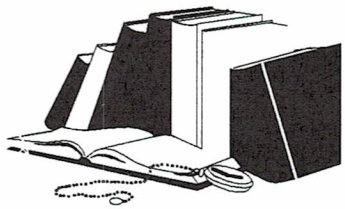
Not 2 minutes later, one of our members will come on and say Wxxx. this is Nxxxx. calling. It is quite obvious that they were on the frequency before, As one who has traveled to other areas, and stood by on a frequency, and had no one answer, I have felt that, this is bad manners of the worst kind. Lets try to return to the old feeling that W3OK is OUR repeater, and any one it is welcome. *de Clarence, W3PYF*

# Minutes of General Meeting

**February 2, 1995**

*by Bob, N3OLH, Secretary*

The February meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:35 P.M. at the Northampton County Community College on Thursday February 2, 1995 by Bob Green, KE3AW, the Club President. Approximately 75 members were present.



Tom, N3LLL, made a motion to approve the minutes of the January General Meeting as printed in the February issue of the W3OK Corral. The motion was seconded by Chris, NU3L, and was approved by the membership.

The Treasurers report was presented by the Club Treasurer, Dick, KA3MOU. The report showed a cash balance of $8,408.57 as of January 31. Clarence, W3PYF, made a motion to accept the Report and the motion was seconded by Jim, N3QZS. The report was accepted as read. Dick also reminded the members that Club Logos, with sticky material on the back, can be purchased from him at 3 for $1.00.

The president read two thank you notes for a contribution to the AAUW in memory of Pete Krohn, W3RJD. One from his wife, Connie, and one from the AAUW.

Bob also mentioned that he received a letter from George, WA3MOJ, in response to his request that members should let him know what they would like the club to do. Bob thanked George for the letter and encouraged all members to do likewise.

Membership applications were received from

**William (Bill) Bullman, N3SWX**
**Dennis Gambill, N3KPK**
**Erik Geissenhainer, N3UGT**
**Russ George, N3UBT;**
**Joanne Glenn, N3UBV**
**Donald Hein, WB3CJU**
**Michael Janis, KE3OQ**
**Thomas (Skip) Mawson, KE2SC.**

A motion by Blair, KY3D, and second by Chuck, KD3SQ, was received to accept these applicants into membership. The membership voted to accept these members. The club welcomed the new members into the club.

**George, AA3JU** (formerly N3OWG), presented **Van K3CP** with the **DLARC Club 50 Award**. George also briefly explained the rules of the Award and told just how easy it would be for members to achieve obtain one.

**Blair, K3YD** encouraged all members to participate in the DLARC Winter Challenge which is run in conjunction with the ARRL Novice Round-Up. Logs must be submitted to the Club before the March Meeting.

**Tom, N3LLL,** informed the group that repeater control operator's classes will begin shortly.

President Bob mentioned the following items of general interest:

**(1)** the Club write-up of repeater etiquette will be issued soon,

**(2)** Club badges are available for any member who wants one (there are approximately 50 badges that have been prepared for members and they have not picked them up. Please check with Dick at the next meeting to see if one has been prepared for you),

**(3)** Certificates have been prepared for all those who participated in the Christmas City Special Events Station. If you participated, please contact Bob for yours,

**Ray, W3TDF,** informed the Club that he was notified that the DLARC was the winner of the 1994 PA QSO Party. Nittany received about 675 logs and that no one worked all 67 counties.

Bob introduced the evening speaker ( one of our own members), Joe, W3JD, who's topic was " Communications In The Fast Lane", a background on the information super highway.

**Chris, NU3L** informed the members that a new session of Novice/Tech classes will begin at Gracedale on March 13. To register please call the Club hot line.

**Chuck, N3SQD**, reminded members that the Club's annual Hamfest will be held on August 13, 1995. Once again, many volunteers will be needed to make the event a success.

**Bob, KE3AW**, told the group that Robin and Wendy had agreed to continue taking care of the club hot line. A round of thanks was given to them for their outstanding efforts.

**Clarence, W3PYF,** encouraged more members to contribute articles to the **W3OK Coral**. He also asked that more members monitor the 70 repeater to provide assistance when it is required.

Members providing items for the evening spotlight were **Bob, KU3K**, who showed a "fox and hound" unit to trace wires and **Dan, KA3AQV**, who demonstrated a Radio Shack DSP unit.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

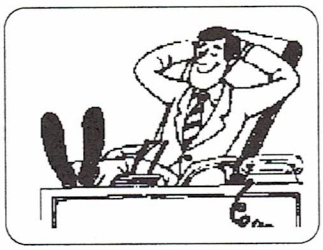
*de Bob, N3OLH, Secretary*

# The Prez Sez

*de Bob, KE3AW*

How many amateur radio operators are there in the USA?

A report in July, 1994*, showed a decrease of ham operators for the period January 1 to May 1 of 1067, from 631,598 to 630,531. This may be a small decrease, but it is a change from a steady trend upward. What are some of the reasons for the change? Silent Keys?



Disinterested hams? Maybe. But the first of the ten year licenses which started in 1984 are up for renewal, also.

Whatever the reasons, many hams are not renewing their licenses. In fact, only 38% of the tickets are being continued! Of 20,805 eligible for renewal, 12,823 failed to extend their licences. That's 62% not renewing. There are no statistics on those within the group who are silent keys, but that number certainly is not 62%.

Are the band conditions too poor? Are the bands too crowded? Are some hams too rude? Are the rigs too expensive? Is encouragement of other hams just not there when it is needed?

We don't expect to see rates of decreases like that in DLARC. We emphasize that gaining members is not a specific goal of ours, yet it is encouraging to see the number of new hams joining DLARC each month. DLARC, like the rest of the hobby, needs and wants renewal members as well as new members.

Maybe simple inactivity has been responsible for many hams across the country leaving the hobby. Maybe they don't have an active club to provide support, opportunities for programs, up grading, and events to improve their operating skills. Whatever the answer, the DLARC officers and Executive Committee always want to be aware of our members' needs.

Did you know DLARC even notifies you of your license renewal due on your newsletter address labels as the critical date nears? All you need to do is watch your label, then renew when needed.

We plan to have another year of interesting club activities. We hope you will remain active in amateur radio and in DLARC. Renew your DLARC membership if you have not done so; it's still $12 for 1995. And renew your ticket when it is due. If we can help you with your radio interests, let us know. There is power in numbers; there is a great wealth of knowledge in our club members available for your benefit!

* License statistics from the W5YI Report, July, 1994.

## Congratulations



**Richard Maxwell Shevalier,** made it into the world of Amateur Radio on February 6th. **Max** is the son of our own Rich Schevalier **N3NXF** and his wife Wendy.

***Max*** weighed in at 7#14.5 oz and was 22 inches long. Rumors have it that he will be signing up for the novice classes soon.

## For Sale

**Kenwood 830S**, Excellent condition, complete with **Turner** desk microphone. Call Al N3KPJ @ 610-770-9221. Asking $525.00.

## NOVICE/TECH CLASSES

***Beginning Monday March 13th***

Free classes for the Novice & Technician licenses will start on **Monday, March 13** and continue for 10 weeks. Classes will be held in the Graystone Building at the Gracedatle Complex near Nazareth, PA.from 7 to 9 PM. At each session 1 hour will be devoted to theory and 1 hour to code.

For a complete information package please have potential students call the DLARC telephone answering machine at **(610) 820-9110.** After the messages are finished they should leave their name, complete address, phone number and a brief message.

While code is not required for all license grades students should expect us to strongly encourage them to learn CW. For those wishing to purchase text in advance, we will be using "Now You're Talking" published by the American Radio Relay League. *de Chris, NU3L*

## V.O.I.C.E.S. ... An anti-ham voice

*from W5YI Report*

**The following letter to the editor appeared in the Asbury Park Press newspaper on December 10, 1994. The tone of the letter, written by New Jersey resident, Frank F. Effenberger, was decidedly anti-ham radio and anti-ARRL. Here is the unedited letter:**

A series of well-orchestrated articles featuring amateur radio operators recently appeared in local and national newspapers. The articles portray the amateur as a well-meaning individual standing by to provide emergency communications in times of disaster.

A well-kept secret is that for every amateur broadcasting from his home, there are several neighbors whose household elecrtronics are made unusable by radio interference. The Federal Communications Commission, which receives thousands of complaints against amateurs, will not release the complainants' identities, thus preventing any effective action against this intrusion.

When the FCC receives a complaint, it turns it over to a field office. This initiates the usual charade: The field office explains that the amateur operates within the FCC standards and then the American Radio Relay League - which is the union of members - offers to help. The upshot: The complainants' home electronics equipment and wiring are declared deficient. End of story.

A recent case brought in New Jersey civil court against an amateur resulted in the amateur agreeing to sell his home (with assistance from his homeowner's insurance) to one of the complainants.This exemplifies the damages that one amateur radio operator (meeting FCC standards) can cause to neighbors' property rights and home valuations, and the extraordinary lengths to which ordinary homeowners must go to rid themselves of this horrendous nuisance.

The ARRL tacitly recognizes the validity of complaints against its members by constantly bombarding Congress with proposals to release them from regulations that commercial operators must abide by - all on the pretext of being a "national resource" in times of emergency. Yet, amateurs are not necessary in this role, as emergency governmental organizations funded by our taxes are well able to provide for their own communications. In fact, amateurs may well interfere with these local services.

The time when radio communications was an arcane art known to few is long past. The skill to operate modern radio communications equipment is easily learned. The FCC recognized this fact long ago by greatly reducing technical knowledge requirements for obtaining an amateur license. This in turn resulted in the ability of the ARRL to increase its membership to the point at which it feels it can sway Congress to its way of thinking - aided and abetted by the manufacturers of amateur radio equipment.

The ARRL had better wake up to the damages and ill will its members cause. The public is becoming increasing aware of health hazards caused by nearby radio transmitting antennas. Homeowner resistance is mounting to installation of large, unsightly antennas fifty feet from their homes, radiating several thousands of watts.

Municipalities are questioning the installation of 200-foot antenna towers in the midst of their communities. They are questioning the radio interferency effects and the impact on property values, which go largely unaddressed. If the ARRL policies do not change, the amateur could very well go the way of the dinosaur. The myth of the amateur as a skilled technologist extending the state-of-the-art is already extinct."

The letter was signed: Frank F. Effengerger, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. We decided to call him to obtain more information. Ifrepresented myself as a professional writer in the field offelectronics - which is true. I did not tell Frank that I was also a ham operator - and he did not ask.

Frank said that he was a retired electrical engineer, previously with the U.S. Army's Communications Electronic Command at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. His specialty is electromagnetic compatibility.

He said that he was also a consultant for a group known as the **Victims Of Interference Caused by Electronic Signals - or V.O.I.C.E.S.** That organization is headquartered in Tuckerton, New Jersey. Frank gave me their telephone number and I spoke to them also.V.O.I.C.E.S president is Michael Morris. They claim 150 members who are plagued by electromagnetic interference. Morris said their group also publishes a newsletter and that he would send me a copy.

V.O.I.C.E.S has a promotional campaign underway to reach people who are bothered by two-way radio communications interference so that they may form a more powerful lobby for the rights of homeowners. He said they were not only concerned about interference, but unsightly antenna structures, RF safety and decreasing property values.

*The preceding from The W5YI Report.*

*73 Chris KD3OA ARRL EPA Bulletin Manager*



## Contest Calendar

*by Barry, KU3X, Contest Editor*

**Mar 4-5** ARRL SSB DX Contest

**Mar 6** W1AW Qualifying Run, 10-35 WPM

**Mar 8** West Coast Qualifying Run, 10-35 WPM

**Mar 11-12** DIG QSO Party

**Mar 12-13** Wisconsin QSO Party

**Mar 14-15** CLARA & Family HF Contest

**Mar 18-19** Bermuda Contest

**Mar 25-26** CQ WW SSB WPX Contest

**Mar 28** W1AW Qualifying Run, 10-35 WPM

**Apr 1-2** EA RTTY Contest

**Exchanges:**

**ARRL DX Contest:** Signal report and State, DX gives signal report and power.

**Wisconsin QSO Party:** Signal report and QTH

**Bermuda Contest:** Signal report and serial number.

C**Q WW WPX** Contest: Signal report and serial number starting with 001.

*de Barry, KU3X*

## Ponder awhile

*supplied by Dave, WD5BRP*

* If you can keep your head when all those around you are losing theirs, you'll be the tallest one in the room!



* Let the other fellow take credit once in a while. He can't keep a chip on his shoulder when he's bowing.

* What in the world will today's younger generation be able to tell their children the had to do without?

* When you bury the hatchet, don't mark the spot.

* Driving with one arm makes for dangerous driving and poor hugging.

* We learn from experience. A man never wakes up his second baby just to see it smile.

* Thrift is a wonderful thing. .and who among us hasn't wished that his ancestors had practiced more of it.

*From the El Rancho Gazette, via Dave, WD5BRP*

## VEC Session, Gracedale February

*by John, WX3C*

At the VE session on February 3rd, 5 candidates took a total of 7 elements.

There were 3 up-grades and 1 new Technician.

They include:

**Vincent A Prete, N3VRG to General**

**Walter M Snyder, N3NJF to General**

**James J Gibbard, KB3BGG to Tech-plus**

**Glenn Brodt earned Technician.**

The VE's at this session were: Chris, NU3L; Bob, KE3AW; Robin, WA3T and John, WX3C

The next VEC session at Gracedale will be on March 3, at 7:00 pm.

***de John, WX3C, team liaison***

## Just think there you could be today

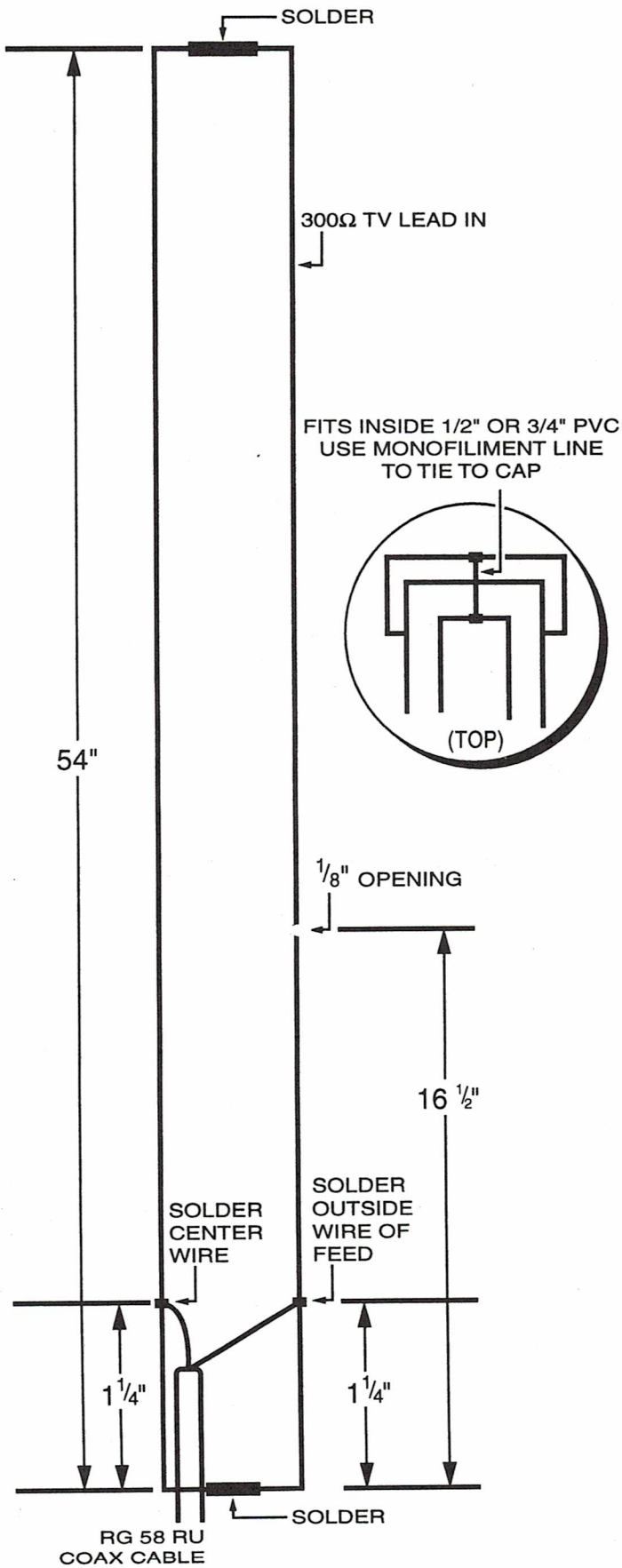
A janitor at a High School was called in by the principal to sign some employment papers. When the man signed with an **X**, the principal was shocked. "What? This is a school. It's not right for us to have someone around the kids who can't read or write:"

The principal fired the man.

The man eventually found a job as a trash collector, worked hard, saved his money, and eventually was able to buy a truck and go into business for himself. The business did well; he bought another truck, and then another.. Soon he had a whole fleet of trucks and became and extremely wealthy man. One day he decided to buy a mansion for his elderly mother. When the man closed the deal, he signed with an **X**. The lawyer at the closing was amazed. "You're illiterate?. And you are a wealthy man. Just think where you'd be today if you could read and write."

"Yeah, said the man. "I'd be a janitor at the high school.!"

*author unknown*




**2 METER PORTABLE ANTENNA**

# 2 meter portable antenna

by Bob, KE3AW

Here's a spring project you might enjoy making and using. This is the portable 2 meter antenna Glen, K3MGP, showed us at a DLARC meeting a few months ago. It works very well. We used it in the Nazareth gym during the High-Tech Fair, and Glen uses it often in his travels.

There have been many requests for the schematic, so here it is.

The antenna uses 300 ohm twin lead, fits inside 1/2" or 3/4" PVC pipe, and can be constructed in a short time. 3/4" PVC isn't necessary, but does keep the antenna straight, with less wobble than 1/2" PVC. The antenna can be elevated by running the coax through another length of PVC first, then couple it to the length that holds the wire.

*de Bob, KE3AW*

## Tentative L. I. tower accord reached

Mark Nadel, NK2T says that his ongoing problems with the township of Hempstead, New York are almost over. This as the result of an accord reached on Wednesday January 25th between him and Hempstead's Board of Zoning Appeals.

By way of background, Nadel is the New York ham who filed suit against Hempstead in Nassau Supreme Court after the Zoning Board continually rejected his application for a variance to maintain his fifty-five foot high transmitting tower. This, even though the same board had approved an almost identical installation in nearby Merrick back in 1989.

With the assistance of Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Representative Peter King, Nadel brought the situation to the attention of former FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller, N4RH. As previously reported, last October 25th Haller intervened in the case by sending the Zoning Board a letter. It told the board that local authorities may not base their regulation of ham radio antenna structures based on the possibility or actuality of interference to neighboring consumer electronic instruments. This, Haller said is the singular purview of the federal government as administered by the FCC.

The Haller letter is credited with having a profound impact on the Zoning Board and is credited with helping to bring about this meeting.

*from Newsline 911*

# Something Digital

*supplied by Ray, W3TDF*

*The following is a reprint of part of **'The Digital Bus'**, which appeared in the February issue of Worldradio Magazine. This column is written by Bill Snyder, W0LHS. I take no credit for its content.*

"Readers might remember that I conducted a non-scientific test last year in which I asked for stations to send me ten packet messages, one a day, and I would keep statistics on the efficiency of our packet system. And if you will follow this column regularly, you'll know that the test was a disaster. Out of 33 who, I assume, sent the 10, only 3 got all 10 to me. And, none of the 33 had their messages arrive in sequence. That's enough to say that the system doesn't work too well, isn't it?



"Recently I received a message from ZS1AFZ @ ZS1DP.WCP.ZAF.AF in South Africa. It was from YL Maria, a gal looking for North Dakota to complete her CW WAS. Maria wanted the bands I couldn't work, so I gave her the name and call of a local ham who could possible help on all five bands. I sent my answer message and told our local club SYSOP how to route it.

"What was unique about Maria's message is that it only took two days to get to North Dakota because it came part way by satellite. I've had overseas messages take two weeks to get to me by HF/VHF.Maria's, however, came through a SATGATE station in South Africa to a SATGATE station in Winnipeg only 250 miles from me. One long hop like that really makes the miles evaporate and the time enroute shrink.

"As I said, I've been out of the mainstream packet world lately, so I wasn't sure how to address the message back to Maria in order to take advantage of the satellite link. I simply addressed my answer by using the SR command which is the automatic answering command. I normally use that command for all domestic traffic.

"A few days later I received an 'educational' message from Gary, VE4GKG, in Manitoba, telling me how to address such a message. He also offered to send me the software to add a server to my BBS. The SatGate stations are using "REQSAT REQuest SATellite Mail Server V2.7" which was written by Grant Willis, VK5ZWI. Because my BBS is now only a temporary backup for the local club BBS, I don't think I will add it.

"On the same day I received another 'educational' message from Chris, VE4SET, the SYSOP of the SATGATE station in Winnipeg. Both messages had the same information: if you want your traffic to go via the satellite network, you have to address it to the server at a SATGATE station. There the software will re-address your to go via the high road.

"Here is how to do it. First you type: SP REQSAT @ VE4SET That will address your message to the server at the BBS. Next, put the title of the message when requested by the BBS. Here's a sample title: SKED WANTED After that you type the address of the packet station that you hope to contact, like this: SP ZS1AFZ @ ZS1DP.WCP.ZAF.AF Be sure to put the SP command in the message as shown. This is important to make the server do its job properly. Also, be sure to put a space between the SP and the address, and do not put anything else on the line. The very first line must only contain the address as indicated above. I believe that if the full extended address is not known the server may add it, but I'm not sure of this fact.

"Now type the body of the message and end with Ctrl Z or /EX. That should do it.

"The following is a paragraph from a help message I received from the Canadian stations:

""The REQSAT Server is fairly careful about what it re-addresses. If it can't find the address line in the message it sends back the HELP text to originator of the message as well as a copy of their message. If the users want help with the server, all they need to do is send a message to REQSAT @ SatGate.BBS with no body, and the server will send back the HELP text. Users can also include the word HELP in the subject and the body of the message, and, provided they did not include an address line in the body of the message (the satellite address command), the help text will be returned to them."

"The nicest thing about the SATGATE system is that it sends the originator an acknowledgment after the message has been transmitted by the satellite station. I forgot the SP in the second address and the system sent me the help message and pointed out my error. The SYSOP fixed the problem and the message went on its way to Maria, thanks to his efforts. I don't think enough thanks are given to the SYSOPS who operate the BBS and Nodes that make up the packet system. Thank you, BBS ladies and gentlemen! You have my gratitude!"

***(Thanks again to Worldradio Magazine for permission to reprint this material. Sure hope it is enlightening.***

*de Ray,W3TDF)*

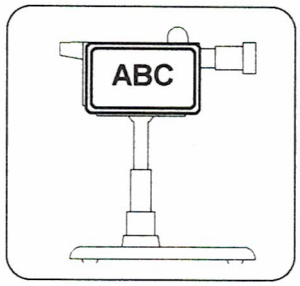
**WITH APPOLOGIES TO DIGITAL EDITOR K9TBD..**

# New media systems

## Covering a Presidential Visit

*By Joe Chuk, W3JD*

The second semester had not even begun at Kutztown University when word came from the White House that President Clinton would be visiting the university to give a talk on his plans for higher education funding. As part of a group of faculty and administrators gathered on campus for a two-day planning conference, I heard the first announcement on Thursday, January 19th, from Kutztown University president David McFarland about the visit -- an event that was scheduled to take place only six days later on Wednesday, January 25th. Since I was involved in both the preparations for and the news coverage of the visit, our W3OK Corral editor gave me the assignment to write about the experience from a communications standpoint.




After President McFarland made the announcement, I asked him what kind of process was going to be put in place to establish press credentials. As faculty advisor for the campus nightly television news program, I wanted to be sure that a student news crew had access. He admitted that he had not yet even thought about that aspect of the visit, but would bring it up in the first logistics planning meeting, which was to take place within an hour or so of our discussion. As it turned out, everyone who wanted press access had to provide the Secret Service with a name, Social Security number, and date of birth for a background check.

For events like this one, the broadcast networks and CNN use a pool coverage system, whereby one of the networks takes its turn in providing the primary video signal to be shared by all the networks. This ensures that no one network is given a better camera position, but, in fact, all the nets get the same views from the best positions. I found out that pool coverage for this visit fell to **ABC** when I got a call at home on Saturday to arrange for two students to work with ABC on Tuesday and Wednesday. That, of course, was only one of probably hundreds of phone calls and fax transmissions that were made in those six days by the dozens of university people involved in making all the necessary arrangements. University Public Relations staff members were on duty all weekend, and at least one stayed overnight.

After the weekend, the White House began setting up camera platforms, a lighting structure, and audio wiring. Equipment necessary for the pool feed was set up by ABC on Tuesday. That evening, university staff set up camera positions both for the campus newscast and for our television services department to record archive footage. Although the networks were using a pool feed, local media were permitted to set up their cameras for their own coverage, and set-up time for them was scheduled for 6:30 to 8 on Wednesday morning. In the overnight and early morning hours on Wednesday, a virtual parade of satellite and microwave relay trucks arrived on campus. Radio and television stations from Lancaster to Philadelphia to Scranton sent crews to gather live coverage. The muffled roar of generators began mixing with the sounds of both technical crew members and ticket holders for the event, some of whom camped out all night for the chance to see the President.

At 8 AM on Wednesday, the field house was cleared and dogs were brought in for a security sweep of the area. Members of the press were brought back in (through metal detectors) around 10 AM. At that point, a number of TV station camera crews and print photographers who had not made it to the site for the earlier set- up period fought (almost literally) for positions on the two- tiered platform.

There were probably hundreds of frequencies in the VHF, UHF, and SHF bands in use for the event. Just some of the uses for RF transmissions were: wireless mike links to camera positions and trucks; IFB (interrupted fold back) links to on-camera talent from stations; terrestrial microwave and Ku-band satellite links to networks and television stations; simplex and repeater two-way links for the Secret Service and state, regional, local, and campus police, both on-site and off-site for traffic control and protection of the motorcade route; cellular telephone calls with both voice and data. And those guys on the roof also had radios - - along with their high-powered rifles.

Despite the much-publicized problem with thousands of ticket-holders' being denied entry (because of an intentional over-booking by the White House), the presidential visit was a unique experience. This was especially the case for telecommunications students, who, because of the nature of the visit as a media event, were more involved in the practical details than students of other majors. Not only were there on-campus telecom students working both to cover the event and to make things run smoothly for the visiting press, but students spending a semester interning with television and radio stations came back to campus as working members of the professional press -- a real adventure for their first week at their internship assignments.

de Joe, W3JD

***Editors note: Dr. Joe Chuk a member of our club is a member of the telecommunications faculty at Kutztown University.***

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**Degrees Fahrenheit (Dry Bulb)**

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| **10** | 21 | 16 | 9 | 2 | -2 | -9 | -15 | -22 | -27 | -31 | -38 | -45 | -52 |
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This condition is a **PRIORITY ONE** medical emergency. **PREVENT** any further heat loss and transport victim to a hospital ASAP. This condition is one in which the bodies core temperature has been significantly lowered. **DO NOT** try to rewarm victim.

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**1)** The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.

**2)** No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong, we suggest you call Western Union.



**3)** This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or Hi-Fi. We can recommend a good service man.

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**5)** The farthest station we have contacted is in the Ubangiland.

**6)** The cards on the wall are called "QSL cards". They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.

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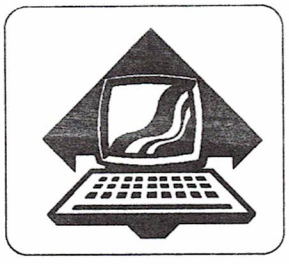
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# The Net primmer
## or
## Getting caught up in the RF pool

*by George, N3OWG*

I am almost having pangs of consciences about a remark I made regarding net controllers a few months back. (Mind you I did say almost!) Anyhow I felt a little clarification was in order. I was referring to DX nets. And I suppose that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with a DX net. It's just a personal opinion that I have that folks who get there DXCC through nets are DXers like a fellow who fishes at a local fish and pay lake is a fisherman. I suppose that the trout dangling off of the end of your line is your fish and technically you did catch it since you did throw your hook into the water but "sportsmanlike"? I hardly doubt you'll be showing up on channel 98's fishing show this weekend.




I am not however against nets as a whole, fact is I really like them a lot. And where nets are concerned there is a wrench for every nut in ham radio. You name a subject or a facet and there is some group on some band hammering it out into a fine, thin RF leaf. And I would like to take this space to look at a few. This is by no means going to be a complete seven course meal of nettery but more a squirt of cheeze whiz on your radio dial. (I knew I could work Cheeze Whiz into the column this month!)

To most new hams there is a bit of mystery as to just what the RELAY in American Radio Relay League is for. Well back in the early 1900's when most of the current W call holders were just young men we did not utilize a lot of skywave propagation. Rather most radio communication was point to point groundwave. And to get a message any distance it was RELAYED from station to station until it got to where it was going. The modern day spawn of this practice is our NTS nets (national traffic system). How this works is this you give a message to a traffic handler and tell them where it is to go to and viola it shows up there in a day or two. (Just like the post office used to do) About a week before Christmas I sent my Mom and Dad ARRL 51 and 61 down to Arkansas. Two days later some ham in Rogers AK called them and said: Greetings via amateur radio. Merry Christmas from George N3OWG. WOW! That was neat! Dad sent me Internet E-Mail saying he got it, 30 seconds later I read his thank you note. Best part was I saved 50 cents in the cost of a card and postage!

I recently installed a Ten Tec scout in my pickup truck and got involved with the CARS guys. You got E-Cars, South Cars, Mid Cars, North Cars and of course WA4Ds famous Lid Cars. These guys on 40 meters give you some one to chat with while driving along. Some times you can make a phone patch to back home too. Sort of like the local repeater without the beep. Then there are my favorite net guys on 40 meters "The Medical Mysteries Nets". Now I don't know what the actual title of these nets are or what there actual stated purpose is but I know what they love to discuss! Yup that's right ANYTHING having to do with colons, prostates, or rectums. Endlessly day in and day out any short turn of the 7 MHz dial will bring to your ears the cheerful phrase "so how's your colon Bob?" If you want to join in to the discussion just tell these fellows that listening for a while has put you badly in need of some preparation H. And you may pick up a few cool tips on social security while your there.

What can be said about the maritime mobile nets that hasn't been said already? This crew on 14.313 was recently most aptly referred to as "The Biker Bar" of ham radio. 20 meters is also the home of some of the more esoteric nets. Everything from Ann Rend to recovery from alcoholism can be found here at some point during the week. So far I've talked to the airline pilots, retired GE employees and some really friendly guys from a group called LAMBDA (maybe way to friendly). There seems to be one common bond amongst them all. An strange almost psychotic hunger for weather information. I am convinced that after listening to the conversations that hams have with each other we have a heck of a lot of demented would be meteorologists in our midst's.

I don't want to leave my technician class friends out of this revelry. There is plenty of action on 2 meters too! How bout those action packed ARES and RACES nets? This is the first step to putting some meaning into that ticket you earned. I remember spending the blizzard of 93 still licenseless watching snow fall and listening to the resounding dulcet tone of W3PYF on the 146.70 repeater calling for check ins to the net. Over and over and over again on my scanner. Wishing only that I too could have checked in. And then if you are up late on that very same repeater you can catch the Nite Owl Net. This local crew is an Icon here in the Lehigh Valley. I think most machines have a group more or less similar. More a coffee Klatch than anything useful (as if DXing, Contesting, Rag Chewing or calling CQ for 20 minutes could be construed as useful) it is a place to discuss the weather just one last time before you go to bed. Oh yeah I am the net control on Thursday and Sunday nights. And on Thursdays we have a nice long boring DX summary that is guaranteed to be more sleep inducing that a glass of warm milk. And occasionally I am want to recite a bit of poetry and as promised to many and with my apologies a bit of it is elsewhere in this issue. We have our own resident QRMer on this net. My regular readers know I have in the past lauded the fine art of QRMing. So guess what we did a little fox hunt, and if this Amateur Extra class clown keeps it up I am going to give him the notoriety he deserves right here in this column.

Lets end where we started 160 meters "the Top Band". And is want on 160 these are gentlemen and fine business operators. My very favorite is the gray hair net on 1.945 Mhz. 1945 is the year this net started and did I mention you better bring your Yay Emm rig with you. Fact is there are a lot of AM nets around on all bands. To get yourself a swell AM rig why not check into the AM swap net at 3.885 on Thursday evenings? To sum things up nets are a great place to make friends and have some fun. And if not well turn the dial and do something different. But for godsakes what ever you do HAVE FUN! And if you cannot have fun anyplace on the dial shut off your rig, call me on the phone I will come and pick it up and give it to a 12 year old novice who still knows how.

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**<u>NOTE TO MEMBERS:</u>The Directory included with his newsletter is being sent only to members. Exchange newsletters will not have it included.**

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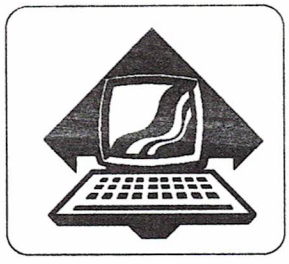
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## Getting caught up in the RF pool

*by George, N3OWG*

I am almost having pangs of consciences about a remark I made regarding net controllers a few months back. (Mind you I did say almost!) Anyhow I felt a little clarification was in order. I was referring to DX nets. And I suppose that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with a DX net. It's just a personal opinion that I have that folks who get there DXCC through nets are DXers like a fellow who fishes at a local fish and pay lake is a fisherman. I suppose that the trout dangling off of the end of your line is your fish and technically you did catch it since you did throw your hook into the water but "sportsmanlike"? I hardly doubt you'll be showing up on channel 98's fishing show this weekend.




I am not however against nets as a whole, fact is I really like them a lot. And where nets are concerned there is a wrench for every nut in ham radio. You name a subject or a facet and there is some group on some band hammering it out into a fine, thin RF leaf. And I would like to take this space to look at a few. This is by no means going to be a complete seven course meal of nettery but more a squirt of cheeze whiz on your radio dial. (I knew I could work Cheeze Whiz into the column this month!)

To most new hams there is a bit of mystery as to just what the RELAY in American Radio Relay League is for. Well back in the early 1900's when most of the current W call holders were just young men we did not utilize a lot of skywave propagation. Rather most radio communication was point to point groundwave. And to get a message any distance it was RELAYED from station to station until it got to where it was going. The modern day spawn of this practice is our NTS nets (national traffic system). How this works is this you give a message to a traffic handler and tell them where it is to go to and viola it shows up there in a day or two. (Just like the post office used to do) About a week before Christmas I sent my Mom and Dad ARRL 51 and 61 down to Arkansas. Two days later some ham in Rogers AK called them and said: Greetings via amateur radio. Merry Christmas from George N3OWG. WOW! That was neat! Dad sent me Internet E-Mail saying he got it, 30 seconds later I read his thank you note. Best part was I saved 50 cents in the cost of a card and postage!

I recently installed a Ten Tec scout in my pickup truck and got involved with the CARS guys. You got E-Cars, South Cars, Mid Cars, North Cars and of course WA4Ds famous Lid Cars. These guys on 40 meters give you some one to chat with while driving along. Some times you can make a phone patch to back home too. Sort of like the local repeater without the beep. Then there are my favorite net guys on 40 meters "The Medical Mysteries Nets". Now I don't know what the actual title of these nets are or what there actual stated purpose is but I know what they love to discuss! Yup that's right ANYTHING having to do with colons, prostates, or rectums. Endlessly day in and day out any short turn of the 7 MHz dial will bring to your ears the cheerful phrase "so how's your colon Bob?" If you want to join in to the discussion just tell these fellows that listening for a while has put you badly in need of some preparation H. And you may pick up a few cool tips on social security while your there.

What can be said about the maritime mobile nets that hasn't been said already? This crew on 14.313 was recently most aptly referred to as "The Biker Bar" of ham radio. 20 meters is also the home of some of the more esoteric nets. Everything from Ann Rend to recovery from alcoholism can be found here at some point during the week. So far I've talked to the airline pilots, retired GE employees and some really friendly guys from a group called LAMBDA (maybe way to friendly). There seems to be one common bond amongst them all. An strange almost psychotic hunger for weather information. I am convinced that after listening to the conversations that hams have with each other we have a heck of a lot of demented would be meteorologists in our midst's.

I don't want to leave my technician class friends out of this revelry. There is plenty of action on 2 meters too! How bout those action packed ARES and RACES nets? This is the first step to putting some meaning into that ticket you earned. I remember spending the blizzard of 93 still licenseless watching snow fall and listening to the resounding dulcet tone of W3PYF on the 146.70 repeater calling for check ins to the net. Over and over and over again on my scanner. Wishing only that I too could have checked in. And then if you are up late on that very same repeater you can catch the Nite Owl Net. This local crew is an Icon here in the Lehigh Valley. I think most machines have a group more or less similar. More a coffee Klatch than anything useful (as if DXing, Contesting, Rag Chewing or calling CQ for 20 minutes could be construed as useful) it is a place to discuss the weather just one last time before you go to bed. Oh yeah I am the net control on Thursday and Sunday nights. And on Thursdays we have a nice long boring DX summary that is guaranteed to be more sleep inducing that a glass of warm milk. And occasionally I am want to recite a bit of poetry and as promised to many and with my apologies a bit of it is elsewhere in this issue. We have our own resident QRMer on this net. My regular readers know I have in the past lauded the fine art of QRMing. So guess what we did a little fox hunt, and if this Amateur Extra class clown keeps it up I am going to give him the notoriety he deserves right here in this column.

Lets end where we started 160 meters "the Top Band". And is want on 160 these are gentlemen and fine business operators. My very favorite is the gray hair net on 1.945 Mhz. 1945 is the year this net started and did I mention you better bring your Yay Emm rig with you. Fact is there are a lot of AM nets around on all bands. To get yourself a swell AM rig why not check into the AM swap net at 3.885 on Thursday evenings? To sum things up nets are a great place to make friends and have some fun. And if not well turn the dial and do something different. But for godsakes what ever you do HAVE FUN! And if you cannot have fun anyplace on the dial shut off your rig, call me on the phone I will come and pick it up and give it to a 12 year old novice who still knows how.

***de George, N3OWG***

**<u>NOTE TO MEMBERS:</u>The Directory included with his newsletter is being sent only to members. Exchange newsletters will not have it included.**

# What's a ground?

***By Van K3CP***

Ima Lidd didn't know what a ground was because nobody told him. So he looked it up in a book. (Ima is ignorant about a few things, but he is not stupid). The book said a ground was an electrical connection to perfectly conducting earth. It also said that a perfectly conducting earth did not exist, but some good ones were to be found. Ima wondered, which would be the best ground available.



1.. A plastic pipe?

2.. A household plumbing system pipe?

3.. A rod driven into the earth?

4.. A rod driven into the seashore?

Well, the correct answer is "all of the above are equally poor for certain situations.". Ima had some good questions here, but they must be clarified (or for Kenwood owner's RIT'd). He must also ask is the ground for DC, AC, RF or lightning. A DC ground in radio work is most commonly used for a chassis ground. It's a common return for DC and as such serves as a safety measure. It's also a low impedance return for signal paths and is quite straight forward (except for ground loops which nobody understands anyway).

Then there's the AC ground. That's generally the ground for the house wiring and again is a safety feature. It's connected to the house plumbing and/or a stake driven into the ground where the AC line enters the house. The lightning ground will not be discussed at this time. That leaves the RF ground which is very interesting. Now let's address Ima's choices of the above answers. Certainly answers 2, 3 and 4 are better for DC and AC. But what about RF? If he tunes up on ten meters and the wire connecting the radio equipment to the ground system is 8 feet long, then all the above are equal, because a 1/4 wave presents high impedance almost an open circuit to the radio. Let's suppose Mr. Lidd took his rig to his summer cottage by the seashore and drove a long rod into the beach at water's edge. He then connected it to the rod with an eight foot wire. His actual ground would be about the same as if he had connected it to a PLASTIC pipe in the basement of his house in the desert! What's the solution to Mr. Lidd's dilemma?

1.. Stay off ten meters?

2.. Increase the length of the wire?

3.. Tune his ground wire?

Before we try to answer these questions, let's see what Ima learned from the book. It said a quarter wave length reverses what it sees. If there is low voltage at one end, there is high voltage at the other. If there is low impedance at one end there is what at the other? Right you are. High impedance will be found there. Ima also read that a half wave repeats what it sees. Can you tell Ima what current is at the ends of a half wave antenna? Sure you can if you know what it is in the center. OK. Ima knows that the current at the center of a half wave antenna is high because the impedance is low. Normally 72 ohms. So the current at the ends of a half wave antenna is low. Remember the ends of his antenna are only one quarter wave length from the center. And a quarter wave reverses itself. So the current is low at the ends. Notice that the current is low at both ends - one half wave length away. Half wave repeats what is at it's end... Quarter wave reverses.

The above answers are all correct. 2 or 3 are better choices if Ima wants to work all the DX on ten. So he adds another eight feet to his ground wire making it a half wave length. Now he has an effective RF ground for ten meters. But if he changes frequency to twenty, he is back where he started. He knows a half wave on ten is a quarter wave on twenty. A better solution would be for Ima to use a ground tuner. Then he can fool his ground into thinking and acting as if it were a half wave on all bands.

Now Ima has a good DC, AC and RF ground. He even knows that these principles would work in his fourth floor apartment back home. He wondered if he could apply his new knowledge about quarter and half wave lengths to his antennas as well as grounds. Aha, said Mr. Lidd, if a half wave repeats itself that means if he made his lead in wire one half wavelength long he would have a match between the antenna feed point and his rig. In other words, if the feed point at the antenna is 72 ohms and he connected it to his rig with a wire that is one half wave length, then the impedance at his rig would be 72 ohms. A good match. And if one half wave length is too short, to reach the antenna he could use two, three or more half wave lengths. Unfortunately this solution presents the same problems as the ground wire length. It only works on one band.

Ima knew that everything he wanted to know about this subject was not written in books. He decided to talk to his Elmer about some practical solutions to his problem. Elmer said he was successful using a length of wire laid around his shack floor. He said Ima should make the wire 1/4 wave length long. Elmer cautioned that he should insulate the far end of the wire. (The end away from the rig because high voltage would be present.)

Elmer also suggested that Ima could make or buy a "Ground Tuner". He could make one using a variable inductor he had in his junk box. If Ima Lidd keeps reading all those books and talking to his Elmer, he won't be a lid much longer. ***de Van, K3CP***

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 Rick Saeger, K3OO
The Nets are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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**DLARC INFORMATION LINE 820-9110**

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## --CLUB MEETINGS

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