Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

March, 1998

DXer to speak at March 5th meeting

Novice-Technician Classes to start in March

Pass the word to interested non-ham friends!

On **Monday, March 16,** DLARC Novice-Technician classes will begin. They will be held at the **Greystone Building at Gracedale,** and will run for 10 consecutive Monday evenings 7 pm - 9 pm. These free classes are intended for anyone wishing to earn a Novice or Technician amateur radio license. If you know anyone interested in earning their entry-level amateur radio license, please share this information with them.

Chris/NU3L and **George/N3SQD** will co-teach this series. ARRL study materials (books and tapes) will be used in the classes Study materials are not mandatory, but they are helpful. They will be available at the class at DLARC cost as a convenience to the participants, or may be purchased independently.

Persons interested in signing up for the classes, or having questions about the classes, please **phone me** directly or **e-mail** me at **ke3aw@juno.com** so that we can determine the number to expect and plan accordingly.

Persons who attend the classes and pass the FCC test for Novice or Technician grade license will receive a complimentary first year membership in DLARC (yes, that's dues-free first year).

We have had many new amateur radio operators following these helpful classes, and we look forward to welcoming more this spring.

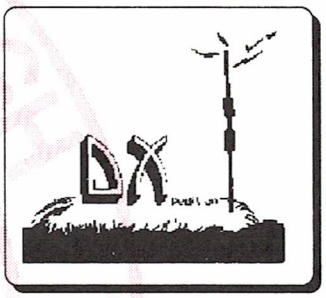
de Bob, KE3AW

DXing the hard way

Meeting March 5th

by Al, WO4H

Dale Long, N3BNA, a member of the Frankford ARC will be making a slide presentation on his several DX peditions throughout the world.



He will talk about trips to **Tierra Del Fuego**, **Uganda, Bulgaria, Turkey** and **Antigua** where he is now working the latest **ARRL** contest

He is single and works for the US Government as a Scientific Environmentalist. He saves every second of his vacations and devotes them to trips over the globe.

Meeting will be held in Kiva Hall, NCC beginning at 7:30 PM. be there!

DLARC MEETING on Mar 5th
in KIVA Hall, Northampton County College
7:30 PM
Talk in on 146.70 if needed

Just the minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary

The February meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh ARC was called to order at 7:35pm in Kiva Hall, of the Northampton County Community College, by Joe, W3JD, the Club President. There were over 50 members present. Thomas, N3YRP, moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting as published in the February issue of the W3OK Corral. The motion was seconded by Jim, N3QZS, and approved by the members present. Dick, KA3MOU, presented the Treasurer's Report. The opening balance as of December 31, 1997, is $4,248.23. Income for the month was $1,767.00. Expenses came to $642.81. Ending balance as of January 31, 1998 is >$5,372.42.



Barry, N3NVA, announced that the PL is up and all the bugs seem to be out. If anybody still is having any problems, please get a hold of Barry to see if he can help you.

Bob, KE3AW, informed everybody that they are past the mid-point of the General Classes. There are still four students who look like they may become Generals.

March 16 is the start date for the Novice-Tech Classes. These classes will run for ten weeks. Mark, K3MP, is still looking for VEs. If you are an Extra Classes License and would like to become a VE, contact Mark to tell you how to become a VE.

Joe, W3JD, announced that since Tom, N3LLL, left for Texas, the Executive Board is short a member. So by the rules of the Club's by-laws, it was decided by the Board to bring Gary, N3PNT, on board. Welcome to Gary!

Applications for Club membership were submitted from:

Frank Banus, N3EEO

Ronald Williamson N3TBD

Carl, AA3IX, made the motion to accept them as new members. The motion was seconded by Ed, AA3OU, and was approved by the members present.

Joe, W3JD, gave members present a little idea of what some of the programs will be in the following months. The APRS program for this evening had to be changed at the last minute, because the speaker had something personal come up and it took him out of the area.

March's topic will be DXing with Dale Long, N3BNA.

April will have a 911 Slide Show.

May will be the Club's Auction featuring the illustrious Bob Kratz, N3QQ.

June will be Contest Logging with Blair, K3YD.

July will be on FISTS with K3MP. This one will be of interest to the hams that like CW. Joe wanted to thank the Board members for the terrific job on getting programs together.

Carl, AA3IX, our Hamfest chairperson, got up and gave a little talk about the Hamfest. He was up to the site to check out the inside facilities. There is room for at least 58 tables. There is some electricity available. The hours will be 5:30am for Vendors and 7am for Public.

Prices for tailgaters will be $5, inside Vendors will be $10 and $3 for electric if available, and admission will be $3 with unlicensed spouse and children under 12 free. He needs volunteers for parking, selling tickets, security, and clean up. Next month Carl will pass around a sheet to sign up. The more members that sign up, the less work there will be. Date is September 12.

Ray, W3TDF, announced that this month he would be getting together with Dick, KA3MOU, and others to start filing out the certificates from the Christmas City Special Event.

The speaker for the night was Jim, N3QZS. Jim was able to step in since the featured speaker was not able to make the meeting. Jim's presentation was on "Antenna Towers: New Legal Restrictions. He gave out a handout from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding the "Regulations for Commercial Communication Towers and Antennas". It was an interesting talk especially >if you are planning to put a tower up. Thanks Jim for an excellent job done >on the spare of the moment.

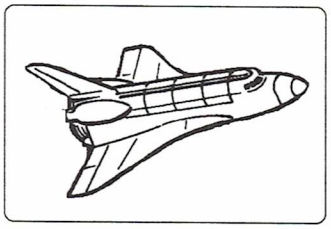
de John, N3IGA

Try to make it to our Club, EMA and RACES, nets on Sunday at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

Date slips for next SAREX mission

via ARRL Newsletter

The launch date for the next Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload, aboard STS-93, has slipped until late this year. STS-93 originally



was scheduled to go up in August, but its primary payload will not be ready by then. The five-day mission is the only SAREX mission scheduled during 1998. But another flight, STS-95 in October--the flight that will carry once and future astronaut and US Sen. John Glenn into space--has been under consideration for several months as a possible SAREX flight, according to AMSAT Vice President for Manned Space Programs Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. Nothing has been confirmed yet, however.

While the shuttle will be involved in construction of the International Space Station (ISS), it's unlikely that SAREX will be aboard shuttle construction missions or shuttle/Mir docking flights because of the heavy astronaut workload involved on these missions and the need to swap antennas during Mir docking flights. The silver lining here is that the shuttle activity on behalf of the ISS lays the groundwork for a permanent Amateur Radio presence aboard the International Space Station when it is completed and occupied in a few years. But one ISS construction mission that's expected to be less busy than the others is under consideration to carry SAREX.

As ISS construction begins late this year or early next year, a transportable ham radio station will go into space that will support voice and 1200-baud packet on 2 meters and 70 cm.

Further news regarding future SAREX missions will be posted in The ARRL Letter and on the ARRL Web as it becomes available..

ARRL honors NASA

The ARRL has honored NASA for its commitment to youth and to ham radio. The award thanks NASA for giving Amateur Radio the opportunity to involve youngsters in educational activities using both the Shuttle Amateur Radio and SAREX programs.

The League presented the award to NASA Director Dan Goldin and NASA Headquarters education officials.

[ANS thanks the **ARRL and Newsline** for this information]

SILENT KEY

William Sinclair, W3MLI, one of the original members of DLARC died on February 4th. I wonder how many remember him? He has not been active for many years.

For Sale

Kenwood Model TW-4000A Dual-band FM Transceiver with MC-48 16-key microphone & CTCSS encoder installed.

Two slide type mounting brackets, instruction manual & service manual included.

Unit is in good condition. Asking price: $200.00

If interested please contact **Al, N3KPJ, at 610-770-9221.**

Cushcraft R-7: a 10, 12,15, 17, 20, 30, 40 meter vertical in good condition. $250 Call -

Guy KA3YGF at 974-8945 (Bethlehem)

Marcia Ettl (Carl/KA3TEQ's wife)

is currently in Muhlenberg Rehabilitation Center, having been moved there recently after a number of months in Sacred Heart Hospital battling leukemia and other complications.

Visits, cards... and any other expressions of well wishes would be appropriate and greatly appreciated.

MARCIA ETTL
ROOM 112
MUHLENBERG REHAB. CENTER
2855 SCHOENERSVILLE ROAD
BETHLEHEM, PA 18017
PHONE: 807-4218

de Bob/KE3AW

Joyful Christmas???

by John, WB3GAW

Rachel and I went shopping the day before Christmas. We were full of the Christmas spirit. This was soon dampened when someone drove into the parking place I was waiting for.

Well, my spirit was rekindled as we entered the Stroud Mall and heard the Christmas music and saw all the decorations. I am not much of a shopper, so like many other husbands I decided to sit it out on a bench in front of the store in which Rachel was shopping.

I only sat there a moment when two teenage boys passed by an one of them had a shoelace dragging out behind, about 10 to 12 inches. Wanting to be helpful, I said, "Hey, Bud, your shoestring is untied." He responded, "Shut up mind your own business."

Again my spirit dwindled. People passed by actually mad at each other, saying, "We are not going to buy a present for them. They did not get us one last year." Or, "That's too high-priced we are not going to buy it." And many other unhappy quotes.

Just then a young lady sat down beside me. She had a young boy about four or five years old, I guess. He stamping his feet, yelling, crying and screaming. His mother said, "Shut up, you are not going to get that" and, "If you don't stop crying, Santa Claus will not come either. " Now the boy is really mad and he became hostile. He turned and commenced to kick me in the shins and punch me out. I said, "Hey hey!" and was trying to hold him of. His mother apologetically said, "I'm sorry, Sir. You see, I am a single parent and he is not used to men."

Being a pastor, I did not say anything out loud but under my breath I thought, among other things, "Big deal."

I regained my composure and started thinking, "Boy, am I glad my children are good children and all grown up ."

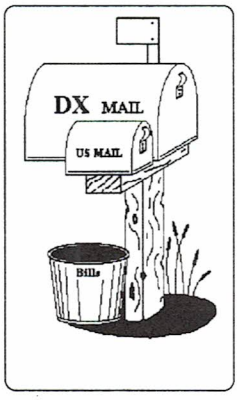
But wait a minute! My great-grandchild just turned one year old and we are expecting another great grandchild any minute. Oh boy, looks like I will have to go through this whole scenario again. Joyous Christmas? I wonder.

by Pastor John Kinanaman, JR, WB3GAW

submitted by Evelyn, KA3SWN.

HAM radio history

In a whimsical mood, here's a lighthearted look at Ham Radio history. The original version of this was posted on the Contest Reflector a few months back.



4 Billion BC-Earth is a swirling ball of flames. Propagation is extremely poor.

1 Billion BC-First dry land appears. It is divided up into grid squares.

500 Million BC-Second patch of dry land appears. First DXpedition; DXCC credit disallowed because of questionable licensing agreement.

400 Million BC-Flowering plants and grasses evolve. Rotary beam invented, but sales stall for lack of suitable mounting structures.

300 Million BC-First tree appears and is immediately cut down, stripped of branches, placed in a concrete base and called a telephone pole. Beam sales pick up.

200 Million BC-More beams sold. Installer falls from top of pole. Safety belt is invented.

100 Million BC-First mountain appears. The repeater is invented.

50 Million BC-CQ is adopted.

4 Million BC-Humans replace swine as dominant species. The name Ham operator hangs on, however.

3 Million BC-Dugout canoe invented. Maritime Mobile Net formed on 14.313 MHz.

2 Million BC to 800 AD-Nothing much happens for a long time.

900 AD-Chinese invent gunpowder. BY1AA is first "Big Gun" DX'er.

1790 AD-Ben Franklin invents long wire receiving antenna. Ground switch invented.

1961 AD-Second repeater erected. First repeater group refuses to change frequency. First repeater coordinator appointed.

1998 AD-Amateur Radio humor sinks to a new low...

de Clinton, AB7RG

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Income & Loss Statement

1/1/98 Through 1/31/98.

Balance 12/31/97	**$4,248.23**
INCOME	
Donation Income	38.50
Dues Arrl Misc	1728.50
TOTAL INCOME	**$1767.00**
EXPENSES	
Hamfest Sept. 12, 1998	150.00
Memory Of Rosemary Pomeroy	25.00
Newsletters February	106.00
Postage	122.00
Refund J Kelly, R Kramer & N Stackhouse	7.00
Renewal	141.00
Supplies	55.33
Telephone	36.48
TOTAL EXPENSES	**642.81**
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	**1124.19**
Balance 1/31/98	**$5,372.42**

Total Membership 379

de Dick, KA3MOU Treasurer

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs for State Side USA issued as of February 2, 1998

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced		Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0HF	KI0LO	++		KC0CRE
1	AA1TE	KE1JE	++		KB1CIT
2	AB2EX	KG2NO	++		KC2CYG
3	AA3QT	KF3AW	++		KB3CBT
4	AF4HV	KU4OF	++		KF4VRS
5	AC5OX	KM5OU	++		KD5DFM
6	AD6EJ	KQ6UM	++		KF6PIL
7	AB7XF	KK7LT	++		KD7AKT
8	AB8BV	KI8FA	++		KC8JFJ
9	AA9VK	KG9MI	++		KB9SAO

++ All calls in this group have been assigned.





John C. Marazi, W3BAL

Johnny Marazi 86, a long time member of our club died on February 8th at his home in Sandts Eddy. He will be missed by his many friends in the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club.

With just about 100 % attendance on Sundays and Wednesday drills. He was truly the joy of Sandts Eddy.

Johnny was a veteran of World War II.

Rest in Peace and 73

For Sale

TS-520-SE, MFK Amtemma Timer amd SWR meter, Autech Audio Filter, Dummy Loaed, High Pass Filter, Ham Keyer, Extension Speaker..All manuals. 1991to 1994 QSTs....$200.00 for all.

Cushcraft Rooftop Vertical Antenna with Radials 5 bands $100.00

Heath 2 Meter Hand Held Ts. $100.

Commodore 128, 2 -1541 Disk Drives, Seikosha Printer, RGB Monitor, Loads of Software, all manuals. Best offer.

MacPlus 4mb, Image Writer 2 printer Mouse all manuals....$ 100.00

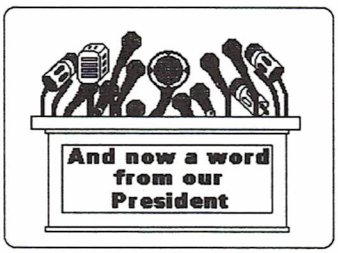
Call Richard KA2RUA at 264-3980.

The Prez Sez

Look Out for That Tower (Ordinance)!

by Joe Chuk, W3JD, DLARC President

Once we found our way through the back door of Kiva Hall, we were able to gather for our February club meeting, in milder weather than we would have expected in the middle of winter. (We'll probably still get hit with some snow before the season's over.)



A somewhat routine business meeting was punctuated with a couple of welcome announcements: Following a vote by the DLARC executive committee, Gary Hudson, N3PNT, has been appointed to serve out the director term of past president Tom Frobase, N3LLL. Gary had been a candidate for an elected director position in 1997. We all welcome the contributions Gary is sure to make to the organization. Also, Marcia Ettl, XYL of Carl, KA3TEQ, has made progress in her battle against leukemia and is in Muhlenberg Rehabilitation Center. She would certainly appreciate cards, calls, and visits from club members.

Our hamfest chair, Carl Seier, AA3IX, announced some details of the 1998 DLARC hamfest to be held on September 12. When Carl passes around the sign-up sheets in future meetings for help in the various areas of the hamfest activities, please volunteer to lend a hand.

After it was learned that our announced speaker (on the APRS system) was unable to make the meeting, Jim Woof, N3QZS, graciously agreed to fill in with a program on some legal considerations for tower construction. He distributed and gave particular attention to a model set of regulations for commercial towers and antennas that was drafted by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

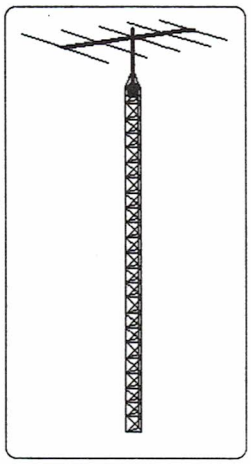
While the Planning Commission's regulations specifically exempt amateur radio towers from restriction, Jim pointed out the need to be vigilant that specific municipalities don't remove that exemption in drafting their own ordinances. The Planning Commission's version is only a model; each municipality can decide to use all, part, or none of the model for its own purposes. So keep an eye on your own local governing and zoning board activities. And thanks to Jim for a fine job of filling in as speaker on short notice.

Finally, a few days before this column was written, one of our members became a Silent Key. We regret the passing of **John Marazi, W3BAL.**

de Joe, W3JD

Cushcraft continues in ham market; Hires new VP

Cushcraft says reports of its demise in the ham radio market have beengreatly exaggerated. Cushcraft Production Manager Art Hambleton, K1ART, says the New Hampshire antenna manufacturer is still very much a part of the Amateur Radio antenna industry. Rumors that Cushcraft was exiting the ham market apparently mushroomed when word spread of some layoffs at Cushcraft.



Hambleton confirmed that a couple of people had been let go and that Cushcraft had cut back on its advertising in ham radio publications, and he attributed the moves to budgetary cutbacks. But he said "1997 was not a bad year" for the company. And Cushcraft has just hired another ham in a key position.

Hambleton announced this week that Cushcraft has hired Adam Alevy, N1FXT, of Amherst, New Hampshire, as its vice president of engineering. Alevy was previously with Atlantic Microwave of Bolton, Massachusetts. At Atlantic he designed VHF through millimeter wave antennas for communications and tracking applications.

As director of engineering at Cushcraft, Hambleton said, Alevy, 34, will manage the engineering group and design antennas in both commercial and amateur radio markets.

Cushcraft recently announced its X7 and X9 tribanders as part of its "Big Thunder" series.

The ARRL Letter

The Real Programmer At Play

supplied by Dave, WD5BRP

Generally, the Real Programmer plays the same way he works -- with computers. He is constantly amazed that his employer actually pays him to do what he would be doing for fun anyway (although he is careful not to express this opinion out loud). Occasionally, the Real Programmer does step out of the office for a breath of fresh air and a beer or two. Some tips on recognizing real programmers away from the computer room:



At a party, the Real Programmers are the ones in the corner talking about operating system security and how to get around it.

At a football game, the Real Programmer is the one comparing the plays against his simulations printed on 11 by 14 fanfold paper.

At the beach, the Real Programmer is the one drawing flowcharts in the sand.

A Real Programmer goes to discos to watch the light shows

At a funeral, the Real Programmer is the one saying "Poor George. And he almost had the sort routine working before the coronary."

In a grocery store, the Real Programmer is the one who insists on running the cans past the laser checkout scanner himself, because he never could trust keypunch operators to get it right the first time.

The Real Programmer's Natural Habitat

What sort of environment does the Real Programmer function best in?

This is an important question for the managers of Real Programmers.

Considering the amount of money it costs to keep one on the staff, it's best to put him (or her) in an environment where he can get his work done.

The typical Real Programmer lives in front of a computer terminal. Surrounding this terminal are:

Listings of all programs the Real Programmer has ever worked on, piled in roughly chronological order on every flat surface in the office.

Some half-dozen or so partly filled cups of cold coffee.

Occasionally, there will be cigarette butts floating in the coffee. In some cases, the cups will contain Orange Crush.

Unless he is very good, there will be copies of the OSJCL

manual and the Principles of Operation open to some particularly interesting pages.

Taped to the wall is a line-printer Snoopy calendar for the year 1969.

Strewn about the floor are several wrappers for peanut butter filled cheese bars – the type that are made pre-stale at the bakery so they can't get any worse while waiting in the vending machine.

Hiding in the top left-hand drawer of the desk is a stash of double-stuff Oreos for special occasions.

Underneath the Oreos is a flow-charting template, left there by the previous occupant of the office. (Real Programmers write programs, not documentation. Leave that to the maintenance people.)

The Real Programmer is capable of working 30, 40, even 50 hours at a stretch, under intense pressure. In fact, he prefers it that way. Bad response time doesn't bother the Real Programmer -- it gives him a chance to catch a little sleep between compiles. If there is not enough schedule pressure on the Real Programmer, he tends to make things more challenging by working on some small but interesting part of the problem for the first nine weeks, then finishing the rest in the last week, in two or three 50-hour marathons. This not only impresses the hell out of his manager, who was despairing of ever getting the project done on time, but creates a convenient excuse for not doing the documentation. In general:

No Real Programmer works 9 to 5. (Unless it's the ones at night.)

Real Programmers don't wear neckties.

Real Programmers don't wear high heeled shoes. [But you *never* know!]

Real Programmers arrive at work in time for lunch.

A Real Programmer might or might not know his wife's name. He does, however, know the entire ASCII (and/or EBCDIC) code table.

Real Programmers don't know how to cook. Grocery stores aren't open at three in the morning.

Real Programmers survive on Twinkies and coffee.

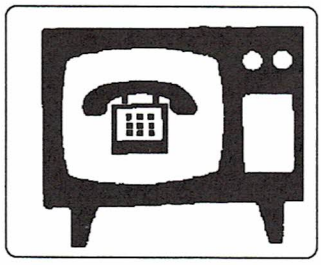
de Dave, WD5BRP

New Media Systems

Another Choice on the Horizon: LMDS

By Joe Chuk, W3JD

For several years, there has been an ongoing discussion of how the cable and telephone industries



will compete with each other in offering services that used to be the exclusive province of one or the other. Digital compression and fiber optic technology make it possible for telephone companies to offer video programming, and a switched network can make your cable company a telephone service and Internet provider. There's another system on the way that will be able to compete with both the telcos and cable companies: Local Multipoint Distribution Service (LMDS).

As was done with personal communications services (PCS) frequencies a couple of years ago, the frequencies to be used for this wireless service will be auctioned off by the FCC. Since the individual channels will range from 150 MHz to 1.3 GHz, the LMDS auction will

involve the single largest portion of spectrum ever sold in the United States.

LMDS systems will be able to compete directly with telephone and cable companies by offering everything from voice to Internet access to full-motion video -- with the advantage of not needing the type of infrastructure required by the telcos and cable companies. System costs won't be wasted on building a network that passes by homes not choosing the service.

A big advantage offered by LMDS will be its speed, estimated at 1.5 Gbps downstream and 200 Mbps upstream. If those data rates are actually achieved, there would be enough bandwidth on a neighborhood hub for most homes to view separate movies, teleconference, and have high-speed Internet access -- all at the same time!

The FCC isn't allowing current telephone and cable companies to buy spectrum for LMDS in their own service areas. This should prevent those companies from purchasing and "warehousing" the frequencies without using them, with the sole purpose of keeping potential competitors out of the area.

While LMDS sounds like a terrific high-speed alternate to present systems, it does have its drawbacks. One of them is rain fade. At microwave frequencies, LMDS signals will be absorbed in drops of water during rainstorms, with less energy reaching the receiving antennas. Subscribers in fringe areas will most likely experience some outages during heavy rains. Since it's a digital system, there's no such thing as "snowy" reception -- once the signal degrades beyond an acceptable level, there's no reception at all.

Another problem is that, as microwave transmissions, LMDS signals will be strictly limited to line-of-sight reception. That limitation will require both extreme care in choosing transmitter sites and, in some cases, multiple transmitters to serve the same population, with different settings to fill in shadow areas. A well-designed technologically-advanced wired network, of course, would not have either rain fade or shadowing working against it.

So far, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 hasn't spurred much by way of competition among the existing wired systems. Perhaps the prospects of the advantages of LMDS -- and companies with channels in hand from the spectrum auction -- will get the competitive ball rolling.

Much of the factual information for this month's column was drawn from "Communication Industry Competition" by Richard Campbell, as published in the January 26, 1998 issue of TV Technology.

de Joe, W3JD

Human "genius" at work:

Here's the set up:

I rented a movie from Blockbuster. Before the movie begins a message comes on the screen saying, *"This movie has been altered to fit your television screen."*

Comment from person: "How do they know what size screen I have?"

Remember, the directory of members will only be sent to members, The material will be confidential only if you keep it that way.

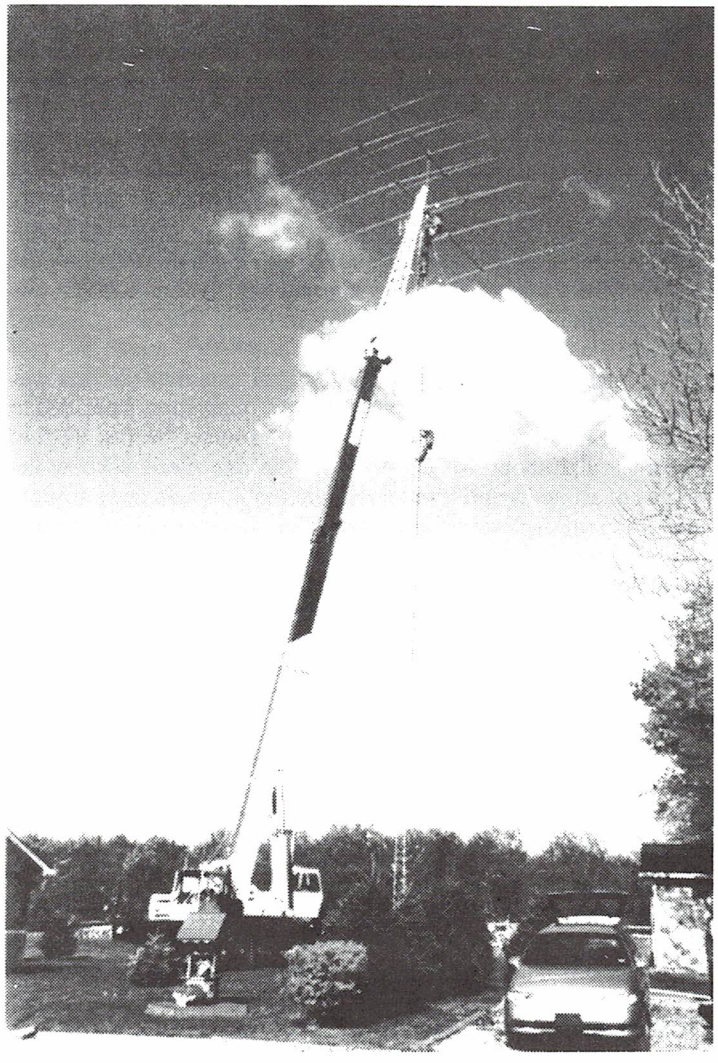
W3PYF, editor

Are Lower Antennas Better?
by Norm K3NZ

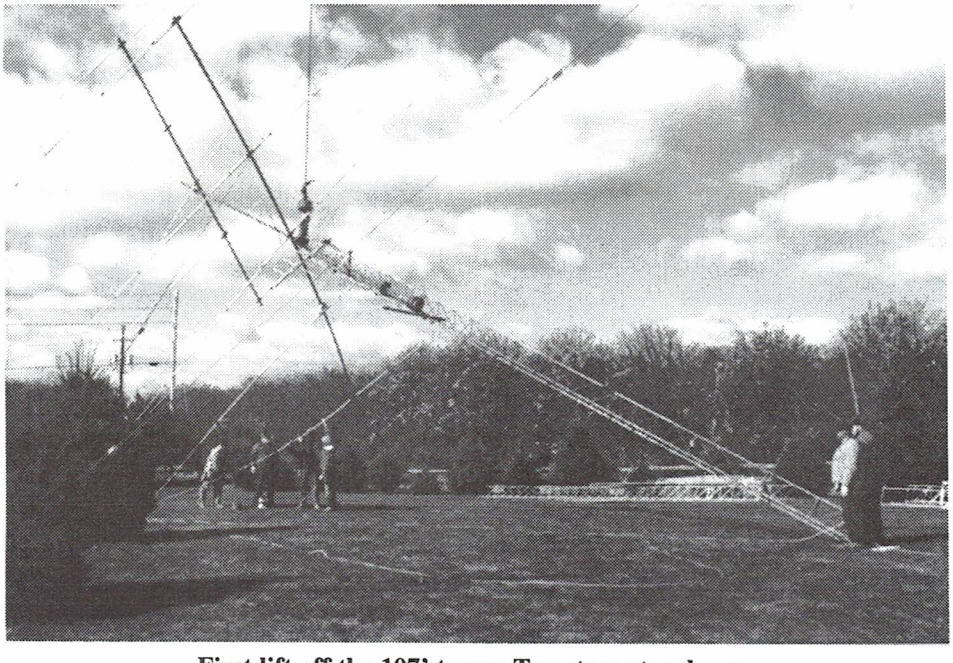
This is a very interesting question. About two years ago I changed my whole antenna farm around to make it easier to maintain. My 60+ year old legs didn't seem to like climbing 100 foot high towers anymore so I had to find a way to get around this problem. What I essentially wound up with is the same antenna farm but approximately forty-five feet lower! At the time we were doing this project one of the helpers said he thought I was making a big mistake and I would be "throwing rocks" at my antennas! Well the results have been far from that stage. I think I have much better results in the pileups and my contest scores since then are my all time highs. I have never had so many positive comments from fellow FRCers about my success since the change. So much so that I was asked to write this article and try to explain just what we did, how we did it, and why it seems to have made such a difference. Well, I can explain why I did it and how we did it, but I have no technical explanation for it. For whatever reason it seems to really work, and I really am having fun with the new antenna farm! I just have to watch out for that guy that said I would "throw rocks" at my new installation - I think he said he wants to throw the rocks!!! What follows is a description of what I started with, what I wanted to accomplish, and what I wound up with. I hope you find it interesting!

What I started with was 2 towers, both Rohn 45G. Tower 1 was about 107' high and had a Hy-Gain 205BA five element 20 meter beam at the 107' level. Stacked about 10 feet above that was a Hy-Gain 155, five element 15 meter beam on a 2" steel mast. Also I had an inverted vee for 75-80 meters from the top of the tower, with the ends tied to a tree and my back rail fence. Tower 2 was about 112 feet high and held a Cushcraft 40-2CD 2 element forty meter beam and stacked about 10 feet above on a 2" steel mast was a Hy-Gain 105, five element ten meter beam. I also had a delta loop for 160 meters which was about 80% of full size (a KU3X Hy-Power Antenna) with the apex at 110 feet. Elevation is 620 ft..

I spent over a year contemplating what I could do to make it easier to maintain. I wanted to retain the tower bases and guy anchors since it would be a lot of work and expense to rearrange all that. I didn't like the idea of a crank-up for safety reasons and the fold-over towers need four way guying at the hinge section. What I decided on was two new Rohn 45G 68 foot foldover towers. Since I already had 45G in the tower bases I was able to just stack the new towers right on top. On the one base I had about one foot sticking out so tower 1 became 69 feet high instead of 107 feet. On the other base I had about five feet sticking out so tower 2 became about 73 feet high. As for the guy anchors, I just made two new anchors for temporary guys for each tower which straddle the original guy wire where the backbrace goes up. This way I just hook up these wires temporarily while I fold the tower over. When I crank it back up again I hook up the original three-way guys and take down the temporary ones. It really is an easy solution. Joe, N3MKZ and I recently cranked the tower down to replace the boom on the Cushcraft forty meter beam and it took only 3 hours to hook up the temporary guys, crank it over, make the repairs, crank it back up, remove the temporary guys, put everything away, and we even had time for lunch in between! Sure was a lot easier than climbing, ropes, pulleys, etc.!



Getting ready for the first lift on the 107' tower with the 20 meter and 15 meter antennas.



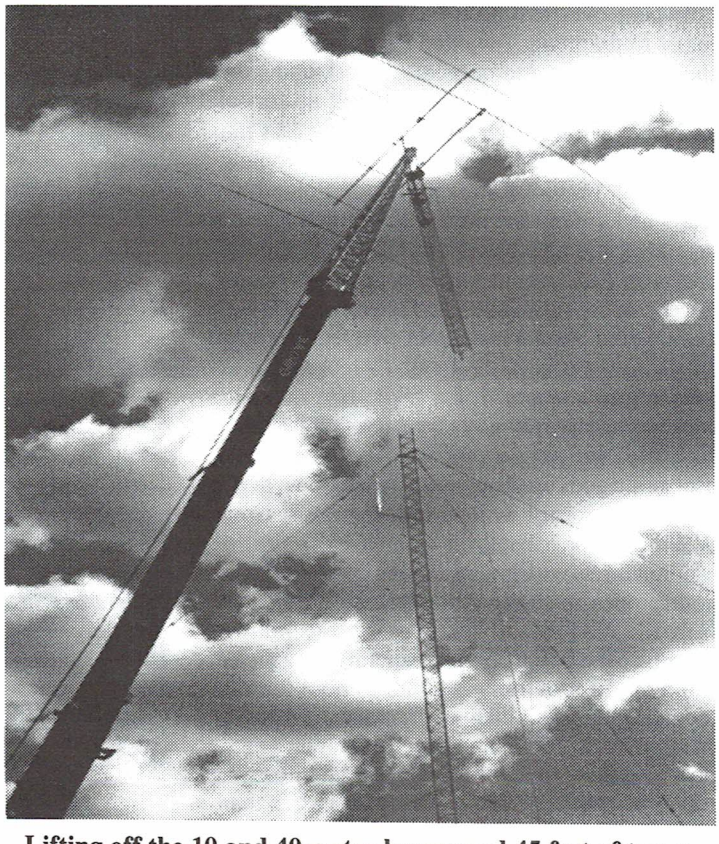
First lift off the 107' tower. Twenty meter beam, fifteen meter beam, mast, rotor, and about 45 feet of tower.

The K3NZ Project - How We Did It

When I finally decided to do this project it was getting late in the season but it needed to be done. One of the problems as you know is to get enough guys together on a given day to do the work. In order to make things a bit easier and quicker I decided to spend the money and hire a crane to come in. It turns out that it wasn't as easy as I thought! It took almost 8 weeks before I could get the guy I wanted (same one W3EA used for his job) to come in. Fortunately we got it all coordinated and set a date - 2 weeks before the CQWW SSB Contest!! The weather was not all that great - it was cold and windy but everybody hung in there. The crane arrived about 8:30 a.m. and started setting up at the first tower. We still needed to strip some feedlines and 2 meter antennas but that was accomplished by the time the crane was set in position. I decided to make the first lift by taking the 20 and 15 meter beams, 22 foot steel mast and about 40 feet of tower in one piece. I knew the weights of all items and I was confident that it would hang straight when lifted off. It came off as expected and we lowered it down and set it on a piece of plywood and then tilted it over so we could reach the elements. Everybody converged on it and started dismantling it till we could lay the tower down. Part of the crew moved it out of the way so we could make another lift. When the tower was all removed we lifted half of the new tower (which was assembled in 2 pieces) and set in in place on the existing base. We then installed a set of guys (from the old tower) up to the hinge section. At that point we weren't sure how much time we would have so we moved the crane over to the other tower. We repeated the same process here.We took the 10 & 40 meter beams, 22 ft. steel mast, and about 45 feet of tower in one lift and the remaining 65 feet in the second lift. This time we placed the bottom half of the new tower on the existing base, attached the lower set of guys, then set the upper half of tower in place and attached the top set of guys. We still had some time left so we moved the crane back to the first tower and finished putting the upper half of tower and top set of guys on. While all of this was going on some of the crew had all of the old tower taken apart and stacked neatly in the yard and some of the antennas sorted out. Now it is about 4:30 p.m.!! Imagine that! Two 100 foot plus towers and all antennas dismantled and two new 68 foot fold-over towers with all the guy wires installed in one day! Sure the crane was a big help but more important was the crew - what teamwork! I didn't have to ask who was going to do the climbing, dismantling, odd jobs, etc. Everybody worked together to share the hard physical work, climbing, and whatever else had to be done under cold, windy conditions. Now the towers were up but I still needed to get the antennas, rotors, etc. up for the contest and time was running out. Joe, N3MKZ helped me put up all the antennas, rotors, feedlines, etc. in the remaining time. In our attempt to get done in time for the contest we grabbed any combination of old feedline and barrel connectors that would reach from antenna to radio! Believe it or not, I was operational on all bands on Friday before the contest! A total of 13 days from the time we started! The new farm now had a 4 element 20 meter beam at 73 ft., a 5 element 15 meter beam at 83 ft., and an inverted vee for 160 meters on the 73 ft. tower. On the other tower is a 2 element Cushcraft 40 meter beam at 69 ft., a 5 element 10 meter at 79 ft., and an inverted vee for 75-80 meters. The same antennas as before but about 40 feet lower! And the new installation is still the same today as it was two years ago! It works so well I won't touch a thing! So the question remains - Are Lower Antennas Better? Time will tell but if you ask me I think it performs better than before. I just hope it continues that way. Let's see what happens as sunspot activity increases? At this time I wish to thank the following crew for a job that went well beyond what anybody should expect. They worked hard under cold and windy conditions and never complained. If it were not for them I would not have the antenna farm that I have! They were - Joe, N3MKZ, Bill, K2WS, Wayne, W3EA, Dave, W3MM, Barry, KU3X, Van, K3CP, Jim, K3II, Daryl, KE3VN, Bill, K3ANS, and myself, Norm, K3NZ. And yes, I must thank my understanding wife, Nancy, who kept the troops fed and supplied them with plenty of hot coffee! The results speak for themselves - True FRC Teamwork & Spirit!!! Go FRC!!!



Setting bottom half of new fold-over tower.



Lifting off the 10 and 40 meter beams and 45 feet of tower.

US to participate in CEPT guest license arrangements

US amateurs soon will not need to apply for reciprocal licenses in order to operate during short visits to most European countries. While an official announcement still may be a few weeks away, it's been learned the US request to participate in the European guest license arrangement has been approved. Similarly, most European hams visiting the US no longer will have to submit FCC Form 610A.

Last September, the US State Department applied for US participation in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations **(CEPT)** Amateur Radio licensing system. A holders of a **CEPT** license can operate in CEPT-participating countries without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

Approval of the US request came in late January at a meeting of the **CEPT** Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), in Groningen, The Netherlands. The European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) has been instructed to officially notify the FCC of the decision approving US participation.

The State Department's action came at the urging of the ARRL that the US take advantage of the **CEPT** Recommendation T/R 61-01 arrangements and issue a license that would be recognized by **CEPT**-participating administrations and would be valid for brief visits.

Also last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a **CEPT** license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US. Under the soon-to-be-implemented arrangement, a US Technician license would be recognized as a **CEPT** Class 2 (VHF-only) license, with full privileges above 30 MHz. Holders of Tech Plus through Extra tickets would be given a **CEPT** Class 1 license, with full privileges on HF and VHF. Novice licensees would not be eligible for a CEPT equivalent license since most **CEPT** countries don't offer a license of this type.

Once the ERO formally advises the FCC of the decision, the FCC must complete the steps to implement the participation before **CEPT** licensing can become effective.

"We've been urging the Commission to do this since 1991," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Now that CEPT has given the green light, we hope the FCC will step on the gas."

.The ARRL Letter

Parrot humor

There's this fellow with a parrot and this parrot swears like a sailor. I mean he's a pistol. He can swear for five minutes straight without repeating himself. Trouble is, the guy who owns him is a quiet, conservative type, and this bird's foul mouth is driving him crazy.



One day, it gets to be too much, so the guy grabs the bird by the throat, shakes him really hard, and yells, **"QUIT IT"**, but this just makes the bird mad and he swears more than ever. Then the guy gets mad and says, "OK for you", and locks the bird in a kitchen cabinet.

This really aggravates the bird and he claws and scratches and when the guy finally lets him out, the bird cuts loose with a stream of invective that would make a veteran sailor blush.

At that point, the guy is so mad that he throws the bird into the freezer. For the first few seconds there is a terrible din. the bird kicks and claws and thrashes. Then it suddenly gets very quiet.

At first the guy just waits, but then he starts to think that the bird may be hurt. After a couple minutes of silence, he's so worried that he opens up the freezer door. The bird calmly climbs onto the man's out-stretched arm and says,"Awfully sorry about the trouble I gave you. I'll do my best to improve my vocabulary from now on."

The man is astounded. He can't understand the transformation that has come over the parrot. The parrot says, "By the way, what did the chicken do?

"From:Carl WB0TUE" via packet

Just a reminder to all members who have material for this newsletter....My new address is:

W3PYF@aol.com

The fastnet account is now done

DXCC announces new fee schedule for 1998

by Bill, K3ANS, DX Editor

You may read this in January, 1998 QST, page 83. I think the $10 charge for each year's initial DXCC application will discourage DXCC activity. In turn it will discourage DXing, which is the pinnacle of challenges on the low bands, 160 meters to 10 meters. Many DXers have abandoned QSLing already because of the aggravation, frustration, and cost of obtaining them, especially for rare DX. Perhaps some day, DXCC can be accomplished by electronic comparison of computer logs by the applicant and the DX station. In the meanwhile, QSLs are required, and the manual DXCC application process is necessary. Fortunately, many computer software logging programs generate the required application forms listing the QSOs and details for the DXCC.

DXCC news used to be a prominent section of each monthly QST, attracting newcomers and old-timers alike. Now DXCC news is now relegated to an annual booklet sent only to DXCC members, so the unaware are still in the dark. This to me is another of many examples where the ARRL is turning its back on the loyal, serious members, who built the ARRL. They are the life members and long time annual members. Many new hams do not care about the ARRL, and see it irrelevant to their ham radio activities. They have little interest in world class radio. generally the DXers are advanced and extra class hams because the DX stays in those portions of the ham bands. Novice and Technician plus and minus class licenses were supposed to be entry level licenses introducing new hams to this great radio sport. Instead these lower classes have been the ending destination of many, if not most, new hams. They are not upgrading. They have little interests in the low bands or in advancing ham radio technically or improving radio skills. So the ARRL appears to abandoning that incentive program and lowering its expectations and operations to match these lower skill level hams. This is typical of the USA, known as the "dumming down of America". We see it in school grade inflation, lower skill levels at graduation, lower standards for jobs, and lower quality in American products.

Funny how a simple change in DXCC fees is a reflection of a serious problem in ham radio and technology in general. The ARRL would not consider charging these fees for DXCC if it still represented the majority of the membership. Unfortunately, it now represents a declining minor percentage of hams. My intent in these articles is to wake up the **DLARC** hams to the joys and challenges of DXing and contesting, along with the operating and technical skills to be learned and improved. It gives them cause to build bigger, better, and more efficient stations; master CW, master propagation; and get on the air! Now that I am off my soap box, what are the DXCC fee changes?

Item	Old fee	New fee
Initial application, each year, member	**Free!**	**$10**
Additional applic., each year, member	**$10**	**$20**
Initial application, foreign nonmember	**$10**	**$20**
Additional applic., foreign nonmember	**$20**	**$30**
Convention/HQ walk-in chard check	**$ 2**	**$ 5**
Per additional QSO (*)	**$ 0.10**	**$ 0.15**
Certificate plus pin fee	**$10**	**Free**
Honor Roll & 5 Band DXCC plaques	**$25 + shipping**	**$30 + ship (**)**
No.1 Honor Roll plaques	**$40 + shipping**	**$50 + ship (**)**

(*) First application prices are for 120 QSOs maximum, and additional application prices are for 100 QSOs maximum. QSOs beyond those limits are charged at this price. **(**)** Includes pin.

All of these items except for the plaques were free until a few years ago. The ARRL began instituting cost accounting, as the banks are, and started charging DXCC service fees and increasing some of its other service fees, rather than absorb them in the annual membership fees It began just after K3ANS brought 1200 DXCC QSLs at one time to the ARRL for many of the different DXCC awards. I made advance reservations for this visit and QSL checking, and the ARRL was very hospitable, but I bet it opened their eyes! That day I saw stacks of QSLs all over the building. They were inundated, understaffed, and in the process of installing a new computer system to manage it. Now they are getting the money to pay for it. 73 and see you in the lower 25 kcs.

de Bill, K3ANS

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February 12, 1998
compiled by John, N3IGA

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

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CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70
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