Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

March 2000

DLARC MEETING on MARCH 2

How we help

by Amy, KD3TI

I have planned with Rich, KB3DEC, program chairman to do the program for the March club meeting. I'll cover Amateur Radio's role in Public/ Emergency service. I'll go over what we do, what our responsibilities are and what equipment you should have. This is the start of our busy year, **with walkathons, Derriere in the Delaware, River Relay Run, MS 150 bike tour and plenty of other events coming up.**

*b138W

Any members who think they might like to participate in public service communications or help out in real emergencies, please plan to attend this program. **The Meeting will be held in Room 234 in the College Center, Northampton County Community College, beginning at 7:30 PM.**

de Amy, KD3TI

Revised question pools now available

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators Question Pool Committee has released revised Amateur Radio examination question pools into the public domain. The revised questions, covering the new Elements 2, 3 and 4 that become effective April 15, 2000, now are available on the ARRL web site at http://www.arrl.org.

The QPC anticipates that the Element 4 question pool will remain valid until June 30, 2002, the Element 3 question pool until June 30, 2003, and the Element 3 question pool until June 30, 2004.

QPC Chairman Ray Adams, W4CPA, says the five-digit numbering system used in past question pools continues to be used in the new question pools. Graphics have been integrated. Minor revisions still are possible.

Current Novice, Technician, Advanced and Amateur Extra graphic sheets remain available and valid. Examinations for the new Elements 2 and 3 will contain 35 questions; examinations for the new Element 4 contain 50 questions.

via ARRL Bulletin

How did you get into Amateur Radio?

from your Editor, W3PYF

Inside this issue you will see a story by Rich, KB3DEC, one of our newer members and program chairman for the club.

I as editor of this newsletter feel this would be a great addition to our letter. Why not start them coming and I'll use as I have space for them. They could be very interesting.,, Just tell who got you interested and what happened next.

Should be a great series with the diversification of our membership.

Let me hear from you via internet.

Clarence, W3PYF, Editor

The Prez Sez

by Don, KA3JWE, president

Due to the weather on the first Thursday of the month, we had to cancel the February club meeting at the last minute. Some areas roads were not too bad, however, others were quite treacherous and rather than risk someone having an accident, it was decided to call it off. From listening to comments on the repeater during the time that people would normally be on their way to the meeting, I determined that a lot of members had already made up their minds not to venture out and we wouldn't have had many in attendance anyway. I went to the college and hung out in the meeting room just in case that someone didn't get word and I'm happy to say that no one, who didn't know of the cancellation, showed up. So, it's nice that we all have a way to receive information like this at the last minute and can adjust our plans accordingly. The meeting was not rescheduled because of the difficulty in getting a room from the college and arranging a different night for the speaker. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the March meeting and I hope that you all will attend. The planned program topic should be a good primer for the upcoming season.



Now that things are starting to heat up with respect to the new license class structure, I urge you to read my other column on the FCC's Universal Licensing System. You will have to be registered to do any future business with the FCC concerning your license, so don't wait until the last minute.

de Don, KA3JWE

The February meeting was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

Bob KE3AW, asked to correct the minutes from January's meeting to say that the General classes were almost cancelled. One person had called about taking the class. The instructors met at the site for the first class and had an additional four people show up. So, the classes are under way.

de Jim N3DFF, secretary

Radio Classes Begin in March!

by Bob, KE3AW

March will bring with it the free spring amateur radio classes, sponsored by our Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club , beginning Monday, March 13, 7-9 pm at the Greystone Building, Gracedale.

Unlike previous DLARC classes which ran 10 weeks, the new series of classes will run 12 weeks. This will allow interested persons to learn information needed for the new entry-level amateur radio licenses, Technician and General. The Technician Class information will be covered in the first 8 weeks, and the General Class information in the last 4 weeks. Because we are combining of the Technician and General class levels into one series of classes, we will eliminate the winter 6 week General Class. We are planning to hold the new 12 week program covering the entry-level series twice a year, spring and fall.

Chris/NU3L and **George/N3SQ** will be the primary instructors.

If you know anyone interested in amateur radio who is interested in earning their amateur radio license, please have them contact me for further information, at ke3aw@juno.com, by phone or on the air.

de Bob, KE3AW

February VE Test Result

by Stephanie, KB3DNA

The February test session was held at the Gracedale Tower on Friday, Feb. 5th. 14 candidates were administered 18 elements, with 16 elements passed. Three people received new license statuses:

Elmer R. Bush **Upgrade to Advanced**
Steve J. Dennis **Upgrade to General**
Paul Muzopappa **New license - Technician**

Many thanks to this month's VE's: Bill Twaddell Bob Green, Bill Fahs, Bob Kratz, Amy Zimmerman Bob Daniels

The next test session is scheduled for **Friday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** We have many more candidates than in previous sessions, so extra VE's are needed for the next two sessions. Anyone interested in assisting can contact me at **KB3DNA@ENTERMAIL.NET.**

de Stephanie, KB3DNA

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

Balance		**$5,626.87**
INCOME		
Donation Income	70.00	
Dues & Arrl	1279.00	

TOTAL INCOME	**$1,349.00**	
EXPENSES		
Hamfest	$250.00	
Newsletters for February	90.00	
Postage	116.53	
Refund Dues Overpayment	4.00	
RENEWAL ARRL	202.00	
Supplies	22.26	
Telephone	34.70	

TOTAL EXPENSES	**$719.49**	
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	**$629.51**	
Balance 1/31/00		**$6,256.38**

Total Membership 230 as of 02/03/00

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Paddle contacts

Supplied by Cary, K2YIY

byRoyParker,AA0B
http://web.missouri.edu/~ccrip

No, not the discipline you had back in high school. But keyer paddle contacts.

Back in the early 80's when I got into radio the starting equipment for just about anybody here was the Brown Brothers Dual Paddle. So I got one, although I was only using the straight-key back then. The dual paddle has served me almost to the QCWA stage.



Well, I heard that the only thing you needed to do was to pull a piece of paper through the contacts from time to time to clean the dust out. And it worked well.Some of the other guys kept mentioning "funny" things that they had to do to keep their contacts clean, I didn't know why.

So after many years, much new equipment and lotsa QTH moves, I got back into CW. Then "funny" things started to happen to me, too. One of my keyers started to send a "dit" to start every character. Things were difficult to handle. Other "funny" things too. I thought it was the end-fed Zepp causing RF feedback. So I tried other antennas, lower power settings, still "funny" things with the keying. It's NOT FUN in a contest to have something "odd" or "spastic" happen to your keying!

Sooo,what's different with my approach? Well, the thing to do would be to:

>>>MEASURE THE CONTACTS.<<<

I got out my DVM, put it on Ohms scale, and started to look around. Measure one side to ground, then the other, even measure the paddle common back to the plug common. Operate the contact and watch what the resistance does. The TOTAL resistance should be down to a few tenths of a ohm. The solder joint, wire, contact, and return all have to be low resistance. If anything is resistive, try to find out where the fault is and work on that spot.

The good-old Brown Brothers had about 27 ohms one side and infinity on th other, (A wire had come off of the screw-terminal. My fault,reconnect.) Cleaned with clean paper, still 20 ohms. Use some Rad-Shak "tuner cleaner"now down to about 0.2 ohms. This paddle has silver plating on the contacts, so don't use anything harsh, NO emery paper, NO abrasive contact polisher!

The WK8G paddles measured about 14 ohms, and cleaned up easily. Check at **hhtp://www.njqrp.org/mbr/proj/paddles.html.** Nice lightweight brass levers.

My "junk box" paddles (HambrewMagazine, winter of 96) had aluminum bars for the arms, so they are made with 2-56 screwws for the contacts. They measured about 32 ohms. Just a bit on cleaning and they were fine, eventhough they have steel to aluminum contacts on the pivots. (I have a Tick Keyer built on the side, in the open, that can be switched in or out.)

The NorCal K8FF paddles wouldn't clean. They measured about 45 ohms. I must have gotten tiny fragments of paper or emery grit on the stainless steel screw contact points sometime earlier. So break out the solvent. I had some "GoofOff" by the bench. It even removes dried paint. This is a harsh move, but it worked.

>>DON'T get any of this on ANYTHING plastic.<<<

I put a drop on some paper and pulled it through the closed contacts. Don't get it on painted stuff and wash after touching it. Don't touch your eyeglasses with this on your fingers! It will mess them them up. Been there! I think it's time to polish the contacts on this one some more. Emery paper is OK here, these are stainless steel, not silver-plated contacts.

So if you are at this place now, or if you can remember this later, don,t guess-MEASURE. Test each point, each solder joint, every screw connection, and find where the resistaance goes up. Now work on that connection.

And, for now, I know that any "odd" keying is not the fault of the paddles. And if I'm still sending poorly, it's time for more CW practice. I don't want to appear to be "wasted", too sleepy, etc.

Happy DX de Roy AA0B
December 1999 "THE LOW DOWN" THE COLORADO QRP CLUB NEWSLETTER

FCC expands W5YI-VEC audit

via ARRL letter

Citing complaints concerning the administration of Amateur Radio examinations, the FCC has expanded an audit of the W5YI-Volunteer Examiner Coordinator operated by Fred Maia, W5YI, in Dallas, Texas. In a February 2 letter, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said the complaints "allege the selling of both original licenses and upgrade licenses in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands" by W5YI-VEC volunteer examiners.

The eight-page FCC letter also cites an ongoing probe begun late last fall into three 1999 W5YI-VEC exam sessions in South Carolina and seeks additional details from Maia. At the South Carolina sessions, Hollingsworth said, VEs have filed statements claiming their names were forged on session documents by the W5YI session manager. The FCC says a session manager's license apparently was upgraded to Amateur Extra, an unannounced "sub session" was held after a regular VE session, and a General class session manager administered an Extra class examination.

Maia, who's been cooperating in the FCC's South Carolina probe, told the ARRL that he was surprised, confused, and "a little discouraged" to learn that the FCC had expanded its audit. He suggested that the FCC might be acting on the basis of "incorrect information" and said he's not aware that anyone ever paid for any licenses through a W5YI-VEC volunteer examiner.

In December, Maia conceded that there was reason to believe that W5YI-VEC paperwork may have been forged in South Carolina, that some volunteer examiners actually were impostors, and that one examiner also was an examinee.

In his letter, Hollingsworth noted that no Virgin Islands licensees originally tested by W5YI-VEC and later called in by the FCC for retesting have appeared for retesting. The FCC this week canceled licenses of five US Virgin Islands residents for failing to appear for retesting. Maia says the W5YI-VEC has not administered amateur exams in the US Virgin Islands since 1992, and he's looking into the situation. "I am totally in the dark on that one," Maia said of the Virgin Islands inquiry.

Of W5YI-VEC examinees recalled in Puerto Rico, the FCC said, only one showed up for retesting. Maia says he knows of only one situation in Puerto Rico that involved a VE who was disaccredited after being called in for retesting. Maia said he would contact Hollingsworth to get more specifics about the latest allegations of W5YI-VEC testing irregularities.

The FCC letter asks Maia if he's received complaints about the possible selling of licenses and upgrades by W5YI VEs in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and South Carolina and, if so, how they've been handled. Among other things, the Commission also seeks details regarding screening and accreditation of W5YI-VEC volunteer examiners; examination materials and their handling and grading; how exam results are verified; and the names of VEs and the applicants they tested over the past three years. The FCC asked W5YI-VEC if VE sessions are announced publicly in advance, as required by Part 97, and if any have not been.

Hollingsworth's letter cited the 1983 Report and Order that established the volunteer examiner program. The R&O says that being a VE, "by its very nature, demands the highest degree of integrity." The FCC asked the W5YI-VEC to respond within 30 days..

How did you get into Amateur Radio?

by Rich, KB3DEC

How about members doing this. Send our editor a short writeup on how you started or got interested in Amateur Radio. Follows Mine:

Here is my experience entering ham radio. I can remember when I first encountered ham radio. It was in grade school, as I recall, in an article from the Weekly Reader. This school publication had a very good style and held interest, because its articles were on new topics we as grade schoolers never encountered before.

This article held for me the seeds of an interest which would only be fulfilled many years later, because I at that time thought that these were other people. Now, I know that almost anyone can do almost anything; there are limits of course, but most people put the limitations on themselves. It must have taken me the approximate forty years of waiting 'til all the parameters got there, so to speak.

An article of only four or five lines of type in the newspaper from **Bob, KE3AW,** or at least it gave his number, got me going to do something. I called the number and did the things I needed to do and got my ticket.

de Rich, KB3DEC

Amateur Radio Operators Assist During 911 Failures.

by Chris Post, N3SIG

Amateur radio operators were activated Tuesday morning 30 November 1999 to assist the Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency in Allentown, PA due to a failure in the counties 911-phone and radio systems that lasted over 4 hours.



At 0945 hours the Lehigh County EMA office notified the RACES net control station of the situation and requested an emergency communications network be established to support county functions. Bruce Hull, KA3ONZ net control established a directed net on the 146.940 repeater in Allentown. Mr. Hull opened the net and took check-ins of operators that may be deployed into the field.

At 0955 Hours, all incoming 911 call were routed to the Allentown City 911 Communications Center and backup communications were being put in place to support the County Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Police radio and phone answering services.

Located in the basement of the Lehigh County Courthouse in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Chris Kelly, N3RPV stood ready to relay traffic from amateur operators in the field to the remote dispatch center at the County transmitter site.

Within minutes, key individuals of the RACES team were alerted and activated and assigned to locations in the County. Chris Post, Emergency Management Specialist for Lehigh County, relocated to the transmitter site that geographically covers the whole county. Mr. Post relayed traffic via the counties public safety frequencies and coordinated with the RACES operators in the field. Mr. Post is also a HAM operator, Call Sign N3SIG. Joining Mr. Post at the transmitter site were Jeff Kelly, N3MFT and a dispatcher from the county 911 center. However the 911 Center was non-functional; the transmitters were still operating, N3MFT and N3SIG used the local control microphones to operate the high power public safety transmitters high atop South Mountain in Allentown, PA.

The 911 center was finally brought back to normal operating conditions after 4 hours of emergency operations. The Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency serves the citizens of Lehigh County in Eastern PA; the Lehigh Valley is the 3rd largest metropolitan area in Pennsylvania. The Lehigh County RACES Group has 25 active members and is also supported by the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club.

American Lung Association seeks hams for 2000 "Big Ride"

via ARRL Bulletin

The American Lung Association is recruiting ham radio "communicators" to assist in its **Big Ride Across America 2000.**

The 2000 ride--only the second to use ham radio operators--is the third annual event to raise money and awareness for the American Lung Association's fight against lung disease.

It's a 3500-mile bicycle trek from Seattle, Washington, to Washington, DC, from **June 19, 2000 to August 5, 2000.** More than 850 cyclists have raised in excess of $7.2 million during the previous rides.

Details are available at **http://www.bigride.com**. Volunteers can sign up for the entire Ride or choose from one or more segments of the country. The direct link to volunteer information

is **http://www.bigride.com/Get/get.html.**

The Crew Registration Form on that page lists the segment dates and locations.

To volunteer or to obtain more information about volunteer responsibilities, contact Volunteer Support Manager

Mark Ewert, KB1ECH,

bigride@lungusa.org

or call toll free at 877-BIGRIDE (877-244-7433).

via ARRL Bulletin

How Hot Is It In Hell - A True Story

supplied by Val W3EFL

A thermodynamics professor had written a take home exam for his graduate students. It had one question:

"Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Support your answer with a proof."

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following: First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. 1. So, we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. 2. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to Hell.



With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:

#1 If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

#2 Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over. So which is it?

If we accept the postulate given to me by Ms. Therese Banyan during my Freshman year, "That it will be a cold night in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then #2 cannot be true, and so Hell is exothermic.

The student got the only A..

FCC's Universal License System. ULS - Are you registered?

submitted by Don, KA3JWE

Are you planning to upgrade your license? Have you recently moved and need to change your address? Would you like to apply for a vanity call? If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, then you need to register with the FCC's **UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM.** Registration in the ULS is required. You don't have to register right now, however, you will need to be registered if you want to do any business with the FCC in the future. Anyone who is not registered will not be able to receive a new license, upgrade to a higher class license, renew their existing license, or receive a vanity call sign.

You can register online or by using FCC Form 606.

To register on the Internet, go to **http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls** and click on the button that says "TIN/Call Sign Registration". (NOTE - There was a statement that said that they only supported the Netscape browser, however, I used IE5.0 and it worked fine. Also, when entering numbers such as your Social Security number, telephone number or Zip+4, don't use any dashes or parenthesis, they will be inserted automatically when you move to the next field.)

If you don't have Internet access, but you do have a computer and modem, you can still register electronically by connecting directly to the FCC. The number is 800-844-2784. Once you are connected, use your web browser to go to http://wtbwww05.fcc.gov/wtb/uls and click the "TIN/Call Sign Registration" button.

You can obtain a paper Form 606 from the FCC's Forms Distribution Center at 800-418-3676. You can then fax the completed form back to the FCC at 717-338-2693 or mail it to the following address: FCC, Information Technology Division, Attention: Kathy McLucas, 1270 Fairfield Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

And if that isn't enough to strain your brain, there's more! The old familiar form 610 is no longer being used. The new form is the 605. It's quite long (12 pages) since it is a "universal" form for all radio services, however, only part of it will need to be completed for Amateur purposes. You may also need other forms when dealing with vanity calls such as the Schedule D and Form 159.

For a really detailed explanation of the ULS and step-by-step instructions on filling out the online form, check out the ARRL website at: http://www.arrl.org/fcc/uls-qa.html. They also have an excellent section on the new license structure which will answer a lot of your questions. You can check that out at:

http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html.

de Don, KA3JWE

Ham Radio in Trouble?

de Glenn K3PP

I don't really believe anyone betrayed us. The current state of ham radio is simply the result of technological progress. Like you, I wish we could all maintain the ideological standard of days gone by. The harsh reality, however, is that those days really have "gone by" and the world is very different today.

I believe that ham radio is in deep trouble because of at least four major causes:

1. The Internet has drained interest and functional purpose AWAY from ham radio.

2. In large part, hams are no longer the innovators of technology. New wireless technologies like spread-spectrum, satellites, and cellular are driven by industrial behemoths. Communications systems have become too complex to be developed by small-time experimenters. Money drives innovation, not hobbyists.

3. Twenty years of dysfunctional FCC enforcement has turned the bands into a free-for-all.

4. We're a bunch of stodgy old timers with little youth to replenishthe silent keys. Our median age is well over 50!! My feelings about each:

1. As a medium for social gathering and ragchewing, ham radio is dying. Internet discussion is easier, cheaper, and more reliable than HF radio. Digital cellular telephone service is a convenient and fairly cheap personal communications system for the extreme vast majority of people. Finally, while ham radio is still a powerful force in emergency communications, I feel our days are numbered here also.

Ham radio will continue to thrive for those among us who feel a special affinity toward this "antiquated" mode. People like you and I will always get a thrill out of securing a two-way contact with someone half a world away, relying on the surreal, invisible conduit of HF propagation. I don't know about you, but the more I understand the science behind radio communications, the more I am fascinated by it and the more I wish to explore and conquer its many mysteries.

I am a renowned expert in data networking. I am equally seduced and driven by these technologies as I am by radio. I consider myself to be a die-hard technocrat and I transfer countless volumes of traffic across the Internet and other data networks. Despite all of this, an email or an Internet phone call doesn't even come close to giving me the excitement I experience when I bag a new band-country on 160m CW.

I can compare radio to the bicycle. Why ride a bicycle to work when it's MUCH faster and more convenient to drive your car? BECAUSE IT'S FUN! In fact, we can look at a lot of examples of how "obsolete" modes of transportation still thrive. One obvious example is competition. Who can run faster in the 100m dash? The marathon? Who can navigate a kayak the fastest and most accurately through a course? I really believe the future of ham radio lies in the recreational and competitive aspects of it, just like in any other sport. As DXers and contesters, this is good news for us. Tune through the bands on any given weekday and there is a pitiful number of stations to be heard. If there is some juicy DX station active, suddenly there are hordes of people swarming around the listening frequency (and the usual smattering of lids on the TX frequency too!). This is SPORT! On several weekends of the year, these "dead" bands explode with so much activity, the QRM is S9+20dB from wall to wall. This is SPORT! We do it BECAUSE IT'S FUN, not because it has some profound social or technical purpose.

2. What can I say about this, except that it's true. We are USERS of technology, not the innovators. Who builds their own equipment anymore? Hardly anyone. Who REALLY needs to know how to properly bias a 6L6 vacuum tube anymore? Hardly anyone. Who are the innovators in wireless technology? Qualcomm, Motorola, Intel, Lucent, Nokia, etc. Sure, a good number of the engineers and technicians working on this stuff are hams, but how many of us tinker with spread-spectrum and DSP filtering algorithms in our spare time? Hardly any of us. We're a bunch of appliance operators. This isn't anyone's fault. It's just that technology has accelerated beyond the ability for a hobbyist to play a crucial role.

3. Luckily there is some hope here. I think it's naive for us to view ANY testing as an idiot filter. Do I believe there is an added incentive to behave properly if I worked harder to earn my privilege? No doubt. Do I believe a harder test, in and of itself, will result in a markedly more civil environment on our bands? Absolutely not! The bands are in a state of disarray because of the past neglect by the FCC and the general social decay of humanity.

I am not a holy roller or some right wing conservative extremist, but our entire society needs a good kick in the teeth. We've run amok on every

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aspect of respect, morality, and responsibility. It seems nobody is willing to take responsibility for their own actions. It seem nobody has respect for anyone anymore. This putrid lack of social protocol is bound to spill over into ham radio and it has indeed.

I pay homage to Riley Hollingsworth and his team at the FCC. They have finally gotten tough with the creeps that corrupt our haven. I hope they continue to crack down on these morons. I truly believe they are having a positive effect, but we can't just sit back and rely on the FCC to unilaterally reverse two decades of deterioration. We all need to act. We need to be vigilantes and "neighborhood watch" groups to clean things up.

As time moves on, the bands WILL become more crowded with newer hams who don't know a 4CX800 from a zener diode. We cannot change this fact but we CAN help guide these people down the right path. Without guidance, they will disintegrate into glorified CBers or, more likely, they will disappear. ... which brings me to my fourth important point.

4. We're LITERALLY dying out! If we don't get some GOOD new blood in our ranks, we're doomed! Thirty years from now, if I'm still alive, I want to make sure I have someone to work on the bands. WE NEED YOUNG PEOPLE IN HAM RADIO!! Forget restructuring! THIS is our worst problem, not reduced CW standards! CW will survive. WE will not!

We need to make a radical move to entice younger people to get excited about radio. Personally, I think we need to promote competition to the "kids" because I think they are more likely to enjoy the SPORT rather than public service or ragchewing. They're ALREADY ragchewing on AOL and Yahoo! and the guy on the other end isn't telling them about his most recent surgical procedure!

No matter what, KIDS LIKE SPORTS! They like football and soccer and baseball and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" and on and on. Let's introduce them to the SPORT of radio! Let's show them that there are hurdles, but let's not place the hurdles so high that they just blow it off and go back to playing Doom on the Internet.

I'm not happy that we have to relax the criteria for ham radio either. I'm downright terrified, however, that we may not have a hobby to enjoy at all. It's a hard pill to swallow, but we must. Contesting won't be much fun when it's just a few dozen 80-somethings instead of thousands across all ages.

Well, as usual, I've babbled on way too long. Getting back to Kay (yeah, this was about Kay!), I've come to know Kay as an intelligent and vibrant person. She is a great leader for amateur radio and she can really kick butt when she has to. She is also perceptive to the complex ebb and flow of our dynamic world. I know she is not comfortable with the changes taking place, but she realizes it's a matter of our survival. I've discussed this subject with her many times over the past year. I applaud her courage to take a stand, however unpopular, to ensure that we have a future.

It's not easy, trust me! I've been in similar situations in my professional life. I get paid to steer our technology in the right direction. When I propose a direction that is steeped in controversy, the pressure is brutal. I sympathize with Kay. I respect her tremendously, and I support her. I know she has our best interests in mind. Sometimes even Mohammed can't move the mountain, though. Life is a game of compromises. That's how we make it to the next day.

de Glenn K3PP

Severe Weather Special Event Station WX2PHI

by John, WX3TAZ

There will be a Special Event Station at the NWSFO, Mount Holly, NJ, on **March 19, 200** to promote Severe Weather Awareness Week in PA. It starts on March 19th through March 25th. An SASE will get you a nice certificate. QSL to John Holmes, WX3TAZ,

SKYWARN

WX2PHI Special Event, 126A Worman Road, Bath, PA 18014-9099. Contact me if you need further information at wx3taz@skywarn.net .

John Holmes, WX3TAZ Secretary/Vice-Chairman SKYWARN Technical Committee NWSFO, Mt. Holly, NJ

ARRL Seeks Partial Reconsideration of Restructuring R&O

The ARRL will seek partial reconsideration on two points in the Amateur Radio license restructuring plan announced by the FCC December 30. Both points involve the way the plan deals with Technician-class licensees. The new FCC rules go into effect April 15.

The League will ask the FCC to continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has passed a Morse code exam to earn Novice/Tech Plus HF privileges. Under the current system, the license class of Technicians is designated by a "T" in the FCC's amateur database, and of Tech Plus licensees by a "P." Under the FCC's restructuring plan, Technician and Tech Plus licensees will all be known simply as "Technician." The ARRL asserts the change will eliminate any easy way to tell which licensees have passed the Morse code exam and which have not.

"We're going to try to persuade the FCC that it made a drastic error in deciding to change all those Ps back to Ts in the database," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ.

The FCC has said that it would be up to Technician licensees, if asked, to prove that they have successfully passed the 5 WPM code test. The ARRL plans to ask the FCC to stipulate that any amateur who provides proof of having passed an FCC-recognized Morse code exam prior to April 15 would be entitled to receive credit for the Morse code exam element when applying for future upgrades. The FCC has indicated to the ARRL that after April 15, code credit for Technician applicants passing the 5 WPM test would not survive beyond the 365-day term of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination--or CSCE.

Under both the present and new rules, anyone who held a Technician license before February 14, 1991, has permanent credit for the Morse code element, but others do not.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved a motion to file the Petition for Partial Reconsideration at its January 22 meeting in Memphis.

via ARRL Bulletin

ARRL Asks FCC to Deny Kenwood Sky Command Petition

via ARRL Bulletin

The League says the FCC should deny a request by the Kenwood Communications Corporation to permit operation of its "Sky Command" system in the 2-meter band.

In December, Kenwood asked the FCC either to declare that Sky Command complies with Commission rules or to waive applicable sections of the rules to make it legal. The ARRL filed comments on Kenwood's petition, DA 99-2805, on January 31.

Sky Command, which lets the user control a fixed HF station via a pair of dual-band transceivers, has been on the market for more than two years. Sky Command operates in full duplex, using a 70-cm frequency to transmit audio and control commands to a dualband transceiver at the remote station and a 2-meter frequency to transmit received audio via the remote station's Sky Command transceiver to the operator's transceiver.

The League maintains that Kenwood's use of a 2-meter frequency would cause amateurs using the system to violate Section 97.201(b), which limits auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz.

In its comments to the FCC, the League said the type of operation employed by the Sky Command System is "clearly auxiliary operation, and as such is not permitted in the 144-148 MHz band." Kenwood had asserted in its petition that the 2-meter link constitutes third-party communications under the immediate monitoring and supervision of a control operator. The League says the rules governing third-party communications in the Amateur Radio Service "relate to the content of messages, not to the technical configuration of the amateur stations."

Citing an already densely populated 2-meter band, the ARRL contends that selection of appropriate frequencies for auxiliary operation is essential to efficient use of the limited frequencies shared by amateur stations.

In addition, the ARRL said carving out an exemption by waiving the rules for Kenwood's product, would amount to "inappropriate favoritism."

In 1986, the FCC turned down a petition to remove frequency restrictions on auxiliary operation. In its comments on the Kenwood petition, the ARRL said the FCC's 1986 rationale for keeping the restriction in effect remains, and nothing has occurred to make 2 meters any more appropriate now.

Comments on the Kenwood petition were due by January 31, 2000. Reply comments are due by February 14, 2000. Commenters should reference DA 99-2805. The full text of the ARRL comments are available off the ARRL web site, http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/arrl-da99-2805.pdf in PDF form.

This is an invitation from W3OI / LVARC to members of W3OK / DLARC to attend W3OI LVARC 2000 Training / Monthly Meeting Topics

Submitted by Dick, KA3MOU

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club Tuesday Meeting Schedule

February 1, 2000 - Regular Meeting @ Red Cross

March 7th, 2000 - Radio Station Tour WLEV 100.7 Meet at Red Cross Tour Starts at 2000 HRS

March 20-26, 2000 - Severe Weather Week - PEMA Drill

April 4th, 2000 - Packet Radio / EMWIN / APRS @ Lehigh County EOC

May 2nd, 2000 - Portable / Emergency HF Operations @ Red Cross With 4299

June 6th, 2000 - Field Day Prep, Antenna Construction @ Red Cross

June 24-25, 2000 - Field Day @ Mack South Side Fire Station (Reserved)

July 4th, 2000 - No Meeting

August 1st, 2000 - Open night at the EOC to operate Radio Equipment

September 5th, 2000 - John Conklin Guest Speaker @ EOC

October 3rd, 2000 - Radio Direction Finding @ Red Cross

November 7th, 2000 - SKYWARN Training @ Red Cross

December 5th, 2000 - Christmas Party @ Red Cross.

Hedy Lamarr, actress and inventor, SK.

Hedy Lamarr, the sultry, sexy screen star of the 1930s and 1940s who also conceived the frequency-hopping technique now known as spread spectrum, has died. Lamarr was found dead in her suburban Orlando, Florida, home January 19. She was believed to be 86.

Born Hedwig Kiesler in Austria, Lamarr came to the US in 1937 after being signed by MGM. Among her most successful films was the 1949, directed Cecil B. DeMille classic, Samson and Delilah.

In her 1992 book Feminine Ingenuity, Lamarr described how she came up with the idea of a signaling device for radio-controlled torpedoes that would minimize the danger of detection or jamming by randomly shifting the frequency. She and composer George Antheil developed the concept and received a patent for it in 1942.

The concept was not developed during World War II, but when the patent expired, Sylvania put the idea to use in satellites. Spread spectrum also has found applications in wireless telephones, military radios, wireless computer links, and Amateur Radio experimentation.

A more-detailed version of Lamarr's role in spread spectrum is described in the IEEE book Spread Spectrum Communications, published in 1983. ***via ARRL Bulletin X001***

ARRL Officer Elections Set Musical Chairs in Motion Kay Craigie, WT3P becomes VP

Officer elections at the January ARRL Board of Directors meeting generated a ripple effect of vacancies within the ARRL hierarchy. The elevation of West Gulf Director Jim Haynie, W5JBP, to the League presidency set off a game of musical chairs that saw Vice Director Coy Day, N5OK, accede to the director's slot, creating a vacancy in the West Gulf Vice Director's chair. Haynie has appointed Dr David A. Woolweaver, K5RAV, of Harlingen, Texas, to be the new Vice Director. Dr Woolweaver is a periodontist in private practice.

Haynie filled vice directors' openings in the Atlantic and Roanoke divisions from within the section manager ranks. **In the Atlantic Division, Director Kay Craigie, WT3P, was elected a Vice President, and Vice Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, moved up to Director.** Western Pennsylvania SM Bill Edgar, N3LLR, has been appointed as the new Atlantic Vice Director. In the Roanoke Division, Director John Kanode, N4MM, was elected a Vice President, and his second-in-command, Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, moved into the top slot. South Carolina SM Leslie Shattuck Sr., K4NK, has been tapped to replace Bodson as Roanoke Vice Director.

Replacing Edgar as Western Pennsylvania SM will be John V. Rodgers, N3MSE, of Butler. In South Carolina, Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, of Richburg will succeed Shattuck.

Bill Edgar, N3LLR, a Tech Plus licensee, recently passed all of the written elements he'll need to upgrade to Amateur Extra when the new FCC licensing rules go into effect April 15.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico will get a new section manager as a result of a resignation. ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, has appointed Victor Madera, KP4PQ, to replace Raul Escobar, KP4ZZ, as Puerto Rico's SM. Escobar stepped down for personal reasons. ***via ARRL Bulletin***

Off The Cuff--(and the record)

by Steve, W4GN

If I were given a dollar for every time I've been asked about my feelings on the FCC's license restructuring, I'd have to buy a new toy. From the DX forums to the VE friends to former club members, the question amazes me. Perhaps because I've been licensed over 45+ years or the fact that I'm a VE or maybe it's just because I'm old and opinionated on some things, I do have a feeling about it. Don't you? Of course. I just guess someone was looking for a wild life-threatening answer from me that they bothered to ask .

I read it, digested it, looked into the future, felt about a hundred different ways, but deep in my heart, this is how I really felt after giving it some time to sink in. You see, I was one of those guys who ,back in the 60's, had a General class license and with the advent of incentive licensing, saw many of my privileges taken away simply because I hadn't held the ticket for more than 25 years. Generals had every band and every mode we knew then to utilize, but for some reason, the ARRL sensed (wrongly--very wrongly, I might add) that we didn't have any incentive to gain extra privileges in our hobby, so...we lost them, and, if we younger hams who lost them wanted them back again, we had to re-study and re-take an additional two classes--Advanced and Extra. Seventeen of my closest friends, very good operators and quite knowledgeable about electronics and the hobby in general, dropped out of the hobby never to return. Only two of us in our club decided to persist. I'm glad I did.

Enter the FCC's action. Time will show us the effect of the proposal, but may I say, I sincerely hope it does what they all hope it does--to bring new blood into the hobby and to provide a new incentive for current hams to up-grade. No one will convince me that you won't have a better time in the hobby after you up-grade. As a VE, please take my advice and up-grade now. The Advanced license exam is more difficult than the current Extra class--much more math. When the new Extra class exam is complete, it will encompass much of the Advanced material along with the Extra class questions. You don't have to worry about the code if you've taken the 5WPM test, so get a good manual and if you have trouble with using the manual only, try the VIS study cards to complement it. They provide an almost fool-proof method of study and it's really quick-learning material.

For those, like me, who hold the Extra class license, I hope we can treat all of the new hams with class and make them feel at home. They'll need some help along the way, as did we all, and they'll want to know procedures and proper etiquette. We just need to lead by example. You probably remember your first contacts on the air. It was thrilling but there was also the worry and hope that folks wouldn't look down on you or, worse, ignore you. Yes, we were here first, but we won't be here forever, and those younger people need to understand that they will be tomorrow's future. Really, it's just a matter of common sense and to realize that we need to treat them as we'd want to be treated.

One of the reasons I like to work DX so much is to provide international goodwill. I got to thinking about that the other day and found myself with a simple thought--international good will begins at home. If someone breaks into one of my QSOs with a question or comment, I always have answered them. Now I'm not talking about the occasional person who has to make an unidentified comment to interrupt the entire conversation. There are misfits everywhere. I mean if you and I are having a talk on the street corner and someone comes up to us and busts in with profanity, well....anyone who knows me understands what's coming his way.But I ran across a situation on 17 meters a few weeks ago that still has me wondering. I was in a 4-way QSO and a fellow broke in with an audio problem and needed a check from us. Though not everyone could hear him as well as I, we tried to straighten it out for him. Then before he left, he said to me, "Thank you very much for being kind enough to let me in. I've tried to get reports and help on this from several other hams but they either ignored me or ran me off. "It's not in my vocabulary to be able to tell you how that statement made me feel at that moment, but I must tell you that it is planted firmly in my heart. No matter how many new hams cross my path, no matter how many up-grades are done, they will still ALL be amateur radio operators to me, for the future is theirs and I can only hope to provide a little spark to light the way for them to enjoy the experiences with which I've been blessed and reveled in all these years. ***73 de Steve, W4GN.***

(Steve was a member of the DLARC when the membership was about twenty. He still remains a member even though he's since moved to southern Alabama along the central Gulf coast.).

Dues are due:

If your **DUES** are not paid by **MARCH 2, 2000** membership will be terminated.

Reinstatement to membership after the MARCH meeting, you will have to fill out and application to be reinstated for membership.

by Dick, KA3MOU

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

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

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

RICHARD A DECH / KA3MOU

120 MCILHANEY AVENUE

BATH PA 18014-1612

Any questions about dues you can call me at

610 837-1585.,

de Dick KA3MOU Treasurer

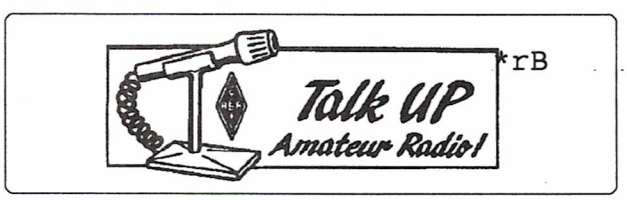
Editor goof

by Clarence, W3PYF

In the February issue I missed the name of a club member who upgraded at the February VE test Session.

It was **Skip Kauffman K3ZTJ,** who came in as a **General** then upgraded to **Advanced**, and then took the code and theory and ended up as an **Extra,** all in the same night.

Great job Skip.



Take Your Radio Overseas

by Jim KB3BYU

In March I will have the privilege of traveling to Ireland to watch my son Joe, and the rest of the award-winning William Allen High School marching band, perform in the St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. In addition to the opportunity I'll have to watch the band and do some genealogical research, I'm really looking forward to taking along my 2 meter HT to enjoy some "short skip DX" on the local repeaters in Dublin and Limerick.

Previously, getting permission to operate your radio in a foreign country was an involved and often an expensive process that had to be repeated for each country you visited. But all of that has changed if you are traveling to a country participating in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). As a U.S. amateur, you can now operate in all of these participating European countries without obtaining special licenses, and best of all, at no cost.

There are two classes of CEPT licenses available to U.S. amateurs. Class 1 requires knowledge of the international Morse code, and carries all operating privileges available in the host country. U.S. licenses classes of Technician Plus and higher qualify for a Class 1 CEPT license. The Class 2 CEPT license does not require knowledge of code, and carries operating privileges available in the host country above 30 MHZ. The codeless Technician operator's licenses will qualify you for this class. The U.S. novice license is not eligible for any CEPT operating privileges.

When traveling in a participating CEPT country you must carry the following documents and show them to any proper authorities upon request: 1. Your Original FCC license. 2. Proof of U.S. citizenship (your passport), and 3. A copy of the FCC's June 7, 1999 Public Notice which contains information in English, French and German. While operating under a CEPT license, you are only permitted to use either mobile or portable mode. No fixed base operations are permitted.

So if your future plans include taking a trip to Europe, bring your radio along and add a new dimension to your travels. You'll meet other people who share your interest in the hobby and have a richer experience than the average tourist. You can find information about CEPT operations as well as rules governing other countries by going to http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/io/index.html.

I'm looking forward to experiencing the beauty of Ireland and experiencing the legendary hospitality of the Irish people. I'll give you a report of my adventures in the newsletter after I return. Even with all of the sight seeing and other activities we have planned for the trip, I still plan on taking time to go to the pub. After all, both the HT and I will need time to recharge our batteries. ***de Jim, KB3BYU***

FCC probes California ARRL-VEC test session

The FCC is investigating possible irregularities in a Huntington Park, California, **ARRL-VEC** examination session late last summer. In separate letters on January 28, 2000, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth posed a series of questions to the three Volunteer Examiners listed on the manifest for the September 12, 1999, session--Moises Morales, KB6QMR, of Garden Grove; Juan Huitron, AC6HK, of Santa Ana; and Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, of Whittier.

In his letter, Hollingsworth noted "several irregularities regarding the examinations" and requested the VEs provide specific details regarding several Form 610 packages submitted following the session. None of the 20 applicants in question at the September 12, 1999, session has been issued an Amateur Radio license.

The FCC asked for an explanation of missing and/or incorrectly graded Morse code and written examination documents. The FCC also asked each of the VEs whether he signed the documents in question; whether he authorized anyone to sign on his behalf and, if so, whom he authorized; whether he was present for the September 12, 1999, examination session at Huntington Park or any part of it; and his involvement, if any, in the examination session. The FCC also wants to know why 19 of the 20 applicants cited missed Question 5 of the Morse code examination.

The VEs were given 30 days to reply to the FCC. The ARRL-VEC is cooperating in the FCC investigation..

The ARRL Letter

FCC gives Morse element credit to exipred novice

Anyone who ever held a Novice ticket--expired or otherwise--will be able to claim credit for Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code examination, under revised Amateur Radio licensing rules going into effect April 15. The change was included in the version of the FCC's restructuring rules, published February 10 in The Federal Register.

The change affects Section 97.505(a)(5) of the rules that spells out element credit. That sentence now says: "An expired or unexpired FCC-granted Novice Class operator license grant: Element 1."

The rules already give Element 1 credit for those holding an expired or unexpired FCC-issued Technician Class operator license document granted before February 14, 1991, as well as to applicants possessing an FCC-issued commercial radiotelegraph operator license or permit that's valid or expired less than 5 years.

There's no indication, however, that the FCC intends to extend Element 1 credit to applicants who once held any other FCC-issued licenses now expired, including Tech Plus, General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra.

Because of other anomalies in the new rules, the ARRL is recommending for now that holders of Novice or Tech Plus licenses retain their license documents or copies in the event they need to claim Element 1 credit when upgrading under the new rules. When renewed after April 15, 2000, Technician Plus licenses will come back stamped "Technician," and the FCC has said it does not plan to keep track of which Technicians have Morse code element credit and which do not.

The FCC also has indicated to the ARRL that post-April 15 Technicians who subsequently qualify for HF operation by passing Element 1 will retain element credit for upgrading purposes only for 365 days--the term of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination--not permanently, although this will not affect their ongoing Novice/Technician HF privileges. Without a change in the rules, affected Technicians attempting to upgrade more than a year after passing Element 1 would have to retake the Morse code examination.

The ARRL plans to file a petition for partial reconsideration asking the FCC to continue to keep track of which Technicians have Morse code element credit and which do not. The League also will ask the FCC to make Element 1 credit permanent for post-April 15 Technicians who successfully pass the Morse exam.

The ARRL Letter

Keep up to date with our radio club, make it a habit to call in on the RACES, ARES DLARC Nets on Sunday @0930 hrs an Wed @1930 Try to make it...

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate to the DLARC, RACES & ARES nets on
146.70 and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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==1999-2000==

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CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to *(w3pyf @aol.com}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
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