Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

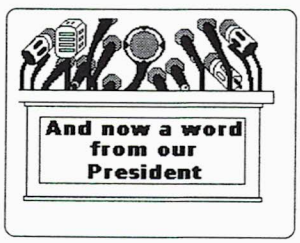
MARCH 2003

# Meeting on March 6 at Gracedale

## The Prez Sez

*by Jeff, N3QZT*

Hello everyone, It looks like winter is almost over and spring is just around the corner. This means outside stuff. It could be anything from antenna work to helping out with any of the various special events that are coming up. Make plans to get involved with the club this year.




The club has a new Program Chairman, Bill / KA3RBH. Bill is all fired up and I am sure will do an excellent job. But you can help him do this better if you provide some ideas for programs and maybe even take part in one. Please contact Bill and lend him a hand.

I have received numerous complaints about how the forum is being used and we (the Executive Board) feel that some guide lines are necessary. A guide line for the DLARC forum is being put together and will be published in an upcoming newsletter as well and the web site and read at a meeting. These will be suggested ways that the DLARC forum can be used, but the final say will come from the custodian of our forum.

The next meeting of the DLARC is going to be held at the new **911 center located on the Gracedale complex**. The meeting will consist of the normal business meeting followed by a tour of the center. This is a great time to do this as the center is not yet open, but it will be soon so all of the equipment and radios will be there. So plan on coming to this exciting meeting.

***de Jeff, N3QZT President***

## Weather Drill:

*by Dick, KA3MOU Radio Officer*

On **Thursday March 20th,** there will be a **State Wide Weather Drill**. Nick Tylenda, Northampton County, Emergency Management Coordinator, has request operators from the Club to help with this drill.




We will need 4 Amateur Radio Operators. You should report to Gracedale Complex by 8:30 AM. The drill is usually finished by noon. Things you will need for the drill: a HT radio with spare batteries, paper, pencil. Upon arriving at Gracedale you will be assigned your location. Contact me, Dick Dech, KA3MOU, if you can help with this drill. There will check ins taken from home and mobile during the drill.

***de Dick KA3MOU***

## March meetings location change

### "Visit Northampton County's New 911 Communications Center"

The March DLARC Club meeting will be held at the new Northampton County 911 Communication Center.

After the meeting we will be shown the new center. The center is to open in mid march so this is a good time to go through the center before the center is open. Come and see the latest in technology. ***de Barry, N3NVA***

**Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

**Income & Loss Statement**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Balance 12/31/02** | | **6,304.00** |
| **INCOME** | | |
| Class Materials, Books | $29.00 | |
| Club Dues | 1,266.00 | |
| Donation Income 50-50 | 26.00 | |
| Interest Checking 1/15 | 8.18 | |
| | --- | |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | **$1,329.18** |
| **EXPENSES** | | |
| Field Day 6/28-29 | $125.00 | |
| Newsletters Jan. & Feb. | 92.75 | |
| Picnic, Northampton County Parks | 45.00 | |
| Postage Permit & Stamps | 107.00 | |
| Telephone 1/15/03 - 2/14/03 | 20.48 | |
| | --- | |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | | **$390.23** |
| **Balance 1/31/03** | | **$7,242.95** |

***de,Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer***

**Dues Reminder for 2003.**

This could be your last newsletter. You already missed being in the club directory.

If your DUES are not paid by FEBRUARY 6, 2003 membership will be terminated. Reinstatement to membership by the MARCH meeting will be accepted without penalty. Thereafter, reinstatement application shall be the same as for a new member.

Dues Reminder for 2003 Dues are due. Check your mailing label. If the label has EXP. 12/31/02 your dues are PAST DUE. Dues are as follows:

**Membership 18-65 years of age Jan. - Dec. $17.00**
**July - Dec. $8.50**

**Under 17 years, 65 or over or Retired (no age limit). Jan. - Dec. $12.00**
**July - Dec. $6.00**

**Additional family member, each $3.00**

**Associate Membership $10.00**

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**

If you have any questions about dues, you can call Dick / KA3MOU at 610-837-1585.

***de Dick Treasurer of DLARC W3OK***

## Just the Minutes

***by Jill N3ZSR***

President Jeff Keller, N3QZT called the February 6th club meeting to order at 7:30 PM, with 34 members and 1 guest present.



The January minutes was approved with a motion from Bud, W3BUD and seconded by Bill, N3CP.

The Treasurer's Report for January was approved with a motion from Barry, KB3FMI and Seconded by Norm, K3NZ.

Barry, N3NVA reported that the Oakland machine will be PL'ed sometime soon. The County tower should be done shortly. There was weather and equipment delays.

The March general meeting will be held at the new 911 center.

VE session has 4 people registered.

The milk house is going well.

Jeff welcomed the following guest to the meeting: **Bob, WA3MGN**

The following new member was voted in:

**Dorothy Navarre, N3WPM** on a motion from Dick, KA3MOU and 2nd by Barry, KB3FMI

**Thomas Slapinsky, KB3IUE** on a motion from Ken, N3IYX and 2nd by Bill, KA3RBH

**Steve Klaver**, No call on a motion from Don, KA3JWE and 2nd by Dave N3EYT

**Scott Thompson, N3EUS** on a motion from Barry, KB3FMI and 2nd by Bob, N3OLH

The following applications will be voted on at the March meeting: **Bob, WA3MGN**

Bill, KA3RBH our new program chairman talked about what we want to see in programs.

MS Walks for next year:

April 6, Hugh Moore Park - Easton

May 4th, Lehigh Parkway - Allentown

**The program for the evening was presented by Norm, K3NZ and Lamar, N3AT on Rock Mites.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM on a motion from Barry, N3NVA and seconded by Ken, N3IYX.

***de Jill, N3ZSR, Secretary***

## Food For Thought

***Submitted by Bob, N3OLH***

**This ought to boggle your mind, I know it did mine!**

The year is 1902 , one hundred years ago ... what a difference a century makes. Here are the U.S. statistics for 1902: The average life expectancy in the US was forty-seven (47).

Only 14 Percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour.

The average US worker made between $200 and $400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn $2000 per year, a dentist $2,500 per year, a veterinarian between $1,500 and $4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about $5,000 per yr.

More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.

Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo. Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason. The five leading causes of death in the US were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

There were no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

One in ten US adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

Eighteen percent of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic.

There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire US. Just think what it will be like in another 100 years. It boggles the mind.....

### QUIZ FOR DLARC NEWSLETTER READERS.

1. Did you inform prospective hams that DLARC new ham classes will soon begin?

2. Did YOU know that classes will begin soon?

3. Did you read about the upcoming classes in the February issue of the DLARC newsletter?

4. If you read it in the newsletter did you notice that March 2 was the start date listed? And did you then realize that March 2 is on Sunday?

Sorry 'bout that. The actual start date for the first class is **Monday March 3,** and it's not too late to have your interested friends register for the classes by calling me at **610.432-8286** or e-mailing me at **ke3aw@arrl.net.**

***de Bob,KE3AW***

## Something to think about

***supplied by Vic, N3IQD***

A piece of history Who said history was boring?. Next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be..

. Here are some facts about the 1500s (in merry ole England): Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June.

However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children - last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it -- hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water." Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath.

It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof - hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed - hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

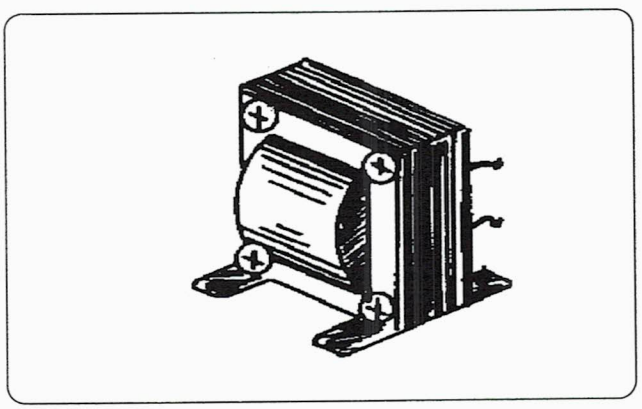
The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside, A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway -- hence, a "thresh hold." In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while - hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust." Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up hence the custom of holding a "wake." England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer." And that's the truth ... Who said that History was boring? .



## New League brocure targets kids

A colorful, new, kid-tested ham radio brochure is available from ARRL Headquarters. "Leap into Amateur Radio" aims at an elementary school audience and introduces youngsters to the hobby.

"Amateur Radio is an exciting hobby that lets you meet new people of all ages--and have a great time!" the full-color, tri-fold flier emphasizes. "Getting started is easy!"

Field and Educational Support Team Leader Mary Lau, N1VH, headed the team that produced the flier. She cited two objectives in its design. "There was a desire to specifically target 8 to 11 year olds," she said, "as well as the need to supply a youth-oriented handout to replace the Archie's Ham Radio Adventure comic book that is no longer published."

The brochure is comprised of colorful graphics, photos of kids operating and several boxes of basic text explaining what Amateur Radio is and does. There's also space on the back for local clubs or organizations to affix their contact information, so that children and their families can get more information about the hobby. The back panel also includes a blurb about ARRL and gives its e-mail address.

On the "What is Amateur Radio" page right inside the tri-fold brochure is a brief explanation of what Amateur Radio is. "Anyone can be a ham--no matter what age, sex or physical ability," the flier points out. Accompanying the text are photos of youngsters--a boy and a girl--on the air. Fully open, the flier presents four capsules of information about Amateur Radio:

* How ham radio and wireless technologies fit into lives that include cell phones and the Internet.

* The several modes hams use to communicate with each other--including voice, computer, and even telegraph key.

* The various types of operating activities available--including public service and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

* How simple it is to get started in Amateur Radio and whom to contact.

Assisting the in the project were ARRL Educational Program Coordinator Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS; Educational Correspondent Marjorie Bourgoin, KB1DCO, and Field and Educational Services Assistant Linda Mullally, KB1HSV.

After assembling the material for the flier and putting together a prototype, Lau and her staff got the brochure into the hands of a number of area youngsters for some product testing. The children offered a few ideas to make the handout even more appealing, she said. Arizona-based graphic artist Cameo Hill did the final layout and design.

"Leap into Amateur Radio" will become available in mid-February--free of charge and in limited quantities of up to 25 fliers--to any Amateur Radio operator or amateur club. Lau said the only cost will be for shipping. The brochure is now available as an Acrobat PDF file via the ARRL Web site< **http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/materials/Leap-into-AR.pdf>.**

To order copies of the brochure, interested clubs or individuals should contact Linda Mullally, KB1HSV, lmullally@arrl.org; 860-594-0292.

***via ARRL Letter***

## New FCC consumer e-mail service now available

***via ARRL Bulletin***

The FCC has inaugurated a new e-mail service, The FCC Consumer E-Bulletin, to let consumers know about FCC developments, to disseminate FCC consumer information and to invite comments on FCC regulatory proposals.

Those signing up can expect to receive FCC fact sheets, consumer brochures and alerts, news releases, public notices, notices of proposed rulemaking, reports and orders, and other consumer-related information. The Consumer Education Office in the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) operates the free service.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to ***subscribe@info.fcc.gov***. On either the subject line or in the message body, type "subscribe fcc-consumer-info <first name> <last name>". If you encounter difficulties subscribing, send an e-mail to lneely@fcc.gov.



## "Repeater Usage"

*by Barry, N3NVA*

I have noticed that we are becoming sloppy on our club repeater system. We need to wait for the beep to allow the controller to reset its 3 minute timer and to allow other people time to ID, enter a conversation or break in if there's an emergency. The repeater ID's every 10 minutes. If you hear the repeater ID then you should also ID at that time to comply with the 10-minute rule.




Some of you may not understand how the repeater controller timer works. The repeater controller has a 3 minute timer (Time-Out-Timer) which protects the system from remaining on-the-air for a long period of time, such as when a user has a stuck PTT button. This type of situation could keep the repeater keyed-up for hours until the source radio was located. The timer starts its 3 minutes when the repeater is keyed and continues until you un-key and the courtesy tone (BEEP) is heard. If you don't wait for the beep when it's your turn to talk you risk timing out the repeater and whatever you are saying will not be heard. Once the repeater is un-keyed and the courtesy tone is heard the timer resets and starts over again allowing the next person 3 minutes of talk time.

As a reminder, please hang your mobile microphone in a mic hanger. Some of you are setting your mics in your console, cup holder or on the seat which allows the mic PTT button to be accidentally depressed, tying up the repeater until it un-keys. Get a mic hanger and use it.

Also, I would like to keep using the CW override feature on the repeater. However, if you continually key up over the voice ID and cause the repeater to default to CW, I will have to set the controller to voice ID only with no interrupt. So please try to wait for the beep and don't talk on top of the voice ID which may contain important messages, notices or announcements. This will also cut the audio from the links.

Next, when you initiate any DTMF control functions such as dropping the PL, please ID first. A control operator will interrupt or cancel your function if we don't hear your call sign. For example, "N3NVA dropping the PL", is all that is required. And please, if you drop the PL to Carrier Squelch, remember to return it to PL when you are done.

And finally, try to remember to wait a second before you begin talking after pressing your PTT to allow the system to open the audio line to the transmitter. Also the voting receivers need time to vote and pass audio. Some of us have HT's that have a battery saver feature which delays receive audio before opening the squelch. Others have radios that have PL decode enabled and need time to process the carrier for PL and open their squelch. How many times have we all heard "_ _ _ RDF listening"? You are cutting the beginning off of every transmission.

So, let's all try to improve our operating habits and improve repeater etiquette.

***de Barry, N3NVA***

## From Emergency Management Sheriffs Office Northampton County

### Training Program, Incident Command System (ICS).

In Conjunction with the Northampton County College and Fire School we are pleased to announce that we have scheduled an initial offering of six IC courses. The 16-hour course is modeled after the nationally recognized National Fire Academy Plan.

A state certificate will be issued to individuals completing the course.

Incident Command is a formalized management tool that can be utilized throughout the County and elsewhere. IC management principles include the safety of personnel, coordination of incident activities, clear lines of authority and communication, effectiveness of resources, unity of command and a manageable span of control.

We have offered a variety of dates to accommodate the wide range of schedules. There is no cost for this course. To register please contact the office of **Mr. Nick Tylenda, at 610-759-2600 or Dick Dech, KA3MOU, at ka3mou@enter.net,** or **610-837-1585**. Please note the deadlines for registration.

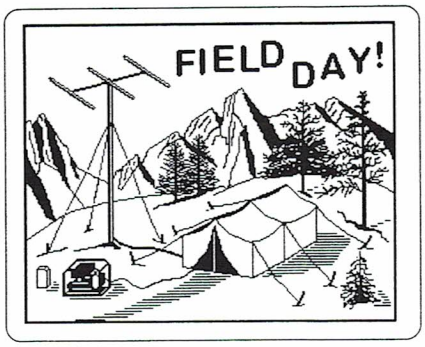
**INCIDENT COMMAND COURSES**

**Course Number 1,** Feb. Wed. 19 & 26, Sunday, March 2nd. Location, Washington Township Fire Dept. Registration Deadline Feb. 14, 2003

***Continued on Page 7***

## Field Day gets a new entry class

Field Day will gain another entry class for the 2003 running of this highly popular operating event June 28-29. "Class F" stations will operate at emergency operations centers--or EOCs. The change renews the emphasis of Field Day's 1933 origins as an emergency preparedness exercise as opposed to a routine contest--what former ARRL Communications Manager F. E. Handy, W1BDI, called "a test of the emergency availability of portable stations and equipment." In Handy's view, Field Day would focus attention "on the subject of 'preparedness' for communications emergencies."




ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says the League last year received a record 2110 Field Day entries from groups and individuals. That represented a total of almost 35,000 participants who joined in what Henderson called "a great tradition."

Given the increased emphasis on emergency communications since September 11, 2001, Henderson says, the ARRL Board's Membership Services Committee asked that the Contest Branch come up with a way to accommodate stations wanting to operate from the local EOC. The new Class F station, operating from an EOC, is the result.
"This is a major change," Henderson said. "Class F has been established to encourage groups to test and further their working relationships with established emergency operations centers." The updated rules and a list of frequently asked questions in the new 2003 Field Day Packet< http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms> spell out the details.

A Class F entry station must set up at an "established EOC" activated by a club or non-club group. An EOC is defined as a facility established by a federal, state, county, city or other civil governmental agency or administrative entity or by a chapter of a national or international served agency. The latter could include the American Red Cross or The Salvation Army, with which the Field Day group "has an established operating arrangement." Class F EOC operation must take place in cooperation with the EOC staff. Class F stations are eligible for the same bonus points as Class A stations.

There's also been what Henderson called "some tweaking" in the rules for Field Day 2003. Among the highlights, the rules reduce from 400 to 100 the number of QSOs that the "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station needs to make to claim a 100-point bonus. "GOTA stations still may work up to a maximum of 400 QSOs to go towards the main station's score," Henderson said.

In addition, the 2003 rules enhance the bonus for having an invited official visit the Field Day site. There are now two separate bonus categories--100 points for the elected official and another 100 points for a visit by a representative of a served agency.

Henderson reminds Field Day participants that stations do not get additional bonus points for contacting stations through additional satellites. As of the 2002 event, Field Day opened up to stations throughout the Americas, not just in the US and Canada.

encourages participants to post their Field Day experiences and photographs to the Field Day Online
**soapbox< http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/>..**

***via ARRL Letter***

***Continued from Page 6***

## EMA Programs

**Course Number 2,** March 7, 14, 21 & 28. Location, Northampton Community College, 8:30 am – 12:30 PM, College Center (CC) Room 220. Registration Deadline March 3, 2003.

**Course Number 3,** March 22, Sat. & Sunday March 23. Location, Northampton Regional EMS. Registration Deadline March 17, 2003.

**Course Number 4,** March 18 & 25, Tuesday, March 29, Sunday. Location, Gracedale. Registration Deadline March 12, 2003.

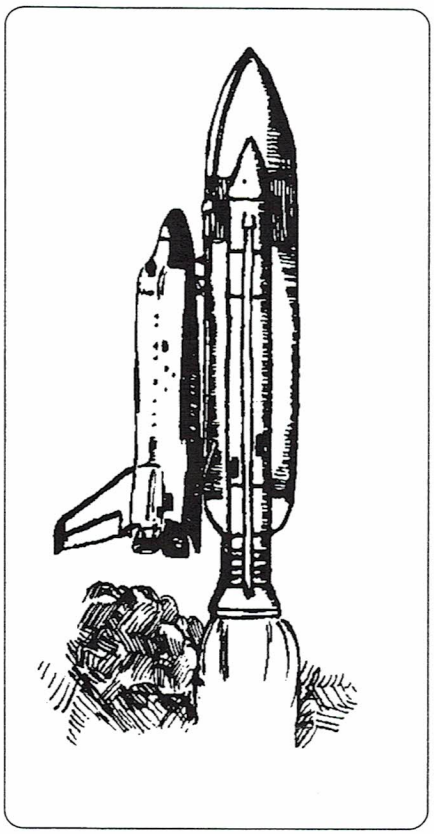
**Course Number 5,** April 3, 10 17 & 24, Thursday. Location, Gracedale. Registration Deadline March 28, 2003.

**Course Number 6**, May 4, Sunday, May 5 & 12, Monday. Location, Gracedale. Registration Deadline April 29, 2003. EVENING SESSIONS – 6:30 pm – 10:30 PM DAY SESSIONS (SAT. & SUNDAY) – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENCE FOR TRAINING SESSION 2

***de Dick, KA3MOU***

## Hams assist in search for Columbia debris

In Texas, Amateur Radio Emergency Service and SKYWARN volunteers have been assisting federal, state and local officials and relief organizations in their search for shuttle Columbia debris and remains of the crew members.



"Ham radio has proven to be the only reliable communications options during the recovery effort," said Public Information Officer Tim Lewallen, KD5ING, of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. "The communications systems used by other federal and state organizations cannot penetrate 'The Pine Curtain' as we know it in East Texas," he said. He said even local authorities were having problems with their radio gear.

Lewallen says federal authorities have requested that every survey team have at least one Amateur Radio operator along to help keep the recovery efforts coordinated and organized.

Lewallen also cited the reliability of EchoLink connections among the various groups as key to getting the operation up and running and keeping it running smoothly. He suggested that prospective volunteers visit the North Texas Section Web site <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=NTX> for additional information.

Alan Hayes, NE5AH, in the ARRL South Texas Section said February 6 that hams were urgently needed to assist in the search and recovery effort in the San Augustine County area east of Lufkin, site of the debris search command center at the Department of Public Safety. Hayes said a substantial amount of the debris recovery yet to be done--he estimates 50 percent--is in San Augustine County, which has few active hams. Debris from the Columbia has been recovered in more than three dozen Texas counties, and the search now has moved into parts of Arizona and California.

"We currently have the infrastructure and portable repeaters in place, thanks to all of the volunteer efforts from outside of our area," Hayes said. Volunteers have been making use of a portable repeater donated by the Garland Amateur Radio Club and set up at in San Augustine.

To date, Amateur Radio has proven to be the only reliable communications in this area of operations, and approximately 25 operators per day have been needed," Hayes concluded. "Thus far, alternative communications from sources other than Amateur Radio have not been successful."

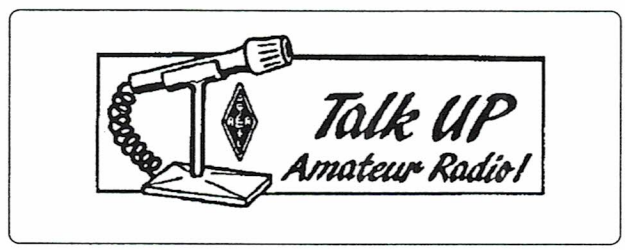
Hayes says that two dozen or more operators are needed each day, and he expects that need to continue for the next three weeks. Prospective volunteers may get in touch with South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Bob Ehrhardt, W5ZX <w5zx@yahoo.com>.

Other agencies involved in the effort include the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Transportation, the FBI, local law enforcement and fire departments and National Guard units from Texas and elsewhere. Relief organizations include the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Texas Baptist Men's Kitchen. The Salvation Army also has been using Amateur Radio for its communication needs.

Hams also assisted students and staffers from the Humanities Undergraduate Environmental Sciences (HUES) Geographic Information Systems and Forestry Resources Institute labs at Stephen F. Austin State University.

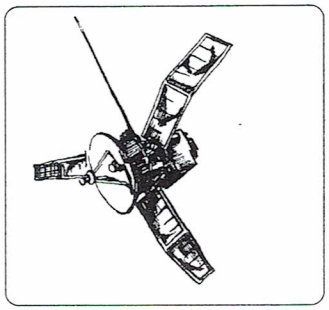
Several amateurs in Texas reported hearing a reverberating, rumbling sound as the Columbia broke up above them and debris began to rain down on the landscape. "Very scary," said Ralston Gober, W5ZNN, of Corsicana, Texas. "It shook the heck out of my house and shack!".

***The ARRL Letter***



## ISS Crew comments publicly on Columbia
## Digs in for possible long stay

The members of the all-ham crew onboard the International Space Station said this week that while they grieve the loss of the shuttle Columbia crew, human space exploration must continue and they're ready to spend up to a year in space if necessary. The ISS crew made its first public comments since the February 1 shuttle disaster in two news conferences this week.



My first reaction was pure shock," Expedition 6 crew commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, told reporters February 11, when asked about how he felt when he heard the news that Columbia and her crew were lost. "I was numb and could not believe that it was happening." During serial briefings February 12 with CNN, ABC, CBS and NBC, Bowersox and his crew reiterated their resolve to stay the course, remaining in space for up to a year if necessary.

Bowersox said that once it became unlikely that there were any survivors from the Columbia catastrophe, "we discussed all of the different options for how it would affect us." He said he was confident that the crew would have a way to get home. "We've got a Soyuz vehicle parked right outside," he said.

Pettit--who had played chess via radio and e-mail with Columbia pilot Willie McCool during the Columbia STS-107 science mission--said he's hoped the crew somehow had made it safely to the ground. He said the magnitude of the tragedy hit him when the ISS crew realized that there were no survivors. "I'm the type that likes to grieve quietly and in private," he said February 12.

Budarin said he's comfortable with staying in orbit as long as necessary, now that NASA has indefinitely grounded the shuttle fleet. The Russian cosmonaut told a CBS reporter that he has experienced seven months in orbit before aboard Mir, and that he's hoping for a good landing back on Earth--whether via the US space shuttle or the Russian Soyuz escape vehicle that's attached to the space station.

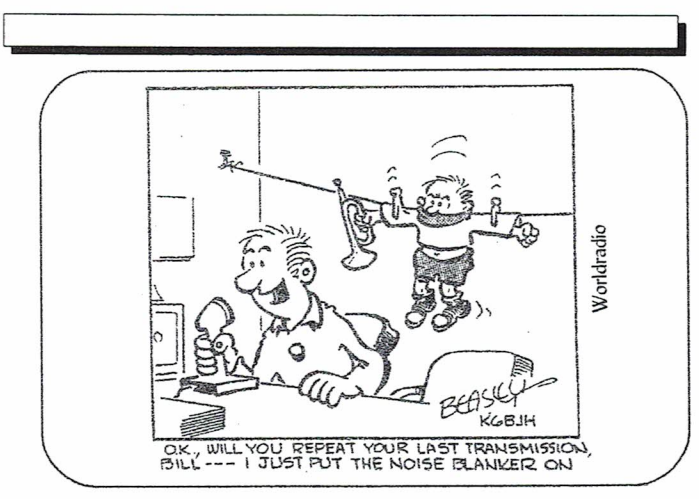
Bowersox said the crew was happy to stay aboard the ISS. "We like it aboard space station," he said. "We're going to enjoy however many months we have to stay on orbit." Bowersox said February 12 the crew did not feel isolated and had plenty of contact with family and friends and that, while not operating at peak efficiency, the crew members would continue to move forward with the "serious tasks" ahead of them. "We'll be working through that grieving process for the rest of the time we're here, I think."

Pettit, the Expedition 6 science officer, said the crew's work schedule has suffered from the effects of the Columbia tragedy. "But now, it looks like we'll have plenty of time to finish all that we have remaining on our task list." he added.

Said that cutting the crew size would hurt scientific research because the crew would spend a lot more of its time just maintaining the ISS. But, he pointed out, research into how humans cope physiologically in space would continue and would make the risk of human spaceflight worthwhile. "This is a matter where you can decide as a society can decide to lead the way, step aside or follow," Pettit told NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw. Space exploration is "an investment in your future, and, as such, you can't let a setback stop your exploration activities."

The Expedition 6 crew has been aboard the ISS since November and was scheduled to return to Earth aboard the shuttle Atlantis in March. Unmanned Progress cargo rockets, including one that docked February 4, are providing fuel and supplies. On February 11, the crew used the Progress to boost the stations' orbit by about six miles (the ISS is approximately 250 miles above Earth). The crew reportedly has sufficient provisions to last at least until June. A Soyuz taxi crew is scheduled to visit the ISS in April to drop off a new Soyuz capsule and return the one now attached to the ISS..

***The ARRL Letter***



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146.70 and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
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The Nets are held on Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
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TALK IN ON 146.70
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