Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2004

Meeting March 4th at IU20

DLARC's Amateur Radio License Preparation Classes Start March 9

by Bob, KE3AW

The series of 9 free Tuesday evening classes will begin on March 9th at Gracedale, 7 - 9 pm each evening. We are looking for people who are interested in becoming hams to know that we can help them not only in passing the VE through better knowledge and understanding of the topics being tested, but also to be better amateur radio operators when they earn their license.

Remember, we've had successful students from age 8 to 80+!

continued on page 4

Weather Drill

By Dick, KA3MOU

We will be having a weather drill on Wednesday, March 17th at Gracedale. I will need 4 operators for this drill. We will set up net control at the milk house using the club's repeater. If I get enough operators we will have 1 operator at the 911 Center. You should be at Gracedale by 8:30 A.M. The drill should be finished around noon. Contact Dick / KA3MOU or Jeff / N3QZT by E-mail or on the club's repeater if you can help with the weather drill.

73 de, Dick, KA3MOU

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM

Spring is in the air, well, almost. As I write this, we are in the midst of a virtual heat wave - the temperature yesterday was in the 40's and today we are in the upper 30's - break out the sun screen! Speaking of weather, March is the time of year that a Weather Drill is held at Gracedale. This year, the weather drill will be on Wednesday, March 17th from 8:30 AM to about noon. If you can help with this drill, contact Dick [KA3MOU], or Jeff [N3QZT] by email or on the club repeater.



The DLARC License Preparation Classes will be starting on March 9th this year. As in the past, these free classes welcome anyone interested in becoming an FCC licensed amateur radio operator. (Licensed hams are always welcome to sit in, too.) They offer both theory and Morse code instruction. Please pass the word to friends, family, and acquaintances who might be interested.

We are still in need of someone to volunteer to coordinate the amateur radio volunteers that are willing to help with the MS events. This position will take some time and work, but it is a vital position, and there are many in the club that will help whoever takes over this responsibility and position. If you are interested in finding out more, see one of the board members. This year's MS Events are:

- Sunday, April 18, 2004 – MS Walk - Hugh Moore Canal Park, Easton, PA
- Sunday, May 2, 2004 – MS Walk - Rose Garden Pavilions, Allentown, PA
- June 12-13, 2004 - MS150 PA Dutch Bike Tour

Every fourth weekend in June (June 26-27 this year) the ARRL's Field Day Event takes place. This year, as in years past, DLARC will be participating in this event, joining thousand of amateurs across the United States. Skip, K3CC, is this year's Field Day Chairman – Thank-you, Skip, for taking on this responsibility! Skip has already started the process of organizing this event through email and the DLARCforum. Please make sure that you take the time to let Skip know where you can help out.

The date for this year's DLARC Club Picnic has been set for September 12, 2004. This year we will again be at Louise Moore Park, but this year we will have the large pavilion (Pavilion 5), which will hold 300 people! Start making plans now for a great picnic! If you are interested in organizing this event, or helping out with it, please contact one of the board members.

de Bryan, AA3WM

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU

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

Balance 12/31/04	$6,343.52
INCOME	
Club Dues	$1,008.00
Donation Income 50-50	$27.50
Gift Received Anonymous	$4.00
Interest Checking	$5.72
TOTAL INCOME	$1,045.22
EXPENSES	
Field Day June 26-27	$125.00
Picnic September 12	$100.00
Postage	$107.00
Refund Harry Buchin Overpayment Dues	$5.00
Supplies Bryan Williams Frame	$7.41
Telephone	$17.78
TOTAL EXPENSES	$362.19
Balance 1/31/04	**$7,026.55**

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

By Charles, KB3DEA



DLARC General Meeting
February 5,2004

Bryan AA3WM called the meeting to order at 7:32PM (Secretary late to arrive)

January minutes

- No changes
  - 1st Jeff N3QZT
  - 2nd Bill N2DH
  - Accepted

Treasurer Report

- Dick Dech KA3MOU
  - start 6343.52
  - income 1045.22
  - pd out 362.19
  - balance 7026.55 (1-31-04)
  - No Changes
  - 1st Tom KB3IUE
  - 2nd Ken N3IYX
  - Accepted

Web/Repeater

- Adding a receiver
- Converting W3PYF repeaters
- Hooking up weather alert
- Hang up your mics
- George N3SQD there may be some problems running the web site with physical changes being made by the provider.

VE Session

- No registrants

Dues

- Tonight (2-5-04) last chance to pay 2004 dues - after tonight (2-5-04) you need to re-apply and go thru voting in process.

Club Station

- Getting cables together (foot pedals, ear phones etc.)
- ARRL phone contest - club station will be on the air, please volunteer to help (March 6&7)

WX3MAS

- No report on the event
- Charlie KB3DEA & Brad KB3JXQ displayed event certificate to be sent out

License Classes

- Classes start on March 8 and run for 9 weeks

Visitors to meeting

- Dave KB3FWU (filled out application for membership and had first reading)
- John N3KGO

Vote for membership approval

- MOTION TO ACCEPT APPLICANTS AS A GROUP by Bill N2DH
- 2nd Bryan AA3WM
- Accepted
- As a group: Louis KF2WO, Richard KB3KIO and Victor N2OFF
- 1st George N3SQD
- 2nd Dave N3EYT
- Accepted

MS Events

- CHAIRPERSON IS STILL NEEDED FOR THE EVENTS

DLARC Picnic

- CHAIRPERSON IS STILL NEEDED

Field day

- Skip K3CC has volunteered to chair the event
- wants to run three crews (antennas, operators and cleanup)
- Field day is June 26 & 27
- Questions/Comments/Observations contact Skip - K3CC@fast.net
- Food covered dishes potluck style by all participants

Milk house work party

- Saturday February 21
- Cleanup and paint club station in time for March ARRL contest
- Questions/Comments/Observations contact Barry N3NVA or Charlie KB3DEA, contact info on back of news letter

BPL

- Bill K3ANS reminded the club to not be lackadaisical about its approach to fighting BPL as a club and as an individual.
  - MOTION FOR THE CLUB TO DONATE $270.00 TO THE ARRL SPECTRUM DEFENCE FUND by Pete NL7XM amended by Bill N2DH and 2nd by Ed W3APE
  - Accepted

38 Members present

Close meeting

- 1st Bill N2DH
- 2nd Ken N3IYX
- 8:18PM

ARRL DX Phone Contest and W3OK

By Al, W3CE

W3OK will be on the air in this year's ARRL DX phone contest. The times of operation are: 00:00 UTC March 6th, to 23:59 UTC March 7th. If you can help out operating or logging, please contact AL W3CE at w3ce@arrl.net. The class of operation has not been decided on yet, ie. multi or single op etc.

De Al, W3CE



This could be your last newsletter!

By Dick, KA3MOU

Look at your mailing label. If the EXP date is 12/31/03, your dues are past due. This could be your last newsletter. If your dues are not paid by the March meeting, it will be your last newsletter. If you pay dues after the March meeting, you will have to fill out an application the same as a new member.

73 de, Dick KA3MOU

Classes (continued from page 1)

Please help DLARC and potential amateur radio operators by mentioning this opportunity to family, friends, around the workplace, and wherever you may meet potential hams. A current poster can be downloaded and printed for posting at your worksite, by going to: http://www.dlarc.org/classinfo.htm then click on "Download Class Poster" at the bottom of the page.

We'll again offer both theory and Morse code instruction. Chris/NU3L and George/N3SQD will be the instructors. Licensed hams are always welcome to join us!

As a convenience, study guides for the entry level Technicians License will be available at the classes at DLARC cost. So that we have an idea of the class size of class to anticipate, we ask that interested persons email KE3AW@arrl.net, or call 610.432.8286, with their name, address telephone number, and e-mail address (if available), and any questions they may have.

That's all there is to registration.

Confirmation of the registration, answers to their questions and specific directions to Gracedale will be provided to those who inquire.

De Bob, KE3AW



Poor Presentation of Information for the Masses by Amateurs

By Thomas G. Shanahan Media Ecologist, B.A. NJCU, N2TTQ

In the U.S. world of Amateur radio there is somewhere around 600,000 amateur radio ticket holders. As the events of further encroachment of business and other entities continuous in every facet of life, Amateur radio is no exception. There is a piecemeal approach of hammering each nail down as it pops up when it comes to new invasions into the world of amateur radio. This was evident with the Little Leo's , and now with BPL. This constant scare to possible band loss or unusability, then the letter writing and redress approach by the amateur community is not hitting the correct nerve. Under the National Park System, which was set up to preserve for all citizens and future generation to enjoy, areas were reserved for no development and maintained as natural and enjoyable as possible by all. It is this approach that would appeal to any citizen in making clear and understanding the problem. We have to consider just because we are knowledgeable as to what radio is and it's distribution as allocated by the federal government, much of the public does not , nor many of our leaders. There the $ is what is most understood. What needs to be done is not a mass letter writing campaign, but a presentation portraying the condition of over development by the ever prevailing marketing structures. If one was to open this chart showing allocations http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/allochrt.pdf and view it like the game of monopoly, showing the malls, stadiums, auditoriums, parking lots, residential, commercial properties etc., and then to note the amateur slivers in the chart along with cb, then to indicate this is what is reserved for enjoyment by all. This is the RF version of real estate. Show the chart as the military bases, public administration areas , Wall street's, etc. etc., then ask why can not these areas be reserved under the same means as the Department of the Interior , where a president declared these public lands not for development. The same has to be considered here in the spectrum, or one will be going through the ground hog day movie approach forever. There must be someone skilled in and accesses the high levels of government to perform this sort of presentation. If some one had access to studio to fabricate such a presentation, this would be so much more informative than exhausting the bank account of the ARRL. We the amateur

community are taking this battle on alone, we should be involving the rest of our fellow Americans. We should be explaining as the song Woody Guthie wrote, these frequencies were made for you and me (http://www.teenbooks.com/This_Land_Was_Made_for_You_and_Me_The_Life_and_Songs_of_Woody_Guthrie_0670035351.html) There is created in the Department of the Interior a service to be called the National Park Service, which shall be under the charge of a director. The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint the director, and there shall also be in said service such subordinate officers, clerks, and employees as may be appropriated for by Congress. The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified, except such as are under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army, as provided by law, by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
http://www.nearctica.com/conserve/uslaw/chapt1/ch1-1.htm#anchor46767
Under Section 203 (k)(2) of Public Law 91-485, as amended (40 U.S.C. 484 (k)(2)), the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks Program conveys surplus federal land to communities, usually at no cost, for public park and recreation purposes. Over 1,400 properties, approximately 150,000 acres, have been transferred to state and local governments for parks and recreation areas since the program's inception in 1949. The Program also helps assure continued public access and stewardship of resources.

De Tom, N2TTQ

BPL Efforts

Submitted by Clarence, W3PYF

(Message from the ARRL)

To All,
This message is a supplement to the message sent out Saturday regarding the BPL use in Northampton County as reported by the Allentown "Morning Call" on January 28, 2004. My apology for sending out the hastily contrived message, which lacked needed detail. The Township involved is Hanover Township, Northampton County.
The action that I feel we should follow is to make sure that municipal officials (Township, Borough or City) are aware that Broadband over Power Line Internet access (BPL) is not the "miracle cure" that it is being advertised to be. There is quite a bit of technical information supplied by ARRL at www.arrl.org/bpl, which you can use to demonstrate to the municipal officials the problems that exist with BPL.

I recommend that you write a letter to each of your local municipal governing authorities. In that letter you should say that, yes, you as an Amateur Radio Operator do have a vested personal interest in keeping interference out of radio frequencies. However, Amateur radio is the emergency back-up communications system local, county, state and national emergency communications. In addition many countywide dispatch systems use radio frequencies that fall within the 1.7 to 80 Mhz range that are in immediate jeopardy of interference from BPL. This interference to public service communications frequencies could very easily result in needless injury or worse.

In addition to municipal governing officials I also recommend sending either a letter or e-mail to your County 9-1-1 Coordinator urging them to have their professional organization the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) to take a stand against BPL. Likewise the county EMA Director/Coordinator should be urged to have the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) follow in the footsteps of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in opposing BPL. It is my opinion that local municipal officials are hearing a well-presented case of the advantages of BPL but not of its pitfalls.

In the case of Hanover Township Northampton County this appears NOT to be the case. The District Emergency Coordinator (DEC), AK3M, and K3TD, tried to convince the Hanover Township Officials of the folly of BPL with no apparent success. Would the results have been any different if more individuals had assisted in the effort? I don't know

and really can't answer that question. I do know that through the ARRL each of you has at your disposal an enormous amount of knowledge and ability from both ARRL Hq. and fellow Hams. Should you find yourself in a situation that you feel you need some assistance, please don't hesitate to ask.

A special Thank You to W3XE and NL7XM.
73,
Eric, WB3FPL

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section
Section Manager: Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL
wb3fpl@arrl.org

News From The ARRL

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

The following is from the ARRL's Feb 11, 2004 Rate Sheet. Reprinted with permission. [ed]

TECHNICAL & TECHNIQUE

While there are quite a number of articles analyzing contest results and operating strategy today, when was the first one published and by whom was it written? Yes, it was Ellen White, then W1YYM, now W1YL. If you have the old magazines or the QST-on-CD set, set the controls of the "way-back machine" to Nov 1955 and look on pages 46 and 134 for the article, "Contacts vs. Multipliers, Which Way do the Points Pay." Published close to 50 years ago, Ellen's analysis of when to chase (and not chase) multipliers holds true today.

Don Daso K4ZA has come up with a great "why didn't I think of that invention" that should make handling those long masts a lot less dangerous. "I recently had to install a 21-foot chrome-moly mast, working alone atop the tower. Installing a basketball goal (just the hoop) at the top of my 13-foot heavy-duty gin pole, provided a margin of control (and safety) missing from all previous methods I've used. The mast, lifted at just above its midpoint, couldn't swing or "get away" from me once inside the hoop, which made guiding it down, and into the tower top's thrust bearing, relatively easy. (No matter how big and strong the tower worker is, maneuvering such a mast is always difficult on the tower, as there's no real mechanical advantage possible, nor a good way to control the heavy mast.) I chose the basketball hoop because it was pre-made, relatively cheap (mine cost $20), and sturdy. I ground off the small loops, which normally hold the net, then drilled matching holes for U-bolts and saddles to allow mounting on the gin pole." Way to go, Don...just try dunking in this sucker! The article is also available in the latest Potomac Valley Radio Club newsletter at http://www.pvrc.org -- thanks, Pete N4ZR.

Now here's a product that truly reflects the times. It's a suitcase combination lock that can also be unlocked with a key only used by the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). http://www.thetravelinsider.info/roadwarriorcontent/searchalert.htm shows the locks, which have an indicator that flips from green to red when the lock is opened. This may be useful in those upcoming mini-DXpeditions on contest weekends. The Travel Insider site also has a number of articles and other products for those who travel regularly. No word as to whether they're offering a line of products for VHF rovers. (Thanks, Kyle WA4PGM)

Want to join the action down on 80 and 160? The bottom of the solar cycle is the time to commence work on that 5-Band DXCC. The following site has several photos and a copy of a May 1975 article on shunt feeding your tower for the low bands. http://www.fortwayneradioclub.org/shuntfeedtower80m_160m/ (Thanks, Kevin N9IWW)

Mahon K4OQ says the he has, "...found the ideal tool for soldering PL-259s the other day at Wal-Mart: a Ronson "TechTorch" mini-torch. Butane-fueled, refillable, and best of all comes with a catalyst burner with soldering & heat tips, so you can shrink the heat shrink after you solder the connector." It's less than $30 and is Ronson item # 80009, UPC 0-37900-80009-6, most likely located in the plumbing department.

With the ISS getting more ham gear every day, wouldn't it be nice to know where to look for it? Try http://www.hq.nasa.gov/osf/station/viewing/issvis.html and see if you can't find it there. If you haven't ever watched the ISS pop out of the sunset and wend its way across the sky, disappearing into the earth's

shadow, you should give it a try. Many more satellites and orbital oddities can be observed by using the Heavens Above Web site, http://www.heavens-above.com.

If you bought a new PC lately, you'll waste your time looking for its RS-232 ports since most have been replaced with USB. This is bad news for hams, since our standard interface is the venerable RS-232. What to do? David N9KT reports that the microHAM USB interface will put those serial interfaces right back in your system, supporting multiple devices over a single USB port. (http://www.microham.com/USB%20interfaces.html) If you want to recreate the actual RS-232 port, the Belkin F5U103 USB/Serial adaptor will provide a serial port with proper address and IRQ. Bob N4BP reports good results using them for rig control and RTTY applications. Bob also points us to http://www.aa5au.com/rtty.html, which is a very good RTTY resource, in general.

CONVERSATION

Pull Some Magic Out of Your Hat

A recent piece on the ARRL Web site from February 5th caught my eye, "Talking with Drums: A Morse Operator's Ragchewing Side." Jane Wodening AA0ZR describes her gradual mastery of Morse, with ham radio her link to the outside world from an isolated cabin in the Rocky Mountains above Boulder, Colorado. (http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/features/2004/02/05/1/?nc=1)

The article captures Jane's growing enjoyment of Morse with practice -- you can almost hear her getting better with each QSO. But even more than Morse, the story captures the essential reason we return to ham radio day after day. That is the Magic of Radio. Waiting for us behind the power switch is an entire world that the non-ham, non-SWL world never gets to see or hear.

Just turning on the rig instantly transports us to a universe of bands and frequencies and modes. Lightning crashes, solar storms, rain and snow static, and auroral flutter all give us an added dimension to experience along with the customary manifestations of these majestic and occasionally mysterious processes. Up before dawn, low band DX-ers paddle out into the surf of nighttime propagation, hoping to catch a big wave and ride it all the way to daylight. VHFers fish patiently along the shores of the E-layer, waiting for a sporadic patch of ions to form on a lazy summer afternoon. Ragchewers sail from port to port, some harbors new and others a familiar home.

Every ham feels that magic in varying degrees -- some love the technical spells, some prefer the special incantations of operating proficiency, and others are happy with visions of making random friends in a way that the hyper-reliable wired networks can never match.

These are "interesting" times for ham radio. Our population is changing and long-held assumptions are challenged. It's too easy to fall into the trap of "us and them" as we discuss the issues. It's far too easy to forget that we all share a fundamental and common bond in our ability to invoke ethereal prestidigitation. To quote the song, "From a Distance" -- "For a moment we must be instruments, marching in a common band" and that is surely how we must seem from outside ham radio.

From a distance, does it really matter whether we prefer code or phone or data? Does it really matter if we were drawn to ham radio from a love of technology, an appreciation of operating abilities, or to fill a need for personal challenge and enjoyment? Not as long as we can all roll up our sleeve, wave the magic wand, and pull some Radio Magic out of our hat.

DLARC Reflector Info

This list is for members and friends of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, R.R. 4, Graystone Building, Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Its purpose is to share information on club activities, events and topics of interest among list members.

To sign up, visit
http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/dlarcforum

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and ARES nets
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 Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

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== 2003-2004 ==

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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 IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
4260 Cedar Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088

visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-04
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
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