Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

April, 1998

Meeting April 2 Kiva Hall NCC

911 Slide Presentation of the New Communications Center

On **Thursday April 2** the guest speaker will be Dick Teasdale, Director of Communications for Northampton County. He will present a slide show and discussion of the new facility.

He is also a fellow amateur radio operator with the call sign **WA3MDP.**

de. Glenn N3ULW

The Prez Sez

Location, Location, Location

by Joe Chuk, W3JD, President

Our March Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club meeting began on a sad note with the announcement of the passing, just a few days earlier, of **Bob Neifert, W3HQP (ex-KW3W).** While we have the opportunity each month to add the names of new members to the club roster, we are never quite prepared to remove the names of those who, whether suddenly or after a long illness, become Silent Keys.

By the time you're reading this newsletter, the club Novice/Tech classes will have started. Think about those friends and acquaintances of yours who might have expressed some curiosity about or even active interest in ham radio. Now is the time to encourage them to learn more about the Amateur Radio Service by coming to the Novice/Tech classes. Even if they missed a couple of the sessions, they can catch up by reading the textbook. There's a lot of talk about how fewer people are becoming interested in ham radio (because of computers or whatever). Here's your chance to help reverse that trend by personally inviting a prospective ham to the DLARC classes.

Also by now, the known Volunteer Examiners among us have been contacted by Mark, K3MP, for a commitment to serve as a VE every fifth or sixth test session. Please help with this very important service of the DLARC by agreeing in advance to participate in specific test sessions. Obviously, establishing a schedule of examiners for the whole year is the most efficient way of managing the license testing, and your cooperation with Mark as he works to put together the schedule will be much appreciated.

It was a privilege to welcome Dale Long, N3BNA, to our March meeting for the evening's program. Dale has the experience of numerous DXpeditions and, as the title of this column suggests, the essence of the DX quest could well be described with the same three primary factors for success in selling real estate: location, location, and location! Those hunting DX are on the lookout -- along with hundreds of other stations -- for the rare locations. On a DXpedition, though, the participants like Dale find themselves the object of the pileups, rather than just another competing signal.

Dale's program treated us to views not only of some very impressive antenna arrays, but also of some of the most beautiful locations on the earth. I'm still trying to fit the images of the magnificent glaciers and ice bergs on Dale's slides into my pre-conceived notion of what South America is supposed to look like! Our thanks to Dale for a unique presentation.

MS walks and Bike tours

by Jeff, N3QZT

Hi and welcome to a new event year. Once again we have been asked to provided communications support for the annual MS Walks and also for the Bike Tour. I thought I would send out the information to as many of you as possible as soon as I got it.

This year the MS Society has ask for help at three different events. They will be putting on two (2) walks, the dates are as follows (this will be the 10 Anniversary of this event) on **Sunday, April 19, 1998** the Lehigh Valley Super Walk, Sand Island, Bethlehem, PA

The second walk will be on **Sunday, May 3, 1998** at East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA.

We will need 10 to 12 hams for each of these events. In the past years we have been finished with the event by early afternoon.

The other event is the **MS 150 bike tour** held this year on the weekend of **July 25 and 26,** 1998. This is by far one of the biggest events if not the biggest the we help out with. Last year we operated with about 24 hams and we should have had more people.

If you are interested in helping with any or all of the events please let me know.

I am looking forward the the up coming year of public service events they provide a reason for us to practice and use our radio skills and well as socializing with hams we haven't seen for a while.

Looking forward to seeing you in April..

de Jeff, N3QZT



N3OFZ named head

supplied by John, N3IGA

Robert Hill, N3OFZ of Monroe County, PA was named as the succesor to the position of Chairman of the **SKYWARN** Technical Committee for the National Weather Service. The post was vacated by **Paul Toth, K2SEC** as he leaves for a new position in Florida.

Hill said, "I will have some very large shoes to fill, as Paul did a tremendous job. I am looking forward to keeping the goals, momemtum and enthusiasm of the tech committee going and in the forefront of the amateur radio community for 1998 and beyond."

Hill and others from the tech committee also received a 'Special Service Award' from the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmosphereic Administration. It was for their help in reorganizing the SKYWARN amateur radio network, deveolpment of APRS, development of the SKYWARN paging system and for SKYWARN Spotter education through organizing training programs.

The position brings with it some timely issues, such as the national QSY of the APRS frequency from 145.79 to 144.39. Digipeater owners in the eastern US will switch frequencies on the 4th & 5th of April 1998. More information will be in QST, CQ-VHF and other amateur radio publications in the very near future.

The offical announcment of Hill's appointment was made at the 34 county SKYWARN Coordinators meeting in Mt. Holly, NJ on March 1, 1998.

Letter received by Dick Dech, Treasurer from Kay Cragie, Director Atlantic Division ARRL

Dear Dick,

This is to acknowledge receipt of DLARC's generous check for $130, which I will relay tomorrow to ARRL Headquarters as the club's donation to the fund for the defense of Amateur frequencies. Please convey to all the club members my gratitude and admiration for this fine donation. 73 - ***Kay WT3P***

What does an ARRL director do?

by Kay, WT3P, Atlantic Division director

Let's get the technicalities out of the way first. The ARRL's Articles of Association say that "the affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by a Board consisting of 15 Directors, each representing a territorial Division comprising a geographical area as defined in the By-Laws."

Directors are elected by League members every two or three years and must live in the Division we represent. We are not ARRL employees and don't work at ARRL Headquarters. We are not paid for our service to the League. To be a Director, a person must have been a full (licensed) member of the ARRL for at least 4 continuous years, hold at least a Technician-class license, be at least 21 years old, and have no business connections that might allow personal financial gain as a result of shaping ARRL policy.

The last point -- the conflict-of-interest rule -- is important because the League's Directors (not the ARRL Headquarters staff) set the policy for the League. Our loyalty must be to ARRL members and the best interests of Amateur Radio. Period.

Beyond those corporate basics, the life of a Director of the ARRL varies a good deal depending on the Division he or she represents. The Atlantic Division consists of Maryland, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, the southern half of New Jersey, and most of the territory of New York state. We have about 16,000 ARRL members and about 60 hamfests per year. I have more hamfests and more members to deal with than most Directors, but I don't have to cope with huge cities such as Los Angeles and New York, or with remote areas such as Montana and Alaska.

Still, there is a lot of travel involved. Last year, I went to 18 hamfests, spoke at 10 club meetings, attended 9 other meetings and conferences in the Division, and participated in a handful of ARRL committee meetings outside the Division. This year, I'm on three Board committees. Although we do as much business as possible using e-mail and conference calls, sometimes we must hold in-person meetings The full Board meets twice a year, in January and July. An Atlantic Division Director is seldom at home on weekends, except during the dead-of-winter break in the hamfest calendar.

Each January, the Board elects four of their fellow Directors to serve on the Executive Committee, which monitors the affairs of the League between in-person meetings of the Board. I was honored to be elected to the EC for a second year. President Stafford appointed me to the Enforcement Task Force, which will work towards obtaining better FCC enforcement of the rules. Finally, the President asked me to chair the Election Committee, which monitors the year's Director / Vice Director elections and handles any other election-related matters that may come up during the year.

A Director must maintain two-way communication with the membership. That's the main reason we visit hamfests and club meetings. In our Division, we also use printed newsletters to a limited extent and also the Internet and the World Wide Web. Most members seem to prefer e-mail nowadays, but occasionally there are phone calls to return and letters to answer. There are also about 150 club newsletters to scan every month. These newsletters are a very important means of staying in tune with what hams are thinking and doing around the Division.

Following the example set by my predecessor, **Hugh Turnbull W3ABC**, I stay in touch with the Division's seven Section Managers. I'm not their boss! They are elected by the members in their Sections, not appointed by the Director. I try to keep them updated on policy matters and to serve as a resource as needed. I also stay in touch with my Assistant Directors; they are appointed to serve as expert advisors on various aspects of ham radio. In each Division, there is also a Vice Director elected at the same time as the Director. When I was Vice Director, I used to joke that there was so little "vice" in the Atlantic Division to "direct," that I had to do honest work, instead. Our present **Vice Director, Bernie Fuller N3EFN,** is a hard-worker, too. He travels nearly as much as I do, and I rely on his experience and insight. He chairs the club leaders forum at the Division Convention and also the Division's awards program.

You may be wondering how a person can afford to be a Director or Vice Director, since we are not paid a salary or honorarium. Each Division has a modest annual expense budget. We must submit receipts to be reimbursed for legitimate out-of-pocket expenses.

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continued from Page 3

(ARRL director)

We are constantly looking for ways to control costs and certainly are not "living it up" at the membership's expense.

Finally, I believe it is very important for Directors to be on the air. This keeps us in touch with the real world, so that ham radio doesn't mutate into just another desk job. I enjoy DX contesting and recently earned the VUCC award on 6 meters. I have all the QSLs assembled to apply for the Worked All Europe award, Class I, on CW. Also, I like to operate at Field Day and in state QSO parties. Vice Director Fuller is also active on both HF and VHF. With our busy schedules, finding time to "play radio" can be difficult * but it is essential.

Vice Director Fuller and I sincerely appreciate the chance to serve the Atlantic Division for another two-year term..

editor's note:
I saw this story in the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Newsletter and asked Kay for permission to reprint it... She forwarded the above story to us.

Telephone scam

reported via Hudson-Loop 066

On Saturday, 24 January 1998, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans Quarterdeck received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T service technician who was running a test on our telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test, the QMOW should touch nine (9), zero (0), pound sign (#), and hang up. Luckily, the QMOW was suspicious and refused.

Upon contacting the telephone company, we were informed that by pushing 90# you end up giving the individual that called you access to your telephone line and allows them to place a long distance telephone call, with the charge appearing on your telephone call. We were further informed that this scam has been originating from many of the local jails/prisons. Please pass the word.

-- submitted by Dave McCauley
(70273.2125@compuserve.com)
forwarded by Thomas Cosgrove III, N2VFK

(tcosgrove@monmouth.com)

And GOD Said.....

by Scott, WA6LIE

NOT FOUND IN GENESIS.....

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Quickly, God was faced with a class action suit for failure to file an environmental impact statement. God was granted a temporary permit for the project, but was stymied with the cease and desist order for the earthly part.

Then God said, "Let there be light!"

Immediately, the officials demanded to know how the light would be made. Would there be strip mining? What about thermal pollution? God explained that the light would come from a large ball of fire. God was grantedprovisional permission to make light, assuming that no smoke would result toicialsing fruit."

The EPA agreed, so long as only native seed was used.

Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth."

The officials pointed out that this would require approval from the Department of Game coordinated with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and the Audubon Society. Everything was okay until God said the project would be completed in six days.

The officials said it would take at least two hundred days to review the applications and the impact statement. After that there would be a public hearing. Then there would be ten to twelve months before...

At this point, God created Hell.

de Scott, WA6LIE

If you are renewing your membership in the ARRL or are joining for the first time, give your application and check made out to DLARC to Dick Dech, Treasurer. The Club benefits from this. We get $2.00 of that amount for our use.

APRIL Fool Story

Bell Labs Proves Existence of Dark Suckers

submitted by Val W3EFL

For years it has been believed that electric bulbs emitted light. However, recent information from Bell Labs has proven otherwise. Electric bulbs don't emit light, they suck dark. Thus they now call these bulbs dark suckers.



The dark sucker theory, according to a Bell Labs spokesperson, proves the existence of dark, that dark has mass heavier than that of light, and that dark is faster than light. The basis of the dark sucker theory is that electric bulbs suck dark. Take for example the dark suckers in the room where you are. There is less dark right next to them than there is elsewhere. The larger the dark sucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark. Dark suckers in a parking lot have a much greater capacity than the ones in this room. As with all things, dark suckers don't last forever. Once they are full of dark, they can no longer suck. This is proven by the black spot on a full dark sucker. A candle is a primitive dark sucker. A new candle has a white wick. You will notice that after the first use, the wick turns black, representing all the dark which has been sucked into it. If you hold a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, the tip will turn black because it got in the path of the dark flowing into the candle. Unfortunately, these primitive dark suckers have a very limited range. There are also portable dark suckers. The bulbs in these can't handle all of the dark by themselves, and must be aided by a dark storage unit. When the dark storage unit is full, it must be either emptied or replaced before the portable dark sucker can operate again.

Dark has mass. When dark goes into a dark sucker, friction from this mass generates heat. Thus it is not wise to touch an operating dark sucker. Candles present a special problem, as the dark must travel in the solid wick instead of through glass. This generates a great amount of heat. Thus it can be very dangerous to touch an operating candle. Dark is also heavier than light. If you swim deeper and deeper, you notice it gets slowly darker and darker. When you reach a depth of approximately fifty feet, you are in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats to the top. The immense power of dark can be utilized to man's advantage. We can collect the dark that has settled to the bottom of lakes and push it through turbines, which generate electricity and help push it to the ocean where it may be safely stored. Prior to turbines, it was much more difficult to get dark from the rivers and lakes to the ocean. The Indians recognized this problem, and tried to solve it. When on a river in a canoe traveling in the same direction as the flow of the dark, they paddled slowly, so as not to stop the flow of dark, but when they traveled against the flow of dark, they paddled quickly so as to help push the dark along its way.

Finally, we must prove that dark is faster than light. If you were to stand in an illuminated room in front of a closed, dark closet, then slowly open the closed door, you would see the light slowly enter the closet, but since the dark is so fast, you would not be able to see the dark leave the closet.

In conclusion, Bell Labs stated that dark suckers make all our lives much easier. So the next time you look at an electric bulb remember that it is indeed a dark sucker.

de Val, W3EFL.

More by Val, W3EFL

More unanswerables

Why is an outdoor theater called a "drive-in?"
What happens if you add water to a condensed book?
Why do we play at recitals and recitals and recite at plays?
Why are wise men and wise guys the exact opposite?
Why does the AM dial only go down to 540? What kind of good stuff are we missing on 420?
Where do they get the seeds to grow seedless oranges?
If your nose runs and your feet smell, are you built upside down?
If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown, too?
Why aren't wrong numbers busy?
When we turn on the lights, where does all the dark go?
Did you ever stop to think... and forget to start again
What do they call the last three hairs on a dog's tail? Dog's hair. Of course, you know about a cat's tail: Fur to the end. ***de Val, W3EFL***

Letter to Editor

In the March issue of the **W3OK CORRAL** there appeared a column by **K3ANS** apparently objecting to the changes in the fee schedule for the **DXCC** awards from the **ARRL.**

In the midst of his objections, he digressed into a discussion of the climate and condition of the amateur community in general and his perception that apathy is rampant.

First of all, the increase actually only applies to the member who makes multiple applications within the same year. The fee for a single application is actually the same with the fee being shifted from the certificate and pin to the application.

Secondly, the applicants are more likely to be Advanced and Extra class operators since, "-the DX stays in those portions of the ham bands.". Probably these applicants are more likely to have the resources to absorb the fee increase!!

Perhaps the author of this column, as a member of the DLARC VE group will take the time in a future column to clarify which class or classes of license incorporate the term "minus".

I believe our hobby would be more appropriately served by spending more time and energy finding ways to motivate and encourage the lower classes of Hams rather than complaining about the symptoms observed.

For example:-

Encourage the DX community to spend more time in the portions of the ham bands which ARE available to the lower classes of operators. This will provide many more opportunities for operators to be motivated to improve their skills.

Encourage the organizations sponsoring the major contests to institute some form of handicapping so that the modest station has some incentive to compete against the world class stations who's owners have been fortunate enough to invest thousands of dollars in antennas and supporting structures, tens of thousands of dollars in top of the line equipment, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in real estate for the station.

There are few operators in our club who could afford the postage and handling fees involved with accumulating 1200 QSL cards. It should go without saying that calling attention to such activities is extremely discouraging to the operator who is doing their best to enjoy our hobby on a bare minimum expenditure because that is all he or she can feel comfortable with, for whatever the reason.

In conclusion, rather than finding your way to the lower **25 kcs.**, let the higher class operators find their way to the ham bands that are available to the lower class operators, and diligently stimulate and encourage these operators to improve their skills.

73 de KA3ONZ – Bruce

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Income & Loss Statement

Balance1/31/98	$5,372.42
Donation Income	29.00
Dues Arrl Misc	699.00

TOTAL INCOME	**$ 728.00**
EXPENSES	
Donation ARRL Defense of Amateur frequencies	130.00
New Member	29.00
Newsletters & Directory March	254.40
Novice Class Materials	13.00
Picnic Aug. 16th City of Easton	125.00
Postage	142.40
	$5,372.42
Renewal	58.00
Subscriptions ARNS	15.00
Supplies	66.76
Telephone	35.59
TOTAL EXPENSES	**869.10**
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES -	**141.15**

Balance 2/28/98	**$5,231.27**

Total Membership 339

The $130.00 Donation to ARRL was from the fifty fifty, the Clubs share for over a four Month period.

de Dick, KA3MOU Treasurer

Just the minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary

The business meeting of the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Joe Chuk, W3JD, at 7:30pm on March 5, 1998. There were 52 members and guests present.



Minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed in the March W3OK Corral. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Barry, N3NVA, and seconded by Norm, K3NZ.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Dick Dech, KA3MOU. Starting balance, as of January 31, is $5372.42. Income for the month is $728.00. Expenses for the month are $869.15. Ending balance, as of February 28, is $5231.27. Ray, W3TDF, moved and Malcolm, N3XRL, seconded that the report be approved as read.

Joe, W3JD, read Email that Dick, KA3MOU, got from Kay Craigie, WT3P, concerning the amount of money, which the club saved out of the 50-50 drawing, that will be turned over to the ARRL for the defense of the Amateur frequencies. She expressed her thanks and will be turning it over to the ARRL from the DLARC.

New members were brought into the club. John, WX3C, moved and Carl, AA3IX, seconded that the following individuals be approved for membership:

William Walthier, N3WA

Fred W. Scheirer, K3JMU

Eugene E. Hoffman, WA2EPT

Bob, KE3AW, informed everybody that the Novice-Tech Classes would start on March 16 and run for 10 weeks. Classes will run form 7pm to 9pm. There are about a half a dozen people that got a hold of Bob that will be coming to the classes. If you know anybody that is interested, have him or her contact Bob at ke3aw@juno.com.

Mark, K3MP, is looking for more VEs to help with the test sessions. He will be explaining how to become a VE at one of the future meetings.

Carl, AA3IX, said that the Hamfest plans are moving along. He informed everybody present that there is a kitchen available. What the club has to decide is should we do the cooking or leave it up to the fire company's people? He is still looking for volunteers to help out with the Hamfest. Contact Carl either by radio or leave a message at aa3ix@juno.com.

John, N3IGA, gave a report on the SKYWARN Coordinators Meeting held at Mount Holly this past Sunday, March 1. One of the topics discussed was the APRS frequency change. The APRS frequency will QSY from 145.79 to 144.39 on the weekend of April 4th and 5th. This new frequency will soon be nationwide. Some areas out West changed over this past weekend. The reason for the change was that the old frequency is too close to the AMSAT frequency of 145.80.

The speaker for the night was Dale Long, N3BNA. His slide presentation of his DXpeditions in many countries was outstanding. He even brought a few of his treasures to show. After that presentation, how many of you would like to take a DXpedition?

de John, N3IGA

For Sale

Estate of W3MLI

Ten Tech Century 21 HF CW Tranciever.....$75.00

Murch 2000 Antenna Tuner with Balun and roller coil with turns counter.....$125.00

Vibroplex bug..... $50.00

Heath Keyer & Break in relay..... $25.00

Heath SWR Bridge..... $10.00

Heath Cantenna Dummy Load..... $10.00

Lafayette 80-10 Vertical Antenna..... $10.00

Midland 13-510 25 Watt 2 meter transiever with **151.4 pl**.....$100.00

Package deal.....$375.00

Call Roger WA2HXQ @ 867-3596

Hamfest and Computer Show

Saturday April 4, Northern Lebanon High School Fredericksburg, PA, by Appalachian Amateur Radio Group.

Indoor tables, $14.00. Tailgating $4.00. General Admission $4.00.

Talk in on 146.04/64.

VE tests at 9:AM.

Let Us Keep CW Alive!

by Brad, N3NAF reprinted from 73 magazine

CW is a viable and useful language, something we hams can be proud of using. It's a great language, music to some, and a specialized communications skill that sets hams apart from the rest of the population. If we stop to consider, it is the common bond among amateurs that makes us a unique and truly distinctive group. At one time or another we all worked hard to develop our initial threshold speed of 5 wpm, yet a recent informal poll of a amateur radio club disclosed that about half of the respondents rarely or never used CW.

As with any language, code must be practiced regularly to attain even the lowest degree of proficiency. One has to be comfortable with the mechanics of a language before enjoyment sets in and CW is no exception.

The Novice Enhancement Program opened up a portion of the 10 meter band to voice. This effectively short-circuited the past CW training period for Novices, allowing them to go straight to voice. This, then, can become a trap, just as attaining the Technician class license and acquiring 2 meter capability was for many hams over a multitude of many years in the past. As an enticement, and on the positive side, the major benefit of 10 meter voice privilege is that it gets many people on the sir who might not be if forced to use CW. To some amateurs, CW is a painful experience and to be avoided at all costs. It doesn't have to be that way. In fact, CW can be a lot of fun once it is mastered.

In many discussions with hams, there seem to be several basic reasons for not using CW. These generally are given as:

1. My code is rusty.
2. My code speed is too slow.
3. I don't know the proper procedures.
4. I don't know what to say.
5. I don't want my friends to know how bad I really am.
6. I can't spell.

These reasons are valid to those giving them, but they can be overcome with a little bit of effort. Reason number six is easy to get around. First of all, few of us can correctly spell every word we use in our daily conversations, so why worry about it? Do your best, abbreviate when possible, and lastly, if this is any comfort, you can assume that the receiving operator won't mind a few misspellings. Offer a few "HI HIs" and let if go at that.

Here are a few suggestions that might help increase your on-the-air proficiency and enjoyment of CW:

1. If you haven't been on the air with CW for awhile, a few minutes of of the-air practice sending will shake out some of those cobwebs. Dust off the old key and code practice oscillator, relax, and send plain text out of the morning newspaper while having your morning coffee. Tape your sending for a later playback while on your way to work. Be sure to include a generous amount of mixed numbers. Telephone numbers in the classified section are a good place to start. Work in some callsign from contest winner listings found in back issues of ham magazines.

2. After a few of these solo practice sessions to build up your confidence in getting those "L, F, G, and Ws" sorted out again, turn on the receiver and copy some "easy-listening-music" code at your speed. Take it slowly at first, but don't spend more than 10 minutes at any one sitting.

3. Make a habit of turning the rig on to CW whenever you are in the shack. Use CW as a background music and make no conscious attempt of copying, but your subconscious mind will absorb the sounds of the characters by osmosis.

4. Work a CW contact by answering a CQ at your comfortable speed. Go ahead and answer the sending operator and in most cases, won't bite you. Remember, he or she must want to talk to someone or they wouldn't be calling CQ in the first place! You can be that someone. This is a case where talking to strangers is encouraged. You don't have to be a speed demon to enjoy CW. Good slow code is a pleasure to listen to.

5. Make a commitment to yourself to work at least one to three CW contacts. Once or twice a week or more is fine to begin with. The object here is to use the your skills.

6. Help a Novice, because we were all Novices once. Get on the Novice band and work with someone who is struggling with the code for the first time. Help them overcome their fear of being self-conscious about their early efforts.

7. Set up a CW sked with a friend, He or she could live down the street, across town, or thousands of miles away. You can help each other. When I first learned CW, we use to QSY to the phone portion to see how we did.

8. As your confidence with CW increases, push yourself a bit. Copy W1AW and some of the better code operators at speed higher than you can copy. Stretching is a good exercise.

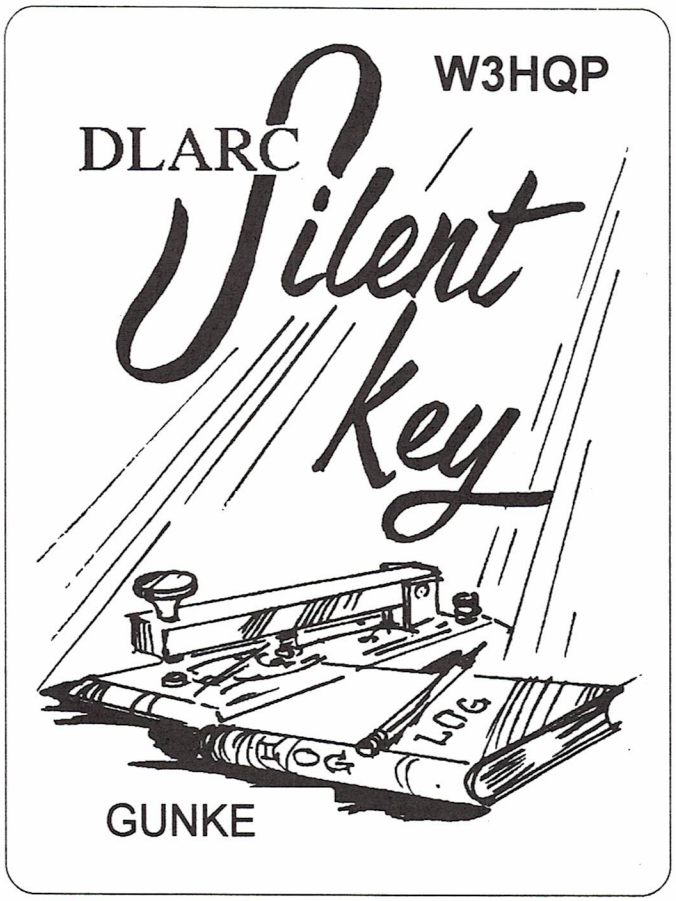
9. Take a chance and contact someone who sends faster than you can copy. Send a QRS if things get sticky. They will be glad to slow down if you only ask.

10. Try calling CQ yourself and grab the bull by the horns and go for it. You know what to do. You have been trained by someone at one time or another. Just remember when sending CW, pretend you are simply talking, only you are using your new language skills.

As for voice communications goes, anyone can talk and most of us have been doing this since about three years of age. Telephones, computers, and voice portion of the band are excellent means of communicating, but as hams, we must not overlook the bond that holds us together. We have that rare something that not everyone has the ability to make ourselves understood in a unique way. CW is far from dead and can be a richly rewarding if we work at it a bit. Give it a try.

de Brad, N3NAF

Reprinted from 73 Magazine.. Supplied by K3MP



Robert M Neifert Jr., 56 of 3 Finady Avenue Bethlehem PA. died Sunday, March 1, at home. He was an electronic engineer for Lucent Technologies, Allentown, for 33 years before retiring in 1995. Born in Fountain Hill, he was a son of Helen (Steers) Neifert o Bethlehem and the late Robert M. Neifert Sr. He was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem.

An amateur radio operator, he was a member of DelawareLehigh Amateur Radio Club. Survivors: Mother; son, Scott D. of Allentown; daughters, Terri J. of Emmaus and Michael L. of Philadelphia; sister, Winfred Neifert Sell of Allentown, and grandchildren. He was predeceased by son Michael

Bob's old Call was **KW3W** and his new call **W3HQP**. He was a past **Vice President and also on the Board of the DLARC Club.** Bob also enjoyed Drag Racing, watching the drag race on TV or going to the Drags in person.

REST IN PEACE GUNKE from all of us in DLARC.

VE testing April 3

by Mark, K3MP

There were 8 elements given to 6 candidates with the following results.

	Call	Name	
Upgrade	**N3ZVQ**	**Larry Dahrron**	**Tech Plus**
	KB3BYT	**Robert Roomberg**	**Tech Plus**
	KF3BD	**Mark Farrell**	**Advanced**

To the others who participated. You were almost there. Study a little harder and it you will make it.

The VEs in attendance were: **K2YIY, Cary, W3IYG, Francis, AA3IX, Carl, WA3MVQ, Glade, NS3J, Bill and KE3AW, Bob.**

Thanks for your continued help in making the night successful. I want to Francis, W3IYG for taking the time to take the home study course and getting his certification to become a VE. This was Francis's first test session and for a change I didn't have to do any paperwork over, HI HI... Congratulations are in order for the above. Welcome Larry and Bob to HF when you hear them on the low bands.

de K3MP Mark Petruno Team Liaison

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of March 3, 1998.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0HH	KI0LX	++	KC0CVG
1	AA1TI	KE1JH	++	KB1CLA
2	AB2EZ	KG2NS	++	KC2DBT
3	AA3QV	KF3AZ	++	KB3CEJ
4	AF4IN	KU4PG	++	KF4VZK
5	AC5PB	KM5PI	++	KD5DLN
6	AD6EP	KQ6UU	++	KF6PQR
7	AB7XM	KK7MK	++	KD7ATP
8	AB8BZ	KI8FE	++	KC8JJU
9	AA9VN	KG9MS	++	KB9SFL

++ All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.

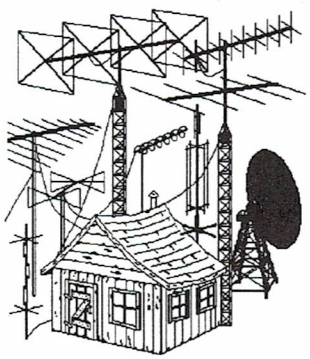
This list courtesy ARRL Bulletin...018

Desense:

Some Possible Solutions

submitted by Dave, WD5BRP de KA5ZTX

First a definition: Desense is a reduction in receiver sensitivity, which is caused by noise or RF that overloads the receiver front end. In other words, a signal other than the one we wish to receive is so strong that it overloads the receiver and makes the receiver relatively insensitive to the signal we wish to receive. The result may be that we hear nothing; or, we may hear the desired signal at a reduced volume level; or, we could even hear an undesired signal.



In emergency communications the problem of desense is often created by strong transmitters belonging to the agencies we are sent to assist, such as police and fire. Desense can also be caused by having two amateur stations at the same site. For instance, one station may be controlling a local net and a second station may be using a different frequency to transfer information to the EOC (Emergency Operations Center).

There is no one cause, or one solution to desense problems. The same station setup can cause desense one day and not the next day just because of fluctuation in propagation and weather. For instance, the amount of water in the ground (or in the air) can affect the quality of the antenna's grounding system, which affects the strength of the transmitted signal.

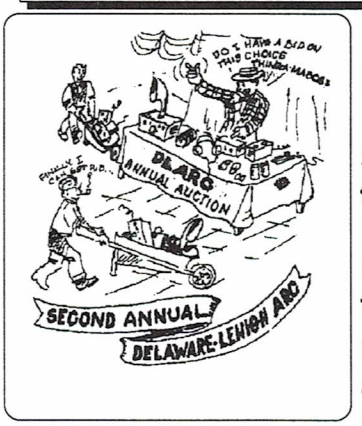
The goal in solving desense problems is to keep the unwanted RF from reaching the radio's receiver. Following are several approaches to minimizing interference. A combination of approaches often needs to be used for best results.

Antenna location - vertical separation of antennas is often more effective than horizontal separation. Keep transmitter power as low as possible - to reduce interference to other stations. Use the best quality of coax that is practical for the installation. Decouple the antenna from the transmission line. In other words, isolate RF from the antenna from getting back into the coax. This can be accomplished by routing the coax through the nulls of the antenna pattern.

The design of the radio's receive section affects how sensitive the radio is to desense. Unfortunately, there are no statistics to tell which radios have more problems. Separation in frequency. When at a site with two amateur stations, the two stations should be as far apart in frequency as possible. For example, have one station on 2-meters and the other station on 70-cm. In areas where local public service frequencies are in the 150 MHz range, and often using high power, it may be most practical to change to 440 MHz. If not possible, choose frequencies in the lower part of the amateur 2-meter band. If necessary, both amateur stations could move to 440. The amateur 440 band is much larger than the amateur 2-meter band; therefore, two stations on 440 can have greater separation than two stations on 2-meters.

Cavities and filters may be used for permanent installations, such as repeaters, but are impractical for other stations.

Reference: ARRL Handbook, Published by the American Radio Relay League.



Don't forget!!!!!

Second Annual Auction to be held at meeting on May 7 Beginning at 7:30 PM. Get your stuff together.

Bob Kratz, N3QQ will again be our auctioneer in Kiva Hall.

July Meeting will be moved to **2nd Thursday**, because of the holiday week-end. Meeting will be held on **July 9.**

Speaker will be **Directory Kay Cragie, WT3P,** who will talk about the ARRL and what they are doing to keep all amateurs up to date.

Hope to see you all there.

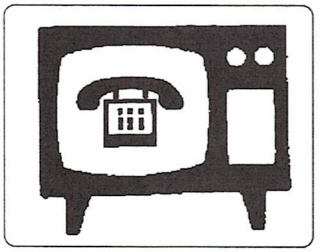
WO4H, Al

New Media Systems

I Want My DTV!

By Joe Chuk, W3JD

Fair warning: Here's still another column on digital television (DTV)! A number of columns in this space in the past couple of years have dealt with the technology of and transition to DTV from the 57-year-old NTSC system of television broadcasting. But this topic is so complex and multi-faceted that there are always more aspects to discuss -- at least some of which, I hope, are of interest to technology-oriented hams. And as we get closer to the implementation date promised by the four major networks' stations in our own Philadelphia television market -- November 1, 1998 -- we're sure to see even more discussion of ever-more-practical concerns. For this month, the focus is on the role of the local cable company in the transition.



While television station owners and engineers are concerned about such things as what channels will (finally!) be assigned for the simultaneous digital broadcasts, and where to locate the digital transmitter and antenna, the reality is that most Americans don't pick up television signals directly from stations. Instead, they have stations' programs delivered to them by a cable system. Nationally, over sixty-five percent of viewers are connected to a cable company. Because cable service itself and a competitive environment for that service were established so early in the Lehigh Valley, cable penetration is much higher in our area.

The big questions, then, are whether and when the digital signals, especially High Definition Television (HDTV), will be made available, not in an over-the-air signal, but through the wire that's connected to our television set. Will the first viewers to lay down $2,000 to $3,000 for an early consumer digital TV be able to get those high definition signals through their cable providers? Or will they have to put up an antenna and try to pick up the digital signals off-air? (not an easy task in most parts of the Lehigh Valley, except for the hams sitting on the tops of hills!)

One of the technical hurdles for the cable companies is the fact that most of the signals sent to subscribers' homes from broadcast stations have been remodulated from the stations' original channels. Philadelphia stations broadcasting on channels 3, 6, and 10 are still seen on those dial positions, but generally (depending on the cable company) the stations with their signals of origin on channels 17, 29, and 48 are found on other dial positions. Our own local stations on channels 39 and 69 are remodulated to more easily accessible (or remembered) VHF slots. For DTV, the remodulation process involves encoding a carrier with the digital information either for a single high definition picture or for multiple standard-definition pictures. Doing either assumes that the cable company has the capability to pass the digital signal with enough fidelity to ensure a relatively error-free transmission. In the digital world, there's no such thing as snow -there's either a perfect picture or no picture at all.

Then there's the question of what cable companies will be doing with the several (3 or 4) standard-definition programs that are likely to broadcast by each television station during those times when no high-definition programming is being sent. Will each program be assigned a separate channel on the cable lineup, or will the separation into discrete programs be done by the consumers' TV sets?

Legal requirements for carriage of DTV signals by cable systems aren't very clear. Technically, cable companies are bound by the must carry / retransmission provisions of the Cable Act of 1992, which basically say that cable companies must carry the programming of stations in their service areas that request carriage. This requirement was upheld by a Supreme Court decision in April of 1997. But do a digital station's multiple programs require this same treatment, which was originally intended for the single programs broadcast by traditional analog stations? In the near future, the FCC is expected to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to determine if cable systems will be required to carry all programming broadcast from terrestrial stations, whether digital or analog.

Space-based stations, however, add something else to the mix. Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) systems are essentially broadcast stations in the sky, but act more like cable systems, in that they deliver a large number of program services from various sources. These systems, however, since they are not limited to a single local area, are not required to carry terrestrial broadcast stations. In fact, current legislation (the Satellite Home Viewers Act) prevents them from doing so, although that law will expire next year. In the meantime, one of the DBS service providers announced in January of this year that it will be sending two channels of HDTV as part of its service. On the receiving end, Thompson Electronics has said that it will build an HDTV set with a special decoder to receive DirecTV's programming. This move by the cable industry's newest competitor may help motivate cable to develop ways to deliver digital signals before losing significant numbers of subscribers to DBS.

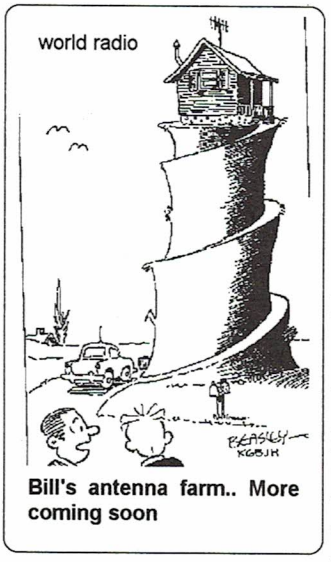
Since most of use do have cable and don't have TV antennas (we much prefer ham antennas), it will be interesting to see what the cable companies will offer to those who want their DTV when those signals start filling the air this Fall.

de Joe, W3JD

DX news

by Bill, K3ANS, DX editor

Did you miss them, or did you join in? The big ARRL CW and phone DX HF contests were held February 27 to 29, and March 6 to 8, 1998. I heard only a few DLARC members on the air. I missed the rest of you. If you entered, submit your logs and summary sheets . For CW, we had only a few part time operators at K3ANS for the 48 hour contest, so we entered in the "multiple operator, 2 transmitter class. We did not have enough operators for our preferred "multiple operator, multiple transmitter" class. That usually means 4 or 5 transmitters set up, and sometimes all on the air simultaneously. For phone, we had enough operators to manage 4 transmitters on the air simultaneously. So we did enter as multiple operator, multiple transmitter class. They are nicknamed "multi-multi" and "multi-2". Most of you probably entered in the "single operator class". Some of you used the DX Packet Cluster to aid in spotting and finding DX stations, so you enter the "single operator assisted class".



Bill's antenna farm.. More coming soon

Many DLARC members are new to DXing and not experienced contesters. So you are happy just to chase DX, and hope to work 100 countries, or at least many new countries those weekends.

Since my friends and I are serious DX contesters, we seek to maximize our score using my station. Although we have a lot of gear and I have many antennas, the K3ANS station is very small compared to most multimulti contest stations. They usually have many antennas for each band, often stacked on top of each other, used in phase. For example, KC1XX has seven 10 meter Cushcraft yagis on one tower! They can be fed alone, separately, or in groups in phase. Because the DX signals come in at different angles during the day or night, often the low antennas are better for high angle signals, and high antennas are better for low angle signals. To avoid switching constantly, several antennas are used together to cover all wave angles. Other monster stations you may hear are N2RM in NJ, W3LPL in MD, K1TTT in CT, K3LR on I-80 at the western PA and Ohio border, W3EA of DLARC, KS9K of WI, K1EA of MA, W4MYA of VA, etc. **The local Frankford Radio Club, of which I am a proud member, has many stations of this caliber.**

So back to mortal ham stations. We set up four stations in each contest. In the CW contest we used only two at a time. In the phone contest often all four were in operation. WARC bands are not used for contesting. At dawn and dusk all 6 bands from 160 to 10 are often open, so all 4 stations are busy. In multi-2 we worked the highest bands first, since they could close quickly. Unaudited results submitted to the ARRL were as follows. Probably we have some errors from busted calls, but we hope it is close. When you operate quickly, errors occur. We often had rates of 175 QSOs per hour on one band.

CW Contest:

Band	DX QSO's	Countries
160 meters	**88**	**52 (Excellent Conditions)**
80 meters	**215**	**68**
40 meters	**304**	**77 (Shudda been more)**
20 meters	**926**	**92**
15 meters	**555**	**89**
10 meters	**56**	**27 (Disapointing conditions)**
TOTALS	**2144**	**405 = 2,600,100 points**

Operators were: K3ANS, WF3H, K3YD, KC2ZA, N3OUC, K2YIY all from DLARC. Visitors who helped but did not operate were: KE4YUK and N3IYX.

Phone operators were: K3ANS, WF3H, KC2ZA, N3IYX all from DLARC; and K2NJ, W2CG, W2NO, and W9NGA. We had lots of fun, especially when K2NJ worked hundreds of South American stations in home made, broken Spanish.

We had much help for equipment. Look at this inventory:

WF3H: ICOM IC-775DSP and Drake L-4B amplifier
N3IYX: Yaesu FT-1000D and Drake L-4B amplifier
W2GQ: Kenwood TS-940S K3YD: ICOM IC-735
AJ2U: Ameritron AL-800H amplifier
N2KJM: three computers N3OUC: one computer
K3ANS: ICOM IC-761, Ameritron AL-1200 amplifier, Drake L-4B amplifier and one computer.
Plus every one brought his favorite accessories.

Antennas: 160 meters:
Ground plane at 70' with 8 quarter wave active radials on 125' tower with top loading from yagis,
Inverted V at 70'. 80 meters:
3 element wire yagi at 90' aimed to NE (Europe),
Center fed 135' Zepp at 50' aimed NE/SW,
Horizontal quad loop at 60' aimed NE/SW.

(We need a SE/NW antenna, in the works.) 40 meters: Telerex 40M329 3 element yagi at 108'. 20 meters: two Hygain 205CA 5 element yagis at 117' and 55'. 15 meters: Hygain 155CA 5 element yagi at 90'. 10 meters: Home-brew W2PV design 6 element yagi at 80'.

I have other antennas and towers to erect, hopefully in time for fall contests. I hope you found this description interesting. Lots of work, lots of fun. It is very challenging technically to make all this work. Not very expensive since we scrounge a lot and share much equipment. Sound interesting? Jump in! **See you in the lower 25.**

de Bill, K3ANS

Email Addresses DLARC

compiled by John, N3IGA

K3ANS	goodmancpa@enter.net
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W3APE	w3ape@epix.net
KE3AW	ke3aw@juno.com
KF4AX	mrfixit@ptdprolog.net
WD5BRP	davefoster@att.com
N2BSC	barrish@kutztown.edu
KB3BYR	jedco@juno.com
WG3C	aostapenko@papl.com
WX3C	wx3c@juno.com
N3CDO	carldonna@enter.net
W3CE	alw@enter.net
WB3CJU	donsal@fast.net
WA3CLC	cabdrive@enter.net
WA3CLD	wa3cld@juno.com
K3CP	wpvh@ptd.net
WB4CVH	wb4cvh@enter.net
N3CXP	n3cxp@ptdprolog.net
N3DL	n3dl@enter.net
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W3EA	w3ea@aol.co
N3EBH	cosmo@enter.net
W3ECT	w3ect@juno.com
W3EFL	val@enter.net
WA3ENE	leslohreast@juno.com
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N3NBL	mercury@enter.net
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N3NNI	n3nni@enter.net
N3NVA	n3nva@enter.net
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N3NXS	jjn@enter.net
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N3OUC	stantomj@apci.com
NC3P	bfahs@juno.com
G0PHP	106347.406@compuserve.com
N3PNT	n3pnt@enter.net
W3PYF	w3pyf@aol.com
N3QEK	stacky@lucent.com
KC3QO	kc3qo@juno.com
N3QQ	popekratz@enter.net
N3QZT	jeffk@enter.net
N3RBK	n3rbk@nni.com
N3RPV	sparky11@juno.com
W3SB	w3sb@aol.com
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K9TBD	A326@lehigh.edu
W3TDF	w3tdf@juno.com
KA3TEQ	ka3teq@juno.com
KD3TI	kd3ti@ptdprolog.net
KA3TTX	dickkline@enter.net
KR3U	pookie@nni.com
N3UGH	passes@enter.net
N3UKR	n3ukr@hotmail.com
N3ULW	gbrodt@epix.net
KA3UQP	JYEV35F@prodigy.com
N3VJA	n3vja@hotmail.com
KA3VJI	alex@epix.net
N3WA	motrf@enter.net
N3WGH	dgrayson@enter.net
KE3WJ	72520.2070@compuserve.com
KA3WSL	earl_toland@juno.com
KU3X	bgkx@juno.com
N3XGE	n3xge@enter.net
N3XLN	mfarrell@nni.com
N3XRL	n3erl@juno.com
K3YD	BlairBates@aol.com
KA3YGF	gennis@enter.net
W4YID	alberttamm@enter.net
N3YRP	buggz2@juno.com
W3YU	bobwalsh@webtv.net
KE4YUK	ke4yuk@aol.com
KC2ZA	rick@enter.net
KA3ZBE	burt536@ptdprolog.net
W3ZF	heathkit@juno.com
W3ZIF	w3zif@enter.net

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

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==1997-1998==

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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
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TALK IN ON 146.70
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The W3OK CORRAL
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Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064-9211

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