Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

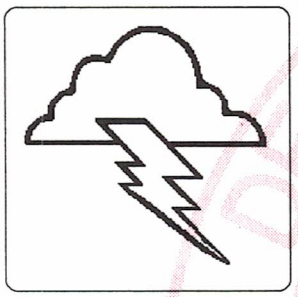
April 1999

Weather or not, that will be the question

All about the weather

by Charlie, WA3RSQ

The program for the **April 8th** meeting in the **College Center Building Room 116** will be about Weather. The program will be presented by me Charlie, WA3RSQ.



I retired from the National Weather service March 1992 with 35 years as a Meteorologist. I spent 5 years in Washington, DC from 1957 to 1961. 1961 to 1971 at the Weather Office at Buffalo, NY. 1971 to when I retired at the then ABE Airport.

Have been teaching Meteorology for 8 years as an Adjunct Professor. Having 5 years and Moravian College and the last 3 years at Northampton Comm. College.

My wife's name is Virginia (Gini) married 42 years. 2 Children, Charles and Virginia. Twin grandsons. Nick and Chris will be 5 yrs.old April 22, our son Charlie and his wife Jackie's boys.Our Daughter Ginnie married to John O'neill 10 years.

I have been an amateur operator for 40 years. Licensed in 1959 as K3JEU in Washington DC. Operate 160 through 2 meters all SSB.I have 85 countries worked on 6 meters, 49 states. All SSB.I have a WAS using 10 meters for 50th state. I have my own web site all on "Weather" and 8 computers which have 50 years of weather data in all of them and do a lot of weather research.Do my own computer repair and programing. My web site is: HYPERLINK"**http://www.enter.net/~wxdata** Check it out.

I operate a National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Station which is located in our back yard which I installed and maintain.Gini is a Certified Cooperative Weather Observer and is the station licensee. I work for her. Hi. Hope to see you at the meeting

de Charlie,WA3RSQ

September VHF QSO Party

The **ARRL September VHF QSO Party** has been added to the list of Affiliated Club Competition contests. This change becomes effective with the 1999 September VHF QSO Party.

The September VHF QSO Party now joins the January VHF Sweepstakes as a VHF/UHF Affiliated Club Competition event.

As an Affiliated Club Competition event, the leading clubs in the Unlimited, Medium and Local categories win a coveted ARRL gavel, signifying the club's accomplishment. Guidelines and rules for ARRL Affiliated Club Competition are found at the Contest Branch Home Page at **http://www.arrl.org/contests/cc.html** as well as in the "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" in the November 1998 issue of QST. The ARRL also sponsors the June VHF QSO Party, the August UHF Contest, the two 10 GHz and Up Weekends, and the annual EME Competition.

via ARRL Letter

Just the minutes

by Dan, W3ZF, Secretary

The March 1999 meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was held on the Thursday, the 4th, in "the theater" at the Northampton County Community College and was called to order by President Joe Chuk (W3JD) at 1939 hrs EST. Julie, N3CSQ, was first up with an update on Clarence and how one might go about visiting him at Easton Hospital. Then she presented details of a possible upcoming event where amateur operators could offer their services. Next up, was Jeff, N3QZT, describing all of the various MS-150 events that are coming up. Then it was KA3MOUs turn to go over the upcoming events on his list. There was a motion by N2BSC and seconded by AA3IX to accept the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. The motion carried. Dick, KA3MOU, then gave his Treasurers report - Balance 1/31/99 $6,018.83 Income $526.00 Expense $721.76 Balance 2/28/99 $5,823.07. A motion to accept the Treasurers report made by N2BSC and 2nd by W3IYG. The motion carried.



Barry, N3NVA, Chairman of the Repeater Committee gave a brief update on the UHF repeater relating that its doing well. (The club is STILL awaiting the results of computer mapping studies to determine what interference patterns may exist, if any, in a move of our repeater(s) to a "better" site.)

NU3L announced that the Novice classes will be starting on March 15th at 7:00 PM at Gracedale. Spread the word to any aspiring hams that you know.

VE sessions are going fine. Jill, N3ZSR, still needs one additional VE "team lead" to head up a team. (As I write this, I just learned of the passing of Francis Lisicky, W3IYG; Francis was one of our VE leaders. Rest in Peace, Francis.) Joe reminded the membership that next months meeting (and VE test session) is one week later than normal because of the religious holidays. K3MMG offered a 6 ft. high by 5 ft. wide plywood shelf to anyone free for the asking (and pickup at his QTH).

The issue of starting the monthly club meetings 30 minutes earlier was the next topic of discussion. Action on this issue was postponed from last months meeting until THIS meeting so that the issue could receive some exposure in the newsletter (thanks to the suggestion of Van, K3CP). This would give notice to the membership and present them with a chance to attend this meeting to express their opinion.

WELL, the flavor of opinions this time around was the polar opposite of last months meeting. Some of the opinions heard concerned the inability of some members to make it in time since they travel so far

. Others came early to "network" with their friends and this earlier starting time would deprive them of that opportunity. Mostly, it was concerns about the Route 22 construction and the associated hardships of negotiating that thoroughfare that brought about the consensus that this issue should be revisited after Route 22 all fixed up. K3YD made this motion with a 2nd by NU3L. Motion carried. Al (WO4H) made another member presentation to our group. (Before he took the floor, a motion by N3CSQ and 2nd by NU3L allowed Don, K6QDT to be readmitted to the club.)

This time the introduction was for Dave Wood, KB3DJX who is a paramedic and can rarely attend meetings. In fact, the special exemption of the clubs new policy was invoked to allow this presentation to go forward. Remember, a prospective member is required to attend two club meetings before being voted in, but in extenuating circumstances, this requirement is waived.

A motion by N3XRL and 2nd by K3YD to accept Dave carried. Our president then announced yet another activity that came to his attention. This event was for the Boy Scouts (JAMBO 99). Bill, K3ANS, suggested an event aimed at getting more DLARC members involved in HF activity. More on both of these activities should appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Motion to conclude the evenings business was made by AA3IX, 2nd by W3RYG. This nights presentation was made by William Fairing, W1ATA on RF Safety. Bill condensed a rather large presentation that he frequently gives to fit within one hour. I think those who attended got the message he was trying to communicate about the dangers of RF. John, WX3C was in charge of buying the drinks following the meeting; he picked up $32.00 from the 50-50. There were 47 members, and 2 visitors.

de Dan, W3ZF

"Hams are still friendly"

by Bob, KB3CSS

My son, who is stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, was interested in becoming affiliated with an ARC, but didn't know who to contact.

So I searched the Net and found that the Arctic Arc was located in Fairbanks, and e-mailed their president, Myron Babcock,AL7QY, explaining the situation.

That same day, I got a reply and he indicated that he would get in touch with my son, since he too was stationed at FT Wainwright.

A few weeks later Myron met up with my son, personally drove him to the University of Alaska (where they hold their meetings), and wrote back to tell me what a good time he had at the meeting (4 hours!), and that he would get him a book so he could start preparing for the Tech Exam while he was in Japan. I also learned that their club serves pie at the end of their meetings !

Maybe that would boost our meeting totals too !! Just recently I received another note from him which gave the URL (does everyone know that this abbreviates UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATION, according to our own WF3H ?), and when I clicked on that address, I found that it gave regular updates on their Yukon Quest dog sled race. If you get a chance, check out this friendly ARC from the North. ***de Bob, KB3CSS***

FCC takes enforcement actions

The FCC has told a Delaware ham that she must take her Amateur Radio examinations again or lose her license. The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says "questions were raised" about how Sheila Bowden, N3QQS, of Millsboro, upgraded to Extra. He said the FCC is requesting that Bowden start from scratch and retake "all the elements." Bowden was notified February 16.

The FCC has the authority under Part 97 to re-administer exam elements previously administered by VEs. The FCC told Bowden that she must retake the Amateur Extra Class examination series at an ARRL/VEC session before March 19 or lose her license.

Hollingsworth said the FCC plans to call in additional amateur licensees for retesting in the near future. In all of those cases, Hollingsworth said, the FCC has reason to suspect the integrity of the examination process.

'The ham community needs to have a sense of confidence in the examination system," Hollingsworth said. "This is a critical link in the chain." Last month, the FCC dismissed the Extra class license formerly held by Bowden's husband, Wayne, after the Commission discovered "irregularities in the administration of the examination by the Volunteer Examiners." Wayne Bowden, formerly AA3RT, took the complete Amateur Radio examination series at an October 4 W5YI-VEC session. He had not held an amateur license before then.

The FCC is continuing its probe into alleged testing irregularities at Pennsylvania W5YI-VEC sessions October 4 and 6, including allegations that examinees might have been coached or given test answers.

In a separate action, the FCC has suspended the HF privileges of a New Jersey ham. The FCC notified Walter P. Miller Jr., W2YEE, of Edison that his privileges to operate below 30 MHz were being suspended for 180 days.

The license-modification letter February 16 from Hollingsworth came in the wake of an earlier warning letter to W2YEE. Hollingsworth alleged that W2YEE's 75-meter operation on February 4 and 5 was contrary to the Amateur Service Rules. Hollingsworth said Miller violated Section 97.1, basis and purpose of Amateur Radio, Section 97.101(a), good engineering and good amateur practice, and Section 97.119, identification requirements. The alleged operation took place on 3901 and 3950 kHz, the FCC said.Miller has 30 days to formally protest the modification ***voa ARRL***

Demo Station for scouts

by Jim Mahoney, KB3BYU

The **DLARC** will be operating a demonstration station at the **Minsi Trails Boy Scout Council Jambo 99 campout** which will take place on the weekend of May 14-16, 1999 at Lehigh University's Stabler Fields. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase both amateur radio and the activities of DLARC to an audience of over 2,000 Boy Scouts. The current plan is to operate the station on Saturday May 15, the main day of the event. If we can get enough volunteer operators, we may decide to run for the entire weekend. I will be acting as the liaison between the club and the scout council. If you wish to volunteer for the event, you can contact me by phone at **610-434-1853**, or email at: **KB3BYU@arrl.net.**

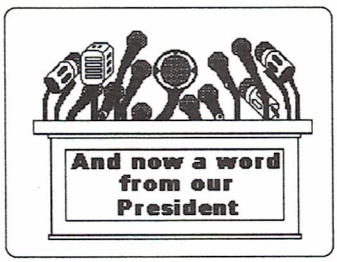
de Jim, KB3BYU

The Prez Sez

The Passing of Friends

By Joe Chuk, W3JD, President

Our club membership is constantly in a state of flux. We gain new members throughout the year. We also lose members who decide, for any number of reasons, not to continue their membership. Such is the case with every organization. Also, like other organizations, we lose members not by anyone's choice, but because their time on earth has ended. The DLARC had the sad coincidence in early March to endure the passing of two of its members in the same weekend: Ron Williamson, N3TBD, and Frank Lisicky, W3IYG.



Elsewhere in this newsletter, there are comments by members who were close to Ron and Frank. I can add that we as a club lose part of who we are whenever a member passes away. Every member has an impact on the rest of us in untold large and small ways. Many of us were with Frank at the March club meeting just two days before he died. He assisted at that meeting both by volunteering to sell the raffle tickets and by helping to set up for the presentation. As a VE team leader, Frank also was issued his key for the new cabinet for the testing materials. He never got the chance to use that key. For his part, Ron shared his time and emergency medical training by serving on an ambulance crew, helping others in dire physical situations.

Although the deaths of Ron and Frank came without warning, they did not leave without having an impact on us. We appreciate the time we had to share with them, and we all offer our sincere condolences to their families and loved ones.

A point of business during the March meeting was to determine whether there was a consensus about changing the meeting start time to 7:00 PM. There wasn't. A number of members brought up some good reasons for keeping the meeting time as it is: late working schedules, the current construction delays on Route 22, and the chance to socialize before the formal start of the meeting. It was decided by the majority of members present to table the motion to change the meeting time until at least after the Route 22 construction is completed.

The meeting brought with it a sure sign of Spring: the announcement of a number of public service projects and demonstration stations. DLARC members have a reputation for being generous with their time in taking part is such events, so check the list in this newsletter to see how you can help with one or more of these projects.

During the program, we learned from Bill Fairing, W1ATA, that RF radiation needs to be treated with respect and proper precautions. We thank him for sharing his knowledge and his concerns based on personal experience.

Our program for the April meeting promises to be an interesting one: the weather, with retired National Weather Service forecaster Charlie Gianetta, WA3RSQ. As of this writing, the meeting is scheduled to be held in College Center Room 116.

de Joe, W3JD

VE test session March 5

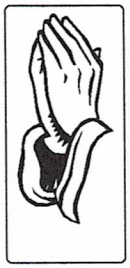
A test session was held on March 5th with the following results. A total of 16 elements were administered to 10 candidates. 11 elements were passed.

Name	License Earned
James Mullin	**Tech +**
John Torbet	**Technician**
Stephanie Clark	**Technician**

VEs in attendance were leader **Dan, W3ZF**; **Bob, KE3AW; William, NS3J; Glade, KA3MVQ**

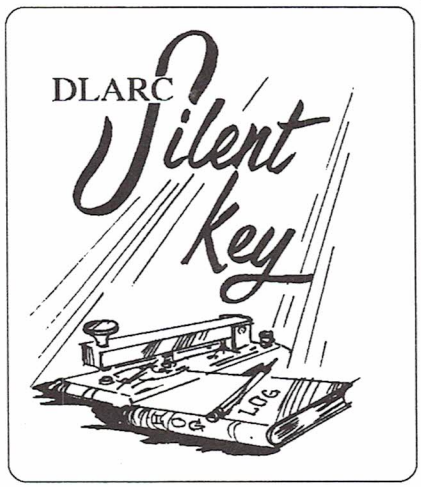
VEs for April are John Greenage, WX3C; Bill Twaddell, N2DH; and leader tentatively Chris Hornaman

VEs for May are Leader Joe Chuk, W3JD; Bob Dickerson, W3HJ; Tom Dow, N3EBH



I am also placing a **plea** for at least 3 more Extra class people for VE sessions. Since I made the calendar in December 2 people have dropped out and 1 W3IYG, Francis recently passed away. **With 3 more people** I can still keep the calendar a 2 VE sessions per person. Come on Extra's please volenteer, this is your chance to make a difference with a new ham!!!

de Jill, N3ZSR, VE Contact Person



Two members of the DLARC died during the month of March

by Mark, K3MP

Frank Lisicky W3IYG died March 6th, 1999, doing what he and his wife enjoyed. They were dancing along with the many friends that they have. They just finished dancing to a song that Frank requested to play, he and his wife, Goldie, sat down and then Frank suffered a massive heart attack. If he and his wife weren't dancing, they were at church helping out daily, attending mass and traveling in their spare time. I have known Frank for almost 20 years as a kind and caring gentleman. We met at church, where we both are members of the Assembled Men of St. Mary's. We would cook for social functions together and also sing together in St. Mary's choir. I found out about Ham radio through Frank and Carl,AA3IX, (formerly KA3ZWT), so I guess you could consider Frank my ELMER.

Frank always encouraged me to study and often gave me guidance when it came to upgrading my license. There was a little joke between, AA3IX and Frank when I was studying for my extra test, Carl would tell Frank that Mark is going make Extra before him, well I did. That put Frank on the spot and he then, only a month of two later passed his extra exam also. That was a great feeling. I really don't know how long he has been a ham but I know he's enjoyed it for many years.

I have only known him as a ham for 5 yrs and it has been very rewarding to be with him. He enjoyed chasing rare DX on HF, he was into slow scan TV. Really didn't care much for the VHF/UHF, but you catch him on .70 to check into the DLARC nets.

When Frank made Extra he became a VE and also a team leader for the test sessions. He will be missed by the Amateur community and his family. This was a personal loss for me. Frank went to Dayton with me along with my sidekicks, **AA3IX, K2YIY, KE3AW** and **W2GQ** and was planning on Dayton this year again. He was a quiet man, but a very hard working man and will be missed by all. He is survived by his wife, Goldie and son Mark. May he be at peace. 73

de K3MP, Mark

Ron Williamson, N3TBD (SK)

by Barry, N3NVA

On 3/10/99 I attended the funeral of our fellow DLARC member, **Ron Williamson, N3TBD.** You may not of heard him much on the air, but I assure you he was always listening to 70. He had helped us many times with our HamFests, Fielddays and other events.

I had the pleasure of knowing Ron for 15yrs or so as he was an EMT for Wind Gap Ambulance where we volunteered or services working side by side saving peoples lives some of which were auto accidents. It forms a bond between you. It's devastating that now one of those horrible accidents claimed his life on 3/5/99.

He will be missed by many. 73 Ron

de Barry N3NVA

Upcoming Demonstration Stations and Public Service Activities

MS Walks Sand Island, Bethlehem Hugh Moore Park, Easton **Sunday, 18 April 1999** Contact: Jeff Keller, **N3QZT (863-8507)**

MS Walks Lehigh Parkway, Allentown Lake Nockamixon, Quakertown **Sunday, 2 May 1999** Contact: Jeff Keller, **N3QZT (863-8507)**

Demonstration station Forks Elementary School Friday, 7 May 1999, 9 AM to 3 PM Contact: Dick Dech, **KA3MOU (837-1585)**

Demonstration station Boy Scout Jambo 99 Stabler Arena athletic fields Saturday, 15 May 1999 Contact: Jim Mahoney, **KB3BYU (434-1853)**

Demonstration station Lower Nazareth Elementary School Friday, 21 May 1999, 9 AM to 2 PM Contact: Dick Dech, **KA3MOU (837-1585)**

Demonstration station Liberty High School, Bethlehem Saturday, 22 May 1999 Contact: Juli Moscovitz, **N3CSQ (434-2465)**

MS-150 Bicycle Tour Saturday and Sunday, 12-13 June 1999 Contact: Jeff Keller, **N3QZT (863-8507)**

FCC TACKLES HF "SPLATTER" CASES

via the ARRL Letter

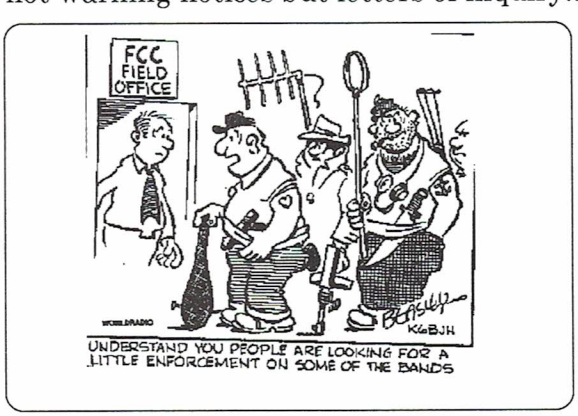
The FCC has written nearly two dozen Amateur Radio licensees whose 20-meter SSB signals were said to be "unusually wide, overpowered, or both." The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth did not identify the specific licensees involved, but he said some of them were believed to be over-the-road truckers operating mobile. Licensees were in several locations, including Illinois, New York, Mississippi, Arkansas, Puerto Rico, Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina and Florida. Hollingsworth's letter said information received by the FCC indicates that the stations involved "ignored requests from other licensees operating on adjacent frequencies" to do something about the wide signals. He said the operations in question were believed to be confined to the high end of the 20-meter band, above 14.300 MHz.

A letter from Hollingsworth to 22 Amateur Service licensees requests fixed and mobile station information about the use of and specifications for any linear amplifiers employed on 20 meters as well as the use of automatic level control (ALC) and mike gain settings.

Hollingsworth cited Section 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 as authority for the inquiry, calling it "our most powerful inquiry tool." He said the section "gives the Commission the authority to require information from a radio licensee during the term of the license that will enable it to determine whether that licensee is qualified to retain a license."

The affected licensees have 20 days to provide answers to the FCC. Hollingsworth's letter pointed out that hams are prohibited from occupying more than the necessary amount of bandwidth for the particular mode and that hams must use the minimum power "necessary to carry out the desired communications."

Hollingsworth emphasized that the letters were not warning notices but letters of inquiry..



FCC SEQUENTIAL CALL SIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of March 1, 1999. For more information about the sequential call sign system, see Fact Sheet PR5000 #206S or contact the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245, e-mail fccitd@fcc.gov.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0IJ	KI0PK	++	KC0FBU
1	AA1UI	KE1KZ	++	KB1DSM
2	AB2GA	KG2QA	++	KC2ESG
3	AA3SE	KF3CO	++	KB3DLO
4	AF4NO	KU4YO	++	KG4CDR
5	AC5SG	KM5UL	++	KD5GLP
6	AD6HY	KQ6ZR	++	KF6VBR
7	AB7AN	KK7SG	++	KD7EHA
8	AB8DT	KI8HT	++	KC8LVJ
9	AA9WX	KG9PG	++	KB9UFG

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

MS Walk needs help

by Jeff, N3QZT

In the next two months our club **(DLARC)** has been asked to help provide routine communications as well as safety communications, at four different MS Walks.

These walks will be held on two weekends, the first is April 18 and the second is May 2,.

The two in April will be held at Hugh Moore Park, Easton 8-10 Hams Needed) and Sand Island, Bethlehem (10-12 Hams needed).

The two in May will be held at Lehigh Parkway, Allentown (16-20 Hams needed) and in Quakertown (2-4 Hams Needed).

A recap of the dates April 18 in Bethlehem and Easton. May 2 in Allentown and Quakertown.

And please don't forget the big one, the MS 150 Bike Tour in June on the weekend of the 12th and 13th. This is a very large event requiring many amateur operators.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the events Thanks

Jeff, N3QZT

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club
Email Address

Call	E-Mail Address
KZ2A	gabelantos@fast.net
K3ANS	goodmancpa@enter.net
AA0AO	76147.2425@compuserve.com
W3APE	w3ape@enter.net
KE3AW	ke3aw@juno.com
WA3AWX	wa3awx@epix.net
KF4AX	mrfixit@unforgetable.com
W2AZZ	wa2azz@enter.net
KF3BD	mrarrell@nni.com
K3BKT	104021.147@compuserve.com
WD5BRP	wd5brp@att.net
N2BSC	barish@kutztown.edu
KB3BYR	ka3ygf@enter.net
WX3C	jgreenage@compuserve.com
WG3C	aostapenko@papl.com
N3CDO	carldonna@enter.net
W3CE	alw@enter.net
WB3CJU	donsal@fast.net
WA3CLC	cabdrive@enter.net
WA3CLD	wa3cld@juno.com
N3CSQ	j@mosc.com
KB3CSR	n2dh@easy-pages.com
KB3CSS	kb3css@enter.net
N3CXP	n3cxp@ptdprolog.net
KB3DEA	reader7@hotmail.com
KB3DEC	richthere@aol.com
N3DFF	jhogarth@nni.com
N2DH	n2dh@easy-pages.com
N3DL	n3dl@enter.net
KB3DJX	medic15@juno.com
KZ3DX	kz3dx@fast.net
N8DXR	tds59@im4u.net
N3EBH	cosmo@enter.net
W3ECT	w3ect@juno.com
W3EFL	val@enter.net
WA3ENE	leslohreast@juno.com
WB3ESQ	bshaub@lucent.com
KB2EVB	maddoc007@aol.com
N3EYT	n3eyt@aol.com
K3FEA	k3fea@aol.com
N3FNW	dwilliams4@juno.com
KE4FTY	greyhounds@cyberstreet.com
W3GKC	w3gkc@juno.com
W4GN	w4gn@alaweb.com
N3GRH	dhpctech@enter.net
N3GRK	n3grk@enter.net
N3GWR	jpfox@enter.net

Call	E-Mail Address
N3GXW	n3gxw@juno.com
WO4H	wo4h@enter.net
WF3H	wf3h@ptd.net
W3HFI	rvcd@ptdprolog.net
AA3HG	harlanne@enter.net
W3HHC	w3hhc@juno.com
K3HKZ	icom@enter.net
WA3HVR	wa3hvr@enter.net
W2IBX	pae2@juno.com
WA3IHX	willie@enter.net
W3IKQ	sammy@enter.net
W3IRX	wlarsen@epix.net
N3IUW	harlanne@enter.net
AA3IX	cseier@enter.net
N3IYX	n3iyx@fast.net
NS3J	ns3j@epix.net
W3JD	chuk@kutztown.edu
KA3JWE	donster@enter.net
WA3KIF	msm@enter.net
WB3KIL	nreznik@netreach.net
WA3KK	kkromer@erols.com
NU3L	homamca@postoffice.ptd.net
KA3LAM	tommorgl@aol.com
N3LLL	tfrobase@ghg.net
W3LPB	merlnjot@enter.net
W3LR	w3lr@juno.com
N3LVA	mcgeeh@enter.net
N3MAW	ametzler@ptd.net
N3MFT	kellyj@sectv.com
KA3MOB	fauerbach@att.net
KA3MOU	ka3mou@enter.net
K3MP	k3mp@enter.net
KA3MTY	pjeline@fast.net
N3MUP	luisruth@msn.com
N3NBL	mercury@fast.net
N3NET	gilsonrs@enter.net
N3NGL	n3ngl@enter.net
N3NLM	david.daugherty@lmco.com
N3NNH	andyry@aol.com
N3NNI	n3nni@enter.net
N3NVA	n3nva@enter.net
N3NXF	samlex@enter.net
K3NZ	k3nz@juno.com
KA3DOM	wa3awx@epix.net
KA3OEG	bbroad@iu20.cnie20.k12.pa.us
N3OLH	n3ohl@enter.net
KA3ONZ	scooter@enter.net

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club
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Call	E-Mail Address
N3OUC	stantomj@apci.com
NC3P	bfahs@juno.com
W3PYF	w3pyf@aol.com
KC3QO	kc3qo@juno.com
N3QQ	popekratz@enter.net
KA3QWO	easttimothy@hotmail.com
N3QZT	jeffk@enter.net
N3RBL	n3rbl@epix.net
N3RDI	w3teb@aol.com
KE3RP	asemery@aol.com
N3RPV	sparky11@juno.com
WA3RSQ	wxdata@juno.com
N3SQE	dmr220@psu.edu
AE3T	howardsh@ptdprolog.net
WX3TAZ	wx3taz@wx3taz.net
K9TBD	elston@enter.net
W3TDF	w3tdf@juno.com
W3TEB	w3teb@aol.com
KA3TEO	ka3teo@juno.com
KD3TI	kd3ti@ptdprolog.net
N2TTQ	n2ttq@wa3mgy.ampr.org
WA2TWS	wa2tws@ptd.net
KR3U	pookie@nni.com
N3UGH	passes@enter.net
N3ULW	gbrodt@epix.net
KA3UQP	jyev35f@prodigy.com
N3VJA	jarris@eastem.edu
KA3VJI	alex@epix.net

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FCC SUSPENDS ALLEGED GRIZZLY PEAK CONTROL OP FROM VHF/UHF

The FCC has taken another step in its investigation of alleged rulebreaking and impropriety on the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater system. In the latest action, the FCC has notified Blake B. Jenkins, N6YSA, of Berkeley, that his amateur VHF/UHF privileges were being suspended for 120 days as of March 5. Jenkins has been identified as the primary designated control operator of the four K7IJ VHF and UHF repeaters. Citing what it called "an alarming and unacceptable lack of control" over the operation of the repeaters, the FCC on March 2 shut down the K7IJ system for 120 days while it continues its investigation. FCC officials have not visited the site in person, however, and no equipment has been seized.

In a letter to Jenkins dated March 3, FCC Amateur Radio enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said FCC monitoring indicated that Jenkins "encouraged and solicited unlicensed radio operation on the repeaters." Hollingsworth also accused Jenkins of using his ham station "to solicit the jamming of other licensed repeaters" after the K7IJ repeater system was shut down.

The FCC letter seeks information from Jenkins on his role and activities while K7IJ repeater control operator. Hollingsworth's letter also referred briefly to the "Ham Radio Jamming" section on the N6YSA Web site, "on which you provide circuit descriptions of jamming devices and techniques." Pages dealing with jamming hardware appear to be no longer available. Hollingsworth said the FCC continues to look into the conduct of an alleged secondary control operator Steven R. Rossi, KE6LNH.

Meanwhile, Hollingsworth said he and K7IJ licensee Bruce Wachtell spoke by telephone after Wachtell--a shipboard radio operator now in the Pacific--reached port in Hawaii. Hollingsworth said the FCC still expects a written response from Wachtell addressing the Commission's concern about the repeaters' operation.

In a related move, the FCC also set aside recent license grants or upgrades of four operators while it continues its investigation. The FCC also issued warnings to two other individuals..

The ARRL Letter

HAM RADIO-CARRYING RAFT EXPEDITION HITS A SNAG

Sea worms and storms have gotten the best of La Mantena, a 50-foot balsa log raft skippered by John Haslett, KC5KHA, of Dallas, Texas, as part of an educational and research venture. The vessel, first launched last October, has been attempting to retrace the trading routes of ancient Ecuadorian mariners by sailing from Ecuador up the Central American coast to Mexico. Ultimately, the expedition plans to attempt to cross the Pacific to Hawaii. But the voyage has run into problems and has had to be scuttled in the Pacific some 160 miles southwest of Costa Rica.

The Mantena's balsa hull has twice been infested by a type of destructive sea worm. The earlier infestation necessitated a repair and rebuilding stop last fall and winter, and Haslett, 34, thought he had the problem licked. But the steps taken then to prevent a recurrence--including liberal applications of tar--apparently were not successful. Decay also has affected some of the manila rope that binds the logs together. To add insult to injury, the raft had been trapped in the gyre--a large ocean whirlpool--and literally was going in circles under its influence.

After bad weather further impaired the vessel's ability to navigate, Haslett's wife, Annie, reported that the crew had accepted an offer from the Costa Rica Coast Guard to rescue the crew and vital supplies and equipment as well as vital raft components. The raft's sails, hardwood masts and cross members and some of its center beams have been towed to Costa Rica. The rest of the vessel was abandoned. Annie Haslett says the team's plans call for rebuilding the raft and continuing the long voyage. The raft had a crew of four, including Haslett.

Aboard the Mantena, Haslett had been maintaining Amateur Radio schedules with schools and other groups in the US and around the world on 20 meter SSB. The expedition also has been using Amateur Radio for routine communication with the mainland. In 1993, Haslett built a 20-ton balsa raft Illa Tiki in Ecuador, then traveled some 750 nautical miles aboard the vessel. It, too, was plagued by shipworms.

Annie Haslett said the expedition team expects to take a month to rebuild "and they will embark on the adventure again." ***The ARRL Letter***

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

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CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
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