Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

April 2000

Club Meeting April 6

Internet Commerce

by Rich, KB3DEC

Our speaker for the April 6th meeting of the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club meeting at **NCC room 234** will be John B. Murdoch. he is from the local area, north of the Lehigh Valley. He has experience writing software for things like the recent Y2K coverage by ABC news, and also has, as I understand it, software running on four continents around the world right now.

His talk will be titled, "Internet Commerce". As I understand it, he is in the software business and is involved in a Wind Gap Technology Group as part of that. It should be interesting to note that he has been through the US, Canada, and Japan doing this sort of thing. It should be an interesting session. .

de Rich KB3DEC

Net Controls needed

We are looking for net controllers for the Sunday and Wednesday Nets.

You would only have the net every five weeks or so.

If you would like to be a Sunday or Wednesday Net Controller contact Clarence **W3PYF** or Dick **KA3MOU.**

de Dick KA3MOU

VE Testing changes explained at last

by Stephanie, KB3DNA

OK everyone--now that I've got your attention, here's the story you've been waiting for. Preregistration has been instituted after the "sardine" session we had in March. The room we now use for the testing is not very big at all, and 25 people showed up to take an exam. Also keep in mind that each exam must be graded 3 times--yes, you read it right. It takes time to grade all of those exams, then have each VE sign the correct CSCE and simultaneously keep all of that paperwork together.

The average paperwork packet that gets forwarded to the ARRL for EACH test taken is 5 pages of materials. Here's the bottom line---the VE's and I were at the test site until 10 p.m. last month. Because there is so much work involved, preregistration is the only fair way to get a handle on things. There is also an additional 5 - 10 hours of work each month that goes on behind the scenes so that the club can sponsor these sessions.

Considering all the work that is done so that you have a place to upgrade your license, is it really so hard spending 5 minutes to send me an email :

kb3dna@juno.com

de Stephanie, KB3DNA



Just the Minutes

by Jim, N3DFF, Secretary



The March meeting was held in room 234 of the College Center and began at 7:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by Don, KA3JWE.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved on a motion from Jeff, N3QZT with a second from Dick, KA3MOU.

Treasurer's Report

Balance $6,256.38 as of Jan. 31, 2000
713.00 income
429.58 expenses
$6,539.79 Total Feb. 29, 2000
252 Members

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by J.P. N3GWR with a second from Mark, K3MP.

Repeater Report:

Barry N3NVA, reported Bob WF3H, Don KA3JWE, and himself replaced the old hardline to the 147.70 repeater. The old line was badly cracked.

Barry is still waiting for space at the repeater site to install the voters for the repeater.

The 440 MHz repeater was damaged by water, Barry showed pictures of the interior to the club. He is in the process of replacing the damaged parts.

Club Page:

Barry is now handling the member pictures on the Club's web page. **Dick, KA3MOU** is using his digital camera to get pictures of the club members not currently on the page.

Classes:

New classes for the Tech / General license will begin on **March 13 and run for six weeks.**

Christine and Debbie, coordinators for the MS Society Bike-a-Thon and Walk-a-Thon programs spoke to thank the club for their help in these events. Last year, $200,000 was raised for the Society.

New Members and Visitors:

John Barbaz, KB3EOJ was approved for membership.

Jeff Sherer, **N3IPT**; John Dancey, **N3NUE**; and Paul Ryan, **N0KIA** were re-instated as members.

Dough Troughton N2RDF, of Rhode Island was a guest at the meeting.

Awards:

Chris, NU3L and Bob, KE3AW were given awards for their long service in teaching the classes for the club.

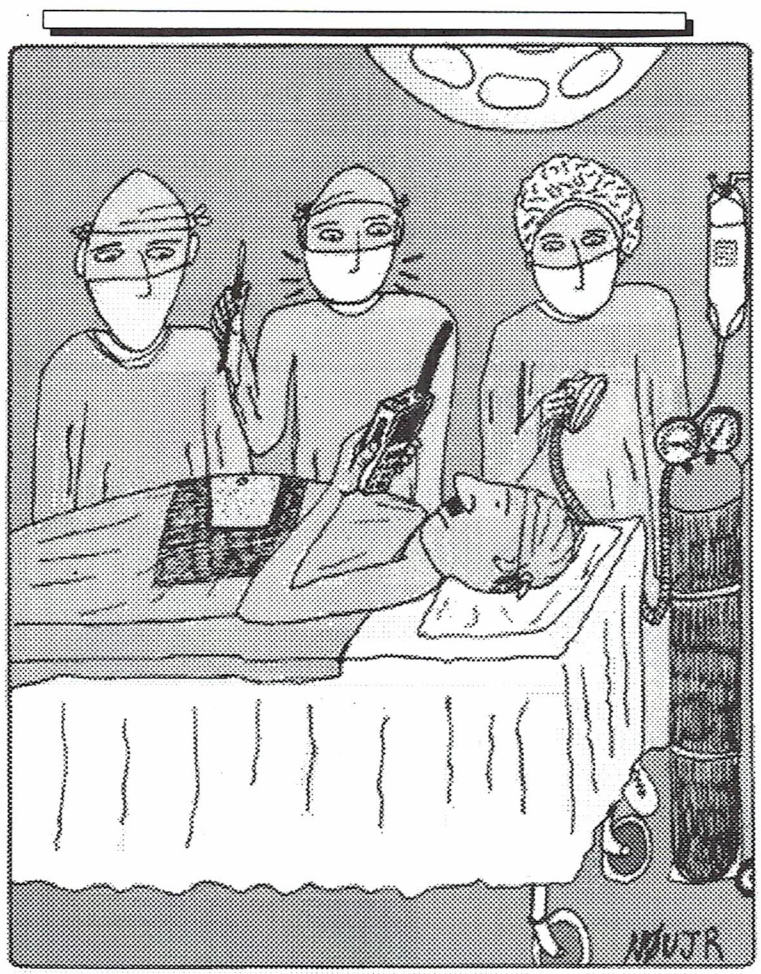
Special Event Station:

The certificates for the Christmas City station are printed and ready for mailing.

The meeting adjourned at 08:30 PM on a motion by Barry, N3NVA with a second from Dick, KA3MOU.

The program this evening was given by Amy, KD3TI. She spoke on public service. Please see our web page for additional information.

de Jim N3DFF

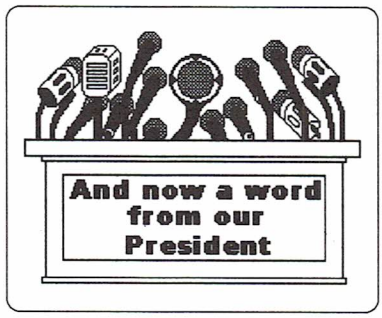


"Mr. Nelson...I'm afraid you will have to leave the air for a while during this procedure."

The Prez Sez

by Don, KA3JWE, president

I received a few questions concerning the article that I wrote last month about the ULS. I would like to repeat a few of the answers here for those of you who might have the same questions but just haven't asked them yet.



First, you do not have to register immediately. As long as you don't need to have any modifications made to your license right now, you can wait until just before your license expires to register. However, doing it now will get you into the system and you won't have to remember how to do it later. Second, you must provide your Social Security number or your TIN. TIN stands for Taxpayer Identification Number. That is a number assigned to you if you do not have a Social Security number. And third, at this time, only the registration process is done via the Internet. Modifications to your license or your personal data must be done through a direct dial-up connection to the FCC's computer. Bob, N3OLH, has told me that you must use Netscape when making the direct connection. I guess that they can't justify support for Internet Explorer when the government is suing Microsoft in anti-trust court.

Now, on to a different subject. The last V.E. session was crowded, to say the least. Upgrade fever has hit the Ham community with everyone trying to get those C.S.C.E.'s before the April 15th changeover. This created quite a problem last month since there were 25 people taking tests in a room that can only normally hold 15. It was elbow to elbow and the session finally finished up three hours later, around 10 p.m. The attending V.E.'s and Stephanie, KB3DNA, did a SUPER job processing all of that paperwork. I commented that they probably had to sign their name more times that night than they did when they bought a house. (If anyone has bought a house recently, then you know what I mean.)

Due to the size of the facility where the V.E. sessions are held, it was decided that a pre-registration of 15 applicants maximum would be necessary to avoid the overcrowding situation encountered last month. So, if you are planning to attend the **April 7th V.E.** session at the Gracedale building, please **pre-register with Stephanie** via email. Her email address is: **kb3dna@juno.com**. She told me that she has received telephone calls from prospective applicants as late as 10:45 p.m., which is NOT very courteous especially since she has a small child who is asleep at that hour. So please, use common sense when contacting her!

There may be an extra V.E. session held before the April 15th deadline, if the logistics can be worked out, to accommodate the crowds and/or those that can't make it on April 7th. Also, a "paperwork only session" has been discussed to process the huge number of applications that require only paying the fee and filing the forms. At this time there are no definite dates for these sessions, so keep your ear on the repeater or your browser on the Club web page for up-to-the-minute information on these two items.

It's too soon to tell whether the restructuring will breathe new life into Ham radio, but it is obvious that it has created a flurry of activity among current license holders. Hopefully it will entice some younger people into the hobby and if it does, we should be eager to welcome them and assist them with whatever their interests may be. 73

de Don, KA3JWE

Honduran infant is doing well after ham-radio arranged US surgery:

ARRL 1999 International Humanitarian Award winner **Ed Petzolt, K1LNC**, says a nine-month-old girl from Honduras who received a heart operation in the US March 6 that was arranged via ham radio is expected to recover completely. Petzolt said the infant--whose name is Hillary Michele--suffers from a congenital heart condition and will need further surgery in two or three years. But for now, he says; "all is well." Last month, Petzolt helped to arrange the youngster's US surgery when he used ham radio to patch a Honduran doctor to a US doctor in Pennsylvania who agreed to perform the surgery for free. Petzolt then patched the Honduran ham intermediary--Ronaldo Roll, HR3RON, a Catholic priest--into the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa to arrange to expedite the necessary paperwork for the infant and her mother to get a medical visa. Petzolt said Roll agreed to pay their airfare to and from the US.

The ARRL Letter

How I became interested in Amateur Radio.

by Dewi, W3CQU

When I was about eight years old my friend and I wee working on model airplanes in Bill's basement. His father came down the stairs and fiddled with a few switches and turned a few dials and in a few minutes I heard "CQ CQ CQ, W3CQU CALLING CQ CQ." I asked Bill what his dad was doing and he said he was 'playing' with his radios.

Then through the loud speakers I heard another voice calling "W3CQU this is (I forget the call, after all it was at least five years ago} and a lengthy conversation followed. The next time we were working that Bill's dad came to the cellar, I worked my way to his side. He seemed pleased to have me there because Bill was not at all interested. I must have become an adopted son or something. He turned a few knobs a call "CQ CQ, CQ calling W3IEV." (I remember that call because Eddie Dryer, Jr., W1IEV's son and I became friends.) When he established contact he held the mike in front of a very shy Dewi and told me to speak which I did after a little prodding.

After a few sessions like this he told me that I would have to use Morse Code. He proceeded to teach it to me, egad, he must have had the patience of Job. I guess is was about nine years old and made my first attempt at CW. Eddie was very patient well because he slowed his speed down to the level I could copy. I developed a good fist and really enjoyed myself. Today I get a migraine trying to sort out code signals from the ringing in my ears, tinitus. This was in 1938 through 1941 when much amateur radio was curtailed because of the war.

When my father died, I was sixteen years old Bill Sr's shoulder was offered to me to cry on. My father was an engineer with AT&T and was very proud and happy that I had a mentor in HAM radio. He taught me much about circuitry and often brought broken telephone stuff for me to play with.. I guess it is safe to say that I had a hi tech childhood.

After the war years, I got into dating and a more active social life and radio was placed on the back burner. When the eleven meter craze came into being, I started to re-whet my appetite and got on the air. In 1976 a friend saw the antenna on my car and we talked about radio. He was a licensed ham; and told me to learn the code and he would help me with the theory to get my license. I told him of my past and that I know the code, a little rusty but could copy.. He invited me into his shack and administered the CW test and I passed it on the first try, Bill was a good teacher. The he gave the written exam and sent the whole package off to the FCC and a few weeks later I got an envelope with my license "WB3JEG."

About ten years later I upgraded to Tech and my new 1 X 3 call was N3FNW. That is when I met the Lehigh Valley group and Pres Schulyler.

When the vanity program came along I wanted to honor my childhood "Elmer." I told Bill Jr. and asked him if he would have any objections and he said that his father would be proud and happy to have me put his call back on the air.

I applied for **W3CQU** and on May 26,1999 I was operating with the same call I was using as at third party in 1938 through 1941. I applied for my new amateur license plate for my car and in mid December I received it. Possibly the first amateur tag on the new style plate.

editor's note:

Dewi saw my request in the last news letter and sent me this story.. I have more on file already.

de Clarence, W3PYF

Field Day 2000 preparations under way.

Field Day 2000 information packet now is available online in PDF format at the ARRL Contest Branch Web site, http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/fdpack.pdf. You can download this packet, which include the official rules and forms for FD 2000. To order the packet, send an SASE with three units of first-class postage affixed to Field Day Package, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

A new bonus point category has been added for Field Day 2000. Groups can earn 100 bonus points by setting up a demonstration of a "nontraditional" amateur mode, including APRS, ATV or SSTV. The bonus does not include modes for which regular QSO credit already may be earned (such as AM or FM on phone or packet, PACTOR, AMTOR or PSK-31 on digital). QSOs made via the demo station do not count toward the Field Day score, and the transmitter does not count toward the transmitter total. There are no rule changes regarding the special Novice/Tech Plus station.

The Field Day participation pins also are back this year. To earn a pin, all you need to do is participate in Field Day--no minimum number of contacts to achieve or ARRL sections to work. The pin is for anyone active in helping to make Field Day happen--from the set-up crew and on-the-air operators to the covered-dish organizers and generator crew.

Field Day 2000 pins are available now for $5 each. Send orders with payment to Field Day Pin Order, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Early orders are recommended, since the 1999 pins sold out rapidly. Clubs and groups are encouraged to purchase their pins together.

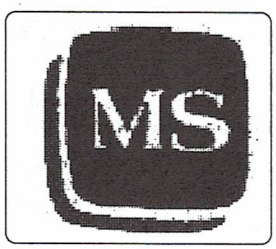
For more information on Field Day 2000, contact Dan Henderson, ARRL Contest Branch Manager, n1nd@arrl.org or 860-594-0232.--Dan Henderson, N1NDT

the ARRL Letter Vol. 19, No. 10

Upcoming Walks and Bike tour events

by Jeff, N3QZT

It's the start of a new public service event season and it looks to be a busy one. We have been ask to provide communications for safety and logistics for



4 Multiple Sclerosis Walks and also for the **MS 150-2000 bike tour**. That's a bunch of events, fortunately they are not all on the same weekend. Here is the schedule for the events.

Sunday April 9, 2000 will be the first two of the walks. One held in Hugh Moore Park, Easton (we need 7 volunteers for this one) and the other one for this weekend is a small one held in Nockamixon State Park, Quakertown (we need 3 volunteers). Then on **Sunday May 7, 2000** the third and forth walks will be held one of them at Sand Island, Bethlehem (11 volunteers for this one) and the last walk in the Little Lehigh Parkway, Allentown (also 11 volunteers are needed). As you can see on **May 7th** the club will be very busy, it should not be a problem for a club of our size to come up with 22 volunteers.

Then on the weekend of **June 10-11, 2000** the MS 150-2000 bike tour will be held. This 2 day event (with dinner, breakfast and lodging provided) is one of the largest public service events the club participates in, and we can use everybody's help.

Looks like the club is going to be busy over the next couple of months, why not see if you can help out. Thanks...

de Jeff, N3QZT

Club Library

by Amy, KD3TI

A reminder to everyone that the club has a small lending library of reference and training material available to club members. The library is available at club meetings, members can sign out materials for a one-month period.

We ask that they be returned at the following meeting. Some members have items which have been signed out for several months, now. It would be appreciated if they could be returned so that others may borrow them. For any questions, or to borrow club library materials, contact **KD3TI**, Amy, the club Vice President. Thank you all.

Income and Loss Statement.

Balance		**6,256.38**
INCOME		
Donation Income U G I Y2K	100.00	
Dues Arrl	557.00	
VE Test Session	56.00	

TOTAL INCOME		**$713.00**
EXPENSES		
Memory Of Len Peterson	30.74	
Newsletters Directory & E-List	220.00	
Postage	116.53	
Refund Dues Overpayment	3.00	
Renewal ARRL	26.00	
Telephone	33.32	

TOTAL EXPENSES		**$429.59**

TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES		**283.41**
Balance 2/29/00		**$6,539.79**

Total Membership 252 as of 3/2/00

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Amateur Radio Spectrum Bill Introduced in Senate

via ARRL Bulletin

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bill now has supporting legislation in the US Senate. Idaho Sen Michael Crapo has introduced a bill that mirrors the house bill, HR 783. The Senate measure has been designated S 2183.

"In introducing this bill, we want to do something for Amateur Radio in return for all the good it has done the people of Idaho and elsewhere in the US by providing a reliable means of backup communication in times of emergency," Crapo said. He also pledged to promote the bill in the Senate.

Like the House version, the Senate bill, if enacted, would require the FCC to provide equivalent replacement spectrum should it ever be necessary to reallocate Amateur Radio frequencies for some other purpose.

The new Senate legislation was introduced with bipartisan co-sponsorship from Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Blanche Lambert Lincoln (D-AR), Bob Smith (R-NH) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME).

The bill's introduction comes on the heels of a visit to Capitol Hill by the recently elected ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

So far, the House version of the spectrum bill has drawn bipartisan support, with 140 cosponsors to date, and has met with no opposition. However, Congress, and the all-important House and Senate Commerce committees, have been preoccupied with non-telecommunications matters and the Amateur Spectrum Protection Act has not yet moved out of committee. The new Senate bill provides additional motivation for the Congress to consider the legislation.

via ARRL Bulletin 13

US Appeals Court Upholds RF Exposure Regulations

via ARRL Bulletin

The US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has upheld the FCC's 1996 RF exposure guidelines. The court also turned away a challenge to the FCC's exclusive ability to regulate relevant radio facility operations. The wide-ranging challenge was brought by the Cellular Phone Taskforce joined by other petitioners including the Communications Workers of America.

In an opinion released February 18, the three-judge panel upheld the FCC against the challenges on all points.

The petitioners, in part, had claimed the FCC failed to account for non-thermal effects of RF radiation, didn't evaluate new evidence, failed to get expert testimony, and failed to account for "scientific uncertainty" about RF exposure in deciding to not lower the maximum permissible exposure levels below the maximum permitted thermal levels. The petitioners also faulted the FCC for adopting a two-tiered MPE level system that allows for higher exposure in "occupational/controlled" situations than in "general population/uncontrolled" situations.

Additionally, the Appeals Court: said the FCC was not irrational, arbitrary or capricious in its decision and that it did not ignore "substantial comments" from experts.

* noted that licensees are still responsible for compliance "and an interested person can petition the FCC for review of a site believed to violate the MPE levels."
* disagreed that an environmental impact statement was required from the FCC.
* rejected the petitioners' arguments that by not considering RF interference with medical devices, the FCC failed to take a hard look at the environmental consequences of its actions.
* rejected arguments that the FCC did not enjoy broad preemption authority over state or local government under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to regulate wireless service facilities.

ARRL RF Safety Committee Chairman Greg Lapin, N9GL, credits the FCC with being comprehensive in developing its RF safety regulations and thinks the Appeals Court did the right thing. "The FCC is not a health and safety organization, and the Commission never intended the rules to serve as a standard," Lapin said.

*D122WAAaaA<

Lapin pointed out that the FCC's rules are based on accepted American National Standards Institute/Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements standards, "which, in turn, are based on mountains of research and the opinions of lots of experts," he said.

The resulting rules take into account a consensus of expert opinion on the topic of RF safety. "The appeals court recognized this in its decision," Lapin said. ***via ARRL Bulletin***

More on PA QSO party

Even though we as a club came in second in the PAQSO party this year there were two members call letters that were on the top of the scoring.

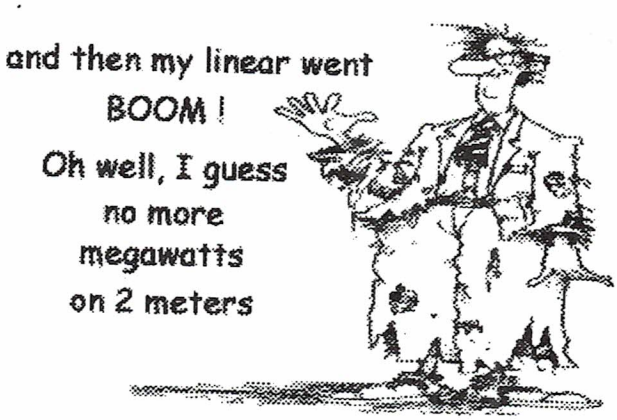
Bill, K3ANS, with a multi-op station, which included club member **Josh, N3VJA** and some members of the FRC club made it to the top of the list as multi-multi station list.

In addition, **Barry, N3NVA** was top in the Novice/Tech class. .

Letter to the editor

A tip of the hat and a hearty "well done" to Stephanie **KB3DNA,** Carl **AA3IX,** Bob **WA3MGN**, Bill **NS3J,** and Glade **WA3MVQ** for their outstanding effort put forth to handle the overflow crowd at the March 3 VE session. Although the room was crowded the session was handled in a very efficient and timely manner. Thank you all!

de Jim KN3DZY



League officials promote amateur radio issues in DC

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and other members of the League leadership team enhanced the visibility of Amateur Radio during a recent visit to Capitol Hill and the FCC. Haynie says he and the other League officials promoted the value of Amateur Radio at every stop and put in a good word with FCC officials in favor of expanding PRB-1 into private-sector agreements.

We had an opportunity to tell our story again about Amateur Radio and the important functions it serves, especially in public service and education," Haynie said this week. The League president said he was pleased by the willingness of both members of congress and the FCC "to acknowledge Amateur Radio as an important part of American society."

The focus of the congressional meetings was the Spectrum Protection Act, HR-783. In the wake of the League officials' visit, a companion bill was introduced in the US Senate (see "Amateur Radio Spectrum Bill Introduced in Senate" below).

Haynie says that during his Capitol Hill meetings, he stressed that Amateur Radio provides "millions of dollars worth of emergency communications vehicles and equipment that's made available to the public at no cost to any governmental agency." Haynie said his hosts were impressed with the fact that Amateur Radio is a valuable resource that doesn't cost the taxpayers a dime and is poised for action in the event of a disaster.

Acompanying Haynie to Washington were First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Haynie also huddled with the League's Washington-based Technical Relations staff and met later with the ARRL Enforcement Task Force.

At the FCC, the League officials met with Commissioners Susan Ness and Michael Powell, and sat down for more than an hour with Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Thomas J. Sugrue; Public Safety and Private Wireless Division Chief D'Wana Terry; Bill Cross, W3TN, and other WTB staffers.

Prime topic at the FCC gathering was the League's recent petition for reconsideration that includes expansion of PRB-1 to include covenants and restrictions--what Haynie called a "hot button issue" within the Amateur Radio community. The ARRL in late December filed a petition calling on the FCC to apply PRB-1 to hams falling under private-sector restrictions just as it does to those regulated solely by local zoning laws.

We feel that it's only fair that we be given the same 'reasonable accommodation' in that area as we have been with municipalities," Haynie said.

Haynie and the ARRL contingent told FCC officials and staff that the League sees "a positive and exciting future" for Amateur Radio in the wake of restructuring. He said League and FCC officials also talked about the possibility of lifetime credit for the 5 WPM Morse code element. "They're very much willing to listen to us," he said..

The ARRL Letter

California ham hopes to be the oldest sailor

At age 74, David Clark, KB6TAM, is not resting on a lifetime of accomplishments as you might expect he'd be doing at this stage of his life. Despite being "retired," Clark just doesn't enjoy "sitting around." That's why he's taking a crack at becoming the oldest person to sail solo around the world. On his long journey, begun in early December from Ft Lauderdale, Florida, ham radio has provided a welcome link with the world he left behind.

Clark has been a regular daily check-in on the Maritime Net (14.313 MHz) at between 7 and 8 PM Pacific time. Net members and other hams have patched Clark through to his wife, Lynda, and to other family members, and helping out with information. Clark also has satellite communication gear aboard.

Clark is sailing a 44-foot steel-hulled sloop, the Mollie Milar--named for his mother. He's already sailed around the world once--in 1987 to 1991--although not completely alone. A previous solo attempt failed in 1995.

As of this week, Clark was located in the Pacific some 900 miles from Tahiti and typically averaging 120 miles a day. The vessel is equipped with a small auxiliary engine. "He is getting low on propane so is preserving by limiting his cooking and eating cold beans out of the can," his wife reported this week after speaking with him via ham radio.

Although officially "solo," Clark does have a first mate along--his west highland terrier, Mickey. Clark expects to arrive in Tahiti in a couple of weeks or so, depending on the winds. To supplement his Social Security check, Clark has been playing clarinet gigs at his various ports of call. Corporate sponsors such as Raytheon have provided equipment, but Clark is financing his latest adventure out of his own pocket.

The ARRL Letter

DLARC Field Day 2000

Plainfield Township Farmers' Fairgrounds

June 24-25

by Jim, N3DFF

DLARC will again participate in the annual ARRL Field Day event for 2000. The point of Field Day is to practice setting up and operating under less than ideal conditions as preparation for providing communications during an emergency.



The event is run as a competition to make it more interesting; however, achieving the highest score is not the aim of the event. I hope we can improve upon our score from last year; but I also hope more that we can all improve our skills and enjoy ham radio.

If you know a neighbor or someone else, particularly a young person, whose interested in radio please bring them. This is a great way to introduce someone to ham radio. This event requires the help, dedication, and talents of a number of people. Please mark your calendar's and reserve this weekend to come out and participate. There are plenty of opportunities. Here is a list of some of the categories, if you want to help out let me know what your interests are. I'll start passing out sign-up sheets at the meetings, but not everyone can get to the meetings, so email will also work.

a.. Set up

Meet early at Gracedale to load the equipment and deliver to the site

b.. Break down

After the event, help disassemble the equipment and return it

c.. Antennas

Help prepare and setup antennas. Do we want to put up the tower this year Does someone want to run an "antenna committee"?

d.. Stations managers

Arrange for a station and set it up. You don't have to stay all weekend.

e.. Generators

We need two generators for powering the event.

f.. Computers

We need a logging computer for each operating desk. The requirements are small, the logging program is a DOS based application.

g.. Instructors

Teach operators how to use the logging programs or in general instruct someone who wants to operate, but is unfamiliar with the procedures.

h.. Photographer

Take pictures of the event for the club page

i.. Food

The food, colas, ice, and beer need to be bought and delivered to the site.

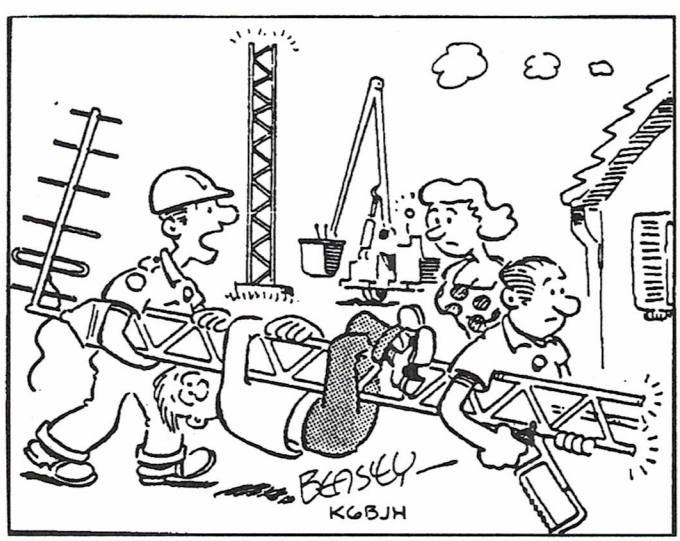
OPERATORS This is a category by itself. We need operators to sign up for time slots and to fill in empty times. Last year the last station finished at around 02:00 AM Sunday and nothing started until around 07:30 AM Sunday. If you want to reserve an operating slot, please let me know your time and station preference.

Your license class does not matter. The event will run under the W3OK call sign and will have control operators on site. If you are unsure of how to operate in this event, we will have people to help. This is a great way to learn. Don't be afraid to ask.

We anticipate again running 10, 20, 40, and 80 meter stations along with a Novice/Tech station. If someone wants to run an additional station, please let me know.

Please let me hear your comments, questions, or suggestions about Field Day.

Jim Hogarth, N3DFF n3dff@arrl.net.



[redacted]: Sorry about the tower, ma'am—we couldn't pry your husband loose.

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Email Address			
Call	E-Mail Address	Call	E-Mail Address
KZ2A	gabe_lantos@fast.net	W3FYK	w3fyk@juno.com
K3ANS	goodmancpa@enter.net	W3GKC	w3gkc@juno.com
AA0AO	76147.2425@compuserve.com	W4GN	w4gn@alaweb.com
W3APE	w3ape@enter.net	N3GRH	dhpctech@enter.net
KE3AW	ke3aw@juno.com	N3GRK	n3grk@aol.com
N3AWT	rmidlam@aol.com	N3GWR	jppox@enter.net
WA3AWX	wa3awx@epix.net	N3GXW	n3gxw@juno.com
KB3RI	kb3ri@aol.com	WO4H	wc4h@enter.net
WD5BRP	wd5brp@att.net	WF3H	wf3h@ptd.net
KB3BYR	ka3ygf@enter.net	W3HFT	slw3hft@webtv.net
KB3BYU	kb3byu@arrl.net	AA3HG	harlanne@enter.net
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How I started

by Roy, W3ZIF

Paul Fritsch, (W3HHC) was my "Elmer" as he would conduct code practice sessions in order for me to get my Novice and General class ticket. We used to meet in the office of Dr. Charles Dibbell, (W3HTS) at 18th & Tilghman Sts. in Allentown. Doc Dibbell was a veterinarian and these Friday night meetings were general gab sessions. This was before W3OI was organized into a club. I learned a lot listening to these guys talk about their equipment, the DX they worked, the problems they encountered and the helpful tips they gave me. It was a "come when you can, go when you must" type of gathering. Unfortunately, most of these men have either moved away from the area, became Silent Keys or are no longer active in the hobby.

I received my Novice ticket on 30 June 1954.

My Novice station consisted of a Meck T-60 transmitter running 60 watts of power on AM and CW. I bought the rig from W3HHC and it was a real TVI generator to say the least. It did not have any filtering on it, no low pass filter and operated on the 2nd harmonic. To operate on 80 meters, I had to use a 160 meter crystal. The oscillator section had a 160 meter plug-in coil and the final section had an 80 meter plug-in coil. To operate on 40 meters, I had to use an 80 meter crystal, 80 meter oscillator coil and 40 meter final coil, etc. There were 2 6L6 tubes in the final. My receiver was a Hallicrafters S-40B and I had a home-brew antenna tuner. This was before SWR bridges were so popular. At least I didn't know anything about them at the time. This Meck transmitter was similar in design to the old Lettines transmitter that was manufactured by the Lettine Radio Mfg. Co. in Valley Stream, NY. The Meck transmitter was manufactured in Plymouth, IN.

My first contact was on 21 August 1954 when I worked Connie Clark, WN3ZMN who lived in Whitehall, PA near the WSAN radio station.

To the best of my recollection, my first DX station was KP4YD in Puerto Rico on 20 meters.

My most memorable QSO was when a co-worker of mine was visiting me in the shack in October of 1962 as he wanted to know what amateur radio was all about so this one Saturday morning we heard a station in Coral Gables, FL calling CQ on 20 meters. I went back to him and we had a nice QSO. About a week later, I received a letter from the FCC office in Ft. Lauderdale, FL telling me that they wanted an explanation as to why I was operating outside the 20 meter phone band as they had me spotted at 14.198.4 MHz. I wrote back to them explaining that I did not check my frequency with the crystal calibrator on my receiver, which was a Hammarlund HQ-140-X and I told them that this would not happen again. I never heard from this office again but about 2 weeks later, I received another letter from the FCC office in Canandaigua, NY asking me to furnish them with all the info I could regarding this station I was working in Coral Gables as it seems he was a "bootlegger" who was using the call letters of a gentleman who was overseas at the time (possibly in the military) and he happened to hear his call being used by someone else. I could only tell them the name of this operator and QTH but nothing else as we did not go into much detail during that QSO. I never heard from that office again either. My transmitter at the time was a Viking Valiant running 200 watts of AM power.

At the time, I think my most rarest DX was when I worked KC4USP located at Palmer Station at the South Pole on 15 meters. He was about 700 miles south of the time of Cape Horn in South America. This was a U.S. Navy station and the gentleman there had just done some maintenance work on their Collins transmitter and he wanted a signal report. I told him my QTH and he said he knew where Allentown was as he was from Bloomsburg, PA. I asked if he wanted me to run him a phone patch to his parents and he said he didn't as he had just written to them 2 days before and had nothing else to talk about.

I used to enjoy running phone patches and for over a year, back in the early 70's, I used to run patches for medical missionaries in Nicaragua whose family lived in the Bethlehem area.

I think my most memorable experience in ham radio has been the time when 8 of us fellows were called up to Stroudsburg, PA three days after Hurricane Diane hit the Pocono Mountains with devastating effects and the loss of life that was encountered. We spend about 30 hours up there maintaining communication between Stroudsburg and E. Stroudsburg as all of the power and telephone lines were down. Most of the fellows had Gonset Communicators in their cars and they were dispatched to various parts of the town where rescue/restoration/recovery efforts were taking place. Pres Schuler, (W3BYF) who later became W3VQ and I manned the base station set up at the Phoenix/Chemical Fire Station at 7th and Sarah Streets in downtown Stroudsburg. We had a runner who would dispatch messages across the street to the Monroe County Court House where Civil Defense headquarters was located and they in turn proceeded to carry out any instructions that may have come through via ham radio. It was an experience that filled you with mixed emotions as you knew you were doing your best to help mankind but at the same time it was very depressing to see all the destruction that had been done and we felt very saddened to think of the loss of life that had occurred.

de Roy W3ZIF

editors note:

This is another of the members who took up on my invitation in last month's issue to tell how they started in AmateurRadio.

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

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==1999-2000==

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CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70

Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
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