Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2004

Meeting April 1st at IU20

DLARC Classes Report

By Dick, KA3MOU

Tuesday March 9, DLARC classes started. We had 21 present last night, 26 were registered. I don't know if there are 5 no-shows or just March 9 absences.

The scouts are from Danielsville, Bath, Walnutport and Northampton. Others in the class who are registered are from Bethlehem, Allentown and Easton.

We would like to thank 911 Center for letting DLARC hold classes there. We also would like to thank George N3SQD,Chris NU3L and Bob KE3AW for taking their time to instruct these classes.

73,
de Dick, KA3MOU

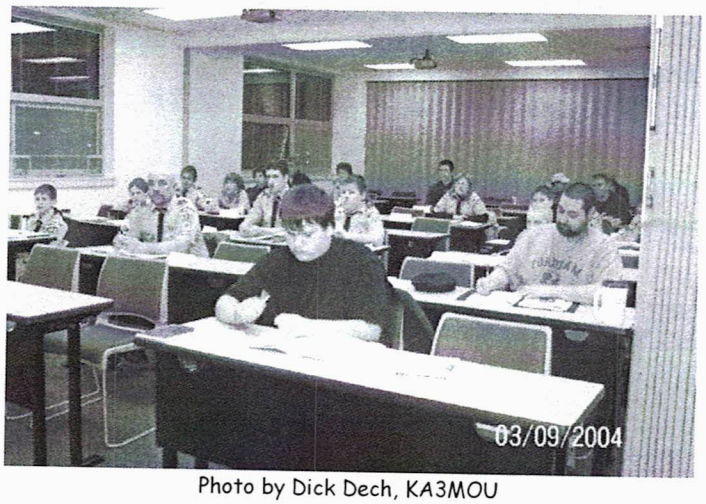

Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU



Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 1/31/04	$7,026.55
INCOME	
Club Dues	$325.00
Donation Income 50-50	$26.00
Interest Checking	$5.61
REBATE from Radio purchased	$175.00
TOTAL INCOME	$531.61

The DLARC Meets The First Thursday Of Every Month
The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Is An ARRL Special Service Club

EXPENSES

Donation ARRL BPL Fund	$270.00
Insurance Equipment Added	$5.96
Refund Nick Carthage Overpayment dues	$10.00
Repeater WX Rec. Barry Vogt	$28.20
Supplies Mailing Labels	$22.25
Telephone	$17.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	$354.18
Balance 2/29/04	**$7,203.98**

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

By Charles, W3DEA



March 4, 2004

Call to order 7:30 PM

February General Meeting Minutes

- Corrections – Last date for dues is March 4 general meeting.
- Motion to accept, Bud (W3BUD)
- 2nd Lamar (N3AT)
- Passed

Treasure's Report

- No changes
- Motion to accept, Jeff (N3QZT)
- 2nd Ken (N3IYX)
- Passed

REPORTS:

Repeater / Web Page

- Barry N3NVA
- A receiver is off frequency and will be repaired.
- 511 machine is waiting for crystals.
- Please keep web page and newsletter up to date on club info.

VE Session 3-5-04

- Bill N2DH
- 2 registrants – one for extra and one for technician

W3OK Milkhouse

- Al W3OK and Ken N3IYX
- Averaging 5 visitors for Wednesday nights
- W3OK will be on the air for the ARRL DX phone contest. Operators needed.
- Station needs to use the club's loaner antenna analyzer.

License Classes

- Bob KE3AW
- Start March 9th

Dues

- Dick KA3MOU
- March 4 is last chance to pay dues. Afterwards you must re-apply for membership.

Field Day

- Ken N3IYX (for Skip K3CC, absent)
- Event needs another generator

Visitors

- None

Membership

- Vote on accepting Dave KB3FWU
- Dick (KA3MOU) motion to accept
- 2nd Jeff (N3QZT)
- Passed

Announcements

- Charles Lazarchak –new call W3DEA (formerly KB3DEA)

Old / Continuing Business

- Donation from club to ARRL's fight against BPL has been sent.
- MS Walk Charles W3DEA and Bryan AA3WM- Volunteers needed
- Chairman needed for MS Walk (May2) and / or MS150 (June 12-13)
- DLARC Picnic – Chairman needed

New Business

- Bryan (AA3WM) thanks the audit team

- American Red Cross River Relay Run needs volunteers July 18 – Charlie N3VUO
- July 18 Derrière in the Delaware- Check with Dick (KA3MOU) or Jeff (N3QZT)
- May general meeting – The RACES RV will be on display
- March 4 presentation – Al (W3CE), civil war telegraphy
- March 17 – weather drill at Gracedale
- Dick (KA3MOU) – read a letter from the ARRL announcing our renewed status as a special service club.

Adjournment

- Dick (KA3MOU), motion to close
- 2nd Jeff (N3QZT)
- Passed

44 members present

de Charles, W3DEA

VE Session Report

By Thalia, KB3CSR

Willie T. Robertson KB3KQG upgraded to Extra.

De Thalia, KB3CSR

Weather Exercise!

By Dick, KA3MOU

Wednesday, March 17th, DLARC participated in the state-wide weather exercise. At 8:30 AM., Dick KA3MOU, Kurt KA3MOB, Jeff N3QZT, Rob KB3HPN, Larry KB3JMS and Bill NC3P arrived at the milk house for assignments. Kurt KA3MOB and Rob KB3HPN were assigned to report to Nick Tylenda, EOC in the Gracedale building. Larry KB3JMS was assigned to report to 911 Center. Jeff N3QZT, Bill NC3P and Dick KA3MOU were net controls in the milk house. Stations who checked in from home or mobile were: Barry N3NVA, Bruce KA3ONZ, Bob N3QZR, Tom N2TTQ, Rick KB3DEC, David N3EYT, Ken N3IYX, Al W3EUD, W3OI Lehigh County Radio Club and Dan KA3ZAT. Contact was made with state net control on 3.993.50. W3SC Gene was net control in Harrisburg. Messages were passed from EOC, Nick Tylenda's office, with flooding in the Lehigh, Delaware River and Monocacy Creek flooding in Bath. Simulated evacuation of Howard Jones Manor in Bath was conducted. Ken N3IYX, RACES operator, was on site at the Howard Jones Manor. Involved in the evacuation of the manor were 30 residents. Transportation was done by bus to George Wolf School Mass Care Center at Allen & Spruce Street for 20 walking residents. RACES operator at the Mass Care Center was Dick KA3MOU. On site at Muhlenberg Hospital was RACES operator, Bruce KA3ONZ. We transported 5 residents by Ambulance to Muhlenberg Hospital. Also 5 in wheel chairs were transported to Muhlenberg Hospital. Tom N2TTQ called net control with a report that the Northampton Street Bridge was closed in Easton. Messages were also passed from W3OI to W3OK. Net control at W3OI requested 5 RACES operators from Northampton County RACES.

This was a very good drill. Operators learned about passing and receiving messages. One thing learned was that when sending messages to speak slowly and in groups of 5 or 6 words. This is to give the operator receiving the message time to copy the message. A few other things were learned from this exercise. We are in the process of receiving feedback from all participants. Hopefully, these ideas will help us improve our further involvement with the weather drills. At 12:50 PM. the Weather Exercise was ended.

I would like to thank all operators who helped with the Weather Exercise.

de Dick, KA3MOU



Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU



Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU (well, his camera anyway!)

Corrections On E-mail Address

By Dick, KA3MOU

Please make the following corrections for these E-mail addresses.

Bill Goodman K3ANS - change his E-mail address to wgoodman@goodmancpa.biz

Roy Kramer W3ZIF - change his E-mail address to w3zif@comcast.net

Dennis Kromer KR3U - change his E-mail address to kr3u@rcn.com

Remember to send any change in call signs, home or E-mail address to Dick KA3MOU. These changes are needed to keep the club database updated.

de Dick, KA3MOU

Who's On The Air?

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

FROM CHUCK, K3FT

Every one of you can recall, I'm sure, laughing at the CLASSIC routine 'Who's On First?' by Messr's Abbott and Costello. I sure do. Over the years I've rewritten those lines for many a specific purpose in various disciplines but never about ham radio.

Well, a thread started on one of the reflectors and I got pinged to do one about ham radio. So.. for better or for worse... for groaning or for pain... here it is. I don't claim it's as polished as the original, but it is the best I can do for a first cut.

Had Abbott and Costello been hams and they did the 'WO1st' bit where Abbott was a ham and Costello was someone who he was trying to explain it to. Costello knew a little bit..

They'd had a FIELD DAY (literally and figuratively) with all the fun with our acronyms, abbreviations, slang, jargon and shorthand as well as the labels attached to various things..

It boggles the mind to think of the variations that would appear from the very famous and STILL TOTALLY HILARIOUS 'Who's On First?' routine.

(this is NOT polished, but you get the idea!

With greatest respect and admiration to Messr's Abbott and Costello I present to you..

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© K3FT 2003

(Scene opens. Curtain lifts to show Abbott and Costello talking to one another)

C-I heard you were on the air last night.

A- Yep, I was. I was on A-1.....

C - A-1?

A-Yeah. C-W on the air.

C - Hang on. First you said a One. Now you are telling me you see W on the air? Better get your eyes checked. You can't see W on the air! It's RADIO, not TV!

A- TV? I'm not talking about TV! I'm talking about A-1.... C-W on the air! It's C-W.

C- See W? Who is W? ... (pause as Abbot starts to answer).. HANG ON!! UH UH! I'm NOT going back to baseball! I already KNOW who's on first, so don't start THAT again! OK. You see W on the radio which has no pictures and it's a one too!?

A- Baseball? Who said anything about baseball? I"m talking radio here! Now, There is NO A-1-2. That doesn't exist. There is A-2, but no A-1-2!

C - Wait a minute! NOW there is a two AND a ONE? Next thing you know you'll tell me that makes a three!?

A- There's A-1 and A-2 and an A-3!

C - Now your talking like Lawrence Welk! Stick to the subject. Is W on the air or not and how can you see him?

A- Lawrence Welk? That's music. You know we can't transmit music! Look, A-1 is C-W. A-2 is a different C-W. A-3 is talking on phone!

C- (splutters in exasperation) A three is on the phone? Wait a minute! Look, this is getting all jumbled up. Just give me the facts and I'll be fine.

A- OH! You want the fax! THAT'S A-4!

C- (sotto voce- NOW he's talking about a four!) The facts are a four? Ok. Let me see if I have this right. A one is see W. There's no a music, but there IS a one and a two and a three. Now you tell me that if I want the facts I have to have a four!

A- That's right! NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT!

C- (waves hands in desperation, voice rising) NOW I'm getting it? All I'm getting is a headache! If I want see W I have to have a one! If I want phone I have to have a three. If I want facts I have to have a four! This is crazy enough to be on TV!!!

A- (Smiles and nods his head) AHH! TV! that's A-5!!

C- (begins to mumble and splutter and gets a look of gas pains on his face as curtain drops)

Pictures From March Meeting

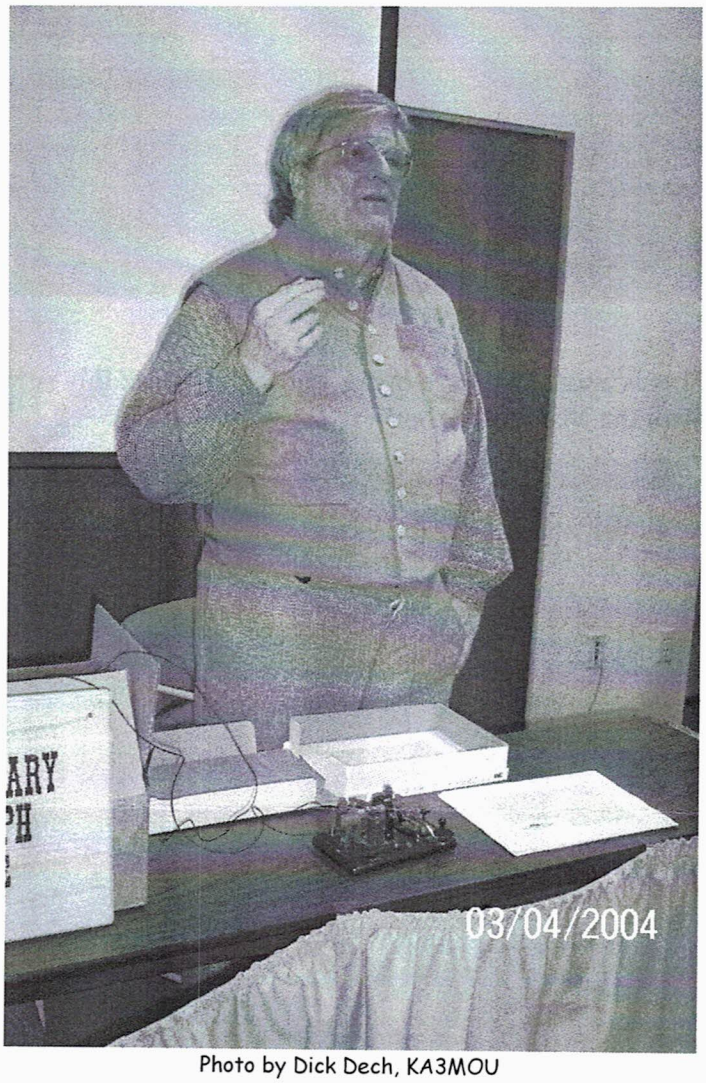


Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

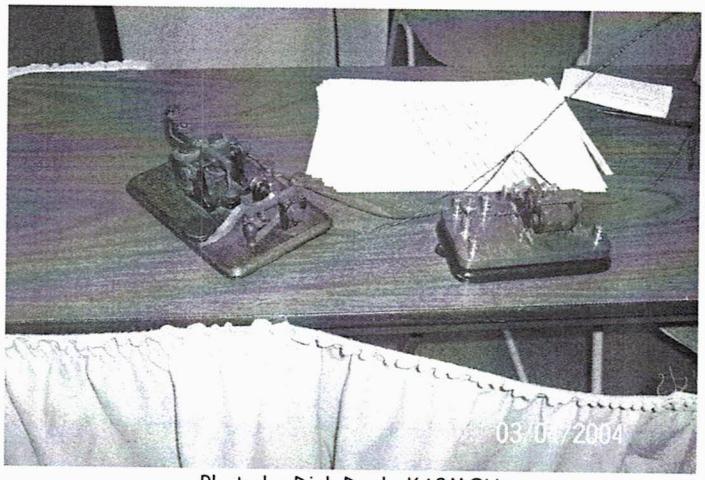
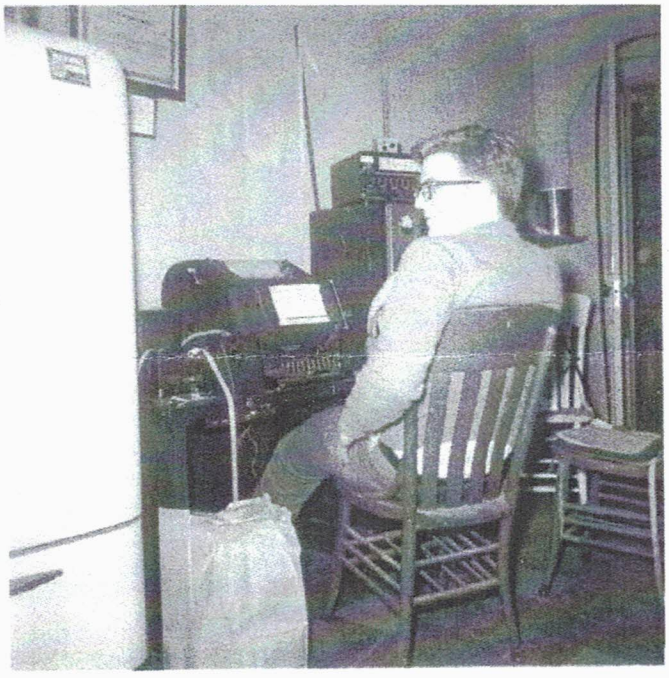


Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU



Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

This is another picture of Al, but I don't think this is from the March meeting!



News From The ARRL

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

The following is from the ARRL's Feb 25, 2004 Rate Sheet. Reprinted with permission. [ed]

Two great ham radio stories made the airwaves this week. The first told tales of romance between telegraph and CW operators. You can listen to the program by browsing on over to http://www.nextbigthing.org and searching for "Love on the Wire." The second on the new Morse Code symbol for @ - the prosign AC - featured Rick N1RL and was titled "Morse Code Enters Cyber Age". You can listen to Rick at http://www.npr.org under "Audio Archives."

N3FJP has released an upgrade to his contest software to support the Mid-Atlantic QSO Party, coming up on May 8th and 9th. Check out Scott's software at http://www.n3fjp.com.

Thomas KN4LF contributes news of a new propagation prediction program. "I want to share with the global DX/contesting community a very handy piece of MF/HF propagation prediction software that I have been evaluating for a while. It is made by G4ILO who is a professional program designer." Tom reports that the program is pretty accurate and can be downloaded at http://www.qsl.net/g4ilo/hfprop.html. If you like the program, a donation would be appreciated. Tom also runs the highly regarded http://www.hfradio.orgWeb site.

Dick N6AA relayed an interesting article from the Denver Post about serious birding - in case you thought radio contesters had obsessions - http://denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E28%257E1923542,00.html?search=filter. It should sound familiar to those of us that chase DX now and then. Dick is a pretty serious birder, himself.

With the aim of encouraging new contesters, the RSGB has introduced a series of 90-minute contests on weekday evenings based around club competition - the more members a club gets to come on the air, the better they can score. Although 80-meter propagation will likely keep US hams from participating, this type of contest might be interesting to run here in North America. The all-new RSGB HF contest Web site http://www.rsgbhfcc.org has the full rules. (Thanks, Dave G4BUO)

RESULTS AND RECORDS

The complete lists of Logs Received for the 2003 ARRL 10-Meter and 2004 RTTY Roundup contests have been posted at http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed/. This includes both electronic and paper submissions. If you find an error or your entry is not listed, please contact Dan

N1ND at n1nd@arrl.org. The Straight Key Night writeup is also available to ARRL members and will be opened to the general public when published in QST.

Ken K5KA has done a great job of updating the IARU HF Championship records through the 2003 contest at http://www.arrl.org/contests/records/iaru.html. There are quite a number of zone categories for which no entry has been recorded. This should be an incentive for some enterprising groups to try a new category!

TECHNICAL & TECHNIQUE

Are in the throes of preparing your contest log for submission and wondering about what to do with duplicate QSOs? If you are submitting a Cabrillo-format log, you don't have to do anything with them at all! One of the best features of the Cabrillo format is that you just leave dupes in the log. As long as EITHER of the QSOs matches in both logs, no penalty should be incurred by the log-checking software.

How loud are you? You can get the answer on-line at http://www.smeter.net/ if you have a "low latency" Internet connection. The site features a Kenwood R-5000 receiver that is remotely controllable via a Web interface. Now you can give yourself the old "ten count." I don't suppose it will ever tire of comparing Antenna A to Antenna B. (Thanks, Doug K1DG)

Putting up a low-band vertical of aluminum irrigation piping seems like a great idea until the mechanical details need to be worked out. Luckily for us all, Rick N6RK has documented his adventures in constructing a 90-foot version. The antenna can even be raised and lowered by one person. The construction process is described, including photos, at http://www.n6rk.com/irrigation.html. (Thanks, Rys SP5EWY)

And to cut down on corrosion between the aluminum piping joints, an oxidation-preventing compound is needed. Penetrox and Noalox are well-known and Ron KL7XL contributes another product, Contax. Ron works in the electric power industry and says that the linemen on his crew use the CTB8 formulation. Look for Contax from local distributors such as Grainger or Graybar.

Trying to get a line through a long piece of conduit without a pull wire or rope is vexing at best, impossible at worst. Here's a good idea - tie a plastic bag, such as a bread sack, to a piece of cord that is long enough, plus some, for the length of the run. Use a shop vacuum to suck the plastic bag through the pipe. Tie a stick to the line so that you don't watch the cord vanish into the pipe and the vacuum. Once you're ready to pull the actual cable, don't forget some lubricant, referred to as "slickum" by knowledgeable electricians. (Thanks, Jim KA0VSL)

Supporting a heavy mast laden with antennas is a problem. If you are using a thrust bearing, you may be surprised to learn that the bearing's set screws are not intended to support weight, only to center the mast. Given that some of the masts in use are pretty heavy, even without antennas, how are you supposed to hold all the weight? Gene AD3F uses a pair of face-to-face muffler clamps on the mast that rest on the top surface of the bearing. Instead of the U-bolt that came with each, Gene used two long carriage bolts or all-thread rod to hold them together around the mast. Phil KB9CRY also reminds us to use stainless steel clamps and bolts so that rusting is avoided.

Berks County Request

Submitted by Clarence, W3PYF

The Director of Communication for the County of Berks has requested Amateur Radio operators to assist in the operation of their emergency communications vehicle. Although still in the planning stage the operation will be similar to the one in the Wilkes Barre, Pa. area which is highlighted at: http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/03/03/101/?nc=1 Amateur Radio operators in the Berks County area are to contact WB3FPL (ASAP) for details and to express their interest. Contact can be made at 610-775-0526 or eolena@ptd.net. DO NOT USE the arrl.org reflector which is expierencing some difficulties at this time.
73, Eric, WB3FPL

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section
Section Manager: Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL

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

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== 2003-2004 ==

CLUB OFFICERS

President – S. Bryan Williams, AA3WM (sbw1@enter.net)..... 610-258-9470
Vice President – William Twaddell, N2DH (n2dh@rcn.com) 610-923-7904
Secretary – Charles Lazarchak, W3DEA (reader7@snycomp.com) 610-954-5285
Treasurer – Dick Dech, KA3MOU (ka3mou@enter.net) 610-837-1585

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

oe Chuk, W3JD (chuk@kutztown.edu)..... 610-799-0337
Barry Vogt, N3NVA (n3nva@enter.net)..... 610-863-7294
Jeff Keller, N3QZT (n3qzt@ptd.net)..... 610-928-3897
Dave Blankenship, N3EYT (n3eyt@aol.com)..... 610-974-8749
Bob Yankovich, N3QZR (n3qzr@yahoo.com)..... 610-866-9162
Al Wiemann, W3CE (w3ce@entermail.net)..... 610-262-6977

NEWS STAFF

Editor – Brad Snyder, KB3JXQ (kb3jxq@snycomp.com) 610-760-9737
Circulation – Richard Dech, KA3MOU & YL Maryann..... 610-837-1585
Mailing List – Richard Dech, KA3MOU (ka3mou@enter.net)..... 610-837-1585

CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
4260 Cedar Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088

visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

18032+7204 04

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-04
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
346 CREST DRIVE
WHITEHALL PA 18052-7204

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