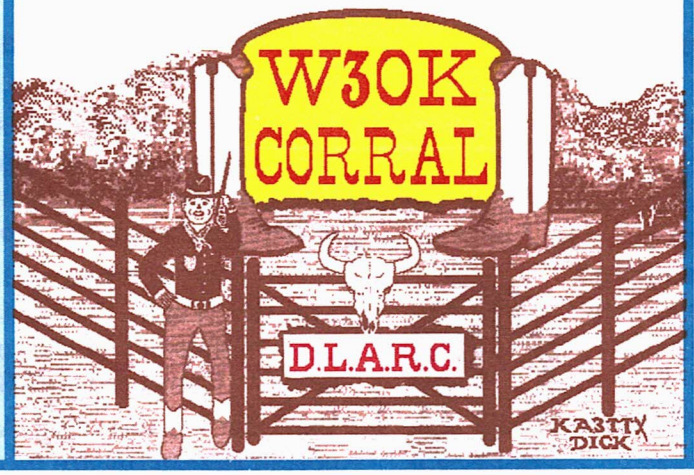
DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W3OK

May 1996



SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB
ARRL Affiliated Club

#1 AGAIN IN PAQSO PARTY

May meeting to be held in Schnecksville

by Tom, N3CXP

The May meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club on **May 2nd** will feature the **BLAKE,** a high tech mobile classroom, and 4/10 scale model of the space shuttle.

The **BLAKE** is truly a remarkable project and volunteer effort which took over six years to complete. The bus features an area dedicated to amateur satellite communications. The ground station has capabilities for voice and 9600 baud pacsat communications.

The program will give some background on the development of the project, the capabilities of the bus, and plans for the amateur radio station on board. The program will feature a tour of the bus and lab facility, including a demonstration of the satellite station.

The Schnecksville School and the **BLAKE** project was picked to initiate the **SAREX** program on **STS-37**. The school was the site of a thrilling contact with Astronaut Ron Parise back in 1990.

The school is located at just east of Route 309, 1/4 mi. north of the entrance to Lehigh County Community College in Schnecksville. The meeting will begin in the gymnasium, and move over to the lab.

Please park in the lot on the east (far) side of the building.

de Tom N3CXP

1995 PA QSO PARTY = FINAL - FiNaL - final

de Ray-W3TDF

Clarence has been bugging me for a final report, now that the 'final' report has been released by Nittany. The best I can offer is some observations from studying those statistics.

DELAWARE-LEHIGH Winner PA QSO PARTY 1995 Amateur Radio Club Inc

Our winning score was more than double that of the 2nd place Radio Assoc. of Erie. But, we didn't have twice the participants, which means our average was higher than theirs. The highest average per participant was turned in by Dauberville DX Assoc. Another interesting point is, we would still have won without the 6 top scorers, (AA3JU, KU3K, K3CP, W3LR, N3MKZ and W3TDF). Which means that every one of those smaller scores add up. You should all be proud. The total club aggregate has exceeded 2 million points only 3 times, and all of those were by the DLARC. The only club to come close was Dauberville in 1991 when they beat us with 1.988mil.

NOW THE IMPORTANT TOPIC THAT I MUST BRING UP. Our club station, W3OK, will be the bonus point station this year. I, we, need a chairperson to set this up and co-ordinate the operation. We must show a minimum of 16 hours operation for the weekend. It will be like a DXpedition. Everyone will be looking for you for that bonus 200 points. This can be a multi-multi operation with a second position set up in the milkhouse, if only on 40 and 80 CW, or whatever. Are there any takers? I have plenty of thoughts and suggestions for that special chairperson. Just think of all the glory that you will experience. If you want to operate please let us know. Come out to field day and get some experience with computer logging. If you don't have room for antennas at home, or if you don't have an HF rig, then this will be the way to get in the fun. Please call me!

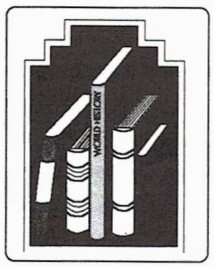
de Ray, W3TDF PAQSO party chairman

Minutes of General Meeting

April 4, 1996

by Bob, N3OLH, Secretary

The April meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30 P.M. in Kiva Hall of the Northampton County Community College on Thursday April 4, 1996 by Tom Frobase, N3LLL, the Club President. Approximately 45 members and guests were present.



Clarence, W3PYF, moved to approve the minutes of the March General Meeting as published in the April issue of the W3OK Corral. The motion was seconded by John, N3IGA, and approved by the membership.

The Treasurers report was presented by the Club Treasurer, Dick, KA3MOU. The report showed a cash balance of $9794.27. Ray, W3TDF, made a motion to accept the Report. The motion was seconded by Amy, KD3TI, and approved by the membership.

Tom informed the group that the 440 repeater is still on his work bench and still has some audio problems. He is working with Barry, N3NVA, to correct the problem and they hope to have it back on the air by the May meeting. Tom also reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of surveying other amateur radio clubs to find out their goals and objectives and their methods of operation. After they have compiled their results their report will be submitted to the membership.

Bob, KE3AW, said that the current series of Novice-Tech classes are about half way through with about 10 continuing, all of which are pursuing code. He also expects that some of this class will take their license examinations at the April VE session.

George, AA3JU, the Program Chairman, reminded the group that the evening program on QSLing would be presented by Doug Priest, N3ADL a well known QSL manager. Future meetings are as follows:

May - A tour of the Space Bus at the Schnecksville Elementary School.

June - Bob Kratz, KU3K, will talk about the upcoming Field Day.

July - To be developed

August - Kay Craigie, ARRL Atlantic Division Director

Amy, KD3TI, this year's Hamfest Coordinator said that she has some volunteers for the event but that she still needs more. If you are willing to assist, please contact Amy.

Tom announced that for the third year in a row the W3OK Corral tied for the #1 Ham Radio Club newsletter in the country. Many thanks were given to Clarence the W3OK Corral editor.

Van, K3CP, the 50th Anniversary Chairman, reported that plans are progressing for the banquet.

Bob, KU3X, reported that the thrust of this years Field Day, June 22 - 23,would be to make it a part of the Club's 50th anniversary celebration and we would try to get people to come out and see what ham radio is all about. We will also encourage new hams to come out to participate and enhance their operating skills. Don, N3JWE, and Shari, N3RZQ, will be in charge of the food and could use some help in the effort.

This year the MS 150 bike tour will be held the same weekend as field day, however, we are still going to support this event. If you can help on either Saturday, Sunday or both days, please contact Bob, WF3H or Bob, KE3AW.

Ray, W3TDF, reported that we have officially been declared the winner of the 1995 PAQSO contest. He also pointed that even if we had eliminate the top 5 scores in the club we still would have won. This points out how important how each person's score is. Ray also made available the errors he found on the log sheets. If you are interested in reviewing your errors, please contact Ray. Tom presented an ARRL Certificate of Appreciation to John, WX3C, for his outstanding service in the administration of VE testing.

Tom presented an ARRL Certificate of appreciation to John, WX3C for his outstanding service in the administration of VE testing.

James Marin, KE4YUK, presented an application for membership into DLARC.Carl, N3GRK, made a motion to accept him as a new member. The motion was seconded by Bill, W3FYK, and James was voted into club membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

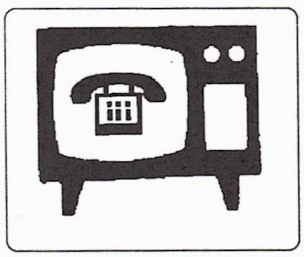
de Bob, N3OLH, Secretary

New media systems

"Open Video Systems" in the New Telecom Act

by Joe Chuk, W3JD

One aspect of the new Telecommunications Act of 1996 is the concept of an "open video system" (OVS), which would allow a company to provide



video programming to subscribers in much the same way as it is delivered by a cable system, but without the need for a franchise. A coalition of public interest and consumer- advocacy organizations has filed a set of concerns with the FCC concerning this type of video service, because it could allow companies to sidestep the public interest protections provided by the 1984 Cable Act.

In return for the requirement to allot up to two-thirds of its capacity to programmers unaffiliated with the OVS provider, the provider is relieved of such consumer protections as rate regulation, maximum rates for access, local government oversight for quality of service, consumer complaint mechanisms, and legal remedies.

Rather than being a new technology, OVS is a regulatory framework controlling present technology. OVS may be offered over existing telephone lines, coaxial cable, or wireless cable television systems. Although it is its regulatory successor, OVS is not simply a new term for a switched video system previously called "video dial tone," which could provide virtually unlimited choices of video programming instead of a specific channel lineup predetermined by a cable operator.

While "video dial tone" is a term no longer used by the FCC, it had referred to a much more advanced system than that envisioned with the OVS language of the telecom act. Currently- available video compression technologies, however, would likely be used in many OVS systems.

Although price and consumer protection regulation would be avoided by OVS providers, public, educational, and government (PEG) access would still be required of them, as is currently the situation for cable operators. Schools, churches, other non-profit organizations, local government agencies, and political candidates would have the same access as that currently provided by cable companies. The specific requirements of capacity, facilities, equipment, services, and financial support would be determined by individual municipalities, but whatever requirements are in place for existing cable operators would be applied to OVS owners in the same locations.

One problem is the ambiguity of the definition of an OVS in the new law. It's conceivable that a telephone company that owns a cable system could declare it to be an OVS without making any technological changes, and thus escape much of the regulatory control applied to cable companies.

The coalition of groups that filed comments with the FCC in this matter included The Alliance for Community Media, the Alliance for Communications Democracy, the Consumer Federation of America, the Consumer Project on Technology, and People for the American Way. Legal assistance was provided by the Media Access Project, and Georgetown University Law Center's Institute for Public Representation. The goal of the coalition is to make sure that FCC regulations implementing the OVS provisions of the new law provide adequate protection for the public.

de Joe, W3JD

The Prez sez

by Tom, N3LLL

Forget the robins winter is still with us, but soon it will be June the month of Field Day. This years field day will be special we will be celebrating our clubs fiftieth anniversary. We have designated field day as a time to invite friends and the press to see what amateur radio is all about. I invite each of you to bring yourself and at least one other person to the event. Field Day is for eveyone it is a great time for fellowship, Elmering and story telling. I look forward to meeting all of you there.



I would like to congratulate John Greenage / **WX3C** for his 10 years of service as a VE tester. It is members like John who make the club the success it is.

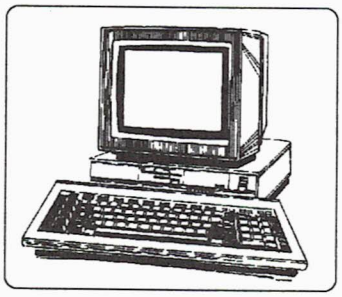
One more congratulation to **Ray / W3TDF** and all of the others who helped DLARC win the Pennsylvania QSO party again this year. It was a great team effort!!!It is no secrete that I love a Hamfest and one of my favorites is the DLARC Hamfest. ***Amy / KD3TI*** still needs your help on Hamfest Day lets all pitch in to make the day a giant success. Lets hope by the time you get this column the grass is green and the winter of 1996 is behind us. ***de Tom, N3LLL***

Digital Communication

Computers for Ham Radio

by Joel, K9TBD, digital editor

So you are either into computers or you're not. Either case this article is for you. What computer should I get or upgrade to help me with my Ham Radio Interests?



First, a little history of computer use in ham radio. Did you know, in 1975 you could an 8-bit parallel computer with 20k bytes of memory, a keyboard, an audio cassette interface for a mere $1346. Video monitor extra. The hot items of that day were scavenged keyboards for only $35 and an 8008 CPU for $30.95. Memory was really cheap - $3.95 for 1k RAM and $2.95 for 1k PROM. You could also buy a Machine Language Programming book for only $19.95.

In 1982 you could finally buy a 'already built professional computer' for just $2990. It included a Z80, 4MHz clock, 64k ram, and dual 8" floppy system which held a whopping 1.2Mb. Some of the system then were Apple, TRS80, TI99, PET, ELF, IBM, ATARI, AIM, and APF. Who remembers?

Today we speak of megabytes of memory, gigs of disk storage - nearly infinite terabytes on something called a CD 'something or other'. Cruise your super resolution screen, click and shoot, out perform minicomputers of just a few years ago all running at 100+ mega instructions per second!

So what? So what does the modern ham need for his shack? Maybe glitzie Icons pulling down KEP's or contest information. Maybe not -

Basic things that you can do with any computer: o) Serial communication at least up to 9600 baud, o) screens satellite images to pure text, o) run Internet software, all with o) radio and telephone and LAN interfaces. The things you can do with advanced computers: o) all of the above; o) do it graphically.

What do you need? If your style is "minimizing cost" - Invest your time and have someone give you parts or a complete obsolete functioning computer. You can accomplish most ham related tasks and learn how to make computers work in the process. If your style is "minimize time - cost no object" - Go buy any modern PC and load it up with the zillions of ham related programs available for nominal cost. If your objective is "maximize performance - for the longest time" - go back to the 1970 - 1980's technique, read everything you can and start building a real bit-blaster.

In my perspective, the first ten years of computers in ham radio started with home made digital electronic dedicated circuits such as promoted by Jim Ricks, W9TO, - from 'TO' keyers to full Morse keyboards using RTL logic. The first available.

The next ten years employed the first multiple use general purpose CPU chips with the other "glue chips" to make it all work.

These current ten years have provided super sophisticated computers - mostly PC's and Ugh! Microsoft orientation.

So to keep with the next five years in perspective - just go out and purchase any PC compatible computer - with whatever is supplied with it. An alternative is to go to all the computer fests and purchase parts piecemeal - a real hassle but a potential cost saving - Caveat Emptor!

My computers are obsolete - I and not buy any new software for them - no one wants the older models - etc. But for the moment they are just fine. In 1984 I designed and built a buffered digital UART to speed change RTTY from 60 to 100 wpm. This digital enhancement was stuffed into my analog TU. It still works today. It is not necessary today because you can get all of this with "software" and any modern computer.

Pick your favorite, ask friends for references, enjoy it for the next three or so years when it also is totally obsolete. Don't wait, just jump into the stream and start (your head) swimming.

de Joel, K9TBD

PS:"Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done." -- ***Andy Rooney***

The Orthopedist, examining my painful knee, asked when I felt most uncomfortable. I told him it was worst as I knelt to pray-as Episcopalians do-during church on Sunday.

After his technician took X rays, the doctor came back with them in hand and, shaking his head, said, **"You may have to become a Baptist."**

Contributed by Jane Perry Shoemaker

Editor and club commended

by Judy Roush, AA7UC

The **W3OK Corral** and its editor, **Clarence Snyder, W3PYF**, have brought meritorious credibility to the Amateur Radio community.

The goal of every club-related Amateur Radio publication is to inform, educate, and motivate club members to become technically competent ambassadors of peace and understanding throughout the club's community, the nation, and the international world of Amateur Radio.

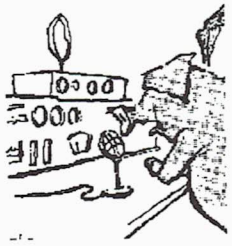
Over the past few years, Clarence Snyderr and the **W3OK Corral** have led the way towards fulfilling this goal. Once again, the **Amateur Radio News Service** recognizes Clarence's contribution to the hobby with a top score in the 1995 publication contest.

The **W3OK Corral** deserves recognition as an outstanding example of commitment to the very best in Amateur Radio. Congratulations, Clarence, the **W3OK Corral**, and the **Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club.**

de Judy, AA7UC,
Chief Judge, 1995 ARNS Publications Contest

Top-ten signs hamming ain't for you

by Leon FIetcher AA6ZG



10. You subscribed to QST be cause you like swimsuit photos.

9. You go to ham club meetings because you figure it's a good place to earn frequent- flyer points.

8. You enjoy Field Day because you like to travel.

7. You've learned to solder transistors on to a PC board but your hand tires from holding the blowtorch.

6. You've got a yacht, a country club membership, and a winter condo in Florida, but you worry about paying your ham club's dues.

5. You wonder why you never see the name of the ARRL director you voted for in the credits of TV shows or Hollywood films.

4. When your non -ham friends don't talk about DXing, QSLing, or propagation, you walk away mad.

3. You think DXCC stands for Dogs X-raying Clever Cats.

2. You liked the call the FCC assigned you, but now you can't remember it.

1. You'd rather be called a "bacon."

reprinted from the March 1995 ARNS bulletin

Scouts put a new twist on tower construction

from ARRL newsletter update March 29

During these weeks when thoughts turn to Field Day planning, you might consider inviting some Boy Scouts along to help with the antenna. On February 10 at special event station K2BSA/6 at Camp Pendleton Marine Base, scouts from Troop 319 of Huntington Beach, California, designed and built a 35-foot HF tower lashed together from wooden poles. Assistant Scoutmaster Mel Goldberg, KO6TF, said the scouts built the tower on its side, then 40 scouts pulled it erect using ropes. Then three scouts (what else?) served to rotate the structure as needed. The operation drew media attention, including a mention in the Los Angeles Times and three regional papers.

Kenwood provided HF gear for the event, and, Goldberg reports, 1400 scouts stopped by to visit.

The K2BSA/6 operation snagged 35 states and three countries in its eight hours on the air. One QSO was with an 84-year-old ham who had been an Eagle Scout in his younger days but was now partially blind and wheelchair-bound.Goldberg reports the man broke down when the scouts told him he'd always be an Eagle Scout and a friend of scouting.

A QSL certificate is available that shows the completed tower and all of the scouts on and around it. Pictures of the tower and the operation are on the Scout Radio site at

http://www.ecllc.com/bsa319/ham.htm

on the World Wide Web.

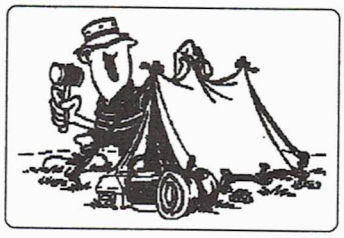
Goldberg cites a "conservative estimate" that 250,000 Amateur Radio operators are or have been in scouting. He said Troop 319 will operate as K2BSA/6 during the **1996 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) October 18-20**. Scout groups interested in using the official call sign of the Boy Scouts of America during JOTA can apply to Dan Dansby, W5URI, the K2BSA trustee, at 5805 Walla Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Include an sase. Only one application will be granted per call district (and the sixth is already spoken for).

S.O.S. S.O.S. S.O.S. MAYDAY...MAYDAY... HELP!! HELP!!

by Bob, KU3K Field Day chairman

Now that I have your attention...

O.K. You don't have any idea why the ham radio fraternity/sorority celebrates the beginning of summer with this event called **Field Day?** Well, countless amateur radio operators have been responsible for the advance of technology throughout the history of this planet. We can therefore assume that in cases of disaster (natural or manmade) these 'communicators' will be the best problem solvers when it comes to dissemination of vital information.



Of course, we hams have proven ourselves time and again over the years providing needed information during earthquakes, floods and air races and on the local level communications for things like bike and foot races! This expertise has enabled us to garner many accolades, not the least of which is use of the many frequency bands we enjoy! As you may know the radio frequency spectrum is shared by governments all over the earth. The slice of amateur radio pie each government retains is decided by what is known as the World Amateur Radio Conference (WARC). They meet every 20 years or so and decide how to slice!!

In my opinion, I see no other reason for 'amateur radio' than its ability to supply engineers and the like to the ever expanding technology pool, to enable peoples of all nations to freely exchange information and ideas, providing the means for peaceful coexistence, and to supply global information links during times of emergency.

This year our club will make a special effort to promote attendance at the **Field Day** site by recently licensed hams, or those who are interested in becoming licensed. We will have several "tour guides" available to answer questions at selected times throughout the weekend! We also have some delicious food and beverage available FREE!!! (club dues at work!)

SO.....

ARE YOU...RECENTLY LICENSED

AN OLD-TIMER WHO NEVER GOT TO A FIELD DAY
A CURIOUS INDIVIDUAL

A WARM BODY.....!!!

Please join us!! June 22 & 23 1996 Plainfield Township Fairgrounds Route 191 and Kesslersville Road ***de Bob, KU3K.***

Ham radio twins to appear on turning point

from the ARRL:Letter, April 3

Twin brothers Keith Heitzmann, KK5FE, and Jake Hellbach, KK5HY, will appear on the **ABC Television** news magazine **Turning Point May 3.** Jake and Keith, who live in Louisiana, were put up for adoption at birth.

Adopted by different families, they lived only 15 miles apart, unknown to each other, until they met for the first time some 15 years ago at the home of Keith's adoptive parents. "As you can imagine, it was a very emotional meeting," Jake said. The brothers have been part of the Minnesota twin study that is looking into genetic versus environmental influences on separated twins.

Jake reports the two studied together, passed their Technician tests at the same session, and later upgraded to General and Advanced about the same time. Both work in the computer field and used to work for the same company, which led to lots of confusion, Jake said.

Among other things, the Turning Point crew shot film of the pair attending the Lafayette (Louisiana) Hamfest. "You get some pretty good prices when a television camera is over your shoulder!" said Jake. Of all the film that was shot, Jake said he hopes the program uses at least some of him and his brother on the radio. "I was glad that when it was my turn, I contacted a fellow in Cuba, so at least there was some DX on that night," he said

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How big the BIG APPLE really is

They don't call it the Big Apple for nothing! Three out of every 100 Americans -- more that 7.3 million people -- live in the 301 square miles of New York City.

Incredibly, that's more than all the people who live in the 930,000 square miles of Kansas, Nevada, Wyoming, Alaska and Mississippi combined

thanks to Leo N0AHH

The Ultimate Ham Mecca

By Howard AE3T

I have recently returned from a rather extensive business trip to south east Asia, although the visit I am going to describe was not as exciting or eye opening as some other side trips I made, it was certainly the one that brought the widest smile to my face.

On the last day of my trip I had the opportunity to visit the ultimate in electronics bazaars. As a young ham about 30 years ago, I did make one visit to the famed Canal St. in New York to see the last remaining vestiges of what was known as radio row. Although far from its prime at that time I could imagine what it was like in it's hey day. Well last night I visited what is the most awe inspiring place on this planet for anyone that could have any interest in Radio, computers, audio, games, and for that matter anything that could run on electricity. I guess that is why the Akihabara section of Tokyo is also marked on the subway stop as electric city. It is true, anything that runs on electricity is sold within the 2 sq. miles of this section.

Even before you exit the subway station you are bombarded by the latest and greatest gadget to be now available and on sale today. I must say that Japan is the ultimate country of gadgets. Everything talks at you including cars, toll booths, elevators, buses and any type of inanimate object. Now I know where all of the speech synthesizer boards came from for our radios.

Back to the street. Akihabara has literally hundreds of stores that I could see, and I am sure much more behind the scenes. At night You have to be careful of sun burn from all of the neon lights that cover the whole area. As I got the lay of the land I found stores and stalls of every variety. From 8 story electronics super stores where each floor was dedicated to a specific area of electronics to tiny stalls on the side streets who sold only high power RF tubes, or ICs or connectors. As amateur radio is concerned, it is everywhere. From a section of a super store to a dedicated supermarket for ham radio alone. I enjoyed visiting each type of store, because there is nothing like them anywhere else in the world. Even the small amateur radio sections in the large stores were larger than stores in the USA like HRO or AES.

The ham radio shops were simply beyond description, but here we go. The stored are divided into departments that include the following sections. HF antennas, VHF mobile antennas, HF gear, Mobile transceivers, A wall full of HTs, Computer interfaces, CW keyers and code readers, Towers, Components, Antenna raw hardware i.e. aluminum and steel tubing, cable, brackets, There were even Rotator departments, and very good book departments that also featured a selection of very beautiful QSL card backgrounds that they would overprint for you with your call etc.

What I dont think the words above can convey is that for each of the departments that I described above, the display of gear was awesome. Imagine a display of every model of every manufacturers full product line on display wired up and ready for your evaluation. There were literally hundreds of rigs set up in the larger shops just waiting for their knobs to be turned. If your thing is HTs the displays included typically over a hundred models hung on a wall attached by short brightly colored nylon lines.

AS in typical Japanese manor, everything had a brightly color sign next to it and was well lit and received a fresh dusting every few hours. The sight of this is truly impossible to describe.

Yes there were displays of vintage gear, they love it. Mint condition Collins, Drake, and National gear was easy to find.

Like us the JAs have gone crazy over computers, about 80% PC and 20% Mac. The integration of computers, packet and internet to ham radio was very strong. The recent issue of CQ HamRadio had a very large World Wide Web section.

I am sure you all want to know if there are any good buys there. On the average the prices shown on the signs are what you would pay as a discounted price at HRO etc. The actual price is about 10% below the US price, Not a good deal if you consider there is no US warranty and you have to carry it home. What is a good deal are the accessories like CW filters, brackets, adapter cables, and little gadgets. The brand names are all what we have grown accustom to with the addition of a few more who offer nice lines of HTs, accessories and mobile FM gear.

The Item that really caught my eye were the Automobile navigation systems. These are manufactured by all of the major electronics companies there. What the system is a mobile GPS system with an active LCD display that can either fit into a double height DIN slot in the cars dash or with a separate flat panel display that can be conveniently mounted anywhere. The system determines you location while in motion to an accuracy of 30 feet and then uploads a street map image from the CD ROM with variable magnification and detail for the projection of your present condition anywhere within the entire country. I have seen these in operation and they will show you what traffic signals, restaurants, and gas stations are coming up! If you desire an integrated system the same display can also be used for TV, yes they do allow color TV in the front seat. this can be used with either a tuner or mini 4 or 8 mm VCR, Radio, tape, audio CD audio system display or a data display for a mobile PC. The cost of these gadgets is about $3000. The price dose not seem to deter many because they are very popular.

If you ever have an opportunity to spend a few hours at Akihabara, dont miss the chance. It is only 10 minutes by subway from the main Tokyo train station which is in the YAESU district of Tokyo!.

de Howard, AE3T

Contest Calendar

by Barry, KU3X, Contest Editor

May 1	ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprint, 432 Mhz
May 4-5	Massachusetts QSO Party
	Connecticut QSO Party
	ARI International DX Contest
	Texas QSO Party
	Danish SSTV Contest
	MARAC County Hunters CW Contest
May 11	ARRL Spring Sprints; 902, 1296, 2304 mhz
May 18	Armed Forces Day
	EU Spring Sprint, CW
May 18-19	ARRL Spring Sprints; 50 mhz
May 24-25	CQ Vikings Contest
May 25-26	CQ WW WPX Contest CW

Exchanges:

Connecticut QSO Party; Serial number and QTH

MARAC County Hunters; Serial number, category, RS(T), county and state

Massachusetts QSO Party; RS(T) and QTH

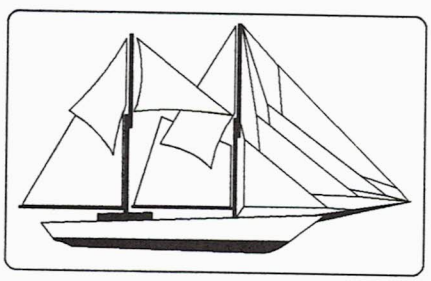
CQ WW WPX Contest; RST and progressive serial number starting with 001

de Barry, KU3X

Man found making false distress calls

from the W5YI Report March 15, 1996

The FCC and the U.S. Coast Guard combined forces on Feb. 12 to locate a man making false distress calls to the Coast Guard over his marine band VHF- FM radio. FCC tracked the radio signal to the man's home in Arnold, MD from where he had been broadcasting for more than five hours



The 25 year old man (whom the FCC did not identify) was found making calls and operating the radio without a license. The violations could result in both civil and criminal penalties up to $10,000 and one year in jail per violation. In cases of false distress calls in which water and air resources are deployed, the caller can be held responsible for all costs associated with the search and rescue effort.

The Coast Guard receives thousands of calls a year from vessels operating in the upper Chesapeake Bay. Many of these come from boaters in trouble and result in extensive search and rescue efforts. Besides the legitimate calls, however, are those that are not. These can range from a quick "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" with nothing further, to lengthy and detailed reports of invented shipboard fires and terrorist attacks. The Coast Guard investigates every distress call as if it were a true emergency.

In the case involving the Arnold man, the first callcame across the radio at 11:55 p. m. on Feb. 11. The man reported that he was the master aboard the old tanker "Orion." He said the ship was on fire and sinking with 135 passengerson board. The man spoke calmly and could provide no consistent location information to the Coast Guard. He continued his distress calls, including a report of terrorists holding him captive at gunpoint over the next five hours.

Due to repeated inconsistencies and the incredible nature of the man's reports, the Coast Guard contacted the FCC in Columbia, MD, requesting an investigation. With sensitive radio frequency tracking equipment, FCC agents were able to trace a signal to Arnold and to the man's front door. The man admitted to making the false calls. The FCC is considering civil and criminal penalties in this case.

The good news

The good news is that there is a new pill on the market to help obsessive spenders. The bad news is that your congressman will probably refuse to take it.

I'm kind of discouraged. Every time I stand up for what's right - somebody steals my chair.

Every speaker knows that one thing man can do that animals can't is stand up in front of a bunch of people and put both feet in his mouth.

A pedestrian is a guy who feels sure there are still several gallons of gas in the tank when the gauge points to empty.

VFW Monthly Periodical (March)
de Howard KS4NR

Short-term suspensions an answer

ARRL to FCC:

The ARRL Letter Electronic Update

The League thinks the FCC should have statutory authority to suspend ham licenses for up to six months, once the Commission has good reason to believe an operator has grossly violated the rules. In comments filed in response to an FCC Notice of Inquiry seeking ways to streamline the Commission's administrative activities, the ARRL said short-term suspensions would be one way for the FCC to address malicious interference and other serious rule violations "without delay and expense." The League maintained the suspensions would be a viable deterrent. Under the League's scenario, the FCC also would be able to immediately modify an Amateur Radio license to preclude operation on certain frequency bands or at certain times of day, also for up to six months.

In its filing, the League said that most of the 650,000 hams in the country behave themselves on the air and obey the regulations, and the Amateur Service "requires little enforcement effort." The ARRL pointed to the volunteer examination program as a model of self-regulation. However, the League said that in recent years, the FCC--and especially its Compliance and Information Bureau--has been "completely ineffective" in providing a meaningful enforcement presence for the few who flout the law, and this has led to an increase in instances of malicious interference. "Since 1983, there have been virtually no enforcement actions taken by FCC in the Amateur Service," the League's filing states. In recent years, the League said, hams have viewed the FCC as a "paper tiger" that fails to act "in even the most egregious" cases.

"There is no substitute for Commission action in certain types of compliance cases," the ARRL said in urging the FCC seek authority for the reforms.

In other matters, the League criticized the FCC for continuing to "focus on the symptom rather than the cause" of home-electronic equipment interference, even though it has authority to do so. The League urged the FCC to require manufacturers to put notices on products indicating they are subject to harmful interference, and to provide interference-resolution information and contact representatives for RFI resolution. The ARRL said it was not optimistic that the pilot privatized interference resolution program would work, since it puts the burden of resolving the interference problem on the consumer, not the manufacturer.

The League also recommended establishing a cadre of volunteers who would use their skills to resolve interference problems involving other radio services, provided volunteers could be guaranteed some protection from lawsuits.

The League further suggested the FCC reduce its administrative burden by adopting the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making, RM-8677, which asks the FCC to implement the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP). This could eliminate the burden of processing reciprocal license applications of hams visiting from elsewhere in the hemisphere. The ARRL also suggested that the US take advantage of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations' (CEPT) Recommendation T/R 61-01 arrangements and issue a CEPT license that would be recognized by other participating administrations and valid for visits.

The League's comments conclude by observing that the Commission's NOI "signals to the League an intention to reduce the Commission's functions to the role of auditor and mediator, rather than regulator," and calling this "a positive trend for the Amateur Service."

Ode to the Kerchunkers

by Tom, KA3LAM

Kerchunk ,kerchunk, kerchunk,

Dis is a repeater I thunk,

I pushed on the button

Almost for nuttin,

Den I heard the beep and the clunk.

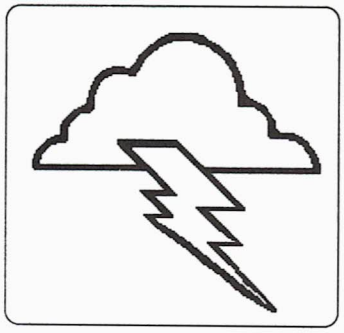
Remember, **ARRL**, is important. Join or renew via **KA3MOU**, our tresurer. The club gains from this.

The sparkling & rumblings skies of summer

(Or, 'Here goes TDF A G A I N')

by Ray, W3TDF

So, you bought a new rig (radio, transceiver or whatever), and it's sitting on a wooden table, still



in the box. What are the chances of it becoming part of the lightning path, and destroying it? "None", you say, huh! Well, by gosh you're right. So now you remove it from the box and admire it sitting on the table. Still no chance of it becoming part of the path, right. Absolutely! Next, after checking the manual, you hook up an antenna, and plug it into the AC, (or a power supply that is plugged in). Now your nice new rig is part of a possible path. Whether the path be **CLOUD-ANTENNA=FEED LINE-RADIO-AC-GROUND**, or **THE REVERSE,** I wish not to get into that discussion. Anyway, leave it that way and you are inviting trouble.

For peace of mind you can pull the plug from the AC. If you're in the basement you can drop the cord/plug onto the cement floor. So, now you have reduced the potential path by having a half inch gap between the plug prong and the grounded cement floor. Will it jump that half inch? Did it jump between your antenna and the cloud!?!?!?

OK, so you put the cord up on the table, but in the meantime you had put the rotator control box on the wooden table, and it's plugged in. How much distance between that control box and the rig? Not near as far as between the cloud and your antenna, right?

Is there a light, or clock near the rig that is still plugged in?

But, wait, why not just remove the antenna from the rig? Very good thinking, but that plug better still be pulled, and no **GROUND** left attached either! Why! Please study these possible **PATHs:-**

CLOUD-ANT.-ROTATOR-WIRE-CONTROL BOX-6 INCH GAP-RIG-GND.

CLOUD-AC MAINS-HOUSE WIRING-CLOCK-6" GAP-RIG-GND.

If you are using a metal desk instead of a wooden table then those 6" Gaps become much less, depending on whether there are rubber feet on the various items mentioned. Of course, if you are not in the basement then you can pull ALL the plugs and just drop em on the floor.

As food for thought, (you are thinking, aren't you?), picture yourself as an amateur magician. You levitate, (elevate if you must), the entire operating position and pass a loop over it, left to right (and/or vice versa). Did it make it without any wires, or whatever, interfering?

That **GROUND** that you insist on having attached to your rig, etc., is (#1) to keep you from getting electrocuted should there be a problem with a breakdown between the AC Mains and any part of your operating hardware that you might touch, and(#2) to improve the transfer of **RF** from the rig to the ether. If you want to leave it on there to enhance that **PATH** that I have been talking about, then you're on your own.

If you take a direct hit from that terrible lightning then there isn't much to worry about. You will probably lose the TV, micro-wave, stereo, telephones, refrigerators, and maybe the whole house. Remember, the direct hit may be several blocks away, but, it's those secondary fingers from the main bolt that we are to be concerned with. There may be hundreds of them, so our chances of gettin hit with one of them is hundreds to one of taking the direct hit. The only **GROUND** in my shack is tied to a panel with SO-239 coax connectors on it. When I pull the power, I transfer the coax cables from the coax switch to that panel. There is also an AC receptacle on that panel, with all pins grounded. It isn't for power, it's for the rotator control box cord to plug into.

Have I thought of everything? I think so, but, if you come up with any suggestions, please don't hesitate. I'm listening! Just because you have equipment insurance is no reason for you to subject yourself to lost operating time while waiting for replacements.

de Ray, W3TDF

Baseball Fanatic

Robert Orben says: "My wife claims I'm a baseball fanatic. She says all I ever **read** about is baseball. All I ever **talk** about is baseball. All I ever think about is baseball. **I told her she's way off base."**

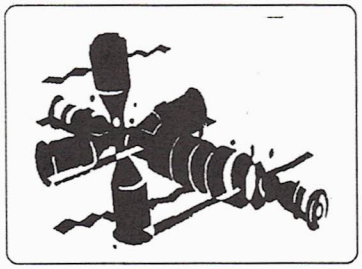
thanks to N0AHH

Sarex over, but! keep looking up

Keep listening 145.55

from Frank Bauer, KA3HDO

The **STS-76** Space Shuttle mission officially ended on Sunday, March 31, with a 13:29 UTC landing at Edwards Air Force Base, California. Unpredictable weather at the Kennedy Space Center forced mission controllers to land the Space Shuttle Atlantis at the backup Edwards landing site.



This mission also carried on-board the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment **(SAREX). SAREX** is a secondary payload which provides the opportunity for school groups and ham radio operators to talk to the astronauts while they are in orbit.

Unfortunately, the Shuttle Crew was too busy with primary payload **(Shuttle/MIR)** activities to support **SAREX** operations during the first five days of the mission. Unfortunately the compression of the mission timeline to land a day early resulted in the cancellation of the five school group contacts that had been planned late in the mission. The **SAREX** team will be working with these school groups to reschedule their contacts on a future flight. The **SAREX** team points out that SAREX is a secondary payload aboard space shuttles and primary payload concerns take precedence.

Astronaut **Shannon Lucid** is now a member of the MIR crew for the next **4 and a half months.** The Russians have approved her use of the MIR radio on 2 meters, with the call sign **R0MIR**. Look for **Lucid** from **MIR** on **145.55** simplex as she passes over the United States.

by Frank H. Bauer, KA3HDO,
for the SAREX Working Group

OK Corral Editor

from Joe, WB2BKJ

Hi Clarence: Just wanted to drop you a short note before we go on vacation to thank you for the March edition of the OK Corral.

Made over 400 copies - one for each Crew Member - and all were thrilled to get it. Say hello to all for me and enjoy the coming spring., I hope, nice wx.

73 Joe & Crew

Official emergency Station

by John, N3IGA

This is the first of about seven articles on some of the ARRL Field Organization Station Appointments that you can receive through the ARRL. These appointments also help clubs to become Special service Clubs.

Amateur operators of Novice Class and above may be appointed Official Emergency Station (OES) by their Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) or Section Manager (SM) at the recommendation of their Emergency Coordinators (EC) or District Emergency Coordinators (DEC). The OES must be an ARRL member and set high standards of emergency preparedness and operating. Beside OES's operating within their own local EC jurisdictional areas, they should be able to respond in "off shore" emergencies, such as those which frequently occur in foreign countries.

The standard qualifications and functions of this appointment are:

A. Possession of full ARRL membership and a Novice Class license or higher.

B. Regular participation in the local ARES, if any, including all drills and tests, emergency nets, and of course real emergency situations.

C. Ability to operate independent of commercial means including at least one band mobile.

D. Must be full acquainted with standard ARRL message form and capable of using it in handling any third-party messages.

E. Report monthly to the EC/DEC or SEC.

If anyone is interested in this appointment or any of the other appointments which I will be writing about, please contact me by phone or leave a message on my BBS, N3IGA @ N3IGA. If you have E-mail capabilities, you can leave E-mail at n3iga@n3iga.ampr.org and I'll get the Station Appointment forms to you as soon as possible.

de John, N3IGA ACC/EPA

DLARC MEETING AT SCHNECKSVILLE SCHOOL
CHECK PAGE 1 FOR LOCATION. MAY 2nd
7:30 pm Talk in on 146.70

Internet no replacement for amateur radio

by Doug Alderice, KA2WFT

(Reprinted from The Field Forum vol. 12 no. 2, April, 1996)

As a relative newcomer to the Internet, I have become enchanted with the vast amount of information on The Web and must admit, I have neglected my packet messages. I received my copy of The Field Forum (an ARRL publication) and found the following article . I felt a bit ashamed and embarrassed. So much so, that I immediately sat down and decided to pass this information along to those of you who may also be caught up in the fascination of the Internet.

In reading an article recently in another club's newsletter about how prepared we are as hams for emergencies, particularly in the realm of power sources, I got to thinking about how this relates to the world's increasing reliance on the Internet. Almost all of us have heard the history of the Internet and how it was designed to be "indestructible" in that it has the 'smarts' to re-route itself around breaks in the system. This is all well and good and ensures the integrity of the system overall, but what about your access to the Internet? **Could that survive a catastrophe?**

How many of us have the capability to power our desktop computer systems with emergency power for hours or more? An uninterruptable power source (UPS) doesn't come close t o fitting this bill, being built to power a system only long enough in the event of a power failure to save whatever files you currently have open before shutting down. UUA and what about your connection to the Internet? I would venture to guess that none of us has a dedicated satellite link from our homes to the Internet. We all rely on the good old twisted pair for our Ron ramp to the information superhighway. Even companies with dedicated connections to the Internet rely on other telephone company services like leased lines, T1, ISDN and so on. And we all know how reliable landline in an y form is in a catastrophe.

A few of us may have the capability to interface a portable computer to a cellular telephone, but how long does that notebook's battery last? And as for cellular, we have discussed the reliability of that mode in previous editorials in these pages.

I guess the moral to all of this is that amateur radio still remains the ultimate, ever-reliable backup communications system available, even in this high-tech hyped age. Handheld radios can be powered from modest power sources like gel cells and car batter ies for hours, even days if the power saving functions available in newer rigs are engaged

. Newer HF rigs run off 12 volts, readily available from car batteries and the li ke, and again operating wisely, these can be operated for a long time without benefit of commercial mains. Even older tube-type equipment can be run from small, portable g enerators as long as gasoline is available. Despite the great advances in technology, the need for amateur radio remains as strong as ever. As these new advances in techn ology become more and more a part of daily life, the greater the potential for chaos when this technology becomes inoperative in a disaster. Perhaps even more so than in the past, amateur radio has a large role to play in disaster communications. We need to keep our equipment and skills in readiness. We need to participate in events like Field Day. We need to defend our frequencies from encroachment by commercial interest s. We need to keep up amateur radio.

de Mark, WA3KIF SEC

Emergency prepardness ,information and supplies

de WA3KIF

While "surfing the net," I discovered a path to emergency preparedness. This path eventually led me to EPICENTER. Epicenter supplies information and sells supplies relate d to emergencies. You can contact them (contact information below) to receive a 3 page black and white list of their merchandise. At the time I logged on, they were offer ing free (small) chemical lightsticks for the price of an SASE.

EPICENTER can be reached at:

6523 California Ave SW #161

Seattle, WA 98136

Phone _____ (206) 937-5658

Internet _____ http://nwlink.com/epicenter/

For those who are of the emergency preparednes mind, this may be worth looking into.

de Mark, WA3KIF

Letter to the editor

Editor, Clarence, W3PYF:

As far as people who do nothing and bitch all the time, well, after being an **Episcopal Priest** for over thirty years, I'd like to share this with you.



In every parish I served, including Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, there was always at least one person who did little or nothing and always knew more about anything I was doing than I did.

Only as an Air Force Chaplain during the Vietnam War did I ever have the priviledge of dealing with such people directly. (Bitchers normally like to work behind your back.) As an officer I could read the riot act to such a person, if he happened to be enlisted. Other officers had to talk to me. The senior officers disliked the bitchers as much as I did, and still do. And I assume you do.

I wish it were not true, but there are people who would rather talk about someone than to someone.

I have learned two lessons.

1. They are not worth worrying about.

2. Come judgment day I have little to worry about having been judged so many times before.

The motto of my old Air Division (314th) is worth considering, *"Don't let the bastards get you down."*

Take care, you really do a great job.

73, Ken N7SQU

Spring cleaning bargins galore

from Joel, K9TBD

Commodore C-64 systems (4) => I have four C64's (one for spare parts), four 1541 disk drives, two commodore rinters, four monitors, digicom box, 4-pen plotter, tablet, lots and lots of software and a most complete reference library for the Commodore C64 computers... Many accessories.... I need a home for the whole lot.

Drake Twins R4-T4X => Great tranceivers - with MS-4 speaker/power supply...

PC monitors and parts => PC collection of monitors, chassis, and floppy drives and parts.

Emerson 300 UPS => Great for continuous duty, needs a new battery. 4ms switchover time.. absolutely won't glitch a computer or radio etc...

Model 28 KSR 100wpm => Super Teletype machine, has automatic paper takeup rewind mechanism.

Complete Lowband/UHF Digital Communication System => All the necessary parts and cables for complete digital communication system. You supply the radios. Includes HAL ST-6 TU upgraded for TTL, RS232, as well as orignal current loop, Model 28 KSR, complete C64 system with MBATOR, DIGCOM packet, Kermit, Digicom TU, cabling included.PC cabling to ST-6 for BMKMULTY.

Lots more including documentation.

For Details =>

call: Joel 610-252-1515
email: A326@Lehigh.Edu
ham: k9tbd@k9tbd.ampr.org

VE session results

by Martin, N3RCA

At this session, 5 candidates took a total of ten elements. There was a new one and two upgrades.

Daniel J. Moscovitz	**Novice**
David Hill	**Tech Plus**

Bayard K. Saunders, N3VAD, upgrade to Advanced

Congratulations to all!

The VE's at this session were **Bill, K3ANS**; Bob, **KE3AW**; Ray, **W3TDF**; and Martin, **N3RCA**

(The next session will be held on May 3rd.

de Martin, N3RCA (DK9LJ)

Dogs and money

"I'm really worried about my dog," Ralph said to the veterinarian. "I dropped some coins on the floor and before I could pick them up, he ate them."

The vet advised Ralph to leave his dog at the vet's office overnight. The next morning, Ralph called to see how his pet was doing?.

The vet replied, **"No change yet."-**

de Nathan, KB8OVU

N O T I C E TO ALL VISITORS

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS _____ BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, DC. BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

1) The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.

2) No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We suggest you call Western Union.

3) This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or hi-fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.

4) Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.

5) The farthest station we have contacted has been in the Ubangiland

.

6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations

.

7) It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.

8) An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert. It takes dedication, training and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be license by the United States Federal Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

FURTHERMORE... IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

1) Speak in a low and soothing tone.
2) Do not disagree with me in any manner.
3) Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.
4) It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC. I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

Thank you for your cooperation

from ARRL on internet via N3LAI

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE

ANNUAL

PUBLICATION AWARD

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO JOURNALISM

W3OK CORRAL

EDITED BY: **Clarence Snyder-W3PYF**

having been judged

SUPERIOR

is hereby awarded this testimonial in official recognition of the excellence of its performance and outstanding contribution of Amateur Radio journalism during **1995**

Dated **March 25, 1996**

Judy Roush **AA7UC**
Vice President - Publications, A.R.N.S.

1995 JUDGES
AA7UC, AB7FK, KB7TZR

Lee Kneiske **W9MOL**
President, A.R.N.S.

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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DLARC INFORMATION LINE 820-9110

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The W3OK CORRAL is published monthly and is the Official Publication
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==1995-1996==

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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 should be addressed to
Clarence Snyder, W3PYF, Editor..717 Porter Street, Easton, PA 18042-1548

The W3OK CORRAL
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