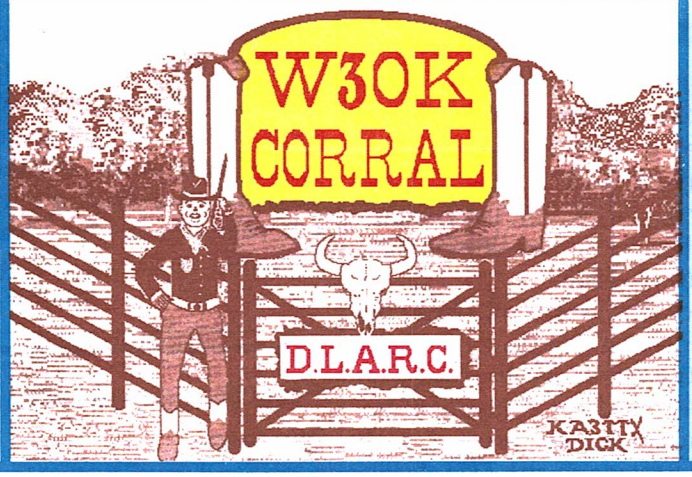
DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W3OK

May 1997



SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB
ARRL

ARRL Affiliated Club

Where did all the RF go?

Where did all he RF go?

by Ray, W3TDF

At the May 1st meeting, in Room 133 in the Northampton Community College Center I will attempt to show, with an actual 'hardware' set-up, where the RF is; where it went; or where it goes ! I want to know the answers to these questions as badly as you do. I, truthfully, don't know what to expect from this demo, cause I've never done this before. It'll be a learning experience for all of us. The set-up will include a transceiver, an antenna, several power/swr meters, and an external matching device, (sometimes called a 'tuner'). The important result from this experiment will be to see if the RF transfer remains the same with, and without the matching device. I hope to have another surprise for the group, but since I'm not sure I'll keep mum about it.

The PA-QSO Party results from Nittany have been distributed. If you participated, and did not receive them, let me know and I'll get a copy to you.]

de Ray, W3TDF

The Prez Sez

by Tom, N3LLL



If you did not get to attend the first annual DLARC auction you missed a great event. Thank you Bob / N3QQ, former KU3K, for his great job as our auctioneer, I had an itch on my forehead that cost me $5.00. We all had a good time and hope to do it again.

I would like to congratulate **Mark / K3MP** former KB3AZR for stepping forward to lead the clubs VE program. His assistance will be appreciated. I would also like to thank **Robin / WA3T** who has been contributing to the club for many years.

As spring approaches it again the season that calls for volunteer efforts by members of the club. This is a great way to help your community while doing something that is enjoyable. I urge all of the club members to participate in the spring and summers events. Remember, each time you participate you plant the seeds of amateur radio, only time will tell how they grow.

Joe / W3JD will be filling for me at the May meeting, I will be off helping to prepare for my daughters wedding the following Saturday, wish me luck.

What happened?

by Clarence, W3PYF

What has happened to the **friendly 146.70 repeater?** For years everyone who came through our area, was greated with at least a hello. I hear many now coming into our area, announce their call and then dead silence. This in spite of the fact that someone had just finished a conversation on the frequency or within several minutes, a call comes out from one of our members to some friend he is looking for.

It only takes a minute to say hello and welcome the stranger to our area. No long coversation is needed.

de Clarence, W3PYF, Editor

World Telecommunication day is May 17

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council has chosen "Telecommunication In The Service Of Humanitarian Assistance" as the theme for 1997 World Telecommunication Day (WTD-97), a theme lying at the very heart of Amateur Radio. World Telecommunication Day takes place each year on the anniversary of the creation of the ITU, May 17, 1865.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, the ITU has the vital role of overseeing the division of the range of radio spectrum for the entire world. Based on the demonstrated or perceived needs of different services, which include broadcast, maritime, aeronautical, amateur and others, member-nations of the ITU decide which radio services will be allocated which bands of frequencies. Once that's done, the regulators for each country take over to write domestic regulations in accordance with ITU international agreements.

Amateur Radio is expected to be featured in a special telecommunications center designed to commemorate the event, to be located in front of the ITU Headquarters building, at the Place des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. It is expected that special event station operators will use the call sign **4U1ITU,** which is the call of the ITU Headquarters club station.

ARRL International Affairs Vice President and IARU Secretary Larry Price, W4RA, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will be in Geneva for other meetings and are planning to represent ARRL and IARU in person. It is further anticipated that ARRL will arrange a schedule with the Geneva special event station to convey a commemorative message from ARRL/IARU. (IARU is a Sector Member of the ITU. ARRL is the International Secretariat of the IARU). US groups involved in emergency communication programs such as ARES and RACES would also be invited to contact and exchange messages with the station.

Other planned activities and demonstrations in Geneva include live videoconferencing (possibly with relief workers at the site of operations in Rwanda and/or Burundi), satellite equipment (provided and operated by commercial suppliers), and VHF and HF mobile equipment. Videos, including a program currently in production on telecommunication in the Rwanda and Burundi operations, will be shown..

The ARRL Letter

Shannon Lucid gets award

The National Aviation Club presented its first annual Achievement Award March 12 to astronaut Shannon Lucid, who became familiar to many hams from her radio activities from the Russian Mir space station. She was selected "for her technical expertise, dedicated service, and pioneering spirit as a space shuttle astronaut." Lucid holds the record for the longest duration in space by a US astronaut and longest space flight by a woman. She becomes the first to receive the yet-to-be-named trophy that was to have been presented to Amelia Earhart upon the completion of her around-the-world flight in the 1930s. Lucid has flown on five shuttle missions including her record-setting mission to Mir last year. She holds a commercial pilot's license, with instrument and multi-engine aircraft ratings.



via the ARRL letter

Five Reasons why computers must be female

5. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.

4. Even your smallest mistakes are immediately committed to memory for future reference.

3. The native language used to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.

2. The message, "Bad command or filename," is about as informative as "If you don't know why I'm mad at you, then I'm certainly not going to tell you."

1. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

Submitted by Larry N2OCW



courtesy World Radio



KEN KROMER, WB3IFV

Ken Kromer who was 77 died on March 16, just after the last issue went to press. Ken has been a member of our club for many years.

In addition to his amateur radio activities he was choir at his church, from which he was buried, the St. John's United Church of Christ, Nazareth.

He had two sons, both amateurs, Dennis, KR3U and Barry, WB1GPJ. In additiions three newphews, Marvin, N3BDL, Kim, WA2ZQS and Richard, NX3R.

He was a 32nd Degree Mason, and a regular on our club Nets.

To his XYL Erma and his great family our very sincerest sympathies.

What can we say?

The company that provided the liability insurance for the Republican National Convention in San Diego was the same firm that insured the maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic.

RE: "Highway Emergencies"

by Dewi, N3FWN

A word of caution should be provided to all Amateurs, CB operators, Cell phone and anyone who may feel compelled to stop to help a disabled motorist. It is based on my personal experience.

One day on the PA Turnpike I encountered an automobile with the hood up so I decided to stop to offer communications help. I only had (Pls xcuse, 11 meter stuff in the car) so that should tell you how long ago it was. I had previously formulated a plan for such a situation and pressed it into service. I pulled off the road **IN FRONT OF THE DISABLED AND MADE CERTAIN THAT THERE WAS PLENTY SHOULDER FOR A QUICK GETAWAY**, just in case. I closed all windows except the driver's but left it slightly open which I thought was ample and locked my doors. I left the motor running and the transmission in "DRIVE" keeping the car from moving with the brake which I kept with my left foot keeping my right foot on the gas pedal. I waited for the other motorist to come to me to explain the emergency.

Indeed, a gentleman from the other car started to walk up the shoulder toward my car. When he arrived, I discovered that my window was not closed enough and was surprised when I saw a hand holding a knife coming through the window. Fortunately, not by planning but by luck, my hand was close enough to the electric window button to close the window on his wrist but he still refused to drop the knife. Holding him captive I started to drive up the shoulder and I heard a bone crack and the knife dropped to the floor of my car. I then opened the window and released him and safely escaped.

A few miles down the road I spotted a State Police car traveling in the opposite direction and alerted him by turning my lights on and off several times. He responded by turning his red and blue lights and I pulled to the shoulder with my hazard lights flashing. As soon as he was able he U Turned through one of the median openings and came to my assistance. I gave him the details and showed him the knife which was still where it had dropped. Ample time had passed for me to think and fearing the possibility of a civil suit for the injury that I had caused I asked him to please preserve any fingerprints that may be on the knife. He carefully picked up the knife and placed it in his car.

de Dewi, N3FNW

Thumb of these days!!

The phrase **"rule of thumb"** is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

Contest Calendar

by Barry, KU3X, Contest editor

May 3-4 Massachusetts QSO Party
Connecticut QSO Party
ARI International DX Contest
Danish SSTV Contest
MARAC County Hunters CW Contest
Ten-Tec Spring Sprint CW Contest
May 10 ARRL Spring Sprints; 902, 1296, 2304 MHz
May 10-11 Nevada QSO Party
May 17 Armed Forces Day
EU Spring Sprint, CW
May 17-18 ARRL Spring Sprints; 50 MHz
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

Ham radio volunteer services bill introduced

The ARRL Letter Vol. 16, No. 11

Good news for ham radio volunteers: the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997 (HR 1013)--introduced this by US Rep Anna Eshoo of California. If enacted, the bill would place volunteers in the Volunteer Examination Program and the Amateur Auxiliary under the protections of the Federal Tort Claims Act by affording them the same legal protections as employees of the Federal Government while they're carrying out such volunteer duties. "This bill would help protect the personal liability of volunteer Amateur Radio operators while performing duties on behalf of the Federal Government," Eshoo said in introducing the measure. As she explained it on the House floor, it's simply a question of fairness for volunteers, who risk damaging lawsuits while saving the government time and money. The bill was introduced with 21 cosponsors hailing from both parties.

HR 1013 is nearly identical to a bill introduced last year but not enacted and similar to a unanimously accepted amendment to the FCC reauthorization bill that Eshoo herself offered last year in the Commerce Committee.

On the House floor, Eshoo outlined the rationale behind the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997 in these words, and urged her colleagues to support the bill:

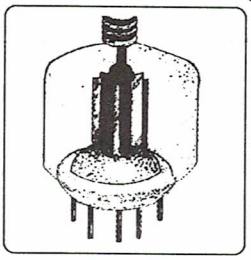
"Amateur Radio operators are self-regulated, with volunteer operators monitoring the airwaves for violations and administering licensing exams. This volunteer corps saves countless hours of staff time and resources for the Federal Communications Commission; however, because they are not Federal employees, they put their personal assets at risk in the event of actions taken against them as a result of their volunteer service to the Government."

"It is simply unfair that these volunteers who are saving the Government time and resources should have to risk their personal assets in carrying out their service. The Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act would classify those individuals donating their time and expertise to maintaining the quality of the Amateur Radio airwaves as Federal employees only for the purpose of actions taken against them in the performance of their duties as self-regulators. This action will ensure the continued viability of the amateur radio community and continue to save the FCC and the Federal Government time and money that would otherwise need to be expended."

Eimac now in Easton

The ARRL Letter Vol. 16, No. 12

Eimac is out of the glass-tube business. The former Eimac glass-tube manufacturing facility has been sold and relocated from Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Easton, Pennsylvania.** The new company, Triton, moved the former Eimac plant "lock, stock and barrel" from Utah to Pennsylvania, said Mark Hoffman, a senior scientist at Triton. In all, it took 16 tractor-trailer loads to move the plant's manufacturing equipment and inventories across the country. For now, Triton is manufacturing 46 different Eimac and Westinghouse tube types, including the popular 3-500Z, 4-400A and 4-400C. Right now, Triton does not make the 6146, 572B, 811A or 4-1000A, but Hoffman did not rule out the possibility that the company may tool up to manufacture those tubes in the future. Triton also makes glass tube chimneys and sockets.



Hams interested in obtaining small quantities of Triton tubes should contact the company's distributor, Richardson Electronics, Lafox, Illinois; tel 800-323-1770.

Eimac--recently purchased by an investment group, Communications and Power Industries--continues to make and rebuild ceramic external-anode tubes. It has been relocated to Palo Alto, California.



My Story

by Bud, W4YID

A number of years ago, while I resided in Amarillo Texas before moving to the Lehigh Valley and Allentown, on October 5th, I was monitoring the 10 Meter Amateur band, when at approximately 4:45 PM Central Time, I was interrupted on my CQ call,



by **Dan High, KG6RL** of Saipan in the Mariana Islands.

High <KG6RL> told me I was the strongest station he was hearing and had an "Emergency Medical Message" I came back to him, and he told me that his Secretary, Shirley Dye, had taken two tablespoons full of animal mange medicine, thinking it was cough syrup. Realizing she had taken poison, she was seeking medical advise <and fast>! High <KG6RL said the Island Doctor was unavailable, and the hospital nurse on duty was inexperienced. I maintained constant communications with KG6RL, and made two telephone calls, and had hooked up my "phone-patch" equipment, so that conversations on both sides would be heard by KG6RL and the person on the phone-patch.

The first call made, was to a Dr. Doug Armstrong, a veterinarian, to find out the active ingredients in the manage medicine the woman has swallowed. Armstrong said the ingredients were: Lindane and Rotenone. I then called the Poison Control Center at the Amarillo Texas Emergency Medical Center, and spoke to a Dr. Tom Douglas. Telling his the situation of what was taking place, He gave the antidote and prescribed medical procedures to follow.

High <KG6RL> had his phone-patch tied into the Saipan Hospital and the nurse on duty, who commenced Dr. Armstrong's medical advice and utilized a stomach pump, induce vomiting, administer oxygen keeping patient cool and not let her dehydrate. This entire procedure only took about 10 minutes.

High <KG6RL > expressed his thanks for assistance, and advised he would try to get back to me the following day, band conditions permitting, so we signed off at approximately 5 PM. The next afternoon at about same time and frequency, I was able to re-establish contact with KG6RL, only long enough for him to advise me, that things were under control and the Island Doctor was located, and upon his return to the hospital, the nurse had completed the instructions she had received, and patient was doing somewhat better.

Conditions then changed, and I lost contact with KG6RL. I tried several days following, but no success, but I was anxious to ascertain the condition of his Secretary, Shirely Dye.

About ten days later, I received two letters from Saipan. One from the Attorney General of the Trust Territory of the Mariania Islands in the Pacific, who was Dan High KG6RL, and the other letter from Shirley Dye, both thanking me again for the assistance I was able to provide. The trust territory of the U.S. Mariania Islands is about 1500 miles east of the Philippine Islands.

Reason for submitting this **"My Story"** again, is for the interest of some of the newer "hams" in our area, once again stating that Amateur Radio is truly a wonderful hobby, but at times, it proves to be a "life-saver" in times of emergencies. Local "Hams" in the Lehigh Valley area, respond to many emergencies, weather related, and others, so one never knows when an opportunity may present itself. I personally was so thankful that I was at the right "spot" at the right time <on ten meters> and was able to have forethought to respond as I did. Not looking for "hearts and flowers" but that is **"My Story".**

73 Bud W4YID.

editors note:

I first read of this story on "Ham Radio Online" on the internet, and asked Bud to rewrite it for us.

From your editor:

Follows a note I received from Dick Teasdale, 911- Director of Communciations for Northampton County,

I want to thank you and the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club board for allowing me to be a part of your meeting last month. As I mentioned, the DLARC is one of which you can be very proud, and the public service your group provides is an example for all amateur groups to emulate.

I want to assure you and the club that as County 911 Director of Communications, I intend to continue to support the relationship that you have with Nick Tylenda in the present Communciations Center and the Emergency Management enviromenat and I invite your club to schedule a tour of the new facility in June or later at your convience.

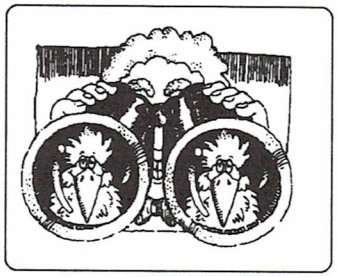
Sincerely, Dick

The Electronic Hole Theory Exposed as a Fraud....

(rewritten from unclassified documents)

submitted by Neil, N3QEK

Have you ever wondered about the Electronic Hole Theory of Semiconductor Physics? I don't have a degree in anything, but I know my stuff when it comes to experience in electronics.



After a careful study of this phenomenon of Semiconductor Physics, here is what I've determined.

After years of study and experience in electronics, I have come to the conclusion that the "Hole Theory" may be incorrect. My theory, which has been proven time and time again in service shops across America, is that; "All electronic devices (especially IC's) work on **SMOKE!"** I have recently learned that every component manufacturer (including all IC makers) encapsulate a certain amount of black smoke in every one of their devices!!!! That black smoke is what determines the total functionality of that device.

How often have you noticed, that when the smoke leaks out of a component, the component will quit working, instantly?

This condition has been documented many times. For example: When a storm comes up, the sky gets really black. The lightening flashes through the black clouds to ground. Soooo, the black clouds must be made of smoke and the amount of smoke (thickness of the clouds) determines the strength and flow of the lightening. When the black clouds go away (the smoke clears), the flow of lightening ceases. The same theory also works in semiconductor components...

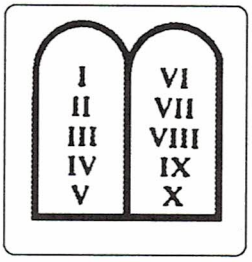
When the component in question allows the smoke to escape, that component ceases to function because the "vehicle" which determines the electron flow no longer exists.

Therefore, **SMOKE** has to be the ultimate source of electron flow in any circuit, no matter how simple or complex that circuit is!!!

(Author unknown, but it IS an interesting theory.)

JOIN ARRL, CONTACT KA3MOU, for details

Ten Commandments For The Service Technician



1. Beware The Lightning That Lurketh in the Undischarged Capacitor, Lest it Smite Thee and Cause Thee to Bounce Upon Thy Buttocks in a Most UN-Technician Like Manner.

2. Cause Though the Switch That Supplieth Large Quantities of Voltage to be Opened and Thusly Tagged, That Thy Days in This Earthly Vale of Tears May be Long.

3. Prove to Thyself That All Circuits That Radiate, and Upon Which Thou Work, are Grounded, and Have Their Power Reduced, Lest They Lift Thee to Radio Frequency Potential and Cause Thee to Make Like a Radiator Also.

4. Carry Thou Not Amongst Those Fools That Engage in Intentional Shocks, for Verily They are Surely Non-Believers and are not Long for This World.

5. Take Care that Thou Useth the Proper Method When Thou Takest Measure of High Voltage, Lest Thou Incinerate Both Thyself and Thy Meter; For Verily, Though Thee Hath No Account Number and Can be Easily Replaced, The Test Meter Doth an Account Number, and as Consequence, Bringeth Much Woe Unto Thy Pocketbook and the Supply Room.

6. Tamperest Thou Not With Interlocks and Safetey Switches, For This Incurreth the Wrath of Thy Supervisor and Bringeth The Fullness of The Might and Fury of the Safety Inspector Down Upon Thy Head and Sholders.

7. Workest Thou Not on Equipment Alone, For Electrical Cooking is a Slothful Process and Thou might Sizzle in Thy Own Fat for Hours Upon the Hot Circuit Before Thy Maker Sees Fit to End Thy Misery.

8. Triflest Thou Not With Radioactive Tubes and Substances, Lest Thou Commence to Glow in the Dark Like the Firefly, and Thy Wife Have No Further use for Thee Except Thy Wages.

9. Causeth Thou to be Tagged All Modifications made by Thee Upon Equipment, Lest Thy Successor Tear his Hair Out and Go Slowly Mad in History.

10. What Manner of Creature Hath Made a Nest in the Wiring of Such Equipment.

Author Unknown

FCC new rules

via ARRL Bulletins courtesy N3ET

In response to three petitions for rulemaking, the FCC has adopted changes to the Amateur Service rules that--among other changes--will make it easier to obtain 1x1 call signs for special event stations and harder to get a club station license. Other amendments to the rules included in a Report and Order released April 1, 1997, will allow hams to append special designators either before or after their call signs--or both, and will recognize, but not require, the use of a session manager at Volunteer Examiner testing sessions.

The FCC declined to give examination credit for formerly held licenses, and turned down an ARRL request for a lifetime operator's license.

Under the new amendments, the FCC will allow a licensee to substitute a self-selected call sign from the block of 1x1 call signs for temporary use during a special event operation. The station must announce its regularly assigned call sign at least once an hour. The special event call signs will be coordinated and issued by outside volunteer entities, not by the FCC. The Commission will announce later when and how volunteer entities may volunteer their services. The chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau then would certify volunteer entities to serve as amateur station special event call sign coordinators, who would issue 1x1 calls from a common, online special event call sign database. By definition, a 1x1 call sign consists of a single prefix letter, K, N or W; the region number, 0 to 9; and a single suffix letter, A to W, Y and Z--750 call signs in all. The FCC turned down a suggestion that would have limited special event call signs to stations licensed to Amateur Extra class operators.

In proposing to increase the eligibility requirements for a club station license, the FCC said it was "important to determine that the applicant for a club station license is a legitimate radio club and not just a person seeking to acquire additional call signs." Under the rules changes, the FCC has raised the eligibility requirement from at least two members to a minimum of four. Applicants for a club station license must have a club name, a document of organization, management, and a primary ham radio purpose that's consistent with FCC rules.

Responding to a petition by the National Conference of Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), the FCC said VECs could elect to designate a session manager if they wanted to, but they would not be required to do so. The Commission's new rules recognize the VE session manager function but emphasize that the three Volunteer Examiners at a test session would still be held "jointly and severally responsible for the proper conduct of each examination administered."

Another change will allow hams to include a self-assigned indicator before, after or both before and after the assigned call sign when identifying. Current rules only permit using such indicators after the station's regular call sign. Self-assigned indicators include those used to indicate location or type of operation, such as /KP2 when operating in the US Virgin Islands or /m when operating in a vehicle. They also can denote participation in an unusual event or other atypical station operation, according to the FCC.

Citing mostly negative comments, the FCC decided against allowing exam credit for formerly held amateur operator licenses. The Commission also said "no' to the ARRL's suggestion that the operator license be valid for the lifetime of the holder. The FCC said operators would still have to renew their station licenses every ten years and that it did not want to maintain a separate database to keep track of station license expirations.

The FCC announced all of the rules changes in a Report and Order, FCC 97-99, adopted March 20 and issued April 1. The amendments become effective 30 days after the Report and Order is published in The Federal Register.

via ARRL Bulletin 18-19.

Request for VE's for Test sessions

by Mark K3MP

I want to thank **Robin, WA3T** the assistance he has given me throughout my time as a new VE. Robin should be congratulated for the time he has given to the club not only as the VE team liaison but also for the work he still gives as an instructor for novice/tech and general classes. Thank you Robin for giving back to the community of new prospective amateurs your wealth of knowledge and time. It sure is appreciated by many.

I would like to compile a list of all VE's in the club to possibly make up a schedule for upcoming test sessions. **If you are interested please call me at (610) 882-3249 from 7am - 3pm and at (610) 264-8343 after 4pm.** Leave a message if I'm not around. **Your services would probably only be needed 2 - 3 times per year.** I know it is tough to give up time, but it sure is a good feeling signing that CSCE and 610 for a new ham. Hope to hear from you. Thanks and looking forward to working with you.

de Mark K3MP
VE Liaison officer DLARC

Why not just say LEO?

Or

The shame of ham radio

by George, AA3JU

The scene is set for sometime in the not to far distant future, at a congressional hearing on reallocating the 144-148 MHz spectrum for commercial use. Our players are **Leo D. Businessman** and **Senator Iam Pompous**

<Leo> Senator Pompous, you have before you our proposal for the use of this valuable radio spectrum, and as I am sure you can see, the benefits to the American public are quite clear. There are no downsides to this so we are requesting that your committee recommend that the FCC be ordered to turn it over to us.

<Sen. Pompous> Mr. Businessman.....

<Leo> Call me Leo

<Sen. Pompous> All right Leo then. I also have before me a document from the American Radio Relay League, which states that this radio spectrum is used by a group known as radio amateurs, and that it is very necessary for emergency communications. It goes on to say that if this spectrum were relocated all manner of dire consequences will ensue. How do you answer this Leo?

<Leo> Yes I have heard of this Senator, but one of my hobbies is listening to a police type scanner. I recently overheard this conversation, or lack of it, during a recent snow emergency in north eastern Pennsylvania:

(A tape is played of some radio communications on which is heard the voices of some over-tired radio amateurs, pleading with their contemporaries to relieve them and volunteer some time to help at a Red Cross emergency shelter. No responses to the pleas are heard.)

<Leo> You see, Senator, it is obvious that the reason that these radio amateurs want these frequencies is not some altruistic desire to be of help in an emergency, but merely for idle chit chat amongst themselves. Frankly Senator I see no reason why they need this valuable spectrum. They already have CB radio for their current uses.

<Sen. Pompous> Leo, there were some fellows there. Surely that is better than nothing.

<Leo> We have a proposal: At our expense we will train and equip a special team of emergency communications specialists. They will be called Rapid Action Communications Emergency Specialists or RACES for short. (Leo shows the Senator a short video tape of clean cut young men and women dressed in black spandex jump suits assisting in an emergency) You see, Senator, these folks can be relied on. And we guarantee it!

<Sen. Pompous> I see Leo, thank you for your input. My committee and I are very impressed and we shall take this all under consideration.

Far fetched you say? Something out of a bad science fiction movie? I don't know, but here are the real facts: Several days ago our area was hit with a real honest-to-God natural disaster in the form of lots and lots of snow. The local interstate highways were closed, stranding thousands of motorists. The **Red Cross** did what they do best, opening some emergency shelters to give a place of safe refuge for these unfortunate travelers. And, as all too often happens, there were inadequate telephones and very little in the way of radio communications. And they called on the ham radio community to help.

And some help came. Several radio amateurs risked their own well-being and comfort to go and help strangers. Most of these were Technician class operators. They worked diligently throughout the dark, stormy night. While wind whipped around the shelters, turning the snow into a frozen sand blaster, they toiled and passed health and welfare traffic and helped where they could, boiling water for instant coffee and handing out blankets. As daylight came and these men and women had been going for over 24 hours, the call went out for help over the local repeaters.

The repeaters grew deathly quiet. Save for the two fellows that were in a conversation mostly regarding a car repair that was needed at some time in the future. They would not even relinquish the frequency for the emergency call for help. Oh yes, and some did come out of their hiding to say that they were headed for work, that they could not help, and a few said they would help from home. (Lord, I don't know what they were going to do there.) Many, I am sure, just sat back and listened for the pleas for help, just as the bewildered stranded motorists did. I wonder if Leo WAS listening?

This story is so sad because it is true. And I know that most reading this are appalled at hearing it, wondering why they were not personally called, because they would have gone to help. I also know that many were just listening or just too busy or self-important to help. Hey, no reason to use up one of your valuable vacation days, right? Well, to those of you who stood back or would stand back, please do us all a favor and mail your worthless radio license back to Gettysburg! Ham radio is not about contesting or DXing. It surely is not there for the personal private communications of a few repeater hogs or using it as a cheap substitute for cellular telephony. Throughout our history we have been in the forefront of volunteerism. During the first and second world wars, American hams went bravely facing death with bullets whizzing by and bombs exploding around them.

Today that spirit is dead, I fear. Far too many of us see our role as emergency communicators as a chance to get good seats for watching a parade, looking forward to our own self congratulations for a job well done and, of course, a free T-shirt. But that is not it at all! Being there for an emergency means using your own resources, leaving the comfort of your home to brave the elements--maybe even using some vacation time to help some one less fortunate than you are. What would your answer be to the Senator if he heard that tape? What reason would you give for our existence? Sorry, nothing funny this month, gang, but it's just not a funny subject.

de George, AA3JU

Could we help?

by Clarence, W3PYF

The only way, members of our **RACES** group could have helped in this is if our **EMA** director had declared this a **state of emergency.**. Since this was completely in Monroe county, it was the responsibility of the Monroe county EMA to request help from Northampton county director, Nick Tylenda. My first indication of problems there was at 6:30 AM the day after bad night in the Poconos. ***de Clarence W3PYF, RO & EC Northampton County***

Just the Minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary

The April meeting was called to order by Tom, N3LLL in Room 133 in Penn Hall. There were 65 members and guests present. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Glen, K3MGP, with Clarence, W3PYF, seconding.



The Treasurer's report was given by Dick, KA3MOU. The beginning balance was $6215.43. Expenses for the month of March was $467.99. Ending balance as of March 31 is $6048.44. There are 443 members now. The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by JP, N3GWR, and seconded by Dan, W3ZF.

There is a new VE Liaison now. Mark, K3MP, has volunteered to help run the VE sessions.

Robin, WA3T, reported that the Novice-Tech Class this year is small. He said that the class is very enthusiastic.

Amy, KD3TI, informed the members present about the Red Cross Lehigh Valley River Run on July 20. Clarence, W3PYF, announced that the D.I.D. will be held the same day. More information will follow. There was one new member:

Thomas Smith, N8DXR

Bud, WA3BOM made a motion to accept Thomas as a new member, and seconded by Frank, W3IYG.

Ray, W3TDF, gave out plaques for the PA QSO Party. Any member who made over 50,000 and 100,000 points got a plaque. A special plaque was given to Bob, N3QZR and Missy, N3TFG, for the Contribution and Participation Award for 1996 PA QSO Party and Field Day. Both of them have provided a lot of help at these two events along with helping out with the Hamfest.

An auction followed the business meeting. There were a lot of different items brought in. A lot of items were sold, thanks to the terrific job done by the auctioneer **Bob, N3QQ** (formerly KU3K). I believe that everyone had a good time.

de John, N3IGA.



Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Profit & Loss Statement 3/1/97 Through 3/31/97

BALANCE 2/28/97			**6,215.43**
INCOME	Dues ARRL Misc.	301.00	
TOTAL INCOME			**301.00**
EXPENSES			
Guest Meal		8.03	
Memory Of Ken Kromer WB3IFV Church Memorial		25.00	
Newsletters		169.60	
Postage		99.40	
Renewal		109.00	
Telephone		56.96	
TOTAL EXPENSES			**467.99**
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES			**- 166.99**
BALANCE 3/31/97			**6048.44**

de Dick, KA3MOU, treasurer

Thank you from Dave N3VAB

To: DLARC

I would like to thank all the members who showed their support, concerns, and prayers for my faithfully departed nephew Brett Schwartz who died this past March 18th. He was a very friendly, kind, intelligent and courageous man who fought a terrible disease-- Leukemia. I will never forget my nephew and I will never forget how much some members did by their prayers and condolences for my nephew.. Thank you and may God bless us all through times of tragedy.

Dave, N3VAB

DLARC MEETING MARCH 1st

Northampton Communicy College at 7:30 PM.

Meeting will be held in Penn Hall Room 133.

If help is needed, call on 146.70. Someone will give you directions.

10 Ways to Optimize Your Effectiveness in Public Service Events

by: William L. Continelli, AB2CA

In the past, I have offered a "Ready Box" list of equipment which helped you get organized for a **RACES/ARES** drill, actual event or community service event. The following will help you while ON the job.

1. Make sure your radio is in top operating condition. Check antenna and microphone connections.

2. Don't operate your handheld with it hanging on your belt. Using the radio while its strapped to your waist reduces your effective radiated power by more than 10 dB. That's a 90% reduction in power! Hold the radio in your hand, with the antenna in the clear.

3. Regarding antennas, those 3" rubber dummy loads may be cute but your throwing away 3-6 dB of power when using one. A telescoping half-wave has a gain of as much as 10 dB over a 3" rubber duck and a quarter-wave provides a 4-6 dB improvement. Remember that one dB can mean the difference in whether or not a critical message gets through.

4. Have charged batteries and spare battery packs!

5. Use headphones or an earphone rather than a speaker/mic. Most earphones will plug directly into your HT. Low cost stereo earphones are widely available and will work perfectly with your HT using a mono to stereo adapter (I found these earphones at K-mart for $2.00!). The headphones also have the advantage of concentrating the communications in your ears, while partially shutting out the outside noise. Headphones will prolong battery life by allowing the radio to operate at a lower audio output. A speaker/mic is the worst thing you can use -it doesn't cut the outside noise, it doesn't save batteries, and where is that HT while you are using the speaker mic? (Hint: see #2).

6. Speak slowly and clearly when transmitting. You may take pride in your ability to run your words together and mumble, but the station on the other end may be in a noisy environment and may not receive your message.

7. Check out your ability to use simplex. Even if the the operation is being conducted on a repeater, there may be "dead spots," the repeater may go down or sad to say, there may be jamming. Even if you can only work the two or three stations closest to you, a message can still be relayed. To maximize your simplex range, please reread #2 and #3.

8. Listen to net control and direct all communication through him/her. Identify your station when calling net control and keep all communications direct and to the point.

9. If you must leave the radio or the area to which you have been assigned, first seek permission AND acknowledgement from the net control, make your "time off" as short as possible and check BACK in with your NCS (Net Control Station) immediately upon your return.

10. Project a good image to the non-hams around you who are part of the event/emergency.

From: The Field Forum - vol. 13. number 3 April-June, 1997 Ed.) submitted by WA3KIF.

Test Session - April 4, 1997

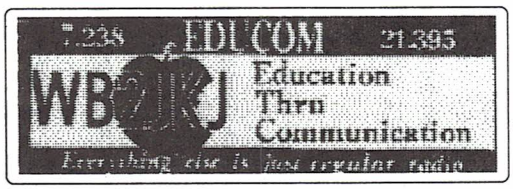
Exams were held at the Greystone Building, Nazareth with the following results.

Name	Call	Upgrade to
Cary Rufe	K2YIY	EXTRA
Eric Geissenhainer	N3UGT	EXTRA
Jon Caswell	No call	New Technician
James Morin	KE4YUK	Credit(CSCE) Extra Written

Congratulations to all for a successful evening. Keep batting at 100%.

Thanks to the VE's for their volunteer time, **WC3Y, Ken, N3EBH, Tom and K3MP, Mark. Yes folks, only three of us.** Thanks, expecially to Tom, for showing up on his way home from work after he heard my distress call for help or the session would have to been canceled. Do we still want to give exams or not. If you have a problem with this contact me. If you want to become a VE contact the ARRL. We can sure use your help. Thanks again for a successful evening.

73 Mark, K3MP, VE Liason



The 1997 Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) Special Achievement Award recipient is **Joe Fairclough, WB2JKJ.**
This award will be presented to Joe at the 1997 Hamvention in May. Many of us will remember the great talk that Joe gave to our club some years ago..

For Sale

Estate of WA3SCF (Silent Key)

IC-735 Transciever with Mike.....$560.00
Astron RS-35m ps w/meters 95.00
SM-6 Disk microphone..... .....45.00
HS-5 Kenwood Headphones..... . 35.00
MFJ-931 Artificial ground..... . 38.00
MFJ-949EY Deluxe 300W tuner..... .70.00
MFJ-1780 14-30mhz 150 watt Box Loop antenna80.00
MFJ-422B Keyer Paddle..... . 40.00
RMS CN.220 1.8-220Mhz SWR&PWR meter80.00
Leading Edge NO:DC 2011 Computer Leading Edge NO: 1240 Monitor (all in mint condition)

Call Francis W3IYG @ 610 3982

All Bethlehem and Bethlehem Twp members

by Dick, KA3MOU

I talked to the Post Office today. The change in zip code for Bethlehem Township and maybe other areas in Bethlehem. Will take place July 1st. the zip code will be 18020 and plus four will stay the same. Those effected by the change will receive a notice in the mail. When one of the club members receive there notice they should let us know. News letters cannot be forwarded.

Dick, KA3MOU

In a pinch morse code can still comed in handy

by Stephen A. Arata, US army lieutenant colonel

All of the electricity in my house went out not long ago. When we tried to turn on our flashlights, we discovered that the batteries were dead. We finally went to the emergency drawer in the kitchen and pulled out some candles and matches. By candles' light, dinner was finished, homework was completed, and stories were told. By that same candle light, I read a magazine article about the gradual phasing out of the Morse Code. I thought, with a great sense of irony, that those who wished to do away with Morse Code probably didn't have any candles in an emergancy drawer somewhere.
The U.S. Coast Guard abandoned Morse in 1995. At midnight, this past Jan. 31, France ended its use for maritime communication. And the system faces global extinction by February 1999. Still, debate continues on the seas and over the airwaves about Morse. Many say it's an outdated vehicle for communication and has no place in today's high-tech world. There are, they add, faster, more powerful and more advanced means available for communication, particularly in the maritime and ham radio world. On the seas, vessels from nations that have signed the Safety of Life at Sea Treaty carry state-of-the-art equipment that allows shipboard communications officers to send emergency calls automatically. The system uses a satellite-relayed signal that gives search teams a ship's precise location anytime. Moreover, the Federal Communications Commission now endorses, for the first time in history, a technician-class ham radio license that does not require a Morse Code test.Is Morse Code signing off? No! Although many beleave it is out of date, Morse is still very necessary, just like a candle in the age of electricity. The code was invented by Samuel F.B. Morse in the 19th century. On May 24, 1844, Morse sent a message using a wire, a battery, and two telegraph machines, one in Baltimore and one in Washington. His message. "What hath God wrought?" ushered in the modern era of communication.

In our era, dispite what the "experts" say, Morse is still a viable means of communication. It is still widely used, although not so frequently as before. In the maritime industry, where English is the international language, Morse is a simple and cincise way to communicate ship-to-ship or ship-to-shore. We are all familiar with the meaning of "SOS". However, there are many others. For example, "AC" means "abondoning my vessel." Shore stations around the world, using signal lamps, still flash Morse to approaching foreign ships to learn their intentions. Navy and merchant vessels, also using lamps, still use Morse signals in convoy while running under radio silence. Even in Hollywood, the code has its merits. In the recent thriller "Executive Decision" Kurt Russel led a team of Navy Seals on board an airliner in flight to subdue a group of terrorists. Beleaving Russels team had failed, the president sent Navy jets to destroy the airliner. But Russel had only lost voice communication and was able to tap out a Morse message on the airliner's tail lights. Luckily for him, Navy piolts still have to learn the Morse Code. The attack was averted and many lives were saved.

Morse Code facilitates our ability to communicate with one another. It is another option that if efficient and reliable in an emergency when the ability to communicate with words- wether face to face or across a distancefails us. Morse is a great candle that we should continue to keep in our emergency drawer, just in case.

from PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, April 5,1997

de Bob, N3UHZ

Via the FRC Packet Cluster

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

DLARC INFORMATION LINE 820-9110

The W3OK CORRAL is published monthly and is the Official Publication of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.

==1996-1997==

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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 *(csnyder@fast.net}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
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http://www.kutztown.edu/faculty/chuk/dlarc/

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