Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

May 2000

Meeting on May 4

Club meeting on May 4

George Weilland III, N3SQD, will be speaking on; Prototyping techniques Older and Newer types of doing circuits Temporary Breadboarding & More permanent methods of making circuitry.

The meeting will be held in **Room 234** at the **Northamton County Community College beginning at 7:30 pm.**

Public Service

by Clarence, W3PYF, editor

With this newsletter you will find a check list for amateurs participating in Public Service events written by **Amy Zimmerman, KD3TI**.

It was written just before she died last month.

As one who has participated in many of these affairs, it is by far the most complete ever written by anyone. Though she is gone, my memory of her public service will live for as long as I live.

de Clarence, W3PYF

FCC says Generals not allowed in Advanced subbands

The FCC says newly upgraded General class licensees may not operate in the current Advanced class subbands under the new amateur rules. Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division notes that no privileges changed for any license class.

The Advanced class license continues to exist under restructuring, which became effective April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. Current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, when they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges.

The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals remain ineligible to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs.

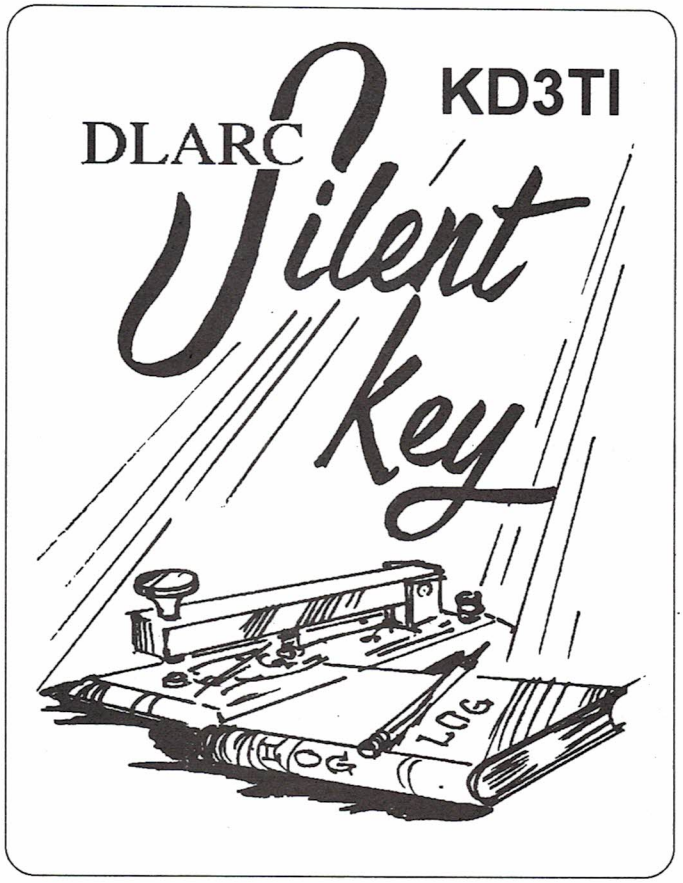
Newly upgraded licensees were cautioned to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. FCC Part 97 rules are available on the ARRL Web site

http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/

The FCC today released the Errata to its December 30, 1999, Report and Order on restructuring. The Errata incorporate minor errors contained in the original R&O and already made in the version of the new rules that appeared in The Federal Register earlier this year.

via ARRL Bulletin

DLARC Hamfest coming up
September 15th at the Schnecksville Fire House
Contact Carl, AA3IX if you can help



Amy Hester Zimmerman

by Clarence W3PYF

Amy KD3TI, vice president of the DLARC became a silent key on March 21st, and will be sorely missed by all of us who are active in service to the community.

Amy took over from me, W3PYF on the operation of the Red Cross River Run and did a great job. She was active in almost every special service event our club was involved in from the DID to all of the MS service operations.

She leaves a husband Charles, a brother Ronald of Fairborn, Ohio and her mother Leanne Hester of Monroville, Pa. Amy worked as a computer technician for Lantek in Kutztown.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, April 29th at the West Penn Municipal Park.

Rest in peace Amy, you will be missed by all.

Clarence W3PYF

Smothers Brothers to top Dayton Banquet Lineup

Dayton Hamvention has announced that the Smothers Brothers comedy team will headline the post-banquet entertainment this year. This year's Hamvention also will host the ARRL National Convention.

The Smothers Brothers, Tom and Dick, are perhaps best known for their TV variety program, "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," which aired in the 1970s. The comedy duo will perform Saturday, May 20, at 8:30 PM, following the Hamvention banquet in the Nutter Center. The Grand Banquet begins at 5:45 PM.

This year's banquet keynote speaker will be FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Hollingsworth's appearances at last year's Hamvention were a huge hit. He'll also appear again this year as part of the FCC forums.

Returning for the third year as master of ceremonies for the 2000 Hamvention banquet will be Carl Nichols, N8WFQ, chief meteorologist for WDTN channel 2 news in Dayton.

See the Dayton Hamvention Web site for details on this year's event, ***The ARRL Letter***

Attention newly upgrading Hams!!

by Darrel, N3NNI

For all you hams who are upgrading from Novice and Technician, and are upgrading to General or above, please consider doing traffic handling. It is done on phone and CW. Just a few times and bands for traffic being passed daily are,

7.243Mhz at 1930UTC Eastern area net.
3.913Mhz at 2100UTC 3rd region net.
3.917Mhz at 2300UTC Eastern PA Emergency Phone and Traffic Net.

These are sideband. If you don't know what traffic handling is, don't worry, just check in and don't be embarassed to say you're new to this, everyone will be glad to help you. It's how I learned. You will not meet a better bunch of ham radio operators.

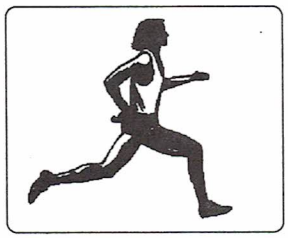
Please consider this.

de Darrel, N3NNI

10th Annual American Red Cross Lehigh River Relay Run

by Charlie N3VUO

The American Red Cross has again asked that D.L.A.R.C. members provide communications for the 10th Annual American Red Cross Lehigh River Relay Run. The run will be on **Sunday July 16.**



As in the past, the run will be along the canal between Allentown Canal Park and finishing at Riverside Park. We need about 10 operators to cover the route.

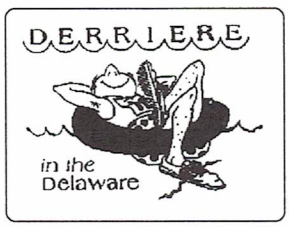
This year Bart Yasso of Runner's World, a celebrity runner, is serving as honorary chairperson. Interested members, please contact **Charlie, N3VUO** via e--mail **N3VUO@JUNO.COM,** telephone **610–266–0278** or on the 146.700 repeater. Thanks to all for your consideration and support in this matter.

de Charlie N3VUO

Derriere in the Delaware

by Clarence, W3PYF

Once again we will follow the Red Cross Race with the Derriere on the Delaware safety patrol along the Delaware River on July 13th.



We have been doing this for the past 10 years it has been in run. If you can help please let me or Dick, KA3MOU know.

Those who have worked this event know that in doing this we have saved at least 3 lives of people who have been in this event. More next month.

de Clarence, W3PYF



Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Income and Loss Statement.

Balance 2/29/00		**$6,539.79**
INCOME		
Donation Income Fifty - Fifty	22.00	
Dues Arrl	304.00	
VE test Session	103.25	

TOTAL INCOME		**$469.25**
EXPENSES		
Donation I U 20 for Newsletters	60.00	
Hamfest 5,000 Flyers printed	245.00	
Memory Of Stanely Krensavage	25.00	
Newsletters for April	120.00	
Postage	83.53	
Renewal ARRL	58.00	
Repeater Audio IC Chip	7.05	
Telephone	32.98	

TOTAL EXPENSES	**$631.56**	
TOTAL INCOME -EXPENSES		**-$162.31**
Balance 3/31/00		**$6,377.48**

Total Membership 269 as of 4/6/00

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Mir back on ham radio

Ian Coots, **VK3YIC,** reports the Russian Mir space station was on the air working VK stations April 13 on 2 meter FM simplex (145.985 MHz). The operator identified variously as R0MIR and U8MIR. "Your signal 59, very nice.



Thank you for contact. 73. Bye!" the Russian-accented operator told one VK station in an audio clip Coots provided. Several other stations were worked or heard calling.

The ARRL Letter

Try to make it your business to report in to the RACES-ARES-DLARC nets on Sundays and Wednesday nights.

NWS SKYWARN Technical Committee Meeting

by John, WX3TAZ

The **SKYWARN** Technical Committee quarterly meeting was held on March 12 at the USCG Atlantic Strike Force Building at Fort Dix Army Base, NJ. Thefollowing attended the meeting: Joe Miketta; John Quagliariello; Rob, WX3ROB; John, WX3TAZ; Cully; Lou, KQ6TWO; Dennis, K2DCD; Boyd, K5YKG; Dave, N2VRC; Deb, N2TTP; Art, N2QAE; Kathy, W2KAT; Stephanie, WX3K; George, N2VWL; Bob, WX2NJ; Bill, N3VAE; Bill, N3YAI; Brian, KC2CYN, and Ken, WX2KEN.

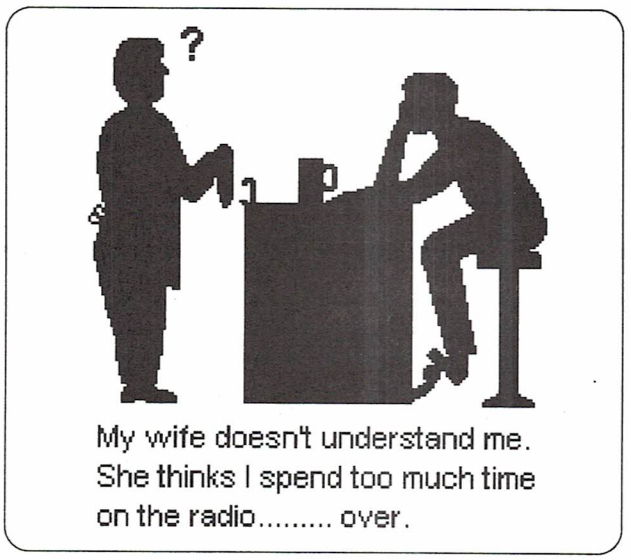
First on the agenda, Rob, WX3ROB, announced his retirement as Chairman of the Technical Committee as of 31 December 2000. He told everybody there that he enjoyed the past three years as Chairman stated that the Technical Committee has accomplished quite a bit in that time. John, WX3TAZ, his assistant, has been a great help and he was glad to have him aboard. The rest of the Technical Committee has worked hard to make our SKYWARN program a success and he was proud to have been a part of this accomplishment. In addition, working with Joe Miketta was educational and rewarding. Rob said that it is time for someone else to take the position of leadership and continue our strive forward into the new millenium. Rob will continue as a member of the Technical Committee and SKYWARN Coordinator of Monroe County, PA. Rob then announced that John, WX3TAZ, has volunteered to be the Chairman. With, John taking over the reins of Chairman, there is a need for a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary.

There was a discussion on how much APRS has evolved in three years. There has been a lot of improvement in APRS. The NWSFO is looking at having APRS running as a window in the Operational PCs. Joe said that the best way to get real time weather reports to is by phone. After the severe weather over, reports can be sent down either by Email or APRS. Joe was talking about mailing out questionnaires to Hams that have weather stations on APRS. The questions will be location of their stations, what kind of equipment do they have, and a brief description of their stations. It would ask what is your Email address if they have one. Joe said that he might be able to send them suggestive criteria of where and how a weather station should be set up. The suggestive criteria could even be put on the WX2PHI website.

It looks like the next Technical Committee Meeting will be held in Kent County, Delaware. This may cause more interest in the SKYWARN program in that area. Joe said that Kent County is very active and would be a good place to have a meeting. The date will be June 11. Joe will get in touch with the people there to set things up.

There was a discussion on how to keep the non-ham SKYWARN Spotters interested and passing on information. It seems that once a non-ham takes the Spotter course, nobody hears from them. There were several ideas passed around the group. Further discussion is planned in the future. Rob asked that at the County Coordinators' Meeting, it could be mention that there is a special page for County Coordinators. There are a lot of empty spaces that should have contact information so that people can get in touch with their County Coordinator. Rob needs to have the County Coordinators contact him with the information that they (Coordinators) want on that page. Rob hopes to get some information at the CC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
John Holmes, WX3TAZ
Vice-Chairman-NEPA/Secretary
SKYWARN Technical Committee



DLARC Club Meeting

6 April 2000

Club President, Don, KA3JWE, called the 6 April meeting of the DLARC to order at 1932 hours. He



acknowledged the sad news that was already common knowledge to the membership -- the untimely death of club Vice President Amy Zimmerman, KD3TI, on 21 March. Don also announced a memorial service and gathering scheduled for 29 April.

N3NBL moved to accept the minutes of the March meeting as printed in the W3OK Corral. The motion was seconded by N3YRP and was passed.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Dick, KA3MOU. AA3IX moved to accept the report, with a second by KE3SP. The motion passed.

In his Repeater Committee report, Barry, N3NVA, reported that there was a problem with the autopatch, and that he was working on it. He said that a result of recent maintenance on the VHF machine was that the receiver was more sensitive than it had been previously. Barry reported that the UHF repeater was back in service after water-damaged components were replaced.

George, N3SQD, provided an update on the club classes, noting that the turnout was lighter than expected. He suggested that one reason might be the higher level of difficulty of the material, which is designed to prepare students for the newly structured Technician and General Class license examinations. With the removal of the Novice Class license, George announced that there will be only two club license preparation series per year, instead of three.

KA3JWE announced for Stephanie, KB3DNA, that, along with usual VE test session on 7 April, there would be an additional test session on 13 April. This would be the last tests to use the "old" examination material. There is also a paperwork-only session scheduled for 19 April to process applications for licenses in the new license structure for those with CSCEs.

After acknowledging several visitors to the club meeting, KA3JWE presented two applicants for reinstatement of DLARC membership: Dan Yakubisin, KA3OPX, and Jim Malloy, KA3LEO. The reinstatements passed, and the applicants were welcomed back to the club.

KA3JWE announced that the club's half of the 50/50 drawing was to be donated to the ARRL Legal Defense Fund. This was the last of three monthly contributions.

Carl, AA3IX, announced that fliers for the club's September hamfest were available, so members should take some along to distribute to other hams. He said that sign-up sheets for various jobs for the hamfest will be circulated during the May meeting.

Jeff, N3QZT, announced several MS Society events for which the DLARC would be providing communications. John, WX3TAZ, announced upcoming Skywarn training sessions.

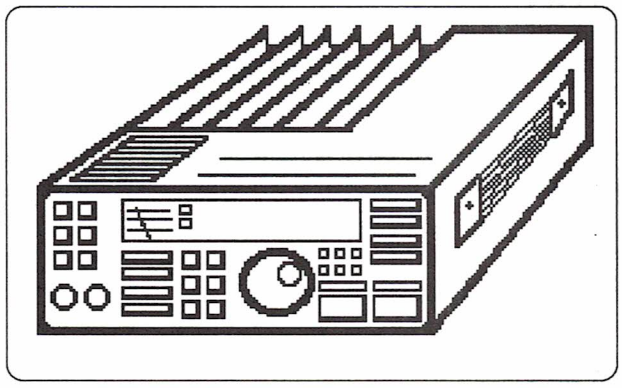
Bill, K3ANS, noted that there was still some confusion about the location of the DLARC hamfest, since some people assume from the club name that it is in Delaware, or don't know where to find Schnecksville, Pennsylvania. He suggested that future hamfests be publicized as being near Allentown.

The last order of business was an update by KA3JWE on preparing the new location for the club station in the milkhouse. Volunteers are needed for patching and painting the walls of the area before a new equipment table built by N3QZR can be moved in and the station set up. Also, items stored by the county in the area need to removed.

There was no new business.

The motion to adjourn was made by N3NVA, and seconded by KA3MOU. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1955 hours.

Respectfully submitted for DLARC Secretary, N3DFF, by W3JD



Amateurs aid victim of pirate attack

by Bob, WF3H

I turned on the radio when I arrived home from work recently, expecting another quiet night on the Maritime Mobile Service net where I'm a net controller. What I heard was the most harrowing experience in my years as a ham.

At about 5 PM EST, KH2TD, Jacco Van Tuyl checked into the net with an emergency. He said his family, sailing off the east coast of Honduras, had been attacked by pirates. His 13 yr old son had been shot in the abdomen. He was losing blood, and Jacco had been unable to raise assistance on the usual maritime frequencies.

The response from the amateur community was immediate and overwhelming. The Maritime Net has hams who are doctors on call, and one came on frequency to provide medical assistance. Several others called the USCG to find assistance for medical evacuation.

In that region of the world search and rescue is handled by the Honduran navy. Hams who are bilingual actually got the navy on frequency and passed on the location of the vessel. The Hondurans stated they do not train for night operations like the USCG does, and would be unable to provide assistance until daybreak. Several hams hearing this contacted offshore oil rigs to see if their helicopters could help, but as the night wore on it was apparent no help would be arriving before dawn. At 23:00 Jacco was close to despair, fearing his son was slipping away. In my 10 yrs as a ham that was the most frustrating and somber experience I've ever had. We were so close by radio and yet unable to provide anything but words of encouragement.

Hams kept Jacco and his family company throughout the entire night. The doctor continued to monitor his son's condition and other hams maintained contact with the Honduran navy. Shortly after midnight the son's condition stabilized and it appeared he would be making it through the night.

At daybreak the navy managed to evacuate the son to shore where he was operated on and at last report is in satisfactory condition. This was a great relief to all of us, of course, and certainly made the efforts worthwhile.

We tend to think of ham radio as a hobby. Occasionally it's more; sometimes it's truly a matter of death, and of life. We, as hams, do have opportunities to save lives. We should never forget, while we participate in this hobby, we have a tremendous responsibility to those who depend on us, fortunately rarely, for their very lives.

de Bob, WF3H.

editors note:
Following the story from Bob, the following story came via the ARRL letter.

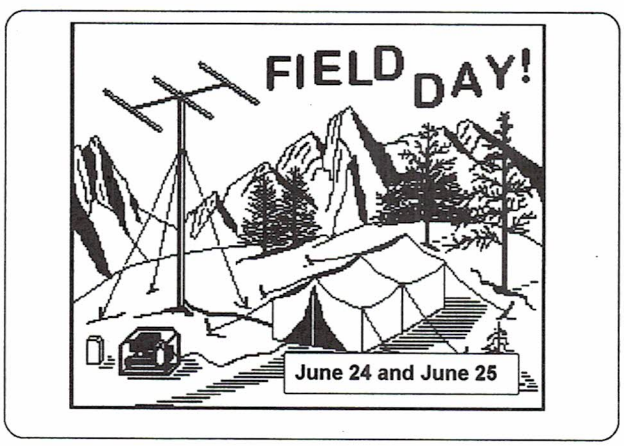
Hams help get wounded boy from high seas to hospital

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 31, 2000--Through the office of ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, arrangements have been made for Willem van Tuijl to be transported to Children's Medical Center of Dallas. The hospital has graciously agreed to accept Willem as a patient and treat him without charge. The hospital also will provide transportation for the boy from Vicente de Antonio Hospital in La Saba, Honduras, to the US.

The arrangement with Children's followed contacts by Haynie's office with US Rep Pete Sessions. Willem's parents, Jacco and Jannie van Tuijl, KH2TD and KH2TE, will accompany him to the US.

The transfer from Honduras to Dallas is set to occur this evening, and a plane took off from Dallas at around 5:45 PM Central Time, headed for Central America. Haynie's office also was able to make arrangements for the airport in Honduras to remain open past its usual 9 PM closing time to accommodate the flight from the US. The flight is expected to arrive shortly before 9 PM.

Another last-minute wrinkle also apparently has been overcome--thanks to the generosity of the local Amateur Radio community in La Saba. The hospital in Honduras reportedly would not release the youngster until it had been paid. Willem's father has signed a payment voucher, and local amateurs there have said they will cover the bill.



New Licensing Structure Infuses New Life into Old Ham

by Tom, WA3VFW

My potential upgrade to Extra has breathed new life into my Amateur Radio interest. The upgrade stimulus made me itchy to get back on the air in an area other than my usual 2-meter chat line activities. I went out and picked up a Radio Shack HTX-10 10-Meter Multimode Transceiver. (See article QST April 2000 page 73).

What a kick. With a simple shortened CB antenna on the roof and the 25-watt HTX-10 on the seat of my car I can work stations all over the world. Long drives between Pennsylvania Cities melt due to the relaxing conversations of Ham Radio. My first transmitting day the third day I had the rig. Always learn to listen first resulted in contacts to Arizona and Colorado. Most recently I enjoyed the, high noon, openings to European DL country.

Amateur Radio has me back. Starting in radio as a 10-year-old Civil Defense operator utilizing an old "GOONY BOX" as I called it on the PYF emergency net under the tutelage of my father W3HFT. Then as a member of the GYE club, when it was still in Whitehall, I upgraded through Tech, General and Advanced, never giving up my WA3VFW call.

Remember the days when testing was held at the FCC Field Office in Philadelphia?

Next came satellite communications utilizing a tracking program on a, state of the art, Commodore 64 in the 1980's. My involvement went into a slow decline after I lost my station in a storm, until I passed Element 4B in March as one of the "sardine" session participants. Thanks to the service offered by W3OK's dedicated VE Testing Team and their willingness to serve those who are not up to "decoding the other part of the old Extra Exam" (Hi) I am active again. Amateur Radio is once again my traveling companion.

When my upgrade is finalized I intend to seek the privilege of joining the distinguished ranks of the **W3OK VE** Team.

73's and 88's (Where appropriate)

de WA3VFW Tom DrTomL@AOL.com

The above is Tom's donation to our how you got started in Amateur Radio..Why not do the same.....Clarence, W3PYF editor

Tolerance and a welcome mat

AN EDITORIAL

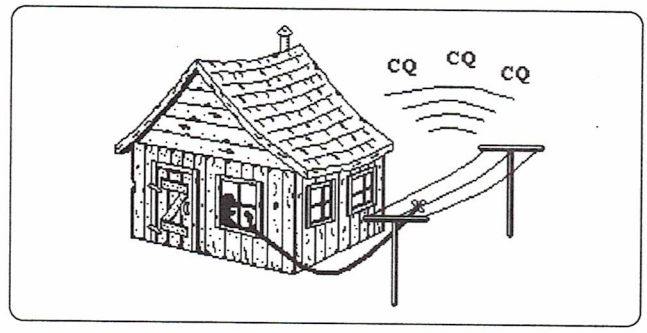
by Frank Fallon, N2FF

April 15, 2000 marked an important milestone for Amateur Radio in the United States. It was the first time in over 60 years that US Amateurs can operate throughout all the HF bands without having passed a Morse code test at 13 WPM or higher. In 1937 the FCC upped the code speed to 13 WPM from 10 WPM.

Many of the new upgraded hams will now be using the HF bands for the first time, and it appears there will be a lot of them from reports of crowds at recent VE sessions nationwide. They will be operating both phone and CW, and some of them won't know what life is like on HF. They may not realize that one doesn't call CQ on HF by tuning to a quiet spot and announcing that they're "Listening on frequency." They won't know much, if anything, about band plans, about nets, about working "up", or a host of other things. They will need help, just as badly as you and I needed help when we first went on HF. They will need to learn things that have never been part of any FCC test. They will need guidance, not hostility and transferred anger from those unhappy with the new FCC license structure.

Please, oh please, be generous with your help! Be tolerant of their mistakes and be friendly and tactful when you offer suggestions for improvement. Please, put out the welcome mat for them. Let them know also when they've done something right, not only when they've done something wrong. We certainly don't want a bunch of grouches turning them away from ham radio! It's going to be our task to Elmer them into Amateur Radio. Let's all provide them with a warm ham welcome.

Frank Fallon, N2FF
ARRL Hudson Division Director
(n2ff@arrl.org)



Quick tips for Public Service Operation
Amy Zimmerman, KD3TI March, 2000

Here is a quick reference guide to those wishing to join public service activity, or help improve those who already participate. At the end, you will find a copy of the checklist I use to make sure I have all the essentials for a busy day of public service operation. More complete information can be found in the ARRL publication: Public Service Communications Manual. Keep in mind as you participate that you serve as an ambassador of Amateur Radio, to officials, the people we help and all those who have our frequencies dialed in to their scanners. Please try to look clean and neat and sound professional.

Operating Tips

* Arrive early. You may be going to an unfamiliar location, and you want your station in place and ready to go as soon as the event kicks off. You may need to stake out a good spot from which to operate your radio. Arriving twenty minutes or so before the event is a smart move. In most instances, the coordinator for the ham activity will advise when they want you on site. * Direct all traffic through net control. These events are run as a controlled net. Please direct all traffic to net control, and request their permission to talk directly to another station. Keep in mind that net control can be a very busy place both on-air and behind the scenes and give the operator a moment to answer your call.

* Contact net control before you give your message. Again, net control can be very busy. Be sure that you have their attention before giving your message.

* Check in with net control when you arrive at your assigned location. This accomplishes two things- it lets net control know you are in place and it gives you a chance to assure that you can hear and talk to net control from your selected spot. You may need to move slightly, especially if using an H-T, to get a good signal to net control. Find and use this location to contact or answer net control.

* Keep your ears alert for your callsign. When the event gets very busy, or the messages involve real emergencies, dont make net control call two or three times to get you to answer.

* Keep traffic to a minimum. It sounds counter to all other amateur operation, but it is essential to keep off the air as much as possible, so that emergency traffic can be passed without delay. Also, if you are running on battery power and/ or for extended periods, it will keep those batteries running longer. * Make your transmissions short, but accurate. It will reduce the time you spend on the air if you take a moment to think about what you need to say before you press the mike button. For example

* WRONG- Control, I have uh, an accident. There's a, uh, two cars and, I think there's people hurt, oh, and one lane of the road is blocked.

* RIGHT- Net control, I have a two-vehicle accident at Fifth and Green, with injuries. One lane of Fifth is blocked.

* Note the second example is shorter, clearer and conveys the same pertinent information. Dont worry that it may take you a second to figure out what to say; this will be more than made up in the time saved conveying the information to net control.
* Use tactical calls as assigned. In an event, especially if there is more than one operator at a location, net may opt to use tactical calls ambulance one, staff two, St. Lukes Hospital, etc. Use these call signs to contact and acknowledge net control. Use your FCC callsign when you end your transmission to stay in compliance with regulations.

Get the Most From Your Gear

In all of my public service work, I've learned the hard way some things that work, and some that dont. Id like to pass along some of this wisdom to help you avoid the difficulties and frustrations that I've already solved. Much of the local public service work is done on local repeaters, and repeaters plus temporary plus portable adds up to H-T. You will want to use your H-T for much of your public service work, this is fine, but keep in mind that H-Ts have limitations (and I think I've found them all!). Most of the equipment I mention below can be kept together in some kind of carryall at all times and you can be ready to respond to an emergency more quickly.

* Have spare battery, have all batteries fully charged. If you're on what you know to be a short event, I still recommend a spare battery pack. If you're on a longer, or uncertain length assignment, have several and have everything fully charged starting the event. Yes, this takes some planning for real emergencies. If there's a storm forecast, put your batteries on charge. Ive found that many H-Ts also have an alkaline battery case available, that you open up and stuff batteries in. This is an excellent backup since extra AA batteries are usually fairly easy to come by. You can always buy econo-packs, or stop at a mini-mart to get more. Also, this eliminates the need for a charger- especially in situations where it may be difficult or impossible to charge a battery. If you want to operate for really long periods, its fairly easy to find small gel-cell battery packs and attach a cigarette lighter outlet. Be warned, though, they are very heavy if used on foot.
* Cigarette lighter cord- in case you find yourself mobile, or in need of charge. Also, some H-Ts can run a full 5W of power out from a 12V source- you'll find this can make all the difference in a marginal location.
* Antenna- the commonly supplied rubber duck is cute, but more useful as a back-scratcher than a good antenna. When you combine the low power of an H-T with buildings, hilly terrain, metal vehicle bodies, the rubber duck just doesn't cut it. Get a second, serious antenna- one of the 5/8 wave rubber ducks, or a metal telescoping antenna. For when you're fixed or mobile, get a moderately priced, small magnetic mount antenna, and dont forget the adapter to connect it to your H-T. A good antenna will do at least as much for your signal as watts of RF power, ask any DXer. It doesn't t hurt to have a spare antenna, either in case the infamous Mr. Murphy chooses your pack to ride in!
* Headset- You'll often find yourself among crowds of people or next to equipment making a lot of noise and oblivious to the fact that you're trying to work the radio. All

you will need is an inexpensive headset that will plug into your speaker jack. If you wish, for foot use, you can even get one that includes a mike and makes operation a breeze. In many states its illegal for the operator of a motor vehicle to wear anything that blocks their hearing. This means if you're driving, dont use a headset. You may wish to have a speaker/ mike as well for mobile operation. * Do NOT use vox. If your radio has a vox feature, please make sure its turned off before the event starts. Background noise can trigger it, or inadvertent comments by the operator. This creates interference on the frequency and a most unprofessional image of amateur radio.

* Hold the H-T- When transmitting, hold it as close to vertical as you can and in as clear a place as you can manage. Do not leave it hanging on your belt!

* Repeater Directory- In case you're caught in unfamiliar territory, or have another reason to change frequencies.

* Pencil/Paper- Even if you aren't the control operator and responsible for logging, you'll probably want to take note of some information, somewhere, sometime. A pocketsize notepad is fine. Note, I specified pencil- pens have difficulty writing in very cold weather, or in the rain/ snow. Also, there are inexpensive mechanical pencils that dont require a sharpener. Dont take your gold-plated set that you got for graduation- if it gets lost in the confusion of the event, you'll hate yourself.

On a Personal Note

You can also add to your comfort and pleasure by adding a few personal necessities such as the following:

* Dress appropriately for the weather- Always! For most events, you will be outdoors most or all of the time. The fun quickly runs out when you find your teeth chattering or rain running down your back. Check the weather forecast the night before and select appropriate clothing- in colder weather, put on layers of clothes that you could add or remove as needed to stay comfortable. If you dont have a raincoat that keeps you really dry, those $1.99 emergency ponchos work well.

* Sunscreen, insect repellent, headache pills.- And if you need prescription medicine on a certain schedule, be sure to include that.

* Drinks/ munchies- Many of the events offer food, some dont. At any rate, if you're not stationed at a rest stop, you may not have easy access. I take a small ice chest of supplies with me. If I know ahead of time Ill have a stationary assignment, Ill also take a campstool or lawn chair.

The page that follows is a copy of a checklist that I made up for my own use, a fast, simple check to make sure I have the essentials. Feel free to copy, modify and add to to suit your operating needs and style.

Races Checklist

Item Needed Packed

HT Spare Batt. Pack Batteries, Headset/Mic Spkr/Mic, Rubber Duck Ant.' Telescoping Ant. Mag Mt. Ant,. Gel-Cell Batt,. Cig. Lighter cord, Sunscreen, Insect Repellent Rainwear, Clipboard Pen/ Pencil, Folding /chair, Food Drinks, Repeater directory, Binoculars

Malicious inteference cases top FCC list

As the latest batch of FCC correspondence reveals, malicious interference cases continue to comprise the bulk of amateur enforcement cases facing FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Riley Hollingsworth. Recent allegations of deliberate and malicious interference have involved both HF and VHF/UHF operation. Here's a sampling.

On December 30, 1999, the FCC wrote Amateur Extra licensee Frederick J. Roll, NU5M, enclosing a tape recording it said was of a November 13, 1999, QSO between NU5M and KC1ZQ on 14.313 MHz that allegedly included harassing behavior. Hollingsworth said the tape was made by the FCC's High-Frequency Direction Finding Center in Columbia, Maryland. The FCC requested that Roll provide a full explanation of the transmissions and said his response would be used to determine what action the FCC would take in the matter. The FCC also set aside a recent vanity call sign grant to Roll, pending the outcome of the case.

The FCC put Amateur Extra licensee Arthur Visser, W9ART, on notice December 30 that it intends to designate his license for revocation if it learns of additional allegations of malicious interference by the licensee. The FCC says it's received "numerous complaints regarding malicious interference and jamming" apparently originating from Visser's station on 3.950 MHz, most recently on Christmas Eve. The FCC had issued Visser a Warning Notice January 8, 1999, regarding similar allegations. Hollingsworth told the ARRL January 6, 2000, that he and Visser had been in touch by telephone "in an effort to resolve the issues" that led to the FCC letter.

Meanwhile, the FCC wrote General licensee Jeffrey J. Pipenur, WA8IKW, in late December, setting aside his license renewal, granted last October 19. Hollingsworth told Pipenur that the FCC had monitoring evidence indicating that the licensee has "deliberately and maliciously interfered with radio operations of other amateur licensees on 3.865 MHz" last April 13 and 14 and last November 21. The FCC also has sent Pipenur tape recordings of his April 1999 transmissions and requested his response. "This matter will have to be resolved before we can make a decision on your renewal application," Hollingsworth told the licensee.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL that the FCC has received renewed allegations of VHF repeater interference in connection with Anth ony J. Barben Jr, N2WNF, of Brooklyn, New York. In June 1997, Barben consented to a 15-month license suspension as part of an FCC effort to resolve a rash of interference cases in the New York City-Long Island area. The suspension followed accusations of willful and malicious interference, using obscene or indecent language and failure to identify. On December 28, 1999, the FCC requested that Barben retake his Technician class Amateur Radio examination under the supervision of FCC personnel by January 30, 2000.

Other repeater interference cases involved two stations in California. The FCC sent Advanced licensee Jensen W. Woods, AH6MX, a Warning Notice for alleged interference with the KC6OKA repeater system in the LA area. Another Warning Notice went out to Technician licensee Gary R. Dent, KE6JUV, for alleged interference to an ATV repeater.

Hollingsworth has said he plans to make more use of the FCC's High-Frequency Direction Finding Center to track down rulebreakers in the coming year. In addition, Hollingsworth now has enhanced monitoring tools at his Gettysburg office.

The ARRL Letter



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

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==1999-2000==

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CLUB MEETINGS

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

Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
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