Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

MAY 2001

Meeting May 3rd at IU20

Hams Needed for Demo Station

by Bob, KE3AW

On **Monday and Tuesday, May 7 and 8**, from **6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Delaware Amateur Radio Club** has been invited to establish a demonstration of amateur radio as part of the 2 evening Boy Scout sponsored "job fair" to be held in the American Legion, Main Street in Nazareth.

How elaborate the station is will be determined by the number of volunteers and how much involvement they can give. It could be just a 2 meter/440 station: it could be an impressive HF station operation.

Can you help for a couple hours, to show those attending what our hobby is about, and perhaps, for those who have interest, steer them into our hobby?

If you are interested and available, email me **ke3aw@juno.com**, phone **(610) 432-8286**, or call me on the radio.

de Bob, KE3AW

Just 100 Feet of Wire

The May meeting speaker for **DLARC** will be Blair Bates, K3YD. His topic will be: "Just 100 feet of wire." The talk will be a discussion of several different multi-band HF antennas which can be constructed using only (or most of) a 100' long coil of wire. He will also show several useful items of radio hardware including feed-through insulators, strain-relief insulators (for ladder line), and antenna matching units.

This is intended to be a practical, idea-stimulating discussion, so leave your engineering textbooks and scientific calculators at home.

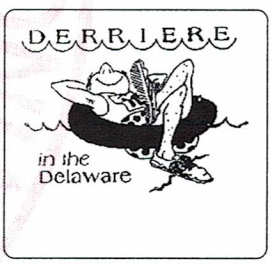
Red Cross Run and Derriere on the Delaware on Sunday July 15

by Charlie, N3VUO

The American Red Cross is asking that the D.L.A.R.C. members to provide communications for the 11th American Red Cross Lehigh River Relay Run. The run will be on Sunday July 15.



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. In addition this will be followed by the Derriere in the Delaware event Interested members please contact Charlie, N3VUO via e-mail at **N3VUO@JUNO.COM**, by telephone **610–266-0278** or on the 146.700 repeater.



Following the Race as usual we will be doing the saftey watch for the Derriere in the Delaware Float **Jeff, N3QZT** will be chairing the Float group. More later.



The Prez Sez,

by Don, KA3JWE, President

Spring has sprung, the grass is starting to turn green and at a few locations wonderful things are starting to grow. As soon as the ground starts to thaw pieces of steel and aluminum miraculously start to push their way skyward. It doesn't take long before the tall, slender mast blossoms into a multi-element flower of shiny aluminum. Some are huge single arrays while others are combinations of smaller blooms. It's hard to believe that such things of beauty, at least in the eye of a Ham, could grow out of a solid block of concrete.



If you are lucky enough to have planted the seed early this year and your antenna is already starting to grow, good for you. If you haven't started yet, remember the growing season is short. However, once you have your "flower" in full bloom you will be able to enjoy it all year round.

With the coming of Spring also comes a host of public service activities. Our club provides communications for these events throughout the spring and summer. These events are important to our club and to amateur radio. They serve a dual purpose by exposing Ham radio to the public in a positive way that improves our overall image while providing a much needed service to the organization that is conducting the event. Some people give back to their community by volunteering at hospitals or nursing homes, some work through their churches or other service clubs. If you currently aren't giving anything back to your community, why not start by volunteering for some of our club's public service events. They are usually only a few hours long and are good practice for improving your skills as a radio operator while learning the proper way to conduct yourself in the event of a real emergency.

Two of the most fun events that our club participates in are Field Day and the D.L.A.R.C. picnic. Field day is the last weekend in June which is the 23rd and 24th and the picnic is August 19th. So, mark your calendars NOW so that you don't schedule any other activities on those dates. Plans are also in the works to hold a "foxhunt" or **T-Hunt"** sometime in July, however the date for t1at has not yet been set. Hope to see you at all of these events.

Let's all have a safe and fun summer!

de Don, KA3JWE

W3TDF's Letter to PAQSO headquarters

Come on guys, lets stop beating around the bush, (or should I say the line).I believe, and I'll bet that Woody will back me up on this, that you mustdetermine the dividing line in one of two ways.
1. You actually find the painted line which separates the counties, or, **2**. You better be a registered surveyor and have your 'equipment' with you.

Once you have determined the **EXACT** line, you must be absolutely sure that the vehicle **EXACTLY** straddles that line, AND, a verticle antenna must be **EXACTLY** on the line. AND, if you have a porta potty it must likewise be **EXACTLY** on the line. If you are stringing a horizontal antenna then you must be sure that **EXACTLY** half of it is in one county and the other **(EXACTLY)** half must be in the other county. Now if you are on a 3 county line then you may not use a dipole. You just cant, and that is that. Of course you could put up a tripole antenna with **EXACTLY** one third of it in each county. When you are in the vehicle (or the porta potty) operating, you must be sure that your butt is **EXACTLY** over the line. If you shift your position, like because of an aching cheek, then you are disqualified. Also, be aware that, shoulda bird land on one leg of your dipole and the weight causes the feedpoint ...to move slightly off of **EXACTLY** over the line, you will be disqualified. If this all sounds a bit cumbersome, then I suggest you set up 2 stations, one in each county and give everyone two contacts, one from each county, by running back and forth between the two positions.

Now, if this all sounds too complicated, maybe, just maybe, you might want to reconsider and stay **EXACTLY** home, or in one **EXACT** county someplace.

You have **EXACTLY** six months to make up your mind. All the best,

de EXACTLY W3TDF, The Grump

Just the Minutes

by Jill Brodt, N3ZSR

President Don Reamer, KA3JWE called the April 5th club meeting to order at 7:35 PM, with 44 members and 2 guests present.



Bob, N3SNZ made a motion to approved the March meeting minutes, as they appeared the newsletter with a 2nd from Jeff, N3QZT. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report shown elsewhere in this newletter was accepted with a motion from Ed, W3APE, and seconded by Ken, N3IYX.

Barry, N3NVA reported that the Leatherpost site should be up in the next few weeks. He has applied for the frequency of 53.050 for our 6-meter repeater. The 6-meter repeater is probably 2 or 3 months away yet.

The VE Session for April will be held at IU20, with 4 pre-registered testers.

The following guests were welcomed to the meeting, **Sean Andrews and Dan, KB3GHT**

Todd Cobaugh, KA3PFA was reinstated on a motion from Blair, K3YD with a 2nd from Dick, KA3MOU.

Andrew Cobaugh, KB3EWY / Fred Parris, KB3FXO and Katherine Parris, KB3FXP were voted in as new members on a motion from Mike, AA0AO with a 2nd from Blair, K3YD.

Chris, NU3L received a plaque for his continuous years of service teaching our classes.

There will be a Demo Station for the Boy Scout Job Fair in Nazareth on May 7 & 8 from 6:30pm to 8pm both days. Anyone interested in helping please contact Bob KE3AW.

George, N3SQD spoke about a young man who needs help to get his license. He has a health problem that prevents him from being able to sit for long periods of time, which means that classes are out for him. He lives in around center city Bethlehem. Anyone interested who has even 1 hour a week that they can give him please contact George, Chris, NU3L or Bob, KE3AW.

Jeff, N3QZT talked about the MS Walks and the 150 Bike Tour. There are 3 walks on April 22nd and 1 on May 6th. The Bike Tour will be June 9th and 10th. Please contact Jeff and let him if you can help.

Charlie, N3VUO announced that the Lehigh River Run would be held on July 15th.

Ray, W3TDF announced that the PAQSO Party results were out and that DLARC placed 2nd.

The program for the evening was on Linear AMPS, presented by Barry, KU3X.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM on a motion from Malcolm, N3XRL and seconded by, Ken, N3IYX.

de Jill N3ZSR, Secretary

Enforcement Letters to Replace Log.

Enforcement Letters replace Log: ARRL now posts on its Web site FCC Amateur Radio-related enforcement letters in their entirety in lieu of the periodic "FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Log."
The "FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Letters"
http://www.arrl.org/news/enforcement_logs/

Enforcement letters and notices will be posted no sooner than 10 days after the date of each letter or notice released by FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. Direct all questions regarding these communications to FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, ***rholling@fcc.gov.***

via ARRL.Letter

Demonstration Station at Jambo

by Jim, KB3BYU

Once again, the DLARC will be operating a demonstration at the Minsi Trails Boy Scout Jambo 01. The event will be held on **May 19th**. from **7AM to 3PM** at Lehigh University's field house on the Goodman Campus.

Unfortunately this year's Jambo conflicts with the Dayton Hamfest, but I hope those of you not going to Dayton will be able to help us out either in person or by talking to the scouts on the repeater. I will be coordinating the activities between the club and the Boy Scout council.

Anyone interested in helping out can contact me at either **kb3byu@arrl.net** or on the repeater. I'm looking forward to another successful event.

de Jim KB3BYU

The Cheap Little Radio

by Don WB3CJU

I think it mainly began back when I was 13 years old in 1963. The interest I have had over the years in the radio communications hobby started in such a simple way.

I received a small 6 transistor AM portable radio from my grandfather. My grandmother won it at a bingo game and didn't have any need for it.

Shortly after I began listening to the radio an article appeared in Electronics Illustrated magazine. The article described how one could wrap several turns of insulated wire around the case of a portable radio with one end of the wire connected to an antenna and the other connected to ground. This was supposed to enhance radio reception on the AM broadcast band.

I don't remember if the experiment worked the way the magazine said it would but what happened next I think, got me started in the radio hobby. While messing around with the wire-wrapped radio one night, I disconnected the ground wire which caused the radio to begin receiving short wave radio broadcasts.

I was very surprised and intrigued by all the stations and foreign languages I was able to listen to. Of all the signals I was hearing some were Hams, AM was still a little popular back then and I was able to listen to those signals and marvel at the locations of some of the operators.

Using that small radio I had a tough time guessing where the radio was tuned and tried to figure out by listening to the frequencies announced on some of the SW stations.

In time I found an old RCA table top short wave receiver at a now defunct store called the 'Swap Shop' on Ridge Avenue in Allentown, I paid 3 dollars for it. I became an avid short wave listener and I grew to like listening to the HF utility frequencies.

Electronics Illustrated magazine published an article on how to build a beat frequency oscillator. The article was geared to kids like me with an AM only radio who wanted an opportunity to listen to SSB signals. I built it and had a lot of fun listening to all those signals I had to pass by earlier.

My father was taking a course in electronics back in the 60's and at some point purchased several books from the ARRL about becoming a Ham. He also got hold of a code practice oscillator and him and I began to practice Morse code. In time my dad changed jobs and our practice sessions became more infrequent.

Eventually I joined the Navy and while stationed in Pensacola, FL obtained a new CB radio and antenna from a shipmate who owed me money from a card game. CB was cool but somewhat of a novelty, I had a lot of fun with the radio and eventually brought it home on a weekend liberty.

My dad set it up in our basement and put up an outside vertical antenna, I left it at home from then on and I knew my dad was playing with it while I was away on board ship.

Back in Pensacola I purchased a DX-150A at a local Radio Shack, I remembered the fun I had a few years earlier with that small radio. I listened to short-wave broadcasts while in port and on base if I was staying at someone's home for a weekend. I began collecting QSLs and acquired a modest collection over a period of time.

After I got out of the service and got a real job. I got hold of an HQ-180A from a fellow in Upper Black Eddy and continued with my SWL activities. My dad started mentioning Ham Radio again and began saying things like how much fun I would have talking to the Hams I was having so much fun listening to.

After a couple years of listening to my dad, I began reading his ARRL literature and talked a friend into practicing Morse code.

We both started having a couple sessions a week practicing code in his parent's basement. His girl friend became interested and she also got involved in our practice sessions. Eventually all 3 of us drove to Philadelphia to take our tests to become Hams.

We all passed our test at the same time, they both got married and soon Jerry got involved in his own business and Barb preferred motherhood to Ham Radio and they both left their licenses lapse. I kept at it and still enjoy our hobby very much.

I think back and wonder how something as insignificant as a cheap transistor radio can have such an impact.

de Don WB3CJU

Have You Been in The Hobby Too Long?

by Len, N3ZKP

Some of us have been in the hobby a little too long. This problem is very simple to detect, you just need to know where to look.. You know you've been a ham too long if?

-You pick up the phone ands answer **"QRZ?"**
-You have enough ham magazines lying around to pile them up and use them as dining room chairs.
-You find yourself copying people's horn blasts during rush hour as **CW.**
-Even worse, you find yourself copying people's horn blast during rush hour as **CW**, and you honk back at them at **50 WPM**
-During the last Space Shuttle broadcast, you could see the top of your twenty band Yagi tower.
-You celebrate more during Field Day than at Christmas or New Years.
-You don't bother shutting your radio off when you're not using it because you will be back in a minute with a Coke and a slice of pizza.
-Radio Shack has to special-order batteries for you because you buy so many
-Even worse, you have to manufacture your own AA's because you use so many.
-You have a 2-meter handheld in every room of the house.
-You have installed coax connections next to every phone line.
-You have so many **APRS** trackers that other hams complain about you jamming the frequency.
-Your logbook collection rivals the local library.
-You have enough old tube transmitters to light the house with.
-Your wallpaper covers all the walls in the house.
-You have personally funded eight **OSCAR** satellites
-You sponsor so many repeaters that the U.S. is quickly running out of call signs ending in your initials.
-Your shack is actually a shack in the backyard because the **XYL** has kicked you out of the house.
-Your neighbors think that your **RFI** and **TVI** came with the house
-Your other neighbors don't complain because they are on the same transformer as you and whenever you transmit, their whole house has a blackout.
-You've memorized the contest dates for the rest of the millennium, but you still forget your relatives' birthday.
-Ham Radio Outlet has offered you partial ownership and a permanent parking space at their store because you visit so often.
-You have bought out the frame store down the street with frames for your awards.
-You set up your own $3000 web servers with $100 a month internet access to search the web for new awards to get.
-Your ham radio station is worth more than your house.
-You have trouble running all your mobile antennas in from the roof of the car.
-You melt your own crystals for that 80-year-old rockbound chirp-sender of a transmitter.
-Radio Shack give you a 50% discount on the Parts section because come so often.
-You've been president of four amateur radio clubs for forty ears, gone to four hundred meetings, and met four thousand people.

de Len, N3ZKP

This article reprinted from the January 2001 issue of the Modulator, newsletter of the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, Charlie Voeikel, W3ROO, editor

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc
Income and Loss Statement

Balance 2/28/01	**$8,069.75**
INCOME	
Donation Income Fifty - Fifty	21.00
Donation Income Class Books	66.00
Dues Arrl	256.00
TOTAL INCOME	**343.00**
EXPENSES	
Award Plaques	175.99
Education Class Books	215.20
Hamfest Flyers 5,000	245.00
Invest Exp 2 CD's 6mo & 1year	3,000.00
Memory Of Marion Keller	25.00
Newsletters March,April & Directory	297.50
Postage	80.00
Renewal ARRL	116.00
Supplies Card	3.33
Telephone Feb. & March	32.40
Telephone March & April	32.85
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$4,223.27**
TOTAL INCOME EXPENSES	**-3,880.27**
Balance 3/31/01	**$4,189.48**

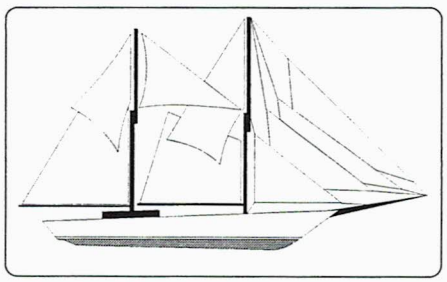
As of 4/5/01 total membership 264

de Dick,KA3MOU, Treasurer

Ham radio aids rescue on the high seas

Amateur Radio operators again have assisted in a high seas rescue operation after pirates attacked a private sailing vessel March 20 off Venezuela.

The skipper, identified as Bo Altheden, reportedly was shot, and his female companion, ViVi-Maj Miren, summoned help via the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 20 meters. The victim was reported to be recovering in a Trinidad hospital.



The incident in the Caribbean occurred some 3200 km east-southeast of a similar pirate attack nearly a year ago. In that incident armed marauders shot young Willem van Tuijl from the Netherlands, who was sailing with his parents.

According to Coast Guard Lt Jose Diaz, KP3J, of the Rescue Coordination Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the 44-foot ketch Lorna, of Swedish registry, was enroute to Trinidad and Tobago when pirates attacked some three nautical miles offshore. Altheden was shot once in the abdomen.

The pirates destroyed the VHF radio, so Miren activated an emergency locator transmitter (ELT). The San Juan Rescue Coordination Center received ELT "hits" from the Lorna and notified Venezuelan authorities.

Word arrived at Miami Coast Guard some 90 minutes later from the Maritime Mobile Service Net's Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, of a distress call from a woman on the Lorna on 14.300 MHz. Miami Coast Guard forwarded the information to the San Juan rescue center. Diaz tuned to 14.300, where Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Dave Dalziel, N4ICE, and Jim Hirschman, K4TCV--a physician who had assisted in the van Tuijl pirate attack last year--already had activated an emergency net. An amateur in Trinidad, Eric Mackie, 9Z4CP, also assisted in communications.

Among those standing by on frequency were Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, in Florida, and Hector Godoy, HR3HGB, in Honduras, both of whom were instrumental in the van Tuijl rescue operation a year ago. The amateurs on 20 meters were able to calm the woman, and Hirschman provided medical counseling.

Diaz got permission from Venezuela to allow a vessel from Trinidad to assist, and a Venezuelan Navy vessel arrived on scene simultaneously with a Trinidad Coast Guard fast boat, with medical personnel. Trinidad medical personnel and crew took control of the sailboat from the shaken and exhausted Miren.

High seas made it too risky to move the victim. Instead, the Swedish sailboat continued on to Trinidad escorted by the Venezuelan Navy vessel and the Trinidad CG cutter.

Diaz credited amateurs with doing "a tremendous job" in helping to keep Miren calm and to relay information for the US Coast Guard to her and for maintaining order on frequency.

"This is what it is all about," Diaz said. "Stay always ready, that others may live."

Pilgrim called the afternoon rescue "one of the most rewarding experiences I have had during my 45 years on ham radio."

The ARRL Letter

FCC touts enforcement model

FCC chairman touts "enforcement model": Speaking at the CTIA 2001 Wireless show in Las Vegas, Nevada, this week, FCC Chairman Michael Powell said the FCC is rethinking its business model. According to an Infoworld.com report **(http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/01/03/20/010320hnpowell.xml?0321we am),** Powell told the gathering that the FCC is "reviewing the optimal organization and structure" with an eye toward a more-responsive FCC.

"We are putting increasing emphasis on an enforcement model as opposed to a regulatory model," he said, in order to speed up the FCC's decision-making process. "When you cheat, we'll get you at the back end." Powell also said there's a delicate balance for agencies such as the FCC between fostering innovation but not imposing it.

The ARRL Letter

Contest Calendar

Compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

May, 2001

North American HSMS 0000Z, May 1 to 2359Z, May 9
AGCW QRP/QRP Party 1300Z-1900Z, May 1
MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW 0000Z, May 5 to 2400Z, May 6
IPA Contest, CW 0000Z-2359Z, May 5
SLP Competition (SWL) 0000Z, May 5 to 2400Z, May 6
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z, May 5 to 2400Z, May 6
Indiana QSO Party 1400Z, May 5 to 2300Z, May 6 Massachusetts QSO Party 1800Z, May 5 to 0400Z, May 6 and 1100Z-2100Z, May 6
ARI International DX Contest 2000Z, May 5 to 2000Z, May 6
IPA Contest, SSB 0000Z-2359Z, May 6
Nevada QSO Party 0000Z, May 12 to 0600Z, May 13
VOLTA WW RTTY 1200Z, May 12 to 1200Z, May 13
Oregon QSO Party 1400Z, May 12 to 0200Z, May 13
FISTS Spring Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, May 12
CQ-M International DX Contest 2100Z, May 12 to 2100Z, May 13
EU Spring Sprint, CW 1500Z-1859Z, May 19
Manchester Mineira CW Contest 1500Z, May 19 to 2400Z, May 20
Baltic Contest 2100Z, May 19 to 0200Z, May 20
CQ WW WPX Contest,CW 0000Z, May 26 to 2400Z, May 27
Anatolian RTTY WW Contest 0000Z, May 26 to 2400Z, May 27
ARCI Hootowl Sprint 2000 local - 2400 local, May 27
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint 2300Z, May 28 to 0300Z, May 29

June, 2001

Major Six Club Contest 2300Z, Jun 1 to 0300Z, Jun 4
WW South America CW Contest 0000Z, Jun 2 to 1600Z, Jun 3
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW 1500Z, Jun 2 to 1500Z, Jun 3
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest 0000Z, Jun 9 to 2400Z, Jun 10
Portugal Day Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Jun 9
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB 1100Z-1300Z, Jun 9
TOEC WW Grid Contest, SSB 1200Z, Jun 9 to 1200Z, Jun 10
ARRL June VHF QSO Pty 1800Z, Jun 9 to 0300Z, Jun 11
All Asian DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Jun 16 to 2400Z, Jun 17
Marconi Memorial HF Contest 1400Z, Jun 23 to 1400Z, Jun 24
ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 23 to 2100Z, Jun 24
ARCI Milliwatt Field Day 1800Z, Jun 23 to 2100Z, Jun 24

Changes in MS Walks

by Jeff N3QZT

I would like to change some dates on the club web page and the newsletter if possible. The new dates are for MS walk events in April and May. They are: **April 22 2001** Walks will now be held at Hugh **Moore Canal Park in Easton** and at **Sand Island in Bethlehem,** then on May 6, 2001 a walk will be held in the Little Lehigh Parkway, Allentown. The proposed walk for Nocamixion State park has been canceled thus creating the changes. I was just made aware of the changes sorry for the late notice.

de Jeff, N3QZT

Help wanted Bethlehem area...

Submitted by Bob,KE3AW

To All Lehigh Valley Hams.... Can you help, or can you suggest and pass this on to someone who can help Lenny? He is in our DLARC Classes, and very interested in getting his ham ticket, but has health problems that make it very difficult to sit there for even the 2 hours a week... Read on... >>>>>>

I'm writing to ask you if there is any possible way any one can help me(privately) study for my license.

The classes seem to be to much for me because of my health problems .

I need to sit in certain kind of chair for my back. I also have severe chronic asthma and chest pain related to it.

I have an anxiety disorder and depression and seizure disorders as well.

I take 22 pills a day and they need to be taken at certain times of the day.

I have 3 inhalers and a breathing machine, they are to be used at different times of the day.

I have had these problems for about 15 years I did work with it with different jobs until 1998 got disability in 1999(went thru alot with that.)

I'm going to be 37 years old next month and these problems are not going to get much better.
I really want to get involved with ham radio maybe this could be a fun hobby for me and help me get my mind off of my health problems.

If you would like to contact me by phone or give my # out to any one else it is **610-419-1713.** Thank you, ***Lenny Csencsits.***

Not everybody knows...

submitted by Val, W3EFL

The very peak of the Washington Monument is not stone, but a 100-ounce solid aluminum pyramid, constructed as part of the monument's lightning protection system. In the 1880s, aluminum was a rare metal, selling for $1.10 per ounce and used primarily for jewelry. The pyramid at the top of the monument was the largest piece of aluminum of its day and was such a novelty that it was displayed at Tiffany's jewelry store before it was placed at the top.

When tea was first introduced in the American colonies, many housewives, in their ignorance, served the tea leaves with sugar or syrup after throwing away the water in which they had been boiled.

The @ symbol has become an important part of e-mail culture. It separates the User Name from the Domain Name. All countries throughout the world use the same symbol but it obviously has a different name in other tongues. In English it is simply the 'at' sign.

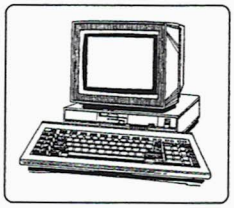
Here are just a few of the more endearing terms: Italy: 'chiocciolina' - which, in Italian, means 'little snail' France: 'petit escargot' - also 'little snail' Germany: 'klammeraffe' - which means 'spider monkey'. Dutch: 'api' - a shortened version of 'apestaart' or 'monkey's tail'. Finland: 'miau' or 'cat's tail'. Israel: 'shtrudel' - following the pastry concept Denmark: 'snabel', an 'A' with a trunk. Spain: 'arroba'. the Spanish symbol for a unit of weight of about 25 pounds.

...but you do!

Do you need a computer

submitted by Blair K3YD

Do You Really Need a Computer? An unemployed man goes to apply for a job with Microsoft as a janitor. The manager there arranges for him to take an aptitude test (Section: Floors,sweeping and cleaning).



After the test, the manager says, "You will be employed at minimum wage, $5.15 an hour. Let me have your e-mail address, so that I can send you a form to complete and tell you where to report for work on your first day.

Taken aback, the man protests that he has neither a computer nor an e-mail address.

To this the MS manager replies, "Well, then, that means that you virtually don't exist and can therefore hardly expect to be employed. Stunned, the man leaves. Not knowing where to turn and having only $10 in his wallet, he decides to buy a 25 LB flat of tomatoes at the supermarket. Within less than 2 hours, he sells all the tomatoes individually at 100% profit. Repeating the process several times more that day, he ends up with almost $100 before going to sleep that night.

And thus it dawns on him that he could quite easily make a living selling tomatoes. Getting up early every day and going to bed late, he multiplies his profits quickly. After a short time he acquires a cart to transport several dozen boxes of tomatoes, only to have to trade it in again so that he can buy a pick-up truck to support his expanding business.

By the end of the second year, he is the owner of a fleet of pick-up trucks and manages a staff of a hundred former unemployed people, all selling tomatoes.

Planning for the future of his wife and children, he decides to buy some life insurance. Consulting with an insurance adviser, he picks an insurance plan to fit his new circumstances. At the end of the telephone conversation, the adviser asks him for his e-mail address in order to send the final documents electronically.

When the man replies that he has no e-mail, the adviser is stunned, "What, you don't have e-mail? How on earth have you managed to amass such wealth without the Internet, e-mail and e-commerce? Just imagine where you would be now, if you had been connected to the Internet from the very start!"

After a moment of thought, the tomato millionaire replied, "Why, of course! I would be a floor cleaner at Microsoft!"

Moral of this story:

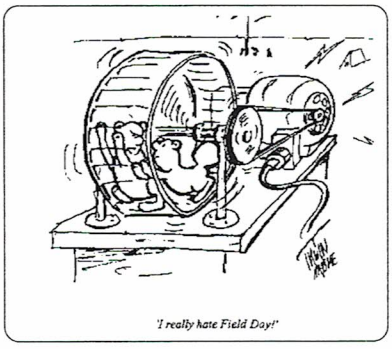
1. The Internet, e-mail and e-commerce do not need to rule your life. **2.** If you don't have e-mail, but work hard, you can still become a millionaire. **3.** Seeing that you got this story via e-mail, you're probably closer to becoming a janitor than you are to becoming a millionaire. **4.** If you do have a computer and e-mail, you have already been taken to the cleaners by Microsoft.

A Modest Proposal

by Mike Donio, K3NWM

With apologies to Jonathan Swift for title infringement (Gulliver's Travels, A Modest Proposal), I'd like to offer the following observation on Field Day.

Several years ago, during a Field Day (FD) weekend with the **DLARC,** I happened to hear a QSO between two "old-timers". The gist of their QSO was that FD was nothing more than an annoyance since it had long-since ceased to be of any useful benefit. Being a FD "maven" (check your Yiddish dictionary), I thought they were being too harsh.



That same weekend I heard a QSO on the .70 repeater where the almost identical view was offered. This set me to wondering if perhaps these hams had a valid point of view.

After much thought---I fear---they are right. Under the current format, FD does little more than mess-up the ham bands for no apparent reason. We claim that FD is an emergency back-up communications system for the country.

Alas, such is not the case. We couldn't get a message to Altoona or Bimigi, MN if our lives depended on it. Not because we aren't talented or lack the skills, but because the system is stacked against us.

The fact remains, when communications' emergencies occur, they are usually of a local nature. And we have the perfect solution to these emergencies in our repeaters. Just think of the number of times the DLARC made use of .70 during weather emergencies, public events or some other public service demonstration and how well coordinated our communications were. Messages were passed in a timely, efficient manner and they always got through.

We were able to coordinate 10, 20, 30 different stations without causing interference, without needing to shout or scream into the microphone or try to muscle someone else off a frequency. In short, we communicated, and did an excellent job once again demonstrating our skills and abilities. But we can't do this under what has become normal FD conditions.

If FD is to survive as an emergency exercise, then some fundamental changes in operating procedures need to be made. Perhaps we could borrow a page from the old commercial radio operators who employed both calling and working frequencies. The ARRL must re-design FD into an activity that can truly be an emergency communication system. A portion of each band should be set aside where stations could call CQ for a particular state. If a station is listening, it could answer and the two could move to another portion of the band where they could begin their QSO and exchange a sample emergency message.

For proof of the efficiency of this format, we have to look no further than a system Hams have already perfected we call them "nets". Why not adapt this format for FD so we can work Minnesota, Tennessee or New Mexico. The ARRL could designate certain stations as net control stations, with coordination among the various call sign areas.

To those who want to maintain the sense of contesting, incentive points could be offered for making contacts in distant call areas and working a certain number of stations in those areas.

Assign additional points for contacting stations in Washington, DC or Terra Haute, IN. Make our use of the airwaves mean something. Call "CQ for Hartford, CT" with traffic, or Knoxville, TN." Let's demonstrate the true value of ham radio operators when given a format that enables us to utilize our skills.

This would be an improvement over the current format where thousands of stations indiscriminately call CQ and only cause QRM. We have the talent, skills and ability to be more than this. Let's make it so. This my **"Modest Proposal."**

by Mike Donio, K3NWM

VE Test April 6

by Bill, N2DH

VE's serving: AA3IX, AA3WM, WA3VPW

Testing;

William Stewaart WA3ZXJ to General-grandfather

Phillip Seitzer WA3UGP to General-grandfather

John Sobota new license- General ,elements 1,2,3

Rebecca Meches new license-no code Tech

Mary Rafferty CSCE Extra

Robert Eugster new license-no code Tech

New Types of Coax

by Bob N3FA

submitted by Bill, K3AMS

The recent popularity of a new antenna cable called **Skyhighgain Coax** has created a safety problem for users and a nightmare for firefighters. SHGC was developed theoretically by Tricenters Experimental Laboratories, Inc. as a signal-boosting element for use in radio and television transmissionlines. Scientists at TELI discovered that when a bias voltage is applied to the special material used to make SHGC the effect was incredible. Instead of simply reducing signal loss, the signal strength increased!

Amplification of RF (radio-frequency) signals in the new coaxial transmission cable was actually greater than 3 db (decibels) per meter per meter. (Read that again.)

In laymen's terms, that means that for every 10 centimeters a signal through the cable the signal strength doubles! Put 1 Watt of RF energy into one end of a one meter length of **SHGC** and you get 2 Watts at the other end (assuming you supply the bias voltage, of course.) At two meters you get 4 Watts. At three meters the signal strength increases to eight Watts.

Doubling the power every meter the total effective power of the signal exceeds 1,000 Watts by the time it has traveled only 10 meters up the line. Now imagine what would happen if you had a 100-meter **SHGC** cable. (The watts figures are shown at the end of this article.)

In conventional transmission lines there is always some loss of signal depending upon frequency and the electric characteristics of the cable.

But with **SHGC**, instead of a loss, you get a gain in signal strength. This is the stuff every radio engineer has dreamed of.

But here's the problem. The unwary (and mathematically challenged) average user seems to think that if a short section of SHGC inserted in his transmission line is good, then a longer one is better. If one were to, say substitute SHGC for the complete run from their radio shack to the top of their tower, the signal would have more energy than the cable (or the antenna) could withstand. (The 20-meter traps on the tri-band beam that used to be on the 60-meter Rohn 25g tower behind the house in the photograph above were never found.)

Designed to be used in short sections between standard coax and the antenna **SHGC** is not currently available, pending the resolution of certain limiting manufacturing capabilities. Some reports have surfaced however that a few samples of the hot-pink colored coax have somehow slipped past reality checkpoints and made their way into the Amateur (and amateur) community.

Without official spec sheets and installation guides **SHGC** poses a significant hazard to the uneducated. The following table dramatically illustrates the danger of using too much **Skyhighgain** Coax in any transmission line.

Length of Coax / Power Output

1 meters - 2 Watts 2 meters - 4 Watts

3 meters - 8 Watts 4 meters - 16 Watts

5 meters - 32 Watts 6 meters - 64 Watts

7 meters - 128 Watts 8 meters - 256 Watts

9 meters - 512 Watts 10 meters - 1,024 Watts

11 meters - 2,048 Watts 12 meters - 4,096 Watts

13 meters - 8,192 Watts 14 meters - 16,384 Watts

15 meters - 32,768 Watts 16 meters - 65,536 Watts

17 meters - 131,072 Watts 18 meters - 262,144 Watts

19 meters - 524,288 Watts20 meters- 1,048,576 Watts

21 meters - 2,097,152 Watts

22 meters - 4,194,304 Watts

23 meters - 8,388,608 Watts

24 meters - 16,777,216 Watts

25 meters - 33,554,432 Watts

As you can see, by the time you reach only 20 meters, the signal power has exceeded a million Watts! Assuming your facility's commercial power mains could handle the load, the signal would exceed 30 million Watts at only 25meters from the transmitter.

Of course, most power main breakers would trip long before the million Watt level, but once the signal starts up the transmission line the peak envelope power(PEP) climbs so fast that there is a possibility that the circuit breakers would either fuse or the electric current would simply jump thebreaker's open switch gap and power would continue to increase until the primary main lines evaporated in what could only be described as an artificial bolt of lightning, showering every surrounding structure in hot plasma and sparks.

de Bob, N3FA

Spring has Sprung

by Skip, W3CC

Spring's here. What are you doing about your antenna system's ???????????

I have a little time and some help so I started, and I have part of one tower in the air. Before the end of next week I should have one tower up and another ready for launch.

I have plans to work the **PA QSO party** this year as a multi/multi station. However, I will interested operators. Operators willing to spend some time operating from my station during the contest weekend.

I will have five positions, using CT software as a logging program and spotting cluster.

Three amps fer HF and I will run 160mtrs to440MHZ

Its a casual operation, no pressure, learn as you go! If anyone has an interest please let me know as soon as possible. We have to start cooking fer all those hungry operators.

de Skip, W3CC

FCC holds the line on license restructuring

The FCC has declined to make any significant changes to the way it implemented Amateur Radio "restructuring" last April. The Commission has turned down several requests for changes in the Amateur Service rules contained in five petitions for partial reconsideration of its Report and Order WT Docket 98-143, released December 30, 1999. The ARRL was among the petitioners.

In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released April 6, the FCC by and large denied all petitions for changes to its restructuring Order. It took the opportunity to make some minor housekeeping changes to the amateur rules.Among the issues was a request from the ARRL and other petitioners that the FCC continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has Morse code element credit. The FCC noted that its current Universal Licensing System software was modified to display a "P" (for Plus) in the field that indicates former license class when a Technician Plus class license is renewed.

'This capability results in the amateur service database being able to provide a de facto Technician Plus licensee database," the FCC asserted in its MO&O. The FCC did not address how its database would distinguish current Technician licensees who subsequently earn Morse code (Element 1) credit. Those licensees have only a Certificate ofCompletion of Examination (CSCE), which will never be reflected in the database, even upon license renewal.

The FCC also decided to not extend Element 1 credit to all past licensees who had ever earned it--something else the ARRL had asked for. Under current rules, the holder of an expired Novice or apre-February 14, 1991, Technician license can get Element 1 credit.

The FCC said the change was not needed and that "most examinees" who ever held a General, Advanced or Amateur Extra ticket also once held a Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician ticket that grants Element 1 credit.

The FCC also declined to extend permanent credit to Element 1 CSCEs held by Technicians to obtain HF privileges. These CSCEs are good for 365 days for upgrading purposes but confer only additional operating privileges beyond that time.

The FCC refused to reinstate the 20 WPM Morse code exam for Extra. The FCC that since restructuring went into effect nearly a year ago, the FCC said, "there does not appear to be any decline in the proper operation of amateur stations." The FCC also declined to ban the practice of allowing applicants to retake a failed examination element at a single test session simply by paying a second fee. The Commission also turned down a proposal to set the total number of questions at 50 for the Technician and General class test and at 100 for the Amateur Extra test.

The FCC also declined to make any changes--at least for now--in the arrangement of mode-related Amateur Radio subbands, as some petitioners had requested.

Also denied were requests to: institute a new entry-level Communicator license class in the Amateur Service; elevate former "Class A" operators licensed prior to 1951 to Amateur Extra; andgive Element 4 exam credit to examinees who had held a Conditional, General or Advanced ticket before November 22, 1968--when"incentive licensing" became effective.

via ARRL Bulletin

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

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==2000-2001==

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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 IU 20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70

Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
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