Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

MAY 2004

Meeting May 6th at IU20

April VE report

by Thalia KB3CSR

Larry Bezdzeicki -KB3JMS passed general for a CSCE
Joan Loeffler passed the no code Tech for a new license.

VE,s: N2DH, K3CC, W3JD

de Thalia KB3CSR

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM



This past weekend, the first of several MS events took place. The weather was great, there was a large turnout of walkers (estimates of 600 walkers were reported), and 10 hams from the DLARC club volunteered their time to help make the MS Walk of Easton a safe and successful event. The MS Society increased their fund-raising from last year, with over $55,000 in pledges, of which about $48,000 was collected by the 10 AM start! Look for more details in a newsletter article from Charlie, W3DEA, who co-chaired our involvement with the event.

Every fourth weekend in June (June 26-27 this year) the ARRL's Field Day Event takes place. This year, as in years past, DLARC will be participating in this event, joining thousand of amateurs across the United States. Skip, K3CC, is this year's Field Day Chairman. Please make sure that you take the time to let Skip know where you can or want to help out.

Last year, Susan, KB3IDW, did a great job as Hamfest chairman. Unfortunately, she will not be able to lead the charge again this year. Therefore, we are looking for someone who would be willing to pick up where she left off, so that we can have another successful Hamfest in 2004! If you are interested, please see myself, or one of the other board members.

The date for this year's DLARC Club Picnic has been set for September 12, 2004. This year we will again be at Louise Moore Park, but this year we will have the large pavilion (Pavilion 5), which will hold 300 people! Start making plans now for a great picnic! If you are interested in organizing this event, or helping out with it, please contact one of the board members.

Have you ever been to Meeting B? If not, have you ever wondered what or where Meeting B was? Meeting B is an informal get together, after the regular DLARC meeting, usually at Flurer's Hotel in Nazareth. Those who go to Meeting B usually order food and beverages and sit around and chat. It's a good way to get to know some of your fellow DLARC members. Try it some night.

Treasurer's Report for March

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 2/29/04	**$7,203.98**
INCOME	
Class Materials Books & Tape	$44.00
Club Dues	68.00
Donation Income 50-50	26.00
Donation Income Norm K3NZ Capacitor	5.00
Interest Checking	6.44
REBATE from Radio purchased	50.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$199.44**
EXPENSES	
Equipment Clip Feet Fas Ken N3IYX	$15.85
Memory Of Stanley N. Daniel	25.00
Newsletters Feb. & Roster	106.00
Postage	70.00
Telephone	17.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$234.62**
Balance 3/31/04	**$7,168.80**

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

By Charles, W3DEA



DLARC General Meeting, April 1, 2004

7:33PM - Call to order
Quorum verified 36 members present (233 paid memberships)

Minutes - No changes
1st - N2DH, 2nd - KA2QYS, Passed

Treasurer - No changes
1st - N3QZT, 2nd - N3EYT, Passed

Repeater / Web Page - No report

VE Session - 2 registered

W3OK Club Station - Station radios disconnected until polyphasers are installed. 6kva power supply donated by W3CE

Classes - 3 classes done. 28 registered (2 Boy Scout Troops included)

Field Day - Key needed for the barn. Will be checking equipment

Weather Drill (3-17) - Successful (5 operators helped)

Visitors: Rob (Scoutmaster of one of the troops in the class)
Rod N3XG
Erin (MS organizer)

New Members: No new members to vote on
No new applicants

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

River Run on 7-18, if interested in helping contact Charlie, N3VUO (Derriere in the Delaware)

MS Walk 3-18, volunteers would still be appreciated
5-2, volunteers needed (Chaired by AA3WM & W3DEA)
N3QZT has offered to chair the MS-150

Chairman needed for the DLARC picnic

Before buying anything for the club - If you want to be paid back you will need approval from the board first.

Donated equipment may or may not be used and could be sold to raise funds for DLARC.

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N3LWY has volunteered to dig holes for antenna bases for any DLARC members

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion N3UX That the club buy a cw filter for the clubs Yaesu $140.00 2nd W3DEA, Passed

Programs - Tonight, Monitoring river ice
May - Nick Talanda - Lehigh County Emergency Vehicle

Erin from MS150 addresses the club to thank us for our efforts helping the MS events.

Adjournment - 1st - KA3MOU, 2nd - N3EYT, Passed

de Charlie, W3DEA

Bike-a-Thon

by Steve, KB2RTZ

Sunday, July 11, 2004

Join the American Cancer Society Bike-a-Thon presented by KPMG on Sunday, July 11 as you and 3,000+ cyclists ride over the Ben Franklin Bridge and through South Jersey.

We need at least 20 radio operators needed for this event. Please contact Steve kb2rtz if you can help out this great event

kb2rtz@comcast.net or on the metro-comm repeater system 147.315 pl 156.7 224.960 pl 156.7 443.050 pl 156.7

de Steve, KB2RTZ

Silent Key

by Dick, KA3MOU

On April 8, 2004 Bartholomew Check, known to us as Bart, N3KEC, became a silent key. He was a member of Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, W3OK and Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club, W3OI. He was a regular check-in on Monday and Wednesday nets. He would always say N3KEC from sunny Hellertown.

He was employed in the iron foundry of Bethlehem Steel Corp. for 44 years before retiring in 1989. Born May 5, 1926, he was a son of the late Michael and Agnes (Strocky) Check. He was a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Hellertown.

Rest in peace from all your Ham Radio buddies.

73, de Dick, KA3MOU

April meeting report

by Dick, KA3MOU

Club Meeting was held April 1st. The guest speaker was Rod Wolfe. Rod's program was on Monitoring River Ice. He had a great Power Point presentation on Monitoring Lehigh River with Ice. This also gave Races members an idea what is to be expected if we were called upon to monitor the Lehigh or Delaware Rivers. Rod also had a River Ice Report forum he went over. Thanks to Rod for the great program.

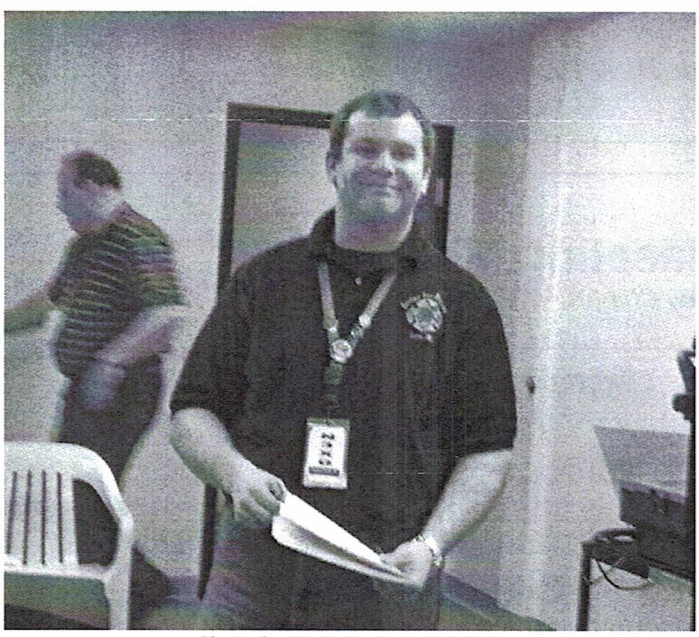

Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

73 de, Dick, KA3MOU

Your Help Is Needed

By Jeff, N3QZT

On the weekend of June 12th & 13th 2004 the MS 150-2004 bike tour will be held. This two-day event (with dinner, breakfast and lodging provided) is one of the largest public service events that the club participates in, and we can use everyone's help.

This year the bikers will be following a route that starts in Trexlertown at the Velodrome and end at Kutztown and then back the opposite direction the next day. The route this year is going to be slightly different than last year; it has been redone to eliminate some of the hills that have caused injuries and problems in the past.

Your participation in the event can vary from a one day or two day assignment and can involve manning and ambulance and helping us keep in contact with them or riding on one of the sag busses (for the tired bike riders) to maintaining communications to any one of the rest stops or strategic locations along the route. Our job with the bike tour is to provide communications for safety and also for logistical support.

The people that ride bikes in the event and the MS staff have come to depend on us greatly and they need our help very much. If you can help out please let me know and I will make every effort possible to accommodate any request that you have.

Why not give it a try this year? We can sure use your help!!!

Send e-mail to: n3qzt@ptd.net

de Jeff, N3QZT

Lehigh River Run!

By Dick, KA3MOU

Charlie N3VUO at April 1, 2004 is asking for help with the Lehigh River Run July 18th. 2004. If you can help contact Charlie.

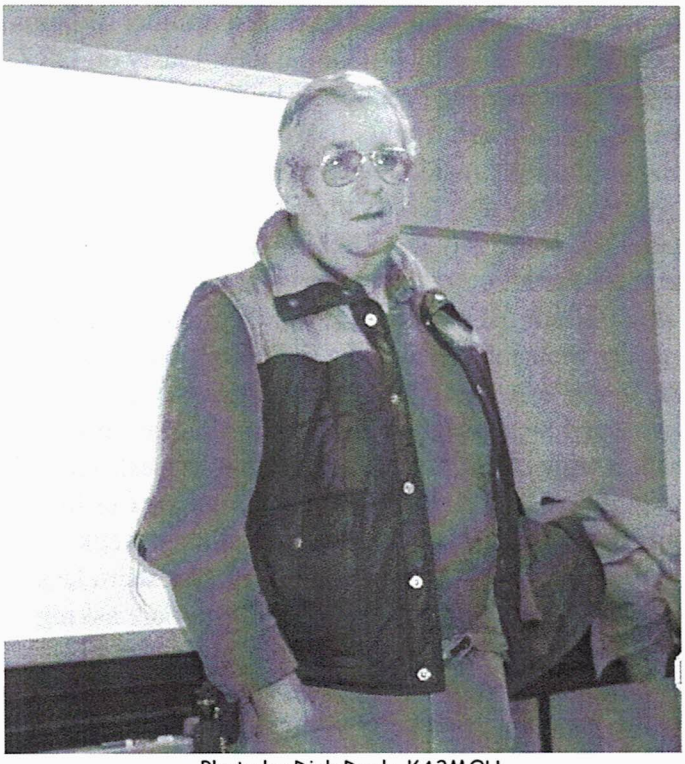

Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

Sign up early so you can get your favorite assignment. The club has been helping Red Cross with this event for many years.

73,
de Dick KA3MOU

WARNING: The following article contains humor!

The Most Sacred Trust of Amateur Radio, Broken

By Thomas G. Shanahan, Media Ecologist NJCU N2TTQ

Major cheating going on by hams at QRZ. People are clicking on their own call over and again so as to increase the hit counter. This is not fair. It was also suggested that QRZ personnel might be taking kickbacks to increase one's counter number, so as to indicate one is more popular than another, this is not confirmed yet. Hit counter warfare is under way there. This is definitely not very nice. Click my call, and you will see I am falling behind other hams. http://www.qrz.com/callsign/N2TTQ . Upon further investigation by the Media Ecologist, it was found that many large contest stations have never been on

the air. What has been going on is, a number of hams operate from home by clicking continuously on QRZ so as to increase the hit counter by thousands of points. Several informants from the ham community that were on the inside have come forward to give this info. They also tell us that many retired hams, spend the entire day just clicking on QRZ so as to increase the hit counter so as to increase the ebay value of their qsl cards. As it stands, many hams are quitting their jobs so as to spend more time clicking qrz. It was also discovered some hams have developed an automated hit system. After each screen load, it triggers an internal program to refresh screen. As of date one ham has over one googleplex of hits and has only had his license for less than a week making older well-known contester hams seem less popular. We at the Media Studies Center are asking the FCC to discontinue the daytime soap opera investigations and give high priority to this matter. By the way this practice is not just limited to ham radio, other web sites are involved with this hit counter fraud, in particular, John Kerry and George Bush sites. This makes code loss and BPL the least of our worries, if this trend of hit counter contesting continues.

Thomas G. Shanahan, Chief of Media Investigations for Hit Counters; Hit Counter Statistics and Evaluations Unit Section 8, division 73's

W3OK Work Party

by Charlie W3DEA

Saturday February 21 a number of your fellow club members met at the W3OK club station for a much needed clean up of the facility. Things that could be stored in the barn were moved there and we began painting the floor.

Al W3CE and Ken N3IYX will be doing an inventory on the recently donated items as well as re-organizing the station itself. Hopes run high for the possibility of adding a workbench for use by the membership. Al and Ken do a wonderful job keeping the club station active, especially on Wednesday nights.

They try to have the club station open for the members to "just show up" every Wednesday. Listen to the Wednesday RACES net for their invitation to us all.

The club station is a nice place to come out and meet with other club members, and it just got nicer.

Thank you to those who came out to help: Al W3CE, Ken N3IYX, Barry N3NVA, Rob KB3HPN, Dave N3EYT, Ben KB3GOU, and Bryan AA3WM.

de Charlie, W3DEA



Photo by David Blankenship, N3EYT

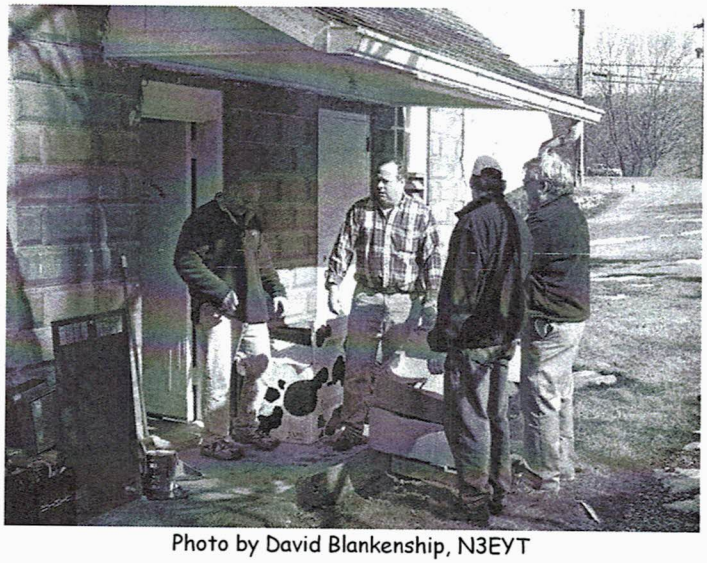

Photo by David Blankenship, N3EYT

Volunteers Needed For MS walk!

If you can help out on May 2nd, please contact Charlie, W3DEA at w3dea@snycomp.com

Awards Presented

By Dick, KA3MOU

At Thursday nights club meeting President Bryan AA3WM present and award to Larry KB3JMS, Jim KB3BYU and Scott KB3JMQ for doing a audit of the clubs books. We would like to thank these club members for there time spent doing the audit. Missing in the attached picture is Jim KB3BYU and Scott KB3JMQ.

73, de Dick KA3MOU

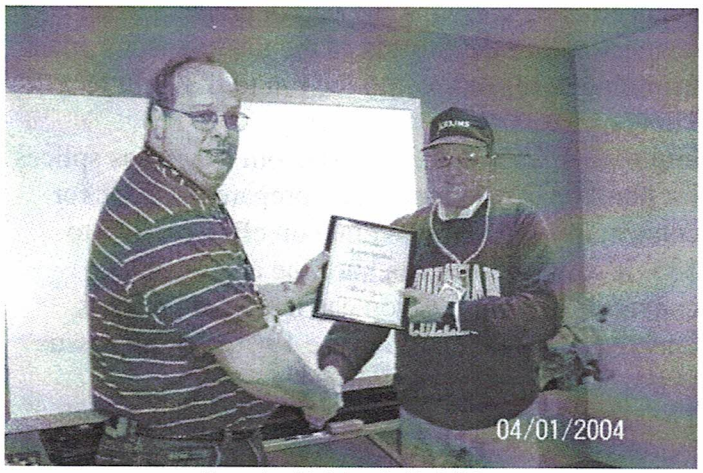

Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

Visit From MS Society

By Dick, KA3MOU

Erin from the MS society visits the meeting last night. Erin told the members how important it is to have club members provide communications for the MS 150. She stressed that the riders for this event feel very safe because they no we are out there being the ears and eyes for this event. The MS 150 will take place June 12 &13, 2004. Let's make Jeff / N3QZT net controller for this event easy by signing up for either 1 or 2 days to help with communications. I know June seems sometime away, but that date will come upon us fast. Than we will say Gee! I should have contacted Jeff in April to sign up for this big event. Let's remember it is not what the club can do for us, it is what we can do for the club and the MS 150 Pennsylvania Dutch Bike Tour.

In the picture starting from left to right is: Bob / N3QZT, Dave / N3LWY, Tom / KB3IUE, Rod / N3XG, Jeff / N3QZT and standing Erin from the MS 150 Pennsylvania Dutch Bike Tour.

73, Dick KA3MOU



Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

Ray's (W3TDF) Secret

By Dick, KA3MOU

April Fools Day!

The secret is out Ray / W3TDF finally left the cat out of the bag as to how he holds the title of Horseshoe champion at DLARC picnics. In the picture you see some device Ray uses to magnetize the horseshoes. For more information on this contact Ray.

de Dick, KA3MOU

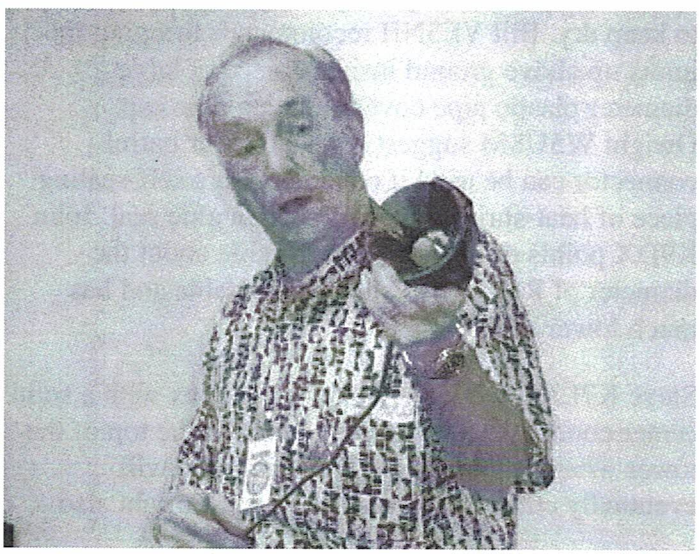

Photo by Dick Dech, KA3MOU

42 Volt Car Charging Systems

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

New automobile charging system will be 42 volts. Current systems are 14 volts. Although the electrical system is referred to as 12 volt, the alternator actually produces 14 volts (needed to maintain a full charge in sealed batteries). The new system will charge at 42 volts, with a 12 volt tap and a 42 volt tap. 12 volts for lights and current 12 volt accessories. Then a 36 volt battery to be used for starter, computer controlled actuators such as transmission shift solenoids, brake actuators, & engine controls (EGR & IAC). Also certain options such as power windows and convertible tops will become 36 volt. According to 'Motor Age' magazine, we should start seeing this next year (2005).

<From the ICOM reflector>

TECHNICAL & TECHNIQUE

Coax Tips

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

(Reprinted with permission. Article is from the ARRL's March 10, 2004 Rate Sheet)

A lot of the RG-6 coax available from CATV is "flooded", meaning that it is filled with a viscous fluid designed to keep water out of the cable and can be buried. It also seems to discourage nibbling by rodents. If you do bury it, splicing may be a problem to keep dry. Bill VE3NH recommends bringing the joints up above ground inside a piece of large diameter plastic pipe covered with a pipe cap. Dwight W5USM suggests that a regular barrel connector can be used if covered with a self-sealing piece of heat-shrink - the type with a glue seal. John K9DX points out that a 70-ohm cable about the diameter of RG-11 may also be available and has much lower loss.

Steve K7LXC reminds us not to use coax with a solid center conductor for the rotator loop at the top of the tower where it must flex. The solid wire will eventually crack from metal fatigue. It might also work its way through the insulation (this is a particular problem with air and foam dielectric cables) and short to the shield. Run the solid conductor cable to the top of the tower and then use a short service loop of stranded conductor cable.

As long as we're on the subject of handling coax, Tree N6TR offers some pointers on handling surplus or CATV coax and hardline. "The first step is to figure out what kind of coax you have. I found most of mine on the Commscope Web site (http://www.commscope.com). K2UA says that pin-type connectors can be converted into male N-type connectors by screwing the output housing of an N-connector onto the threads of the pin connector, then trimming (and smoothing) the pin to the right length. Pin connectors can be found at http://www.tmbrokersmontana.com as well as splices for hardline. Coring tools that prepare the coax for connectors can often be found on eBay for $20 to $35. If you have 75-ohm hardline and want to convert it to 50 ohms, you can use a simple coax transformer as described in the 1981 July/Aug issue of the National Contest Journal.
The transformers consist of a 0.08165 wavelength length of 50-ohm and 75-ohm coax in series. The 75-ohm end connects to the transmitter and the 50-ohm end to the hardline run. The NCJ article shows the following lengths for coax with solid and foam insulation:

Band	Solid (.66VF) - Foam (.79VF)
80M	14' 8" - 17' 7"
40M	7' 5" - 8' 10"
20M	3' 9" - 4' 6"
15M	30" - 36"
10M	22" - 27"

They are pretty broadband and I have also used them on six meters at 1500 watts without any problem. For 2 meters and above, cut the hardline to be some number of half wavelengths long so that the impedance will be the same at each end. You can test this with an SWR meter while leaving the cable's far end open. Trim the length to get a high impedance (>= 1000 Ohms). With this length, the impedance of the line doesn't matter - whatever impedance, such as 50 ohms, connected at one end will be repeated at the other."

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

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

== 2003-2004 ==

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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 IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
4260 Cedar Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088

visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

18052+7204 04

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-04
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
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The W3OK CORRAL

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