Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

MAY 2005

Meeting May 5th at IU20

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM



Paul, N0KIA, did another great job on the program for the April meeting! He continued with the Elmer 101 series, demonstrating and teaching about zener diodes, bipolar junction transistors, mixers, and oscillator circuits. Thanks Paul!

By the time this newsletter is out, several events will have happened. On the weekend of April 16th, Charlie, W3DEA, spearheaded a new event at the Bethlehem Public Library. The DLARC has donated a set of ARRL books to the library as part of this event. Also on that weekend, the Easton MS Walk took place at Hugh Moore Canal Park, with about 20 amateur radio volunteers helping out, with Larry, KB3JMS, and Charlie, W3DEA co-chairing the event. The walk had to be shortened this year due to flood damage, but the weather held out for this year's event. Yet another event was held the same weekend, and that was a Skywarn training class held at the Lehigh Valley Hospital Auditorium – Quite a busy, yet very successful, weekend – Thank you to everyone that participated in one of these events!

Coming up in May, and June are the Allentown MS Walk and the MS 150 Bike Tour. These are important events that we, as amateur radio operators, can contribute to by volunteering our time to help with the communications. This year's dates for these events are:

- Sunday, May 1, 2005 – MS Walk - Rose Garden Pavilions, Allentown, PA
- June 11-12, 2005 - MS150 PA Dutch Bike Tour

Every fourth weekend in June (June 25-26 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. Charles, W3DEA, is this year's Field Day Chairman. Please make sure that you take the time to let Charlie know where you can or want to help out.

The date for this year's DLARC Club Picnic has been set for September 11, 2004. This year we will again be at Louise Moore Park, but this year we will have Pavilion 2. 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.

de Bryan, AA3WM

May Program

By Tom, KB3IUE

Hello everyone! For May we will be taking a break from the Elmer 101 series that we have enjoyed at the last two meetings. I promise that Paul (N0KIA) will be returning. But the knowledge and

information will not stop. George (N3SQD) will be doing a presentation on Power Supplies. If you have ever had the pleasure of being in a class conducted by George you know we are in for a treat. He is a master instructor!

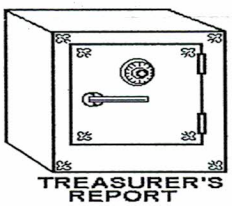
> "If you have devices powered by an AC 'wall wart' that you'd like to run from a 12 volt battery - or just like building electronics, then this is the program for you."
>
> --George, N3SQD

So, please plan on attending the May get together. Come learn the "Ins and Outs" of power supplies. You can return home to dazzle your friends and relatives, with what you know. I guarantee it! Hope to see you there!

73's de Tom KB3IUE

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 2/28/05	**$6,324.80**
INCOME	
Club Dues	$164.00
Donation Income 50 – 50	26.00
Donation Income	3.00
Interest Checking	1.85
TOTAL INCOME	$194.85
EXPENSES	
Supplies Charlie W3DEA ARRL Books	$400.00
Telephone	17.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	$417.73
Balance 3/31/05	**$6,101.92**

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

DLARC General Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2005

by Bryan, AA3WM (for Charlie, W3DEA)

7:35 PM Called to order by Bryan AA3WM, 26 members present – 24 needed for quorum.

REPORTS:

Secretary – Minutes as published

- ✓ No changes to minutes as published, 1st – Bill N2DH, 2nd – George N3SQD, Passed

Treasurer – Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ No changes to report as given, 1st – Ed W3APE, 2nd – Ken N3IYX, Passed

Repeater – Barry N3NVA

- ✓ Repeater systems are fine – the Kutztown site should be up and available for the MS150 event
- ✓ Nothing new on the website

VE Session – Bill N2DH

- ✓ 2-3 people are registered for tomorrow night. N3AT, NC3P, and N2DH will be the VEs

W3OK Club Station (Milk House) – Al W3CE & Ken N3IYX

- ✓ Things are being simplified – e.g. a single power supply is providing DC power to just about everything, and it is being distributed through MFJ PowerPole outlets.
- ✓ The new books have lend-out cards in them – if you borrow a book, sign the card and put it in the box provided.
- ✓ There were 8-9 people at the milk house last night
- ✓ There is a new table in the milk house (thanks to Ken), and new benches are being made
- ✓ The key to the milk house is available again at the 911 center

Tech Net – Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ 11 stations participated over the course of the net
- ✓ Next Tech Net is May 4th at 8PM. Non-members are invited to participate in the net as well as the DLARC membership. Check in, even if you only plan on listening; you never

know when YOU may be able to answer someone's question.

Classes – Bob KE3AW

- ✓ The class is done (the one participant is taking the test tomorrow). Since we have the room available at the 911 center, the "classes" will continue to be available for those wanting to upgrade or work on CW

Membership / Guests – Bryan AA3WM

- ✓ There were several guests - John and Ken who will be taking their test tomorrow night, and Don, KC3II – Welcome!
- ✓ Voted in at this meeting – David Hill [N3XGE] and Peter Frank [KB3JWQ], 1st – Ken N3IYX, 2nd – Pete NL7XM, Passed
- ✓ No new applications to be voted on at the next meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ✓ Skywarn Training is available on April 17, contact Larry KB3JMS
- ✓ MS Walks are Easton April 17, meeting at Hugh Moore Park at 8AM and the Allentown walk is May 1st. Contacts Charlie W3DEA & Larry KB3JMS.
- ✓ Library Special Event Station is on April 16 operating from 1 – 3 PM. If interested contact Charlie W3DEA.
- ✓ Ms 150 Bike Tour is June 11-12 – Contact Jeff [N3QZT] or Bryan [AA3WM]
- ✓ DLARC Picnic is September 11, 2005 at Louise Moore Park, Pavilion 2
- ✓ Field Day is June 25-26, and Charlie [W3DEA] is this year's Field Day Chairman
- ✓ K3ANS is planning a Maritime Mobile trip (i.e. mackerel fishing)

New Business:

- ✓ Those who ordered the repeater directories need to see Bryan AA3WM
- ✓ ARES/RACES members – Dick KA3MOU explained how it is very important for those hams that signed up for ARES/RACES to listen to the club repeater, or be available by phone, when there are circumstances where ARES/RACES might be activated – e.g. this past weekend with the flood.
- ✓ George, N3SQD made a motion, seconded by Larry KB3JMS, to allocate a $500 budget for improving the DLARC's digital communications equipment and enhancing our emergency and community service communications capabilities. A proposal on how to do that was handed out and discussed. The motion was passed.
- ✓ Al, W3CE made a motion, seconded by Lamar N3AT, that Ken N3IYX be reimbursed by the DLARC for the table he bought for the milk house (approximately $41). The motion was passed.

Program:

- ✓ Tonight's program is given by Paul N0KIA on the Elmer 101 course (part 3).

Adjourn

- ✓ 1st – Dick KA3MOU, 2nd – George N3SQD, passed

de Bryan, AA3WM

Skywarn Training Report

by Larry, KB3JMS

A Skywarn Training session was offered by Larry Nierenberg, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service office in Mount Holly, New Jersey.

The class was held in the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center auditorium on Cedar Crest Boulevard on Sunday, April 17, 2005 at 4:30 pm. Approximately 70 of the 80 people scheduled for the class gave up a beautiful warm day to become Skywarn Spotters. The session lasted over two hours and was well received by the audience.

Guest appearances were made by Ed Hanna, Chief Meteorologist, and Leigh Brock, Morning Meteorologist, from WFMZ TV 69, and the AccuWeather Channel.

My thanks to all who attended and helped make the class a success. A special thank you goes to Phil KB3HMK who made all the arrangements with the Lehigh Valley Hospital.

de Larry, KB3JMS

MS Walk – Easton Report

by Larry, KB3JMS

The MS Walk in Easton was held on Sunday, April 17, 2000. Approximately 581 walkers raised $62,000 for to help fight Multiple Sclerosis. We had a great TEAM consisting of:

Bryan AA3WA	Charlie W3DEA
Dick KA3MOU	Jeff N3QZT
Bob KE3AW	Bob N3QZR
Missy N3FTG	Brad KB3JXQ
Jeff N3MFT	George N3QSD
Phil KB3HMK	Scott KB3JMQ
Kathy KB3JMR	Bill KA3RBH

And myself Larry KB3JMS

The weather was exactly as we had planned, sunny and cool to warm but not hot. (Don't we wish.) Seriously, this year we took a close look at the park and the individual assignments. We determined that it would be difficult to monitor the walk with less than 8 operators, and that if we had an unlimited number of volunteers we could use effectively up to 24 operators. Once we had our plan set up, all we needed to do was sit back and wait for the date of the walk. In addition, our intent is to pass these computer files on to our successors to make their job easier in future years.

Then came the rain. Then came the flood. Then came the frantic call, "Hugh Moore Park had significant damage and we need to shorten the route and change the remaining route."

Our initial work paid off. We developed a single sheet revision that disclosed all the changes and then we quickly revised individual assignments. Three positions were eliminated and two potential problem positions were strengthened. In all we had 15 operators who worked the event, but we were short 2 operators leaving 2 individuals to work solitary positions.

Our philosophy in setting up the assignments was to assure that, in addition to meeting the minimum requirements of safety, we wanted to provide for a measure of enjoyment.
To achieve this we tried to assign 2 individuals to each position. Hams are talkers, and this would allow for eyeball-to-eyeball QSO's. Conversations and a parade of people, what more could you want.

We tried and I think things went well. Thank you to all the volunteers. In particular thank you to Brian AA3WM, net control operator, who covered up our mistake. We really should have remained at the net control area, but we wanted to meet all the volunteers at their assigned positions. We started this too late and got back to net control too late. I apologize for our error, Bryan.

As to my comment about the weather earlier in this article, the weather was perfect, but we didn't plan that.

Once again thank you to all who helped. We really appreciate your efforts.

73 de Charlie, W3DEA and Larry, KB3JMS

LVARC AUCTION

by Mark, AK3M

JUNE 7, 2005 --- 6:30 pm

Take this opportunity to clean out your shack, garage, workshop and basement of radio items and paraphernalia you no longer use or need. You will benefit and so will the LVARC. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between the seller and LVARC.

Auction will begin promptly at 6:30 prior to the June, 2005 meeting.

Tom Braun (K3ARI) of RCN will be the host and auctioneer!

Please contact Frank Unger (W3FTU) for further information or if you wish to sell items at this event. Phone (610) 691- 6731 or email at: funger@enter.net.

de Mark, AK3M

June 25th and 26th is Field Day! Contact Charlie, W3DEA for more information or if you can help.

District 2 EC Resigns

by Mark (AK3M)

It is with deep regret that I submit notice of my resignation as DEC for District 2.

I have appreciated the opportunity to act in this position and do hate to resign but also feel that a fresh approach by someone new would make the DEC position more active and productive.

I will remain in this position until a replacement has been found and will assist in the location of a replacement. I plan to remain active in local emergency communications.

Sincerely,
Mark S. Miller
AK3M

If you are interested in this position, contact Mark (AK3M) at: AK3M@rcn.com

de Mark, AK3M

A Tale of Two Batteries

by George Wieland – N3SQD

A while back I made a presentation at a club meeting on batteries. During that presentation I discussed battery characteristics and demonstrated a battery capacity tester that I had built. During the discussion, Al W3CE mentioned some new Lithium AA batteries that were 1.5 Volt cells (as opposed to the 3 Volts which is typical of many Lithium cells).

Well Al, who helps out with our Amateur Radio classes, must have remembered my interest. At the last class this fall, Al presented me with two of the cells to be tested. The cells were the Energizer® Lithium e^2 AA battery – model L91. The results of the testing were interesting enough that I thought I should pass them along to the rest of the club.

First a few words about my battery tester. The battery tester works by integrating the current delivered by the battery, over time, into a 5-ohm load. The battery is considered dead (and the testing stops) when the voltage, under load, drops to 1.1 volts. For those that don't remember their Ohm's law, that amounts to a 300 milliamp load (at 1.5 volts). The tester also records the voltage during the test so that I can plot the voltage discharge curve.

The Energizer L91 battery had a tested capacity of 2929 mAH (milliamp-hours). For comparison, I tested a Duracell® AA Alkaline battery – model MN1500 – aka the Coppertop Battery. The Duracell® AA Alkaline battery had a capacity of 1382 mAH. So, the Energizer® Lithium has better than twice the capacity of the Duracell® Alkaline. As you might expect the Lithium battery also costs more (almost 4 times) than the Alkaline battery.

Normally, this would be the end of the story. But, in the course of the testing I noticed a number on the battery that I didn't recognize. Batteries come with a lot of markings. There's size (AA), voltage, trade name, chemistry, model number, warnings, etc. The L91 battery had another number that I couldn't place – 2019. At first I thought it might be a model number, but on checking with Energizer Holdings web site I found that it is the shelf life date. The L91 battery has a 15-year shelf life! This is even more impressive, when you consider that shelf life (at room temperature) was computed to 90% capacity. That means that you could take this battery and put it in a drawer for 15 years, and at the end of that time it would still have 90% of its original capacity. At the end of 15 years it would still have almost twice the capacity of a new alkaline cell (assuming they are still being made then).

Consider the implications of the capacity and shelf life. For infrequently used or equipment with a low current drain these can be "lifetime" batteries. As an example, consider an antenna analyzer that I own. It draws about 180 milliamps, and now is powered by rechargeable batteries. It'll run about 8 hours on a charge, assuming I remember to recharge them. I doubt that I put more than an hour of usage on this device a year (typically during Field Day and the PA QSO party). If I replace the rechargeable batteries with the Lithium L91 batteries, I will be able to use this analyzer for the next 15 or 16 years without thinking about the batteries. For multimeters and other test equipment that only use a few milliamps the L91 could power these devices for many years without replacement.

I have just begun seeing this chemistry in AAA cell batteries, in addition to the AA cell. This increases the number of devices that can take advantage of these unique characteristics.

If you would like a copy of the Voltage Discharge Curve spreadsheet, or have any questions on this article, please send an email to george@bioserv.com.

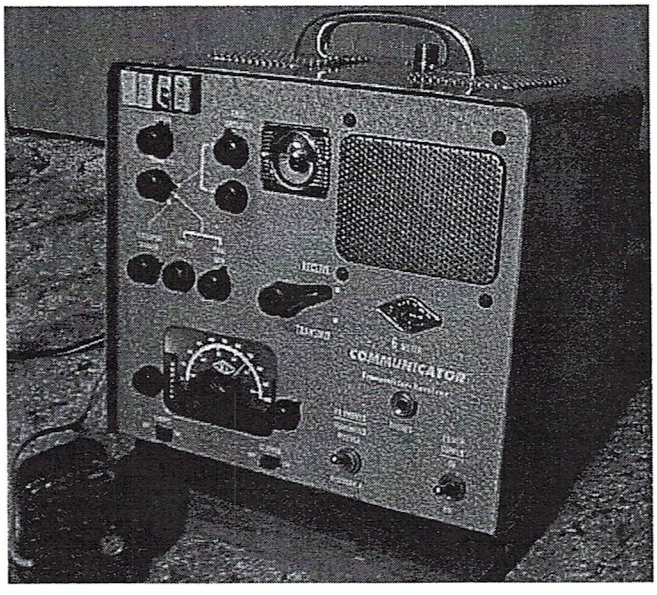
73 de N3SQD

A Walk in Time

by Barry G. Kery, KU3X

Shown in this issue is the, "Gonset Communicator II" 6 meter AM transmitter - receiver. It was also called the, "Gooney Box." The receiver used a VFO for full 6 meter band coverage but the transmitter used crystals to control the transmit frequency. The rig used a double conversion superhet receiver with a cascode front end. The first version of this rig was produced in 1952 and sold for $189.50. The Communicator II was produced in 1954 and sold for $229.95.

Similar versions of the Communicator were sold to the Civil Defense and were painted bright yellow with CD markings. There were also two meter versions as well as units for commercial use as well as the VHF aircraft band.



de Barry, KU3X

MS 150 Bike Tour – Help Wanted

by Jeff, N3QZT

On the weekend of **June 11th & 12th 2005**, the MS 150-2005 bike tour will be held. This two-day event (with dinner, breakfast and lodging provided) is the largest public service event 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. So a lot of the early morning travel time is gone, and hopefully this will make it easier for you to participate in the event.

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 along the route. Our job with the bike tour is to provide communications for safety and also for logistical support. Why not give it a try this year? We can sure use your help!!!

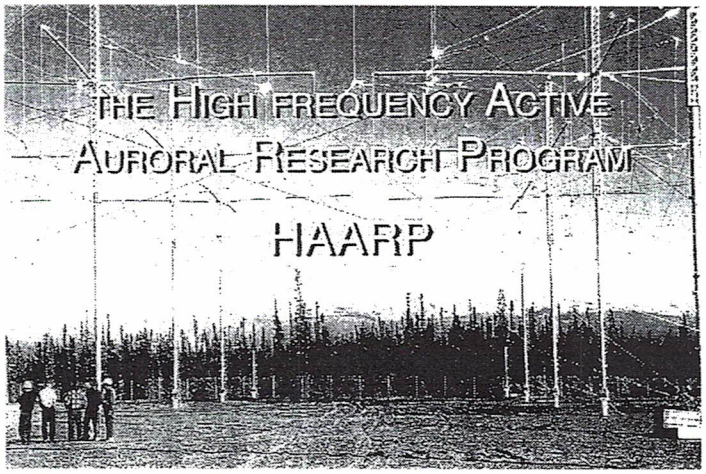
Let AA3WM or N3QZT now as soon as possible if you can help. Also please indicate what days you will be available (Saturday or Sunday) or if you plan on staying over night and participating both days.

de Jeff, N3QZT

Favorite QSL Cards

The following card was submitted by **Pete, NL7XM**, and shows a contact that he made with "HAARP."

The W3OK Corral welcomes all members to submit their favorite QSL cards.



HAARP

VERIFICATION OF RECEPTION
High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program
PO Box 271
Gakona, AK 99586

We are pleased to confirm your reception
Date: 3-8-97
UTC Time: 0440
Frequency: 4.99 mHz

HAARP Location: Latitude = 62°23.5′ North
Longitude = 145°8.8′ West

Limited scientific research at the HAARP facility began in March 1997, using a 3 x 6 portion of a 6 x 8 horizontal array of crossed dipoles. Availability of the complete 48 element antenna system is expected by Spring 1998.

http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/

COPPER CENTER AK USA
MAY 09 1997
99573

P. Varounis Dr.
Box 23
Staten Island
NY 10314-6357

One morning a man comes into the church on crutches. He stops in front of the holy water and splashes some of it on both of his legs, then throws away his crutches.

An altar boy witnessed the entire scene and runs into the rectory to tell Father Joe what he'd just seen.

Without batting an eye, the priest says, "Son, you've just seen a miracle. Tell me, where is this man?"

"Flat on his ass, Father, over by the holy water." --Clarence, W3PYF

2005			MAY			2005
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 MS Walk - Allentown	2	3	4 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm TechNet 8:00 pm	5 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	6 VE Testing 7:00 pm	7
8	9	10 Newsletter Deadline	11 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	19 Executive Committee Meeting	20 Dayton Hamvention	21 Dayton Hamvention
22 Dayton Hamvention	23	24	25 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	26	27	28
29	30	31	Upcoming: June 11th & 12th – MS-150 Bike Tour June 25th & 26th - Field Day			

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and ARES nets: 51.76, 146.70, and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11 (pl 151.4)
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.

== 2004-2005 ==

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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

18032+7204 04

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-05
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
346 CREST DRIVE
WHITEHALL PA 18052-7204

The W3OK CORRAL
Greystone Building, Gracedale Complex
RR 8
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064-9278

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