Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

Meeting May 4th at the 911 center

The Prez Sez

by Bill, N2DH



HELLOOOOO!!!!!!!

This is your RACES Net!

One of the responsibilities of being given the privilege of being licensed as an amateur radio operator is to provide public service in the time of emergencies.

When we have the net each week that is sort of training for such times.

For various and sundry reasons I am not able to make all of the nets, but I do try.

It seems that on net nights that a large percentage of those on the list are not there.

WHY???

I would really like to encourage all of the membership to get involved with the Wednesday night net. Never know you may be called upon some day to participate in a real emergency.

Field Day!

Is someone going to hop up and volunteer to be the chairman for Field Day?

We really need to get going if we are going to have the event.

The membership cannot expect the board to chair all of the events that we like to have.

Who is going to honcho this year's picnic? It really is not a difficult task is there someone who would like to get involved?

Dayton is just around the corner. If you have the opportunity to go, take a bunch of pictures and do a program for the club.

There is a DX contest in the wings if you can operate. Great chance to get DXCC. Check the ARRL page on the web.

Talking about DX would someone like to do a program on the challenges and rewards?

Enough "soap boxing' for this month.

Hope to see you at the May meeting.

de Bill, N2DH

Treasurer's Reports

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Hello Members of DLARC / W3OK. This is the monthly report for the month of February 2006. This report was not in the newsletter because we did not have a club meeting.

Balance 1/31/06	**$5,986.28**
INCOME	
Club Dues	$378.00
Donation Income 50-50	25.00
Interest Checking	1.74
TOTAL INCOME	**$404.74**
EXPENSES	
Newsletters Printing for February	$64.00
Telephone	17.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$81.70**
Balance 2/28/06	**$6,309.32**

Members of DLARC / W3OK, this is the report for the month of March 2006.

Balance	**$6,309.32**
INCOME	
Club Dues	$17.00
Interest Checking	1.66
TOTAL INCOME	**$18.66**
EXPENSES	
ARRL Al Wiemann Fedex Club License Renewal	$17.21
Field Day Plainfield Township 6/24/25	100.00
Field Day Plainfield Township Trash	25.00
Newsletters Directory March	$79.50
Newsletters March	64.00
Picnic Pavilion 5 9/10/06 Northampton County	100.00
Postage	140.00
Supplies Al Wiemann Copies Staples	20.66
Telephone	17.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$564.07**
Balance 3/31/06	**$5,763.91**

73, Dick Dech, Treasurer of DLARC/W3OK

DLARC General Meeting - April 2006

by Charlie, W3DEA

Called to order by Bill N2DH at 7:30PM
26 members present

Secretary Report - Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ As of the meeting; no one had received their newsletters.

Treasurer - Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ Reports for the March and April
- ✓ No changes: 1st - Dave KA3IWC, 2nd - Barry KU3X, Passed

Repeater/Web Page - Barry N3NVA

- ✓ Please send info about your events in to him so he can list it on the web page
- ✓ Fleetwood receiver off the air

VE Session - Bill N2DH

- ✓ Next is in May

Club Station - Al W3CE

- ✓ Working on Packet for RACES
- ✓ Fax machine/copier donated by Bill N2DH
- ✓ No word yet from county on tower proposal
- ✓ Variety of gear donated by Earl K3MGP

Tech Net - Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ Rescheduled to April 12

Classes Bob KE3AW

- ✓ 3rd class completed

MS150 - Bryan AA3WM

- ✓ June 11 & 12 - Contact Bryan if you can help

MS WAlks

- ✓ Easton - Location has changed - still need chairperson
- ✓ Allentown - Charlie W3DEA - May 7 - If you can help contact Charlie

Hamfest - Al W3CE & George N3SQD

- ✓ Waiting to hear from Schnecksville, if no word by April 15 the event will probably be cancelled

Need a chairperson for the picnic and field day.

Library event has been moved to May 13 - see Al W3CE for more info

Approved by the board

- ✓ The club will be purchasing two ARRL emergency comm. books - one will be for loaning out

Membership re-instatement

- ✓ Ricky KB3LLM
- ✓ 1st George N3SQD, 2nd - Carl AA3IX, Passed

Adjourn:

- ✓ 1st - Dick KA3MOU, 2nd - George N3SQD, Passed

de Charlie, W3DEA

May Program

by Paul, N0KIA

For the May program I will be sharing my experiences, tips, tricks and warnings about the annual PA Dutch MS-150 event. This will be a hands-on demo of the points covered in last years multi-page article which ran in the newsletter. I'll start at the preparation phase, run thru setup and checkout, segue into operations and wrap up with a few words on what to expect on Kutztown's campus.

Should be something in it for everyone. Bring a pencil to take notes and then volunteer to help at this years MS-150 event.

de Paul, N0KIA

Hamfest Cancelled

by Al, W3CE

Due to the fact that we were not able to reserve a location for our hamfest in September, it will be cancelled for this year.

N3SQD and I will get started on a hamfest for 2007 this Fall.

73, de Al, W3CE

CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET

5 April 2006

Edited by Ward Silver N0AX

Published by the American Radio Relay League
Free to ARRL members!

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NEWS, PRESS RELEASES, AND GENERAL INTEREST

ARRL CONTEST NEWS

Jim AD1C, Keeper of the Country Files has a new URL for them where they're east to find: http://www.contest-country-files.com. (Thanks, Jim AD1C)

The RAC Contest Management Team of Bart VE5CPU, Sam VE5SF, and Bruce VE5RC announce the addition of two new categories for the RAC

Canada Day Contest and the RAC Winter Contest: SOAB-CW and SOAB-PH. These are in effect with July's RAC Canada Day Contest.

Hal N4GG reminds state QSO party enthusiasts that a proper CQ tells people where you are. For example, if you are in-state, such as Georgia, the CQ is: CQ GQP. If you are out-of-state, such as calling Georgia, the proper CQ is: CQ GA. Who knows, you might be missing some QSOs!

Are you one that puts the pedal to the metal? Then check out the latest incarnation of Steve Robert's Web site - http://shacktopus.com. The project has some interesting history - Steve began with a 580lb mobile platform that was bicycle powered in the 70s/80s. Things are a little bit different today! (Thanks, Jeff VE6GQ)

The 2nd Annual Northern California Contest Club "Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder" begins April 20 with an exciting new format combining Sprint QSY rules with NAQP band-multipliers. Look for full rules at http://www.nccc.cc. (Thanks, Bill N6ZFO)

Speaking of weak ones, from the 1 April edition of AMSAT Weekly Bulletin (http://www.amsat.org - ANS-092) On March 31 – an AMSAT-DL/IUZ team received the American space probe VOYAGER 1 with the 20m antenna in Bochum. The distance was 14.7 billion km. This is a new record for AMSAT-DL and IUZ Bochum. The received signal was clearly identified through means of Doppler shift and position in the sky. This distance equals approximately 98 times the distance between Earth and Sun. VOYAGER 1 is the most distant object ever built by mankind. More information is available at http://www.amsat-dl.org/cms under "News."

Eugeni EA3QP contributes the URL for SH5 post-contest analysis software that runs under Windows OS (http://rescab.nm.ru/). It's a freeware software with a lot of useful options to give the contester an objective view of their results. Your editor wishes to remind the reader that in his view the contest is over when the operator stops making contacts. Changing the log afterwards based on analysis software is a very questionable practice. That said, using this software to evaluate your performance for improvement in the NEXT contest is a good thing - go for it!

Last week a tower came down. This week a super big one goes up at http://www.physorg.com/news12124.html. (Thanks, Tom K1KI)

Rusty Epps W6OAT will be the featured speaker at the 2006 Dayton Contest Dinner. Rusty, inducted into the Contest Hall of Fame last year, has been a very enjoyable speaker whenever I've had the pleasure of being in the audience. All Contest dinner ticket orders are handled exclusively by Craig Clark K1QX at http://www.radio-ware.com. (Thanks, Tim K3LR)

The Remote Amateur Radio Stations group is hosting their "Backyard Bonanza" Challenge through Apr 7 and invite any interested parties to participate. The challenge is open to all amateurs and all bands including VHF / UHF (no WARC). For more information, please visit http://rarsgroup.com. (Thanks Terry KI4KQQ)

Here's a Dayton "Sneak Peek" - The microHAM DIGI KEYER (http://www.microham-USA.com/Products/dk.html) is truly "plug and play" with either Windows XP or Apple OS 10. It supports dual receive radios and has the lowest noise floor of any device tested other than "professional" sound cards. (Thanks, Joe N4TV)

And another set of towers bites the dust! (http://tinyurl.com/pzwz7)

For those wishing to submit operation announcements for the Fall 2006 CQWW DX contests, Bill NG3K has added the option for each on the drop-down list on the submission page at http://www.ng3k.com/Contest/consub.html.

Where does the "Gin" in "Gin Pole" come from? "GIN as in enGINe comes from Middle English and refers to any mechanical device that transfers energy into movement. The term "gin pole" refers to a device used to lift or hoist heavy loads, derived mostly from those used in mining. (Thanks, Bill K4XS)

Randy K5ZD reports "I only need 3 states to have 5BWAS confirmed: ND on 40m and ND+WY on 80m. Others have also reported these as being the difficult ones in LOTW. I know I have worked plenty of contesters from those states on those bands. Please

update your LOTW logs, even for domestic contests! It doesn't cost anything and it would enable lots of guys to finish their WAS awards without having to send you a card."

The Georgia QSO Party (http://gqp.contesting.com) currently has 21 sponsored plaques and more possible by contest time. New to the contest this year are CW and SSB-only modes and the qualification to be a rover has been reduced to only two counties. (Thanks, Hal N4GG)

Ken K6TA gives credit to Kip W6SZN for finding this Web site for low cost headphones that fit in the ear and are great for Field Day environments - http://www.scantracker.com/dictationheadsets.htm.

URL OF THE WEEK - There is a very active HFPack group on the air with their "shacks in a pack". Learn more about these innovative amateurs at http://hflink.com/hfpack/index.html.

TECHNICAL TIPS AND INFORMATION

When selecting a relay for RF applications, the contact material can make a big difference. For information on contact materials see http://relays.tycoelectronics.com/app_pdfs/13c3236.pdf. For example, in a receiving application, gold contacts are the preferred material. (Thanks, Roger N1RJ)

What if your old logs are on paper and a pain to computerize? Craig W8TN has an answer for you: "One way to ease the pain a bit is to use my BasicLog spreadsheet system which makes the entries of old QSO data go very fast. It requires Excel but produces an ADIF log that you can import into your own logging program or upload directly to LoTW. Using this application I can enter up to 25 QSO's in less than 5 minutes and faster if the date, band or mode doesn't change often. Check it out here: http://www.w8tn.com/software.htm."

Summer thunderstorms are on the way so you might find Stan WA1LOU's latest ARRL Web column "en-lightning" - http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2006/03/24/1/?nc=1.

And while we're on the subject, Jim W6RMK weighs in on spark gaps, with some condensation by yr obdt editor. "The breakdown of air at sea level in a uniform field gap is about 70 kV/inch (or 30kV/cm). Almost any practical gap will breakdown at a lower voltage, depending on field uniformity, surface roughness and other factors. A sphere gap (two smooth spheres separated by much less than the diameter of the spheres) will have a breakdown slightly lower. Design and rating tables are available at http://home.earthlink.net/~jimux/hv/sphgap.htm and http://home.earthlink.net/~jimlux/hv/spherev.htm, respectively. Needle gaps break down at about 1/3rd of the uniform gap breakdown voltage. Gap breakdown won't occur below 350 V. Breakdown voltage is reduced proportionally with air density - at 5000 ft breakdown voltage fall to about 80% of the sea level value. The challenge in RF applications is getting a gap that has a close enough spacing to breakdown at a low enough voltage, but that doesn't have significant L or C, so that your circuit isn't perturbed. A couple bolts with the right spacing works fairly well, and is reasonably adjustable." Red WO0W also suggests Gas Discharge Tubes, such as those sold by Mouser Electronics, available to 20,000 A current carrying capacity...once. Gene AD3F recommends the technical documents available on the ICE Web site - http://www.iceradioproducts.com.

If you would like to build your own set of transmit-capable band-pass filter, look no farther than Ed W3NQN's, article in the May 1997 issue of QST, "Clean Up Your Signals with Band-Pass Filters". They are also commercially available from Array Solutions. (http://www.arraysolutions.com)(Thanks, Mike K4GMH)

And for information on homebrewing the PCBs for those filters, browse on over to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Homebrew_PCBs/ (Thanks, Leon G1HSM)

Stan AK0B contributes a URL of a short paper on receiving the low power markers that operate below the AM broadcast band and are located around the USA airports: http://lwca.org/library/articles/kh6sr/index.htm. It is excellent reading for anyone who wants to improve their skills on digging out the very weak ones.

TECHNICAL LINK OF THE WEEK - The Radio Jove NASA project - http://radiojove.gsfc.nasa.gov/help/help.htm#setup. Just right for a student project!

CONVERSATION

Deflating the Baloney Trolls

Surely you all remember the tale of the Billy Goats Gruff?

"Trip, trap, trip, trap!" went the bridge. "Who's that tripping over my bridge?" roared the troll. "Oh, it is only I, the Littlest Billy Goat," said the billy goat, in a small voice. "Now, I'm coming to gobble you up," said the troll!

Only a fairy tale, of course, but we do have our own trolls. They live out of sight on the reflectors and Web sites. They lurk on repeaters and on their "very own" frequencies. They lie in wait for someone to cross their bridge and then spring to life.

No, they don't gobble up billy goats, but they roar into action nonetheless. The are the keepers of the sacred, but unwritten, protocols and the mystical, but mostly mythical, traditions and legends. They are the protectors of their frequencies and channels. They challenge all that dare traverse their domain - for they are the Baloney Trolls.

Woe to the newcomer that strays the least bit from the Pure Ways of Radio as known to the Baloney Troll! The troll's day is made if he (and trolls are nearly always male) can cast newcomers off the bridge, hopefully never to be seen again. The troll's weapons are the sneer and pointed remark against which the exposed and tender flesh of a newly minted licensee has no defense. The troll cares not that his Ways are often bogus and of no particular Merit, even to himself.

Pity the questioning innocent that inquires for directions or instruction! This is truly a troll's delight, as he lives to dispense the True Baloney. "Why, didn't you know...?" says the troll, followed by a cornucopia of drivel delivered with an all-knowing and unctuous demeanor. The Littlest Billy Goat replies, "Really?" in a high-pitched voice and alas, he has swallowed the baloney and is surely led into the thicket of Baloney Briars from which making an escape is painful and laborious.

"And then the Big Billy Goat flew at the troll, and poked his eyes out with his horns, and crushed him to bits, body and bones, and tossed him out into the cascade, and after that he went up to the hillside."

What to do about the Baloney Trolls? They are seemingly everywhere, poisoning every discussion and making life difficult for newcomers. It falls to us, the Big Billy Goats, to deflate the Baloney Trolls, for they are mostly made of hot air and have no real substance, only the sound of their own exhalations to sustain them.

First, be not a Baloney Troll yourself! Be wise and patient when the microphone button is pushed or when the characters leap from your fingertips. Speak not in anger and eschew obfuscation. Be not afraid of the magic words, "I Don't Know" for they lead to additional wisdom for all. Give freely of the milk of human kindness. Above all, remember what it was like to be the Littlest Billy Goat.

Engaging a troll in battle merely encourages them, so direct deflation may not work very well. Big Billy to Little Billy, we must speak to them in quiet ways and places not known to the trolls – by letter and phone call, at meetings, and by email. Let the troll deflate himself by his response to reasoned and clever questions and examples. Call the troll by his true name so that the Little Billy Goats are inoculated against them. Without someone to eat up their baloney, a troll soon withers and finds another bridge to haunt.

Help the Little Billies to leave the Baloney Trolls behind in their uncomfortable places. There are really very few of them and it is only the sound of their roaring that makes them seem important and fearsome. By sticking together, Big Billy and Little Billy, we can all proceed up to the hillside and grow fat together.

"Snip, snap, snout. This tale's told out."

73, Ward N0AX

Photos from April

by Brad, W3JXQ

Al and George gave a demo on packet operation.

George, N3SQD

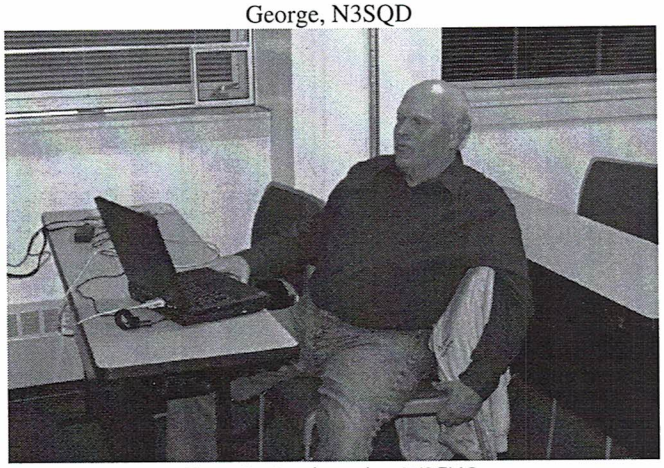

Photo by Brad Snyder, W3JXQ

Al, W3CE

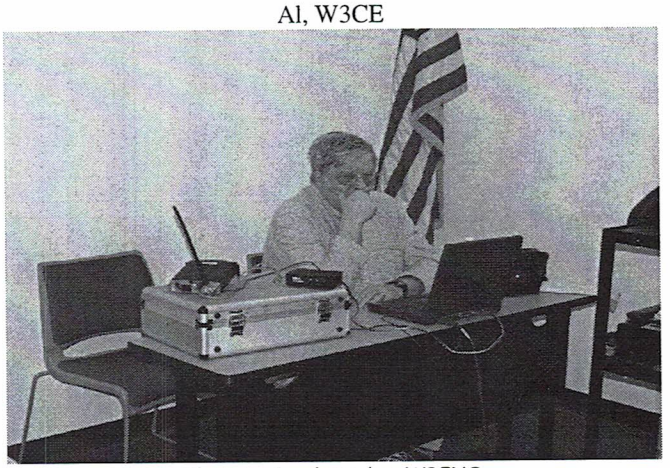

Photo by Brad Snyder, W3JXQ

de Brad, W3JXQ

2006			May			2006
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm TechNet 8:00 pm	4 **Club Meeting 7:30 pm**	5	6
7 MS Walk Allentown	8	9	10 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	11 **Newsletter Deadline**	12	13 Rescheduled Library Event
14	15	16	17 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	18 Executive Committee Meeting	19 Dayton Hamvention	20 Dayton Hamvention
21 Dayton Hamvention	22	23	24 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm TechNet 8:00 pm	Send newsletter / calendar submissions to the editor at w3jxq@snycomp.com		

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.

== 2005-2006 ==

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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 the Northampton County 911 Center.
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to w3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
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visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-06
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The W3OK CORRAL

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