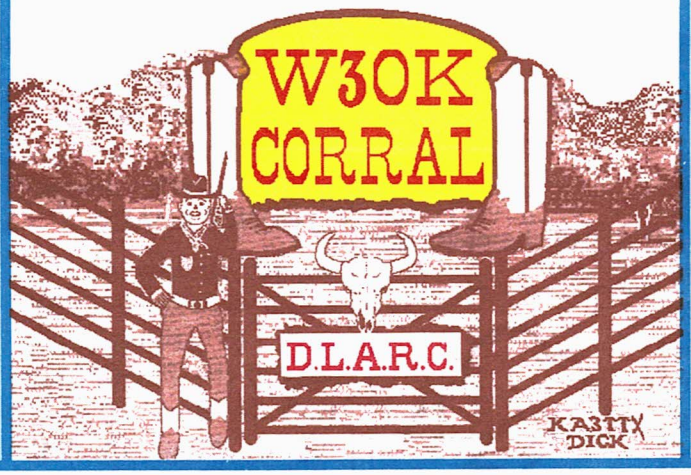
DELAWARE · LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W3OK

August 1996



SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB
ARRL

ARRL Affiliated Club

ARRL director to speak at August 1st meeting

Kay Craigie, WT3P, a name and a callsign and trust me so very much more. We are both honored and lucky to have this charming lady as our speaker at our August first meeting. **Kay is the Atlantic division director for the ARRL.** She will be talking about the services that the ARRL provides for the amateur with a special emphasis on the new Ham.

I was lucky enough to hear Kay speak as a key note at the banquet at the Rochester hamfest and I can tell you she is absolutely captivating regardless of the subject. Her grace and quick wit is sure to captivate the entire audience. As a special note to our YL members Kay besides being the division director also holds an extra class ticket, is an avid contester and has certainly helped to advance the position and prestige of women in amateur radio.

de AA3JU program chairman

The Hamfest is coming

by Ami, KD3TI

August 4 is the DLARC Hamfest,, just in case you've forgotten the date. There will be plenty of food, fun and electronic goodies of all sorts. So far, the work has fallen on the 'head honchos' to organize all this...now it's time for the club members to start thinking about their roles. The day will start early, with breakfast, parking visitors and vendors, and talking in new arrivals. There will be tickets to sell, food to eat, radios, computers and software to explore, food to eat, tools and parts to finish off that latest project for your shack, antennas of all types and, did I mention food? It is true that many hands make light work, so with four hundred members in the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club the Hamfest should be a breeze! Help is needed to park visitors, sell tickets and, especially help clean up at the end of the day. It sounds like many or most of the club members will be at the fest, so I would like to see everyone pitch in for something, even if it's only a half-hour. The Hamfest is a lot of fun, and enables the club to keep dues low. Anyone who hasn't volunteered to help out, please contact me, or Tom, N3LLL. Ask not what your club can do for you, but what YOU can do for YOUR CLUB!!



73 de KD3TI, Amy

DLARC MEETING
AUGUST 1, 1996
7:30 p.m.
KIVA HALL, NCC
If you need directions call on 146.70

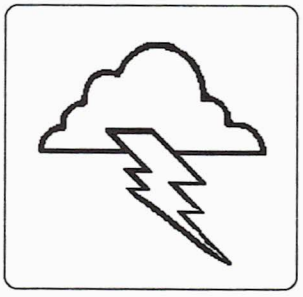
FIELD DAY...A FAILURE!

by Bob, KU3K, Field Day Chairman

Wait a minute! I meant

FIELD DAY...A FAILURE?

Funny how a bit of misplaced punctuation can change sentence meaning. (It can also mean the difference between PASS and FAIL on your code test.) A bit of unfortunate weather consisting of rain blown horizontal by the wind and really nifty lightening made the weekend rather interesting! The setup, operation and great food however, made this last weekend in June, 1996 another wonderful FIELD DAY. Thanks to everybody who came to the setup/teardown, we REALLY needed you! Please don't be lulled into the false security that SOMEBODY will always take care of things. This is just not true. For example, we had just FIVE people available to load our equipment at Gracedale. This number is sufficient but it would have been easier (and faster) with double that amount! I hope this group doesn't dwindle to ONE next year. After unloading at the site, the beehive became alive with activity and we were on the air with time to spare, just after one p.m. Our rough score is just over 7600 including bonus points. This is not bad considering we had to be off the air for a couple of hours during that thunderstorm activity!

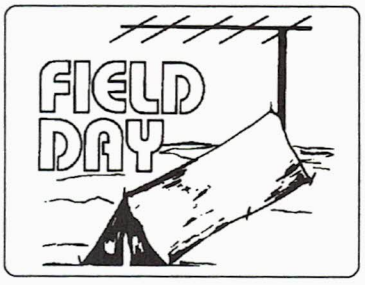


1014 QSO's FOR 80M (including 160, 80, 15)
926 " FOR 40M
304 " FOR 20M
74 " FOR VHF/UHF
?? " FOR PACKET

AND...

185 Q'S (9 ON CW) FOR OUR GREAT NOVICE TEAM, who worked with the call N3XKG!

We have come to expect GREAT FOOD at this affair and this year was no exception! **Don and Sharon Reamer KA3JWE and N3RZQ** will receive the first Pulitzer Prize for food just as soon as the committee opens up that category. I mean they even had an area separate from the rest of the pavilion and called it THE KITCHEN!!! Sunday morning we awoke to a pleasant surprize...Ms Sunflower, (The mother of **Bjorn, WU3M)** arrived before dawn with skillet and batter, prepared batches of blueberry pancakes and bacon and...well, it was just heavenly! Its no wonder that family is in the honey business. what sweet people! THANKS AGAIN



Again thanks to the setup\teardown folks and to those who stayed the full (or partial) weekend, all the operators especially the overnight CW ops, the Novice/Tech gang, anybody who cooked, Ken (generator) Field; **KA3EED,** the folks who got the beer/soda/ice, and the truckers, Norm, **N3GXW**, and Bill; **NC3P**. Special thanks to Ray; **W3TDF**, Chris; **NU3L**, Ken; **N3IYX** and Tom; **N3LLL** who provided much needed equipment and expertise! To those I have forgotten, thank YOU!! I hope all of you enjoyed yourselves and hope to see you again next year.

de Bob, KU3K.

The ARRL Letter Electronic Update July 5, 1996

New life for old Heathkits

The ARRL Lab's Mike Tracy, KC1SX, has uncovered a possible source for surplus Heathkit parts that Heath sold off a number of years ago. It's Spectrum Electronics, Eastern Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507, tel 616-742-0613. Mike says that although Spectrum Electronics is strictly a repair business, if you let them know what specific Heath part number you are looking for, they may be able to provide it. However, he emphasizes that you be specific and use part numbers. For example, don't ask for "the plate cap in the SB-200."

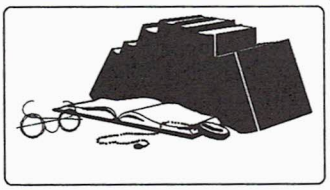
Heathkit manuals often are available from:

Hi-Manuals,
PO Box 802,
Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0802,
tel 712-323-9737;

Manuals Plus (test equipment manuals only),
PO Box 549, Tooele, UT 84074,
tel 801-882-7188; or W7FG Vintage Manuals,
3300 Wayside Dr, Bartlesville, OK 74006,
tel 800-807-6146 or 918-333-3754;
e-mail w7fg@eigen.net;

July 11th meeting notes

Our secretary was not able to make this meeting, so, once again, you'll have to put up with ***KD3TI*** as a substitute. This was a busy meeting and there's lots to report, so I'll apologize in advance if I used up a lot of space.



The July meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was held on the July llth in Kiva Hall at NCCC. We were fooled this time around by having our traditional 'first Thursday' turn out to be a holiday.

Despite this, attendance was good as N3LLL, club president, called the meeting to order. Dick, **KA3MOU**, read the treasurer's report. Barry, **N3NVA,** our technical coordinator, reported that he received the crystal oven, needed to put the 440 side of the repeater on the air, but with the wrong crystal. He will resolve this and keep us posted on the progress of the link machine.

NU3L, Chris, reported that Novice classes are going to pick up September 16th, at 7'o'clock. Interested persons should call the club answering machine and leave their name and address to preregister and receive an info packet.

N3LLL, Tom, announced an Internet Explorer post, participants, or assistants should contact him, they will meet the first and 3rd Mondays of each month.

Next months program will be presented by **Kay Craigie, WT3P**, Director of the American Radio Relay League. She will have lots of information on benefits and services provided by ARRL. Sounds interesting for new hams and not-so-new hams alike.

Of course, the club hamfest is coming up, August 4 **HELP IS STILL NEEDED!!!**

The club will have a 50th anniversary banquet, **K3CP**, Van is organizing that, more info to come.

KU3K, Bob, reported that field day was a big success, even if enthusiasm was slightly dampened Saturday night! He reported that 80 meters did the best.

KD3TI, Amy reported that the MS-150 went very well. The club deserves a big round of applause for carrying off both of these major events simultaneously!

Coming up for the PA QSO party- **W30K** will be the bonus point station, this will require that **W30K** be put on the air either from the club station, or from some public place. **W3TDF** is looking for anyone able to coordinate this, or assist in this effort- note-we need a control op of at least Advanced class license.

There was also discussion about how to obtain the **WX3MAS** call sign for our Christmas City Special Event station. Due to the current call sign system, we could not obtain it as a 'special event' call sign. Of course, if we apply for it as a club call, we would loose W30K, which no one wants. Our best option, it seems, would be to form a new 'club', get a regular club call, then apply for WX3MAS as a vanity call under the appropriate gate. The club could consist of 2 members, the president, and the trustee, and share the mailing address of another club.

With the conclusion of this, the meeting adjourned for some 'show and tell', then the eagerly awaited EME program..

de Amy, KD3TI

Wanted:

Rich, AI3D is looking for a **Kenwood 520.** Bare bones, nothing extra. If you have one for sale call him at **965-9263**

EASTON HOSPITAL Road Runners **Sun August 11**

Continuing our service to the community, we will again furnish the **safety communications** for the Easton Hospital Run-Walk beginning at **8:30 AM** on **Sunday August 11**.

Once again **John, N3IGA** will be coordinating. Contact him if you can help, this only takes about 3 or 4 hours at the most and T Shirts will be given to all who participate.

Contact John if you can help..Hope to see you there.. Need about 8 or 9 operators.

de Clarence, W3PYF EC

How to know you're growing old.

Everything hurts, and what dosen't hurt dosen't work

The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals

You feel like the night before, and haven't been anywhere

Your little black book contains only names that end in "MD"

You get winded playing chess

Your children begin to look middle aged

You join a health club, and don't go

You begin to out live enthusiam

Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet

You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions

You look forward to a dull evening

Your favorite part of the newspaper is "25 years ago today"

You sit in a rocking chair, and can't get it going
Your knees buckle, and your belt won't

Your're 17 around the neck, and 42 around the waist

You stop looking forward to your next birthday

Dialing long distance wears you out

Your back goes out more than you do

A fortune teller offers to read your face

You turn out the light for economic reasons rather than romatic ones

You remember today, that yesterday was your wedding anniversary

You startled the first time you are addressed as "old timer"

You burn the midnight oil after 9:00 pm

You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there

Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when a pretty girl walks by

You get your exercise acting as a pallbearer for your friend who exercised

You get to much room in the house, and not enough room in the medicine cabinet

The best part of your day is over when your alarm goes off. -

This message was sent by Ted, G4YOB.

July 12, VE Session

At this session, six candidates took a total of ten elements. There were three new licences and three upgrades...

Scott L. McCurdy upgraded to Advanced
Edward Pitosky upgraded to Advanced
Thaddeus S. Laskiewicz to Technician Plus
Kenneth M. Beard new Technician
Theodore B. Steckel new Technician
Chayil S. Timmerman new Technician

Congratulations to a well-prepared group of candidates, who passed every test they came to do.

The VE's at this session were: Martin, **N3RCA**; Frank, **KE3RR**; Glade, **WA3MVQ**; Bob, **KE3AW;** Bill, **K3ANS**; and Robin, **WA3T.**

73 de Robin, WA3T

FOR SALE

(silent key) 610-437-3695 (Allentown)
30ft tilt-over tower with cable, winch and (CB?) antenna.
Yaesu FT2700RH dual bander,
MFJ Versatuner II,
Yaesu FF501DX filter, LF-601 LP filter,
12 Amp and 6 Amp regulated power supplies,
5 Amp Variac, CDE rotator control, and many miscellaneous items such as scanners, CB radio, headphones, microphones and spare parts.
This material came in on the club newsline, and was forwarded by Robin, WA3T

CB Radio magazine quits

from The ARRL Letter Vol. 15, No. 7 July 12, 1996

CB Radio magazine has suspended publication. There will be no September 1996 issue. In a letter to advertisers, Margaret Milanese, CB Radio's advertising manager, blamed "rapidly escalating production costs, particularly paper" for the move. Subscribers will get Popular Communications until publication of CB Radio resumes. Both magazines are products of CQ Communications Inc of Hicksville, New York.

Contest calendar

by Barry KU3X, contest editor

Aug 3	European HF Championship
Aug 3-4	YO DX Contest
	ARRL UHF Contest
	North American QSO Party, CW
	Ten Ten International Phone Contest
Aug 4	QRP ARCI Summer Sprint
Aug 10-11	Maryland-DC QSO Party
	Worked All Europe CW Contest
Aug 17-18	SARTG Worldwide RTTY Contest
	ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
Aug 17-19	New Jersey QSO Party
	SEANET 1995 SSB Contest
Aug 24-25	North American QSO Party, phone
	TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW
	Utah Centennial QSO Party
Sep 1	Panama XXV Anniversary Contest

Exchanges

NA QSO Party = Name and state/province

YO DX Contest = Signal report and ITU zone
Maryland-DC Party = Signal report and QTH

SEANET Contest = RST and serial number

SARTG RTTY Contest = RST and QSO number

de Barry KU3X.

The ARRL Letter Electronic Update

The ARRL's Regulatory Information Bureau reminds hams who have changed their mailing addresses to make sure they let the FCC know right away so they can modify your license. The consequences of not taking that simple step could be serious indeed.

As the FCC regulations state: "Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the person failed to provide the correct mailing address."

While you're at it, also let us know here at ARRL HQ, so your QST, QEX or ARRL Letter subscription goes to the right place. And send a new sase to your incoming QSL bureau, too.

Remember, DLARC HAMFEST
Sunday August 4, 1996

From your editor!

I keep hearing from members that there are too many spelling errors in this newsletter. Will anyone accept the responsiblilty of coming to my home and proof reading it before it goes to the printer? Just to prove that I use a spell checker, I thought you might like the following:



I have a spelling checker
It comes with my PC
It plainly marks for my revue
Mistakes I cannot sea
I've run this poem threw it.
I'm sure your pleased to no.
It's letter perfect in it's weigh
My checker told me sew.-

Digital Modes

Oh microphone you have appeal;
Those QSOs have been ideal
And vibroplex I've loved the way,
You've stood beside me day by day,
And ne'er refused to work for me,
No matter where the contact be.
So I shall not forget you friends
I'll dust you off on the weekends,
And if and when the mood should break,
We'll modulate for old times sake.
Think me fickle if you wish,
But I have found another niche.
I've been on keyboard for a week
And turned into a digi freak.

de Lee, KF1G

Smart

by Russ, W4VDA

Teacher: "Who was the smartest inventor, and why?"

Student: "Edison. He invented the phonograph so people would stay up late and use his electric lights."

from the August 94 Birmingham ARC "The Birmingham"--Jim Smiley, KE4CAP, editor and the March 1995 ARNS Bulletin.

Official Observer

by John, N3IGA

This month's ARRL Field Organization Station Appointment is the **Official Observer.**

The Official Observer (OO) program has been sponsored by the League for over 50 years to help amateurs help each other. OO appointees have aided thousands of amateurs to maintain their transmitting equipment and operating procedures in compliance with the regulations. The object of the OO program is to notify amateurs by mail of operating/technical irregularities before they come to the attention of the FCC.

The OO is also the backbone of the Amateurs Auxiliary of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau. OOs are certified in the Auxiliary by passing a mandatory written examination.

The OO performs his function by listening rather than transmitting, keeping an ear out for such things as frequency instability, harmonics, hums, key clicks, broad signals, out-of-band operations, etc. The OO completes his task once the notification card is sent.

In hard-core rules violations cases, OOs refer problems to higher echelons of the Amateur Auxiliary, and may be requested to gather evidence for possible FCC enforcement actions.

The OO program is one of the most important functions of the League. A sincere dedication of helping our brother and sister amateurs is required by appointment.

The requirements for the OO appointment are:

A. Must be an ARRL full member and have been licensee of Technician Class of higher for at least four years.

B. Must take and pass examination to be certified as a member of the Amateur Auxiliary, and FCC requirement, based on study of the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary Training Manual.

C. Must report to the OO Coordinator regularly.

D. Maintain regular activity in sending out advisory notices as needed.

If you feel that you would like to be an Official Observer, please contact me either by phone or leave me Email at n3iga@n3iga.ampr.org and I'll send you a Station Appointment form.

de John, N3IGA ACC/EPA

Learn from the dog

Learn from the dog. He makes friends by waging his tail, not his tongue.

How to be popular at a hamfest

by Dave, NZ9E

1.) Always browse against the normal flow of traffic.

2.) Never put asking price signs on your gear, then tell your wife to watch the table for a while...and here's the fun part...disappear.

3.) Amble up to a table where someone is just about to buy an item and mumble that you just sold one of those, in better shape, for half of that price.

4.) Never bring the manuals for anything you're selling...tell prospective buyers that you forgot the manual, but it's somewhere (everything is somewhere) but you'll send it as soon as you can. Besides, they won't need the manual because everything is so obvious. Make 'em feel really dumb for even asking.

5.) Offer everyone about one-tenth of what they're asking for anything, then, when they're good and sore, walk away mumbling you wouldn't want it anyway because it's in really bad shape.

6.) Tell all prospective buyers that there's a slight problem with this unit, but it's no doubt just a bad solder joint, it's just that you haven't had the time to dig into it...no matter what the problem might actually be.

7.) Never, never brush the dust off of a piece of gear that you're trying to sell...dust, grime and finger prints give equipment "character".

8.) Pile everything you have to sell into one big box, without any protection for the individual items. Deep gouges and plenty of scratches also give equipment "character"...tell 'em that if they comment on it.

9.) Stand around and talk to your friends in front of the most popular table, then act annoyed if anyone asks that you move a bit because they'd like to see what's on the table. Make some personal comments about them to really "top it off". If you're the seller, become deeply engrossed in talking to another seller next to you and act annoyed if a buyer tries to interrupt with questions on an item...answer disgustedly and go right back to talking with the other person.

10.) Always claim that you just took this piece out of service and that it was working fine...even if it's been in your garage for 7 years and looks that way.

Have you seen any of these folks lately?

de Dave,NZ9E

DXers' best- seller list

by Mike Crabtree, A60X

Knowing that DXers like to stay abreast of trends in their hobby, I've compiled a list of popular and thought- provoking publications on DXing and contesting, so DXers can add them to their libraries.

Hemorrhoids *and the Contester*
by Red B. Hind.

**Why Home- brew Amp Builders*

**Keep Reloads* by Justin Case.

**Risky Drive to Dayton* by Ray Darr.

**Physical Fitness for Contesters*
by Jim Shorts.

**Keep Tower- Support Wires Above Backyard Traffic* by Guy Post.

**Work DXpeditions More Than Once*
by Toby Sure.

**Certificate Hunter* by Hunt A. Ward.

**Antenna Hardware That's Forever*
by Stan Les Steele.

**Early Wireless Gear* by Ann Teaks.

**Make More Contest Q's*
by Collin More.

**All- band Transceivers* by H.F. Riggs.

**Matter, Energy, and Amateur Radio*
* by I.N. Stein.

**Dissimilar Metals on Antennas*
by Wyatt Rust.

**DXing From Your Car* by Moe Beale.

**A Ham Station on Credit*
by I.0. Lotts.

from the February '94 Mount Baker ARC (Bellingham, Washington) "The Ground Wave" John, W7KCN, Editor and the March 1995 ARNS Bulletin.

A few stories about Noah!

Why didn't Noah do much fishing?
Because he only had two worms.
Why didn't Noah play cards on the arc?
Becuase Noah was standing on the deck.
de Frank, N8UVI.

Novice/Tech classes to start

Monday September 16th.

by Chris, NU3L



Free classes for the Novice & Technician licenses will start on **Monday, September 16** and continue for 10 weeks. Classes will be held in the **Graystone Building at the Gracedale Complex near Nazareth, PA.**from **7 to 9 PM**. At each session 1 hour will be devoted to theory and 1 hour to Morse code practice.

For a complete information package please have potential students call the DLARC telephone answering machine at **(610) 820-9110.** After the messages are finished they should leave their name, complete address, phone number and a brief message.

While code is not required for all license grades students should expect us to strongly encourage them to learn CW. For those wishing to purchase a text in advance, we will be using **"Now You're Talking"** published by the American Radio Relay League.***de Chris, NU3L***

RF exposure study

from Amateur Radio Newsline 948

Yet another study into the possibility of harm to human beings due to excessive exposure to radio frequency energy is being conducted. This one is worldwide.

The electromagnetic fields represents one of the most common and fasted growing influences in our lives today. Because of this, the World Health Organization has launched a five year project at a cost of $3.3 million to study the health effects of electronic and magnetic fields.

Although existing studies show no clear health threat from popular electronic consumer goods including cellular phones, microwave ovens, hair dryers, electric shavers and lawn mowers, the WHO project will assess health and environmental effects of exposure to static and time varying electric and magnetic fields with frequencies from 0 to 300 GHz, which is near the upper limit radio waves.

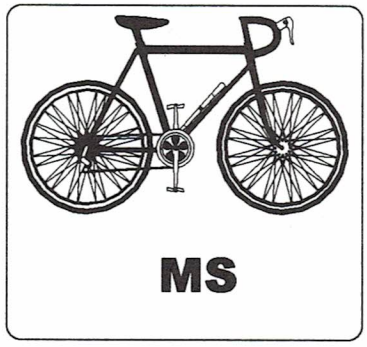
Health effects such as cancer, changes in behavior, memory loss, Parkinsons and Alzheimers diseases, AIDS, sudden infant death syndrome, and many others, including increases in suicide rates have been suggested as resulting from exposure to electromagnetic fields.

The study will provide authoritative and independent peer review of scientific literature and establish protocols for search criteria. A total of 23 countries are participating in the study. **Results of the World Health Organization project will not be known until after the turn of the century.**

MS150 results

by Bob, WF3H and Jeff, N3QZT

On June 22 and 23, a group of amateur radio operators provided support for the MS Society's bikeathon. This has become a tradition with The **Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** over the past few years, and members have turned out in force to provide communications assistance for the ambulances, rest stops, and other facilities used during the 2 day 150 mile event.



This year saw about 700 bikers make the trek from the Velodrome in Allentown to Millersville University and return. We were very fortunate that no bikers were injured this year, although one Goldwing motorcycle club member had a minor accident on his bike which required transport to a local hospital. The greatest medical challenge faced was heat as temperatures on Saturday reached 90 degrees with high humidity. One of our club members, **Jeff, KB2EVB,** is a board certified sports physician, and a motorcyclist, and his help was invaluable in providing quick assistance to several bikers.

Over 35 hams took part in the event this year, with DLARC providing the bulk of communicators. .**Jeff, N3QZT,** did an outstanding job of coordinating the assignments and allocation of ham resources. He, along with **Brad, KA1RAH,** scoped out the entire route to ensure reliable communications. **Bob, KE3AW** and **Bob, KE3FF** also provided net control assistance, along with **Bruce, KA3ONZ** at the Velodrome. I've noticed a significant improvement in performance of our members over the last few years as we've learned the ropes. I can't think of a better training ground for emergency preparedness than this event.

Even though our assistance is provided "behind the scenes", the bike riders are very aware of our help. At the awards dinner on Saturday evening (and at the bar afterwards) many bikers made a special effort to tell me how greatly our help was appreciated.

A special note of thanks must go to the MS Society this year for their quick response to our request for help in defeating the possible reallocation of our VHF and UHF frequencies. They have written a letter to Congressman Paul McHale outlining their concern, and detailing the negative effect this would have on ALL volunteer events.

Follows is a complete list as furnished by N3QZT of those who participated.:

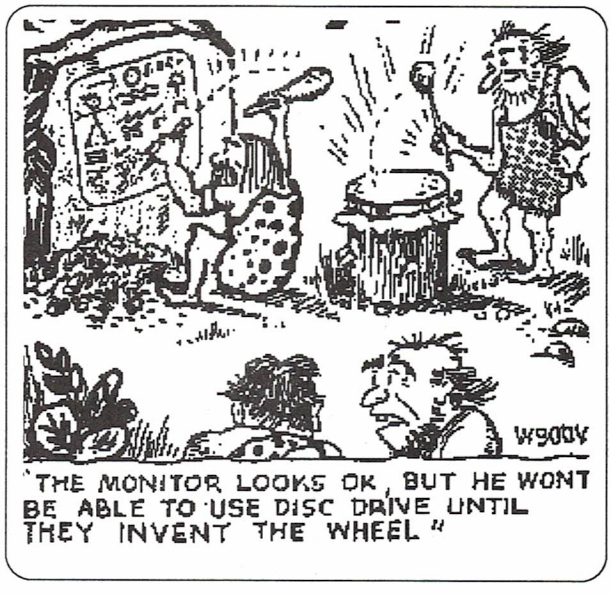
Bob, WF3H, Jeff, N3QZT Bob KE3AW Bob KE3FF Bruce KA3ONZ Tony, KE3RP, Woody, KA2ZQI Brad, KA1RAH, Paul, N3UGH Bob N3OLH Glenn ,N3ULW, Amy KD3TI, Jeff N3RVH Dick, KA3MOU Gary,KA3FUL Chuck N3VUO Bob, N3BWA John, WA3ZGL, Nancy, N3RAD Harold N3NVA Mitch N3UGS, Dave N3ODX John, N3GLZ Len N2BSC, Gus WA2PAC, Andy, N3HHH Dan, KA3AQV Julie N3CSQ Jeff, N3THP Scott, N3SQF Chuck, N3VUO, Jeff, KB2EVB and Ed, W3APE

Tourism and Amateur Radio in EPA

July 1, 1996

by Bob, WA3PZO

With summertime now with us, visitors will be travelling to the many vacation areas of Eastern Pennsylvania. Many of these visitors will be hams. They may be from out of state or from another part of Pennsylvania. In any event, lend an ear to your local repeater. If you hear an unfamiliar call, answer them and make them feel welcomed in your area. You'll be promoting amateur radio in EPA and confirming the slogan that ***Pennsylvania Hams Are Radio Active.*** ***de Bob, WA3PZO***



from the October 1995 West Allis ARC "Hamtrix"- Les Peterson W9YCV, editor and July/August 1996 ARNS Bulletin.

Phantoms help nab "The Phanthom Jamer"

via the ARRL Letter electronic Update July 5.



The Phantoms Amateur Radio Group (PARG) of Portland, Oregon, is claiming credit for helping police to nab "The Phantom Jammer," who was interfering with police calls in Seaside, Oregon, during the Northwest Division Convention in early June. John Mackey, KA0SSF, of PARG reports members were on the beach enjoying the annual PARG bonfire when KB7YZS heard someone "cursing and yelling at people" on the VHF police frequency, which he was monitoring at the time. After a few minutes of listening, members figured out that the person was up in a balcony and was with a mixed group. KB7YZS, KB7YZR, N7XMD, and AA7UP (who just happen to be most of the PARG Interference Committee) immediately activated direction-finding operations and tracked down the interference to a local motel. It only took them a few minutes to spot a group on a balcony, one of whom was using an H-T. After noting that the transmissions coincided with what they heard on the police frequency, PARG informed Seaside Police. A short time later, Mackey reports, Seaside Police "caught the person in the act."

Seaside Police subsequently charged Bobby Lee Aguero, KE6VNU, of Rocklin, California, with interfering with a police office. As we've already reported in The ARRL Letter and in QST, Aguero, 19, already faces similar charges in California.

Mackey said this was the second consecutive year PARG got to provide a public service during the Seaside convention. Last year several PARG members apprehended a purse thief--after a brief foot pursuit--returned the purse to its rightful owner, and detained the suspect until police could arrive.

Don't forget, DLARC
Hamfest August 4th
Be there, not just buy or sell but to help.

The Prez sez

by Tom, N3LLL



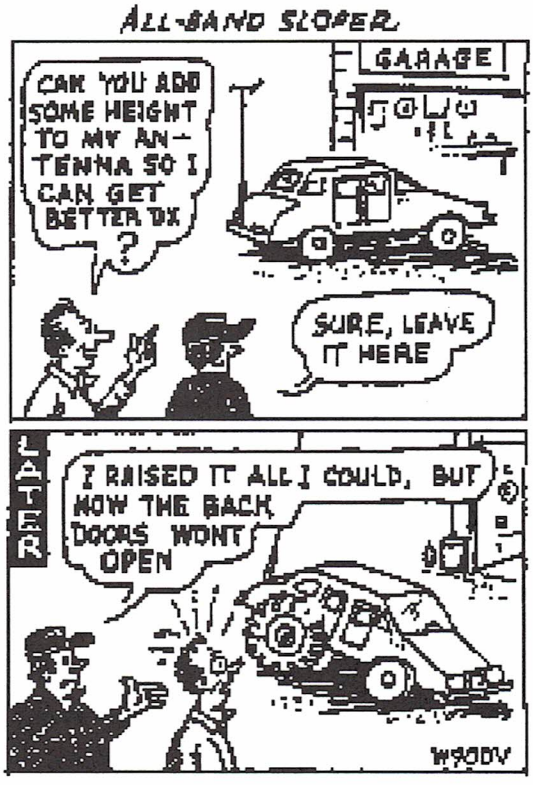
Well we made it!

We completeted two major events in one weekend, **Field Day** and the **MS 150**. The clubs and my thanks to each and everyone who participated, your help was greatly appriciated. Not very many clubs could support multiple activities at the level we do, pat yourselves on the back.

Our next summer hurdle is the hamfest, I hope to see all club members help and attend the event on **Sunday August 4th**. Two weeks later we will do som R&R at the DLARC annual picnic at Hacketts park in Easton. There will be plenty of food and fun for all.

Our August meeting will feature our **ARRL director Kay Craigie / WT3P** please make a special effort to attend the meeting. Kay is a great supporter of DLARC and our voice at ARRL. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

de Tom, N3LLL, president



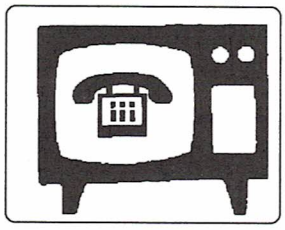
from the October 1995 West Allis ARC "Hamlnx"—Les Peterson, W9YCV, Editor

New media systems

The Cable Modem: A High-Speed Alternative?

By Joe Chuk, W3JD

Anyone who has ever "surfed the Web" has experienced the frustration of waiting what seems to be an eternity for even small graphics images to load. State-of-the-art



modems running at 28.8 kilobits per second (kbs) simply cannot transfer information fast enough. Because of this speed limitation, many resources available on the World Wide Web are much less useful than their CD-ROM counterparts. For instance, there are a number of web sites that provide custom maps of any location in the country; several competing CD-ROM programs have the same capabilities. Using these web sites is a sure prescription for insanity. After a long delay for the initial map to be displayed, each command to change the image (zooming in, for example) guarantees a similar wait. By comparison, the CD-ROM mapping programs provide information at lightning speed.

An Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) telephone line offers some increase in speed -- up to 128 kbs -- but prices for this service vary greatly among telephone companies, and are generally too high to justify the modest increase in speed. However, a system that takes advantage of the high bandwidth capability of cable television systems may well make Internet data virtually instantly available.

Theoretically, an entire television channel can deliver data at 30 megabits (that's 30,000 kilobits!) per second (mbs). Experiments with cable modems seem to be settling on a speed of 10 mbs. While this is still an enormous improvement over telephone modems, there's an important consideration that has to be kept in mind: All modem users on a cable system would use a common channel. What this means is that the more users who log on, the slower the effective speed. The per-user speed at peak times may go down to 200 to 300 kbs.

Another qualification is the state of the technology in each cable system. Obviously, in order to offer Internet service, a cable company needs interactive capability. Since cable television is essentially a one-way service, many of the country's 11,000 cable companies do not have an information return path established. Even among the systems that offer pay-per-view programming, many have to take customer orders over telephone lines, rather than through the cable system itself. The two-way capability essential for Internet service should be offered over state-of-the-art hybrid fiber-coax systems. Currently, only about 15 percent of cable subscribers are serviced by such systems.

There are several cable modem trials taking place around the country. The closest is one by Comcast Cable in Lower Merion Township, outside Philadelphia, and involves 50 participants. One problem being experienced in this trial is intermittent RF interference. The overall results have been positive, however, and Comcast is planning to launch commercial service in Baltimore later this year. Prices for the service will likely be between $20 and $50 per month.

Tele-Communications, Inc. (TCI), the country's largest cable operator, has been working on a cable modem service called @Home. TCI is considerably behind the schedule it had publicized, however. The national rollout of @Home was to take place in April of this year. Instead, the trial in Sunnyvale, CA is still in its alpha stage, with beta testing likely to start later this summer. Commercial deployments in Hartford, CT, and Arlington Heights, IL are planned for the third quarter of the year.

Cable modem service is already commercially available in Toronto, Canada. Rogers Cablesystems enrolled 550 subscribers in its first six months at $39.95 per month for 500 kbs service. Although a rental fee for the modem is included in the service charge, the system's owner would like to see customers buy their own modems, as they do with telephone modems. At a current price of about $500, however, cable modems might not be an easy sell.

The problems of high modem cost and the lack of interactive capability on most cable systems can both be addressed, however, with the introduction of hybrid cabletelephone modems. Instead of using the cable system for a return path, these modems use the telephone line. Since most applications require relatively little information to go from the customer to the Internet source, a much slower speed can be used for that part of the exchange. Not only is a hybrid modem's cost only about half that of a cable modem, but a cable system using the hybrid need not upgrade before offering Internet access.

Cable modems are bound to come down in price, though, once there is an industry standard set, which may happen by the end of the year. Once the technology is standardized, mass production of the modems will make them more affordable. And on those cable systems that do offer a return path, there would be a clear advantage to using the cable modem for both directions, rather than tying up a phone line.

With the open competition fostered by the Telecom Act of 1996, it's only a matter of time before web surfers begin to occupy cable lines as well as telephone lines. That same competitive atmosphere, however, may impel the telephone companies to develop higher speed paths to keep web access on their systems. Although the higher speed will only be available to consumers at prices that are higher than those paid today -- regardless of the provider -- ultimately, the competition should keep rates at reasonable levels. While the days of the seemingly interminable waits for web pages to load are not over yet, some relief is certainly on the horizon.

de Joe, W3JD.

Shannon Lucid writes a letter home

Dear Everybody!!

Here it is, another Sunday on Mir!!! And how, you might ask, do I know that it's Sunday? Easy!!! I have on my pink socks and Yuri and I have just finished sharing a bag of Jell-O!!!



When light follows darkness every 45 minutes, it is important that I have simple ways of marking the passage of time. The pink socks were found on STS-76 and Kevin, the commander, said that they were obviously put on as a surprise for me, so I took them with me over to Mir and decided to wear them on Sundays.

And the Jell-O? It is the greatest improvement in space flight since my first flight over ten years ago. When I found out that there was a refrigerator on board Mir, I asked the food folks at JSC if they could put Jell-O in a drink bag. Once aboard Mir, we could just add hot water, put the bag in the refrigerator and, later, have a great treat. Well, the food folks did just that and sent a variety of flavors with me to try out. We tried the Jell-O first as a special treat for Easter. It was so great that we decided the Mir 21- NASA 2 crew tradition would be to share a bag of Jell-O every Sunday night. (Every once in a while, Yuri will come up to me and say, "Isn't today Sunday?" and I will say "No, it's not. No Jell-O tonight!!!")

There have been a lot of changes here on Mir since I arrived. And no, the changes were not because I am here!!!

The first big change was the arrival of Priroda, the final segment that is to be added to Mir. This segment is called Priroda because that's the Russian word for nature and there are sensors on the outside of the segment to study the Earth. The US science equipment is located inside this segment.

As a graduate student years ago, I fantasized about having my own laboratory. I must admit, though, that in none of my fantasies was I gazing out the window of a space station watching "my laboratory" approach like a gigantic silver bullet moving in slow motion toward the station's heart!! Reality is indeed stranger than fiction!!!!

There had been a power problem on Priroda after its launch, so there was some concern about SO2 leaking from the batteries into the atmosphere. When it arrived, we had to wait and check out the air quality before opening the hatch. Yuri checked the air and pronounced it good. After listening to the hissing air as the atmospheric pressure was equalized between Priroda and Mir, the hatch was opened. And yes, it was a dramatic moment! There it was, all bright, shiny, and new.

The installed American glove box protruding into the aisle gave it a real "science" look. The bright orange cover on top of the glove box added a bit of color to the gray-blue and dusty-pink panels of the floor and walls. Station replacement parts and other equipment were bolted to the walls and ceiling. Just inside the hatch, on the first few floor panels, were bolted row after row of big orange and gray batteries, which were the power for Priroda on ascent. We had to start work almost immediately unbolting and bagging up the batteries because of the ground's concern about leaking SO2 into the atmosphere.

After a lot of work, the batteries on the floor were unbolted and I thought the job was complete. Then, Yuri opened a panel that revealed more rows of batteries to be unbolted. Another opened panel revealed yet more batteries; there were batteries without end!!! And each battery had to be unbolted, plastic caps had to be put on the four "feet" and on the connectors, and then each battery had to be bagged and tightly tied. Talk about a lot of work!!!! To even reach the batteries, some of the equipment had to be unbolted and the supporting metal framework taken apart.

So there the three of us were floating in Priroda surrounded by floating batteries, bagged batteries, equipment, and scrap metal. At times I thought that there was enough scrap metal floating there to build station Alpha!!! Periodically, free-floating metal pieces would impact each other creating clear metallic tones like cathedral bells in the module and we joked with each other about the "cosmic music" that we were hearing. We devised an assembly line to clean up the mess and got so efficient that we finished the task in one sixth of the time that the ground expected and earned ourselves a holiday.

The other big change, although it is not permanent, was the arrival of Progress, the resupply vehicle. Usually about every six weeks one is sent to Mir with food, equipment, clothes -- everything that, on Earth, you would have to go to the store and buy in order to live. Because it had deployed solar batteries, it was easier to spot while approaching the station than Priroda had been.

I saw it first. There were big thunderstorms out in the Atlantic, with a brilliant display of lightening like visual tom toms. The cities were strung out like Christmas lights along the coast -- and there was the Progress like a bright morning star skimming along the top!!! Suddenly, its brightness increased dramatically and Yuri said, "The engine just fired." Soon, it was close enough so that we could see the deployed solar arrays. To me, it looked like some alien insect headed straight toward us. All of a sudden I really did feel like I was in a "cosmic outpost" anxiously awaiting supplies --and really hoping that my family did remember to send me some books and candy!!!

Soon after it docked, the three of us began opening the hatch. When Yuri opened a small valve to equalize the pressure, we could smell the air that was in Progress. Yuri said, "Smell the fresh food." I will admit it was a fruit smell, but I though it smelled more like the first time you open your refrigerator after a two week vacation only to discover you had forgotten to clean out the vegetable compartment.

The first things we took out were our personal packages and, yes, I quickly peeked in to see if my family had remembered the books and candy I'd requested. Of course they had. Then we started to unpack. We found the fresh food and stopped right there for lunch. We had fresh tomatoes and onions; I never have had such a good lunch. For the next week we had fresh tomatoes three times a day. It was a sad meal when we ate the last ones!!!

After our impromptu lunch, we took the rest of the afternoon off, looking at our mail that was in the packages and enjoying the apples and oranges that were also on board. Yuri commented that for the first time all six of the docking ports were now occupied--a Guinness Book record!

Like I said, I had a wonderful bag of new books on Progress. My daughters had hand-selected each one, so I knew I'd enjoy them. I picked out one and rapidly read it. I came to the last page and the hero, who was being chased by an angry mob, escaped by stepping through a mirror. The end. Continued in Volume Two. And was there Volume Two in my book bag? No. Could I dash out to the bookstore? No. Talk about a feeling of total isolation and frustration!!!! You would never believe that grown children could totally frustrate you with their good intentions while you were in low earth orbit, but let me tell you, they certainly can. Suddenly, August and home seem a long way away!!!!

Shannon.

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

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DLARC INFORMATION LINE 820-9110

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CLUB MEETINGS

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7:30 PM at Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70
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