Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

August 1997

DLARC honored by American Red Cross

RFI Stories

by John, N3IGA

Did you know about the Heating Pad that sent Morse Code? Come to the **August 7** meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club in **Kiva Hall at the Northampton County College** and hear some stories of RFI.

I'm not an expert on RFI, but I may have some answers that you may be looking for.

You may pick up on some ideas from the few stories I will tell. If you have neighbors that blame you for interference, you may find the answers or see how this investigator found the problems with the equipment he uses.

DLARC honored by American Red Cross

During the meeting on July 10th at the NCC, two members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Red Cross presented an award to the **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** which read as follows:

Clara Barton Community Spirit Award

presented to

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club

for outstanding volunteer service & contributions to the activities that help our community prevent, prepare for, and cope with emergencies

With Appreciation
American Red Cross
Lehigh Valley Chapter

DLARC picnic Sunday August 17

The annual **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Picnic** will be held at **Hackett Park in Easton**, the same location that we have been using in the past.



Bring the family, it should be as good as ever, let **Tom, N3LLL** know what you will be bringing. As usual the liquid refreshments will be furnished by the club.

Easton Hospital 8th Annual Race and Run

For the eighth year the club will again be doing the safety watch during the Easton Hospital 5K Race and 1 mile walk on **Sunday, August 10.**. We will need about 9 operators total. If you can help, please contact **John N3IGA** and let him know. He will be keeping a record of those who can participate.

EASTON HOSPITAL Road Runners

We will meet at the Easton Hospital parking deck on 22nd and Lehigh Streets in Easton. Tee shirts to all who help.

FAR announces scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. has announced the winners for the fifty nine (59) scholarships which it administers.

Among the winners, are two local amateurs. They include:

Gregory Gutka, N3NLF of Easton

Jeffery A. Sherer, N3IPT, of Allentown.

Both of these scholarships are worth $800 each and are sponsored by the **Quarter Century Wireless Association.**

from Jim Walsh @ QCWA:

These two are just two of the fifteen scholarships that were awarded this year for a total of $11,900. This makes 152 grants since the beginning of the program and a total of $108.000.

Amateur Radio helps Pathfinder

Pathfinder mission engineer is WA6NVA:

Gordon Wood, WA6NVA, of La Canada, California, credits ham radio for starting him on the path that led to his becoming the chief engineer for communications for the Pathfinder mission.

Wood works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. The Pathfinder mission has, so far, been a spectacular success and popular with the public. Wood got into ham radio about 40 years ago, at age 12, when his father bought him an old shortwave radio at a thrift shop. An article July 4 in The Los Angeles Times quotes Wood as saying: "Mankind after all these years is reaching out from his own planet with little toys to snoop around and understand whatever else is out there in the universe." Previously, he worked on the Mariner, Viking and Voyager interplanetary missions.

Pathfinder images and news are available at

http://mars.sgi.com/,http://mpfwww.jpl.nasa.gov/, and

http://dhcom.com/astronomy/pathfinder.htm.

--thanks to Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR

Pathfinder frequency: If you're up for some real DXing, according to Phil Karn, KA9Q, the downlink frequency for the Mars Pathfinder it is 8.420 GHz.

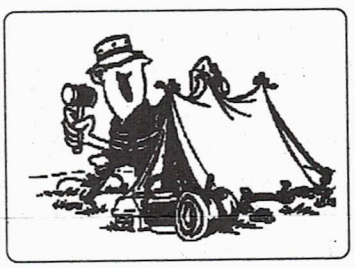
The ARRL Letter

Field Day 1997

by Bob, N3QQ, Field Day chairman

WOW...What a great weekend weather report! I studied the rain charts and found we would be blessed this year. We did not have very good propagation reports however.

Ahh but that has never stopped us. Saturday began like any other with the exception of great coffee, donuts and all the other great stuff to get our bodies working setting up the antennas and gear. Perhaps we had a slight decrease in the total helpers and operators from years past.



HEY, don't give up now just when the sunspots are supposed to start an upswing!! In a few years we might have 7 or 8 transmitters in operation instead of 3 and we will need all the help we can get! Anyway the **3-A EPA** crew was set up and ready in time and the operation went without much of a hitch. Just a slight genset problem which was solved quickly. Our score reflects lack of operators overnight on some stations but we were on the air and ready to communicate in ANY emergency. I dont want to miss anyone so I'll thank EVERYONE especially the few overnight operators and the ops who provided equipment.

We, the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club could not have done this without you! Thanks also to the genset guy and the food and beverage folks...Another banner year in that department!!

The Novice/Tech (N3NLF) crew did a good job and even had a CW contact. Everybody slid into home and maybe BED about 1800 Sunday.

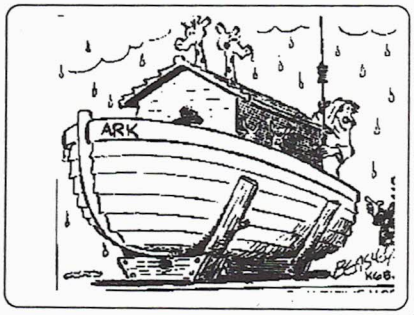
FINAL SCORE 6738 with 700 BONUS= 7438

de Bob, N3QQ

"Modern Noah"

via packet

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said: "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water and all the evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people, and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build Me an Ark."



And in a flash of lightning he delivered the specifications for an Ark. "OK," said Noah, trembling in fear and fumbling with the blueprints.

"Six months, and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You'd better have my Ark completed, or learn how to swim for a very long time."

And six months passed. The skies began to cloud up and rain began to fall.

The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, weeping. And there was no Ark. "Noah," shouted the Lord, "where is my Ark?" A lightning bolt crashed into the ground next to Noah.

"Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project, and your plans didn't meet code. So I had to hire an engineer to redraw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system. My neighbors objected, claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission.

Then I had a big problem getting enough wood for the Ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince U.S. Fish and Wildlife that I needed the wood to save the owls. But they wouldn't let me catch any owls. So no owls. Then the carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or a hammer. Now we have 16 carpenters going on the boat, and still no owls.

Then I started gathering up animals, and got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind. Just when I got the suit dismissed, EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood.

They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being. Then the Army Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed new flood plain. I sent them a globe.

Right now I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over how many Croatians I'm supposed to hire, the IRS has seized all my assets claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country, and I just got a notice from the state about owing some kind of use tax. I really don't think I can finish your Ark for at least another five years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled. "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth?" Noah asked, hopefully.

"No," said the Lord sadly, "Government already has".

from KE4PVG de KE4HSB, Bob

New Yorker's ham ticket suspended for 15 months

The FCC has suspended the Technician Class license of a ham in Brooklyn, New York, for causing willful or malicious interference, using obscene or indecent language and failure to identify. The licensee, Anthony Barben Jr., N2WNF, consented to a 15-month suspension which resulted from the FCC's efforts to resolve a rash of interference cases in the New York City-Long Island area. The FCC said the violations occurred in November 1996.

The FCC's Enforcement Division has requested that Barben forward his license to the Commission. The suspension became effective the week of June 15 --FCC

The ARRL Letter



Deliberations of a hospitalized ham

Israel Ham News

by Ahron Kirschner 4X1AT

Though I am a ham since 1948, with a short intermission somewhere down the years, since 1976 I became more and more active. For eight years running I organized 100 hour long activities of Special Event stations, always issuing nice awards for those of you who managed to work us. The last though was back in 1992 - three different stations at sites of research institutes.

Three years ago I was hospitalized for three and a half months. What does a crazy ham with his friends do?! The friends install a 14 MHz dipole antenna on top of the institution, the crazy amateur buys himself a TS50S HF rig and transmits from his bed... ....I do believe a feat like this can only be achieved in Israel. It is doubtful if in any other country one would get permission to operate a station, while doctors are visiting to watch the QSO's in progress. Now lately I had to pay the hospital another visit. This time for 'only' three weeks. In the mean time, about a year ago, I had two cataract eye operations performed and was at last able, after more than 20 years, to read without the necessity of wearing any glasses.

My wife suggested renting a television set but I declined. It was three weeks, not taking into account the aftermath of the operation I went through, of full enjoyment of reading books again! No HF no VHF or UHF around . No electronic logbook, no Packet Radio, not even the Internet. I suddenly realized how peaceful life can be without the daily hissing and crackling noises of radio signals reaching my ears. It turned out to be three glorious weeks. Did this heal me from my amateur craze? Far from it. It only was an interlude that increased the zest for more activity either from my base station or operating mobile. In the mean time my wife and I are preparing ourselves to operate the IARC stand at the Ham-Radio 97 at Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance in Germany.

It was great while it lasted but it is even better getting back to 'business'.

Ahron Kirschner 4X1AT

This story and the one that follows on another page came because I sent an email to Ahron, giving him heck because he did not update his home page on the Internet.

Contest Calendar

by Barry, KU3X Contest editor

Aug 2-3 ARRL UHF Contest
North American QSO Party, CW
Ten Ten International Phone Contest
YO DX Contest
Aug 9-10 Maryland-DC QSO Party
Worked All Europe CW Contest
Aug 16-17 ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
KCJ Contest
New Jersey QSO Party
North American QSO Party, phone
SARTG Worldwide RTTY Contest
SEANET 1997 SSB Contest
W/VE Islands Contest
Aug 30-31 TOEC WW Grid Contest, CW

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

For Sale

Kenwood TS820 with 800 hz cw filter
Kenwood MC-50 Microphone
Kenwood HS-4 Headphones

Drake MN-4 Antenna Tuner (300W)
Dentron SWR-1A SWR Meter

Kenwood TR7950 2 meter Transceiver
Kenwood KPS-12 Power Supply
Cushcraft CS-147 Mobile Mag Mount Antenna

Yaesu FT-208R Handie Talkie
Yaesu YM-24A Speaker Microphone
Yaesu NC-8 Drop in Charger and pwr supply

Contact Don, KC3II at 610 252-5696

Cushcraft A3-S triband beam with stainless steel hardware.
Partially assembled. Never used. Asking $250 or best offer

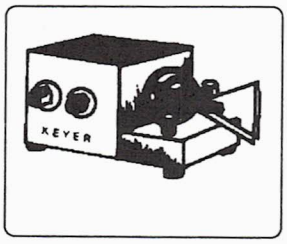
Call Daryl K3EX, at 610 866-4286.

Morse: a skill, an art form

Israel Ham News

by Ahron Kirschner 4X1AT
and Ron Gang 4X1MK

(In the light of the ongoing debate on the issue of continuing the compulsory Morse tests for an HF amateur radio license, I gathered my thoughts on the matter. I offer the following results of my meditations on the subject....) I like Morse! It's got rhythm, and a QSO with another ham who has a good fist (who sends a good, easy-to-listen to and easy to copy Morse) is like a good handshake! I love sitting back and hearing good Morse which is sent so well that I can close my eyes and see the letters appear inside my head! Accomplished Morse operators abbreviate the words to save time, and the originality of how they make the words shorter, exchange the shorter letter "i" (..) for the longer "y" (-.--), for example, contain a humor, a wink of the eye, that add spice to the language. Indeed an accomplished Morse operator can insert into his communication as much personality as can a voice operator (many of whom do not use the media for real communicating, but just for QSL card collecting, anyway) who is an accomplished ragchewer. It takes some time to bring your Morse up to this level of proficiency so that it becomes as much as a language of expression as any other. It's not necessarily easy, in fact I would dare to say that it's a skill like being a good pianist or guitarist... it takes lots of practice, devotion, love, and possibly also a generous helping of inborn talent. Indeed some of the best Morse operators I have known have also been musicians.



At this juncture I would like to pay tribute to a new silent key, Isaac Halfon 4X1FU, who recently passed on beyond the ionosphere. Isaac played percussion with the Haifa symphony orchestra. He was also a very fine Morse operator. May that eternal part of his being that survives this realm find its way to the very best possibility for his continuation!

Coming back to earth, as it were, I remember working on the satellite OSCAR 10, with poor conditions. I could hear the SSB station I was calling, but my voice signals were too weak for his receiving set-up. So I called him on CW, but alas he replied, "Sorry, old man, but I do not know Morse." Too bad. His loss.

<u>Having said all this (and</u> I can't believe how fast time has passed... I have continuously held a ham license for the past 31 years!!!),

In the case of the debate, I cast my vote for morse not being a compulsory component of any amateur exam.

Yes, I think that Morse is a valuable mode, and a useful asset to any amateur (just like having PACKET or AMTOR or PACTOR or whatever you chose). Indeed in these days where technological advances seem to sadly have replaced manual skills, craftsmanship on the part of the consumers who can now rely on machines to do their work, Morse is no longer a necessity. In the old days it was necessary, but TODAY, no more.

Those, like myself, who love and value Morse will continue to use it and enjoy its special advantages and characteristics. But there are others who do not devote themselves to this mode, but to other modes (just as many people do not play the piano as I happen to do). I have seen new amateurs in my country with the VHF code-free license advance the state of ham radio here contributing in the building digital communications systems for all our benefit or working on building the Techsat amateur satellite (which unfortunately was lost in the failed launching in Pletsk Russia last year.

So after having typed these many words I say to my fellow hams:

Be tolerant. there is today much more to being a good radio amateur than just knowing morse. in the interest of allowing our hobby to grow and stay with the developing phases of communications, we must free the amateurs, on hf as well, of having to be skilled morse operators.

And I shall continue to use Morse. I consider myself lucky that I have learned the skill and am able to take advantage of it. You know, I prefer a Morse contact, even though' it's somewhat slower, to a keyboard to keyboard digital-mode real-time QSO. It's just with Morse, I can sense the presence of the person with whom I'm communicating. But that's what I like!!!!

Ron Gang, 4X1MK

Tips on lightning protection .

by Clinton, AB7RG

submitted from packet by KE3AW

Hello out there in packet land! What I'd like to do in this bulletin is to give a few hints and ideas on lightning protection. Now, this is by no means a "sure thing", so it won't guarantee that you will not lose any of your radio equipment when there's a lightning strike. These are just a few tips that I use and have seen/heard other hams using. It should help to minimize the risk to your hard earned equipment, and maybe you. Remember, there's never a guarantee when it comes to lightning.



First off I heavily advise hams to make up some sort of quick disconnect box for their coax. I have mine outside, just a few feet away from where the coax comes into the house. It's a closed locking metal box with a copper buss bar inside. The coax comes in from the towers etc. down through the top of the box and hooks onto some "all thread" barrel connectors. This allows me to easily and quickly disconnect all of my coax cable coming into the house whenever I start hearing rumbling off in the distance. Some people just will just disconnect their radios from the coax inside of their house and put the coax ends in a jar. Personally I do not like this idea, since if there is a direct hit, you just may have lightning come down your coax, and I don't think that any of you out there would like a large lightning ball coming into your house!

My grounding box as I call it also has drain holes in the bottom of it, but is shielded from rain. A small battery powered light is also located in the top of it, just for those "midnight disconnects". It keeps your hands free so you can disconnect the coax quick, and not have to hold a clumsy flashlight. My station ground is also in this box, and is hooked to the buss bar by a PL-259, I can disconnect and isolate it, so that lightning cannot come up my station ground. Also, this grounding box has two 8 foot copper clad steel ground rods that it uses for a ground, connected by a large roll of copper wire that is connected to the copper buss bar. The copper wire is connected to the ground rods by large brass grounding clamps.

After you build a grounding box, this is a really good time to get some colored electrical tape, and color code your coax. Also, take a small paintbrush, marker and write the color code inside of the box's lid. Not to mention on a few pieces of paper. Keep one in your wallet. Don't forget to color code both sides of your coax, the one that you disconnect in the grounding box, and the other side that goes from the box and into the house. This avoids "big time" confusion later when you go to hook back up.

Keep in mind that nearby lightning can destroy your radio equipment, it doesn't take a direct hit. I have seen and heard static jump from the center core conductor to the outer shield on a piece of coax when there was nearby lightning. Not very good when it's connected to your transceiver.

Another thing, one that most people tend to forget, is your rotator control cable. I have mine set up with DIN plugs, it is the last thing that I disconnect, after I turn the beams into the wind. You do want to have the cable easily disconnected, because once again, lightning can go down the cable and hit your control box, not good. Just about any type of din plug will do, as long as it is sturdy, and has enough connections for your particular type of control cable.

Now, notice that my station ground, and the coax grounding box are not connected to either of my tower grounds. I figured that I want to make the lightning more "attracted" to the tower's ground than the coax grounding box's ground. Speaking of my towers, both of them have four 8 foot copper clad steel ground rods surrounding them, and are connected to the towers by 1/2 inch diameter copper wire, two wraps to be precise. This wire is attached by the heavy duty brass grounding clamps. Notice that I say that the ground rods surround the tower. I did not put the rods in the cement base. This is for a good reason, I have seen tower concrete bases busted when the tower got struck, so I wanted to minimize the risk of that. For my guy wires, they are 5/8 inch highline cable, made of galvanized steel. These are secured to the ground by eight foot galvanized steel rods driven in at an angle. The guy wires themselves are insulated by porcelain "jonny balls", like you see on highlines. The reason that I didn't want my guy wires to be grounded, is simple; all it would take is some how foolish enough to be outside hanging on to one of those and have a strike hit the tower, and come down the wire, nailing whoever is holding onto the guy wire. Most people are smart enough not to do this, but there are always a few exceptions.

Now that you have effectively isolated your shack from lightning, to the best of you're ability, you will want to think about some indoor antennas. One 1/4 wave two meter mag mount on a piece of metal should do you nicely. That and a Pico-J are what I use. I power the equipment with two motorcycle batteries, along with two marine deep cycle batteries. Think about getting a dry cell case for your HT too. You can always find some AA's around, and your local grocery store can keep you re- supplied if needed. Monitor with your scanner, and save your batteries for transmitting on your HT.

Well, these are a few things that I personally use to help to protect all of my radio equipment etc. It is no guarantee that it will "defeat" mother nature, but it does give me peace of mind knowing that I have done all that I can do to protect myself and my equipment from any lightning strikes. Yes, my from tower did take a hit last year, and luckily there was no damage.

I hope that this gives you some new ideas to think about, and it's getting thunderstorm season here in AZ. and if you have any ideas or comments on this, or another issue, please post them to NEWHAM@USA, and help out your fellow amateurs, new, old, and intermediate.

PS. If anyone knows of phone patches that are in use, you might go ahead and post that to NEWHAM also, I saw that there is someone asking about that, and I do not know of any personally. Just the local repeater autopatches, nothing on HF that I am aware of.

de Clinton AB7RG.

Skywarn

by John, N3IGA

By the 4th of July, the 39 Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club members and guests, who stayed and filled out the SKYWARN forms, should have received their SKYWARN certificates, decal, and their individual SKYWARN ID number.

Everybody has to realize that SKYWARN is only activated when there is a severe weather watch or warning. This will come from the National Weather Service in Mount Holly, NJ.

If SKYWARN is activated, it will be on 146.700. The Net Control will start up the NET.

Check in with your name, callsign, and your ID number. You can still check in if you don't have an ID number. The Net Control will still take your information. Hopefully there will be other spotters in the same area to verify the information given.

If for some unknown reason the Net Control doesn't start up the Net or severe weather forms without a watch or warning, that is when you can use the 800 number that was on the information sheet that was sent with the certificate. This number is only used for severe weather reports and you must use your ID number when giving information.

If any certified spotters have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 146.700, leave a packet message on W3PYF's BBS, or Email me at n3iga@juno.com.

de John, N3IGA
Lehigh Valley SKYWARN Coordinator.

Jim Woof, N3QZS

Club member Jim Woof, is now stationed in Sarajevo.. His address is:

WO1 James A Woof,
Btry F (-) 109th FA
Operation Joint Guard
Q-36 Radar, Sarajevo
APO, AE 09780

I had a nice letter from him telling of some of his experiences there, including a visit by the Pope. He tells of the special event station run from there by **T91A**, which used the call **T97POPE.**

Clarence, W3PYF

PA QSO Party for Windows ©

by Don, KA3JWE

Do you participate in the PA QSO Party? Would you like to? Do you run Windows 3.1© or Windows95© If so, then there is a new logging program that you should check out. It was written just for the PA QSO Party.

It is simple to use and has a number of convenient features. It not only prints the log and dupe sheets, but also the summary sheet. It has a completely customizable CW section, displays the counties and sections worked along with the bonus points earned and your current score right on the main page and allows you to easily enter stations on county lines.

If you have internet access and would like to see what the program looks like and even download a demo version, go to **http://www.enter.net/~donster** for an online tour.

Contact me directly to obtain a copy of the program. I am in the club roster, and good in the callsign databases and callbooks or by email at **donster@enter.net.**

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

6/1/97 Through 6/30/97

Balance 5/31/97		$4,607.13
INCOME		
Dues ARRL Misc.	429.00	
TOTAL INCOME		429.00
EXPENSES		
Field Day	205.00	
Guest Meal	6.34	
Newsletters	127.00	
Novice Class	116.80	
Postage	185.00	
Renewal	399.00	
Supplies	12.18	
Telephone	58.78	
TOTAL EXPENSES		1110.10
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES		-681.10
Balance 6/30/97		$3,926.03

Total Membership 350

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

FCC to open vanity gate 3

The ARRL Letter

The long wait is over for **Advanced class** amateurs. The FCC has just announced that it will open filing Gate 3 of the Vanity Call Sign Program on **Wednesday, August 6, 1997**. Advanced class hams will be able to apply for a call sign appropriate to their license class on or after that date.

Applicants must file either a paper FCC Form 610V or electronically via the FCC's Web site at **http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html** and pay the current $30 fee.

The August 6 deadline squeaks under the implementation of the FCC's new fiscal year 1997 fee schedule, adopted June 16. Under the FY 97 schedule, which becomes effective September 15, 1997, the vanity application fee will jump to $50 a year. The ARRL had asked the FCC to suspend implementation of the higher FY 1997 fee until after the remaining gates have been opened and applicants had an opportunity to file under the old schedule. The FCC's response, buried within the Report and Order adopting the higher fees, suggests the FCC could also be planning to open Gate 4 fairly soon. "We expect our remaining vanity call sign 'gates' to open before the effective date of our FY 1997 regulatory fee payment requirement," the FCC said in turning down the request for a delay. But, the FCC added that applicants "are expected to pay the fee applicable at the time they file."

The bottom line is that hams applying for a vanity call sign on or after September 15 must pay the $50 fee.

Payment of fees may be made by check (payable to FCC), bank draft, money order or credit card. If paying by credit card, you must also complete and submit FCC Form 159 with your FCC Form 610V. Do not send cash.

Send your application package to:

Federal Communications Commission,
Amateur Vanity Call Sign Request,
Box 358924,
Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924

If you file a paper application, remember that legibility is critical! If your application is not able to be deciphered easily by FCC personnel, you could experience a delay in processing, lose the opportunity to obtain a requested call sign or even obtain a call sign different from what you want. Be sure to include your current Amateur Radio call sign on your vanity application.

Under Gate 3, you must hold an unexpired Advanced class operator/primary station license to request a vanity call sign for your primary station. To request a vanity call sign for a club station under Gate 3, you must also hold an unexpired club station license grant listing you as the license trustee. Applicants should refer to the licensee database to verify that a requested call sign is not already assigned. A call sign is normally assignable two years following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set aside, cancellation, void ab initio, or death of the grantee.

Using Form 610V or its on-line electronic equivalent, applicants may request up to 25 call signs in the order of preference. The first assignable call sign on the list will be the one the FCC assigns. Remember: When requesting a call sign under Gate 3 for your primary or club station, the call sign must have been unassigned for at least two years. As an Advanced class operator, you may request a call sign only from groups B, C or D.

Any call sign requested must be one designated for the region of your mailing address, as follows:

* One of the contiguous 48 states: Regions 1 to 10. * Alaska: Regions 1 to 11. * American Samoa: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 8. * Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 0. * Guam: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 2. * Hawaii: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 6 or 7. * Puerto Rico: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 12 having numeral 3 or 4. * Virgin Islands: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 12 having numeral 2.

For explanations of Groups B, C and D and the geographic regions, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206S, Amateur Station Sequential Call Sign System

For more information on the vanity call sign program, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206V Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign System.

If you file before the opening date or do not qualify under the Gate 3 eligibility standards, your application will be dismissed.

General, Technician Plus, Technician, and Novice class operators will become eligible to request vanity call signs under Gate 4. The FCC has not indicated when it plans to open Gate 4.

For further information, contact the Consumer Assistance Branch at 800-322-1117 or call the FCC's National Call Center, 888-225-5322 (CALL FCC)..

Ham radio "A useful tool" aboard Mir

The ARRL Letter

Mir alumnus **John Blaha, KC5TZQ**, says ham radio aboard the Russian space station has turned out to be more than a morale booster. "Now, more than in the past, it's a useful tool to get information back and forth," Blaha said over the weekend--just before heading for Russia to monitor Russian efforts to resolve the latest Mir crisis.

Blaha said the lack of power aboard Mir is the most important concern since it's impeding the crew's ability to do scientific research. "What occurred is significant," he said of the accidental collision between the Mir and an unmanned Progress rocket during practice maneuvers. Repairing the crippled space station will involve "space walks and a lot of complexity." He speculated that it could be a matter of months before the power situation on the space station is back to normal. Despite the troubles, "the Mir is safe," he said.

The life support systems are operating and "they can jump into the Soyuz." While the Soyuz would serve as a lifeboat for a US astronaut aboard Mir, Blaha said the Soyuz is simply the vehicle the Russian crew members normally used to get up and down. "It's a very good vehicle," he said. "It's their shuttle." Blaha said the crew "did the right thing" when they realized the Progress rocket had punctured the Mir's outer shell. "They, in effect, saved the Mir space station," he said.

Blaha said that after some briefings in Houston, he was scheduled to travel to Russia "just to find out where they're headed" in resolving the Mir's troubles. He said he expected to be there for a week or two.

The last-minute change in plans meant Blaha was unable to participate in Field Day with Oklahoma's Lawton/Ft Sill Amateur Radio Club, W5KS. Mark Ewell, KC5IZN, had invited Blaha and his wife, Brenda, to Oklahoma June 26-29 to visit a space camp for youngsters at Cameron University and to speak at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon the day before FD, and to get on the air with the club.

As it turned out, Ewell said, Blaha turned in inspiring appearances at the camp and luncheon before heading back to Houston. He also gave an interview to a local TV station. "It was one of the nicest days of my life," said Ewell..

Twenty meters opens for Queen's ham radio debut

The ARRL Letter

As if by royal decree, a sluggish 20 meters suddenly opened between St John's, Newfoundland, and Bristol, England, on June 25 as Queen Elizabeth II became the first reigning British monarch to speak over ham radio. Paul Piercey, VO1HE, president of the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA), which arranged the transmission between VO500JC and GB500JC, said band conditions had been "quite poor" immediately prior to the event. "It was not known if the contact would be made," he said.

But when the appointed hour arrived, Piercey said, "it was almost as if the path opened up and, at 1801 UTC, the contact was made." The response from Martyn Phillips, G3RFX, on the Bristol side "was quite loud, despite the poor conditions," Piercey reported. He and Dan Goodwin, VO1MX, assisted the Queen on the Canadian end of the QSO, while Phillips, Cyril Chapman, G2HDR, and Robin Thompson, G3TKF, responded on behalf of the people of Great Britain.

The occasion was the 500th anniversary of the "Voyage of Discovery" to the New World by explorer John Cabot in 1497. VO500JC was located in Cabot Tower on St John's Signal Hill, which, in earlier times, served as a signaling post to announce approaching ships to the city's merchants. The VO500JC QTH also was just a few hundred feet from the site where Guglielmo Marconi received the first wireless transatlantic signal on December 12, 1901. The Queen referred to that accomplishment in her brief remarks over the air and added, "I am happy to know that Newfoundland and Labrador is still in the forefront of the communications industry and is working closely with other leaders in this field across the Atlantic."

SONRA is planning to host a celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of Marconi's historic accomplishment in December 2001.

On the Canadian side, the equipment used was a Kenwood TS-850SAT, a Heathkit SB-200 amplifier running approximately 400 W and a simple wire dipole about 20 feet above the Powder Magazine, an outbuilding which served as the shack. The UK group, operating from Phillips' home, used a Kenwood TS-950SDX into a Linear Amp UK amplifier with 400 W output to a 3-element tribander at 60 feet.-

Paul J. Piercey, VO1HE/SONRA

The K2WK Defense fund

The Radio Amateurs' Defense & Information Organization, Inc..

Walt Kornienko, K2WK, was first licensed when he was 12 years old. When heard his wife Lillian moved from Newark, he thought they had found the perfect 3.5 acre spot in rural Sussex County for his antenna farm. It was a hilltop lot in Lafayette Township, across from Christ House, a retreat house run by Franciscan priests, and they built their new home overlooking the hills. Walt is an avid contester, recently having won the SOA number 2 spot in the CQ Worldwide CW Contest, quite a feat, but marred by the attempts of one his neighbors to put him off the air.

While one of his other neighbors has gone so far as to consent to Walt's extending a stearable beverage onto his adjoining property, Leopold and Karen Korins next door have done all in their power to stop Walt from using the privileges of his license. Most recently they started and lost a lawsuit against Walt charging him with being a legal nuisance because of their poor television reception and noisy telephones. The Superior Court Judgment was in Walt's favor, but the Korins have filed an appeal to the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court. Since the outcome may well affect all the more than 10,000 Hams licensed in New Jersey, the A.R.R.L. has agreed to seek to file a Brief on the appeal as a "Friend of the Court".

Although Walt has had to carry the entire legal costs to date, (over $10,000.00), the local Sussex County Amateur Radio Club and the Frankford Radio Club, are trying to help raise funds for the appeal, and hopefully to reimburse Walt for some of the cost he has paid so far. If you can help Walt, send a check in any amount.

Coming soon an opportunity to win a brand new HF rig, watch for details The Radio Amateurs' Defense & Information Organization, Inc. will be Sponsoring a drawing Each $20.00 donation gives you an opportunity to win an Icom - 706 MKII which covers HF and 6 and 2 meters Retail value $1,300 Drawing will be held at the NJ State ARRL Convention at Lincroft, NJ on October 12, 1997, Ticket Holder need not be present to win

Proceeds will benefit the **"K2WK Defense Fund"** In addition the Hudson Division Director, Frank Fallon, N2FF wrote for the Hudson Division Loop:

Kornienko TVI case appealed

by Deb, N2TTP

The court decision in Lafayette Township, NJ favoring **Walter Kornienko, K2WK,** is being appealed. We thought we had a BIG win when the court upheld FCC preemption in interference cases. But, it's now back in the courts.

The important message here is that **ARRL** is doing all that it can and filing a "Friend of the Court" brief. That does cost money and it is done on behalf of all ARRL members in NJ who have a very large stake in seeing Walter protected and the concept of FCC preemption in "interference cases" maintained.

As I said at the Sussex County ARC meeting, "We need to spread the pain." It is not fair that Walter foot the entire bill alone. He has already spent $10,000 of his own money defending himself in a civil suit. He was given permission from the town for his tower. A neighbor sued him alleging interference problems. This is an important case and we need to stand squarely behind him with a few bucks in our hands. It is very clear that his neighbor is in the wrong and harassing him with these law suits. Because ARRL has IRS 501(c)(3) exemption status, it cannot give money to an individual to pay his legal bills but they can fund the amicus brief. That is being done.

I spoke to Robert Shelton, N2EDF, on the telephone at length about the case and he is going to get off the briefs and video tape of the hearing to (ARRL General Counsel) Chris Imlay, W3KD, as soon as possible. Bob is a retired NJ judge acting as advisor on this case. (A release from Bob appears below. -- Ed.) The lawyer representing Walter is Dick Clark of a Sparta, NJ firm.

A "K2WK Defense Fund" has been established. Contributions may be sent to:

RADIO
K2WK Defense Fund
Box 343
Williston Park, NY 11596

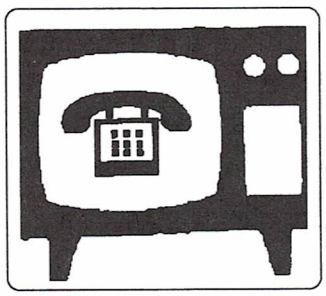
de N2TTP Deb McKay
ARRL, Hudson Div, Assistant Director

New media systems New Technologies:

Color NTSC vs. DTV

By Joe Chuk, W3JD

In 1953, the FCC approved a system for adding color to the NTSC television standard that had been established 12 years earlier. The change to color from an image that consisted of shades of gray ("black and white") would be as obvious as Dorothy's passage from a monochromatic Kansas to a full-color Oz. In 1996, the FCC approved a system for broadcasting a television signal (digital television, or DTV) with twice the detail and a wider, more movie-like appearance than the NTSC picture. Despite the fact that the transition to DTV was the biggest change to television technology since the introduction of color, the implementation of the two changes will likely follow two very different routes.



Color television was standardized at a time when television itself was still growing as an industry. A freeze on station applications imposed in 1948 had just been lifted a year earlier, after the assignment of hundreds of channel allocations in the newly-designated UHF TV band. The American public, although used to seeing color motion pictures in theaters, was still fascinated with being able to see performers in their own homes, rather than simply hearing them on radio. The fact that the images weren't in color didn't seem to matter to most viewers.

The television networks themselves did not give color television production a high priority, since they were doing just fine -- with steadily growing income -- providing black-and-white programming. It wasn't until the 1960's that one network, NBC, gave a serious effort to producing a full-color schedule, beginning with Bonanza. The famous NBC peacock was the network's way of alerting those viewers with color TVs to turn up their color controls.

Because NTSC color is a "compatible" system, viewers with black-and-white television sets were always able to view programs broadcast in color as simple black-and-white programs. The color transmissions didn't make the old TVs obsolete. Therefore, color could be introduced into the network schedules at a leisurely pace, as more color sets appeared in viewers' homes. It wasn't until 1966, a full 13 years after the approval of a color standard, that NBC (owned not-so-coincidentally by RCA, the same company that developed the color system established as the standard) programmed a full prime-time schedule in color.

There are some significant differences between what happened with color TV and what is about to happen with DTV. First of all, DTV is far from compatible. To get the new pictures, viewers will either have to buy new digital television sets or invest in a converter for each set they own, in order to "dumb down" the DTV signal to something that their old TVs can display. The price estimates for both the sets and the converters -- since neither of them is in a production run -- are nothing more than wild guesses at this point, from $3000 and $300 respectively on the high end to an optimistic low of $1000 and $100.

Another big difference is the fact that, unlike the introduction of color, the transition to DTV is on a federally mandated schedule, with the first transmissions to begin in 1998 and all NTSC transmissions to cease by 2006 -- less than ten years after the adoption of the standard. Both broadcasters and consumers will have to make the change, whether they want to or not.

And that brings us to another difference: the significance to the viewer. There's no question that a color television program provides a different viewing experience from one in black-and-white (witness the controversy over colorizing classic monochromatic films for television broadcast). There's a real question, however, whether the American public is in favor of a wholesale change in the delivery of television programs that will require a large investment on the part of every viewer just to continue to receive programming. Despite the "Oh, wow" factor of the greater detail available with HDTV (but not with the multiple channels in standard definition that are likely to be the far more common use of DTV transmissions), initial tests of the impact of higher definition have not produced impressive results. Many viewers tested paid more attention to the wider picture than to the increased resolution. Moreover, consumers have shown a tolerance of lower resolution video associated with some current technology. Both home video (including that actually used at home and the amateur video incorporated into "reality" TV programs) and video over the Internet show much less detail than "broadcast quality" NTSC standards -- yet both have a strong mass appeal.

In the 1950s and 60s, television viewers saw color television as a novelty that they would only gradually come to embrace. It will be quite interesting to follow the viewer acceptance of digital television-- and the expense involved with receiving it.

de Joe, W3JD

Remember!

RACES-ARES-DLARC nets meet on Sunday at 9:30 AM

and Wednesday at 7:00 PM..

Just the Minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary

The July meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh ARC was called to order by Tom, N3LLL, in Kiva Hall. There were 60 members and guests present. The meeting minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Clarence, W3PYF, and seconded by Martin, N3DL.



Dick, KA3MOU, gave the Treasurer's Report. The beginning balance was $4,607.13. Expenses for June was $1,110.10. Ending balance as of June 30 is $3,926.03. Gary, N3PNT, made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with Norm, N3GXW seconding.

We had two representatives from the Red Cross to present to the club the "Community Service Award". This is the highest award that is presented to a business or organization that shows exceptional service. The club received this award for all the help that the DLARC has given the Red Cross over the years.

Next month's speaker is John, N3IGA. The topic will be "RFI Stories" He will tell a few stories of what grief some people had to go through to solve an RFI problem. September will be "Workbench Techniques", as well as someone from the ARRL to talk about the services and functions that ARRL provides all of us.

Dan, W3ZF, has been in charge of the Club's Loaner Program for the last two years. Due to the shortage of space at his house, he is looking for somebody to take over. Anybody interested, please contact Dan.

JP, N3GWR, told the members present about his misfortune. He advised everyone to take a camcorder and go through their house and video every room to show what's in those rooms. After doing that, take the tape and put it somewhere else beside your house for safe keeping.

Ray, W3TDF, showed everybody the PA QSO Party Trophy that we won again. He also talked about the PA QSO Party Banquet he went to in Harrisburg. Ray gave a little Show-N-Tell showing what you can do with old TV antenna parts.

Jeff, N3THP, received an award from Bob, KE3AW, which came from the MS 150. It was given to the DLARC which in turns gives it to the youngest participant from the club.

The club would like to welcome the following new members:

Joseph Manzek, KB3BTJ
Edward Wagner, W3HER
Donald Meiley, N3ZNO
Joshua Parris, N3VJA
Robert Daniels, WA3MGN

The speaker for the night was Tom, N3LLL. He gave a great talk on what and when to buy and when to take a risk on some equipment. He explained how to clean up that old equipment to make it look good.

de John, N3IGA

A real gentleman

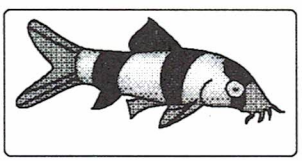
My Two neighbors were having coffee. "You know," said one, "I was telling my husband that even after twenty years of marriage your husband is still a gentleman. I always see him get out of the car, walk around to your side and open the door for you."

"Well," said her Friend, "what you don't know is that every time he does it, he says he is going to have that blasted door handle fixed tomorrow if it's the last thing he does."

anonymous

Something fishy?

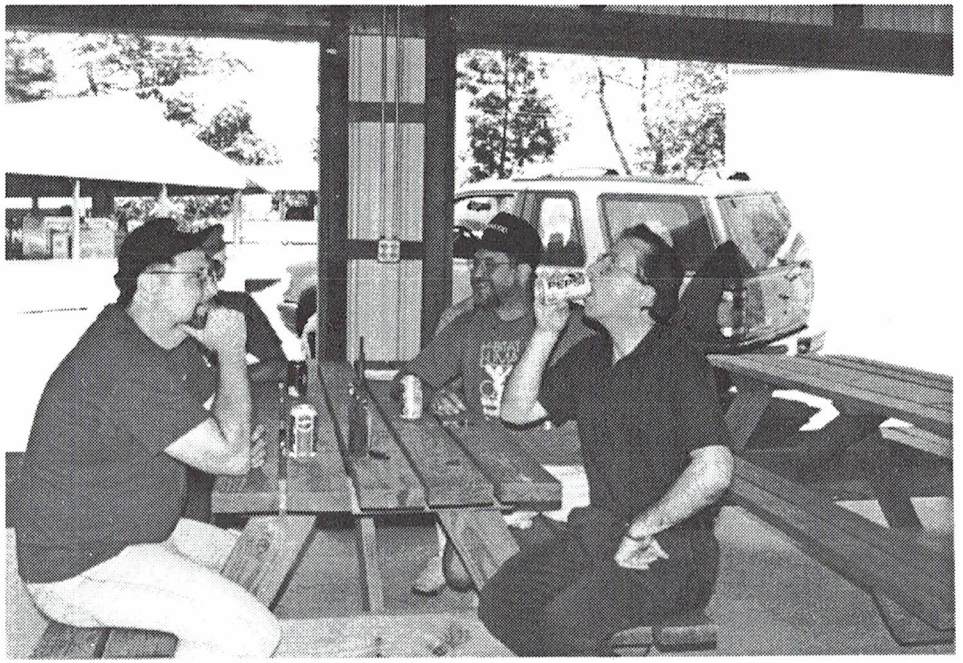
A man phones home from his office and tells his wife, "Something has just come up. I have the chance to go fishing for a week. Its the opportunity of a lifetime. We leave right away. So pack my clothes, my fishing equipment, and especially my blue silk pajamas. I'll be home in an hour to pick them up." He goes home in a hurry and grabs everything and rushes off.



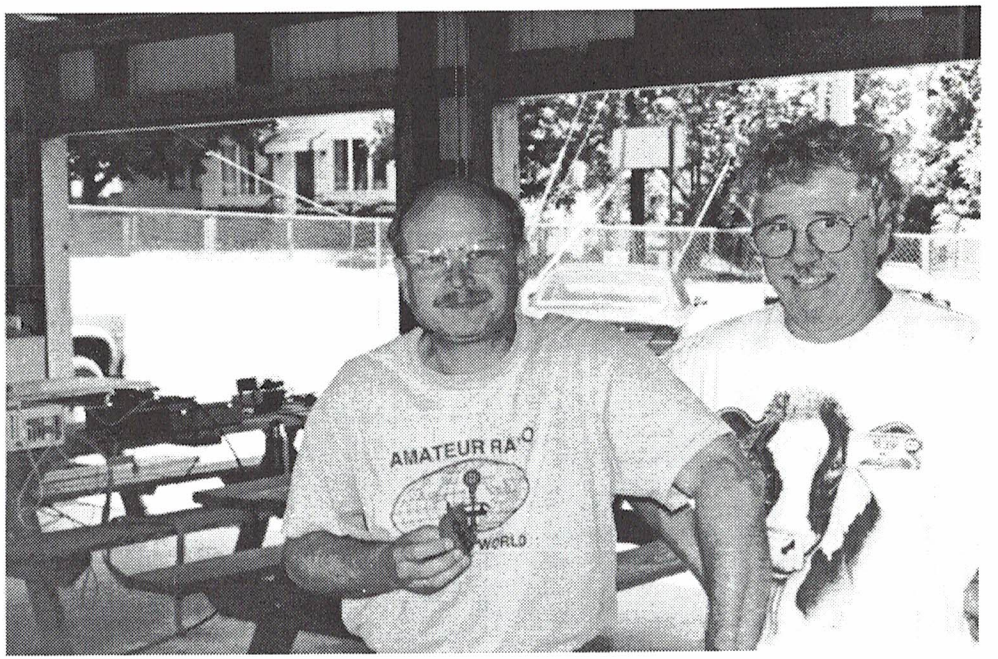
A week later he returns. His wife asks: "Did you have a good trip, Dear?" He says: "Oh yes, the fishing was great, but you forgot to pack my blue silk pajamas!

His wife smiles and says, "Oh, no I didn't, I put them in your tackle box."

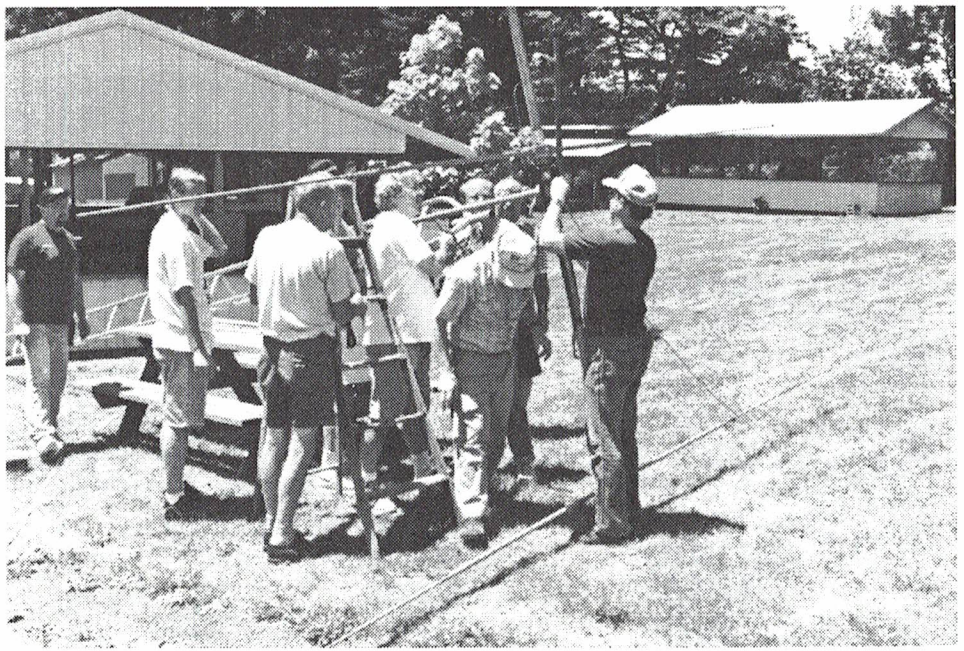
Field Day Mug Shots By N3PNT, WO4H & KU3X



What No BEER!!!!!!!!! Is this the Pepsi generation?



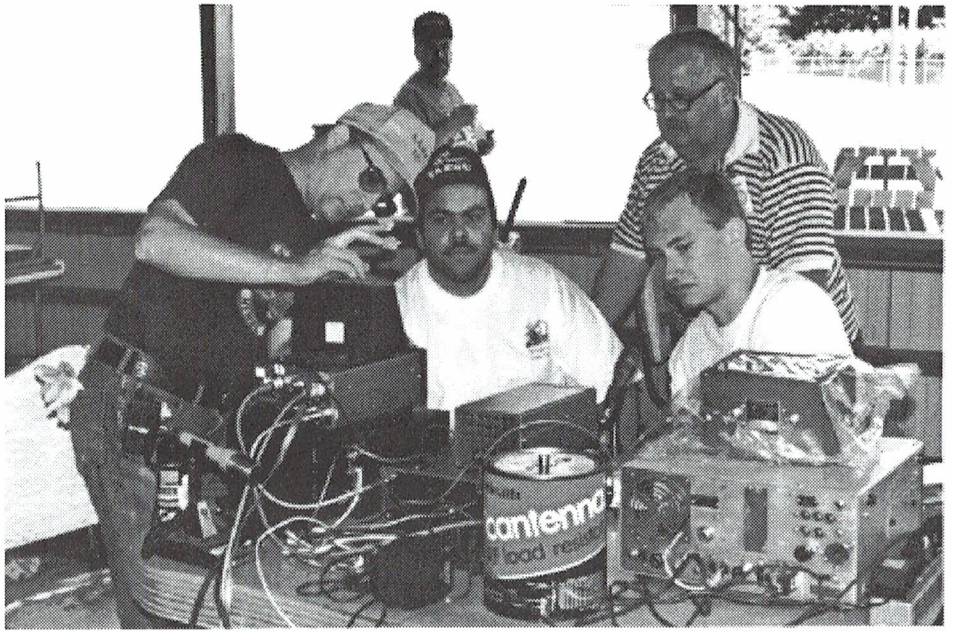
Tom, N3LLL & Walt, KE3SP sampling the food!!!!



Getting the Novice station 10 meter antenna up!



Was the food great or what? Thanks Don & Sharon!!!!

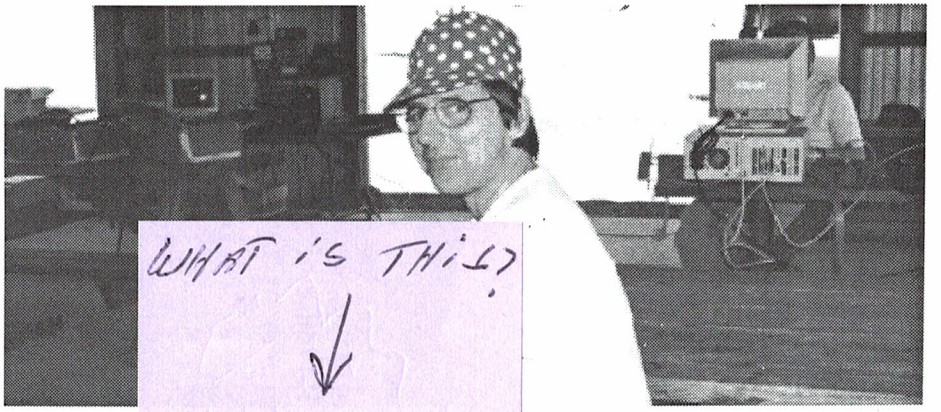


Getting Novice station ready!!!!

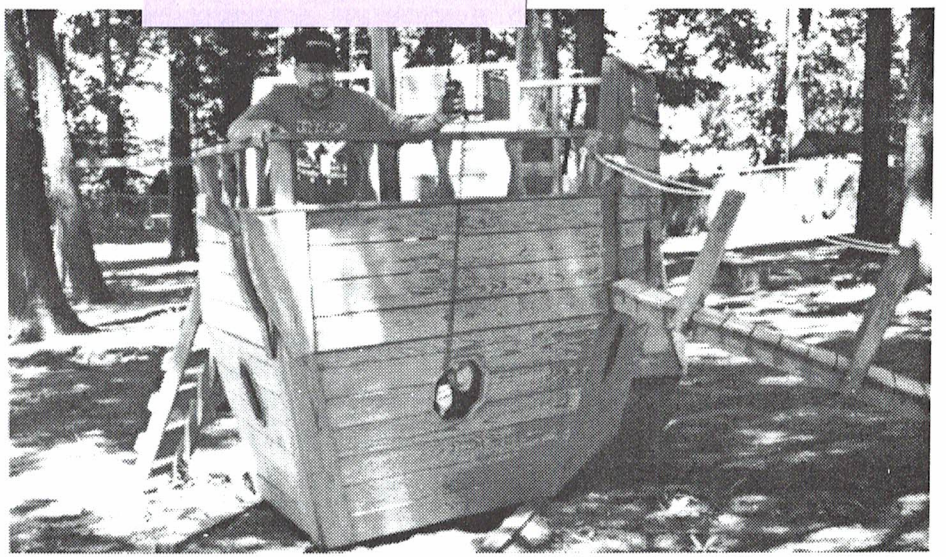


K3OO keeping up the rates!!!

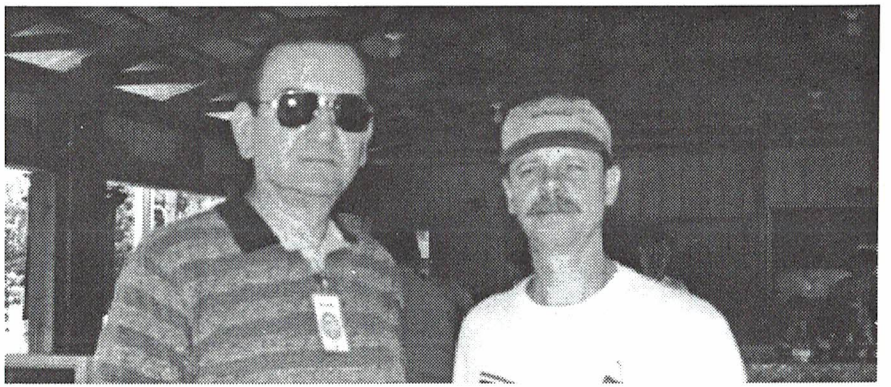
Scanning & Graphics By K3NZ



hat does it!!!!!!!!



KE3AW & N3PNT at W3OK Maritime Mobile?



FCC Engineers WO4H & NU3L checking site? Or Mafia??

The Prez Sez

by Tom, N3LLL

It is almost time for the annual DLARC picnic. As in years passed, it will be held at **Hacketts Park in Easton on August 17, 1997** at high noon.



It will be a great day of fun, food and stories. Maybe you would like to challenge W3TDF, the tired dirt farmer and real ringer, at a game of horse shoes.

I will circulate a sign up sheet for your food contribution at the August club meeting, if you can not make the meeting give me a call, my number is on the back of the newsletter. I hope to see you all there. It will be a fun day.

I would like to congratulate the club on winning the Clara Barton Community Service Award from the Red Cross for the clubs long service to the organization in its mission to prevent prepare for and cope with emergencies. I would also like to thank all of the special volunteers, it has been a busy season. The groups you support are the foundation of our community.

I hope you are digging out the boat anchor's and shining them up for the 1997 DLARC Hamfest on September 27, 1997 at the Schnecksville Fire Company. The cost is a dollar for admission and two for tailgaters.; We have ordered a clear blue seventy degree day. I expect to see you there.

There was a lot of hints shared at the boat anchor clean up session at the meeting last month. Glenn / N3ULW shared that a denatured alcohol on the face of a razor blade works great to remove the tough metal backed labels on a lot of military surplus test equipment. I want to thank those of you who stayed for the program. You were very attentive.

For Sale

Tektronics 547 transistor curve tracer,
575, 535 oscilloscopes, plugins units and scopemobile
General radio 805b HF and 1021 P2 UHF HF signal generators
General Electric TV IF alignment sweep generator set.

Call Mark, N3NBL, (610) 432-8089.

For Sale

from estate of W3CAU, SK

Kenwood TS-520SE-MC-50 Mic	$450.
Johnson 275 watt Matchbox	45.
Heath Phone Patch HD-15	15.
Heath RF PWR and SWR meter AM-2	15.
Radio Shack Analog Mult-meter	35.
Heath Cantenna Dummy Load	10.

with all manuals

Contact Paul, W3HHC @ 395-2180

VE Test results

On Friday, July 11, 1997 at 7PM, a test session was held at the Greystone Building of Northampton County Emergency Management with the following results: A total of 16 elements were given to 8 candidates. Two new Codeless Techs, Two New Tech Plus and an upgrade to Tech Plus, also a young man, I mean young, has now upgraded to General. What a great session.

Michael Arnold	**N3ZSP**	**Tech Plus**
Stephen Brickman	**KC2CEO**	**Tech Plus**
Stephen BaLaz	**N3ZSQ**	**Tech**
Jill Brodt	**N3ZSR**	**Tech**
Thomas Kullman	**KB3BSE**	**General**
Andrew Stepansky Jr	**KB3BUD**	**Tech Plus**

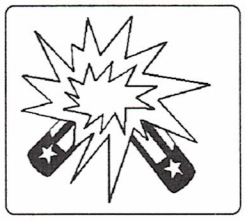
VES in attendance were,
K3MP, Mark, K2YIY, Cary, WA3MQV, Glade, NS3J, Bill, W3TDF, Ray, KE3AW, Bob, AA3IX, Carl and W3JD, Joe.

Mark, K3MP, VE Liason

Heritage Day in Easton

by Clarence, W3PYF

Once again, our club came to the rescue of children in Easton, during the celebration of Heritage Day on **July 13.**



Using the Northampton County Communications Van on location during the fireworks display, our group was responsible for finding 4 children and one lost parent.

Members who participated were: **N3IGA, W3PYF, N3RYP, N3VJA, N3RVH, N3ULW, N3ZSR, AA3JU, and KA2ZQI.**

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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==1996-1997==

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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 Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70

Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to *(csnyder@fast.net}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
717 Porter Street, Easton, PA 18042-1548

visit our web page

http://www.kutztown.edu/faculty/chuk/dlarc/

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