Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2003

# Meeting August 7th at IU20

## Monitoring Race Communications

*by Bob, N3SNZ*

My topic of discussion at the August 7th meeting will be "Monitoring Race Communications" in accordance to the IRL IndyCar Series coming to Nazareth Speedway next month.

I will be talking about equipment, finding frequencies, understanding race event setup and who to listen to and not listen to. Also, I will be giving a heads up on how to maximize your race weekend because of heightened security measures at race events.

At the July Meeting, Don, KA3JWE and I swapped program months. He will be doing his FOXHUNTING discussion at the September meeting while I will be taking the August program.

*de Bob N3SNZ*

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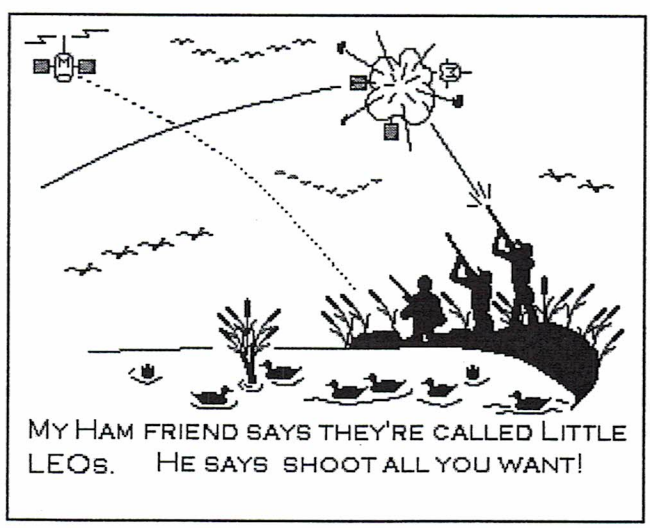
## Prez Sez

Once again the end of summer approaches very rapidly. I feel we must get an early start this year in getting a nominations committee together. The committee normally has the entire month of August (they still do) as well as the club picnic to do much of their recruiting for the upcoming elections which are held in October. But this year since the club's picnic has been moved to the month of September this opportunity no longer exists. If you or if you know, of any club member that would be interested in serving on the nominations committee please let me know. The requirements are simple the person must be a full member and be in good standing. One other thing the members of the nominations committee are not allowed to run for any office while serving on the nominations committee.




The club has two very big events coming up in the next months, the clubs Hamfest and the club picnic. The Hamfest is the only event in which we try and raise money for the club. The picnic is an annually event that we can participate in that is a kind of thanks for the year gone by. So please plan on helping out at both of these events and chip in where you can



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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Balance 5/31/03** | **$6,612.52** |
| **INCOME** | |
| Class Materials ( Book ) | $10.00 |
| Club Dues | 18.00 |
| Donation Income 50 - 50 | 27.00 |
| Gift Received Anonymous | 20.00 |
| Interest Checking 6/13 | 7.37 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **$82.37** |
| **EXPENSES** | |
| Field Day Food & Drinks | $600.00 |
| Hamfest Flyers 4,000 printed | 130.00 |
| Newsletters May & June | 104.00 |
| Postage | 220.00 |
| Telephone | 20.48 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **$1,074.48** |
| **Balance 6/30/03** | **$5,620.41** |

**de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer**

## RADIO HISTORY IS MADE AT WRC-03 WITH 7-MHZ REALIGNMENT COMPROMISE

In a historic move, delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary--and ARRL CEO--David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the "carefully crafted compromise" calls for broadcasters to vacate 7100 to 7200 kHz by March 29, 2009. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 will continue to enjoy the 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have, and eventually with greatly reduced broadcasting interference.

The compromise marked the first time in the history of internationally coordinated radio spectrum allocation that an HF broadcasting band was shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. It cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band and doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 and 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, the cooperation of broadcasters, opposing delegates and many others was required to make a positive step for ham radio. Spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz is on the agenda for WRC-07, but the next conference will not consider further changes to 7000-7200 kHz.

As expected, WRC-03 also dropped the international Morse code requirement for HF access, leaving individual countries to decide if they want to retain a code proficiency requirement (Switzerland already has dropped the requirement). In addition, the conference adopted a number of improvements to other international regulations for the Amateur Service. Delegates also agreed to allow a secondary allocation for satellite borne synthetic aperture radars at 70 cm and, in an Article 19 change, made amateur call sign assignments more flexible.

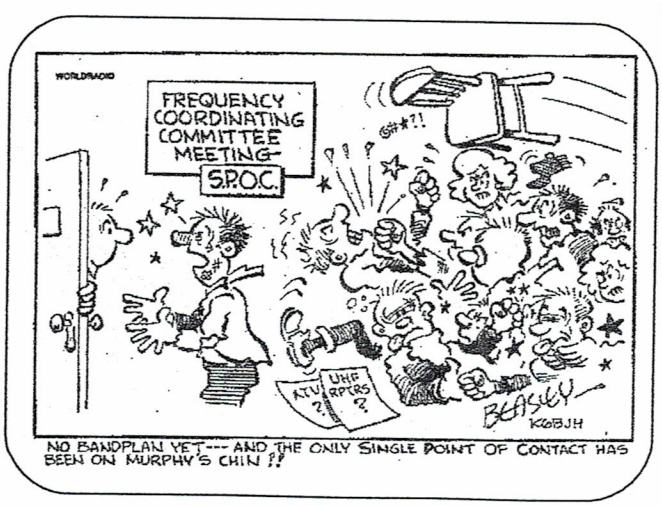
Michael Owen, VK3KI, a member of the IARU team at Geneva, has provided a detailed explanation of Article 25 changes in the article "New Regulations for the Amateur Services." It's available on the IARU Web site

**< http://www.iaru.org/rel030703att3.html>.**

More than 2600 delegates and other participants attended the four-week-long conference, chaired by Dr Veena Rawat of Canada. For WRC-03, the IARU fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade. In addition to Sumner and Owen, the team--led by IARU President Larry Price, W4RA--included Bob Jones, VE7RWJ; Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM, and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. More than a dozen other amateurs were present on national delegations or in other roles for the IARU, its regional organizations and member-societies.

Changes to Articles 19 and 25 took effect on July 5, 2003. In general, the other Final Acts take effect on January 1, 2005.

***The ARRL Letter***



## Forty Meters Changes

*via CQ Magazine News*

While the decisions regarding 40 meters and Morse code as an international licensing requirement (see previous messages) were the major actions affecting amateur radio at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) which ended last Friday in Geneva, Switzerland, there were also several minor changes that will impact our hobby/service in the future.

According to the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), some of these included a modernization and clarification of what modes of communication are permissible, what types of content are permissible, a loosening of restrictions on international third-party communications, and encouragement for international cooperation in emergency communications. The only negative for amateur radio, it appears, is the approval of satellite-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) as a secondary allocation on 432-438 MHz.

Old rules requiring that all international amateur communication be in "plain language" and which had raised questions in some countries about the legality of using certain digital modes for DX contacts, was replaced by a statement that, except for satellite control stations, international contacts "may not be encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning." In addition, the same rule had limited the content of international contacts to "messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified." This has been replaced by the less restrictive "(t)ransmissions between amateur stations of different countries shall be limited to communications incidental to the purposes of the amateur service ... and to remarks of a personal character."

The previous absolute ban on international third-party communication in the absence of a specific agreement between the countries involved was replaced by blanket authorization for international third-party traffic in cases of emergency or disaster relief. Routine communications remain banned; however, it is now up to each country to "determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction." So any country may now decide that the rule will not apply to its amateurs, freeing them to conduct third-party contacts with stations in any other country that has made the same decision. This eliminates the need for individual, country-by-country, agreements.

In addition, there is now a new provision in the international rules stating that "Administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meed communication needs in support of disaster relief."

There were several other changes, all of which are described fully in an explanation of the new rules, titled "New Regulations for the Amateur Services," by Michael Owen, VK3KI, which is available on the IARU website at *<http://www.iaru.org/rel030703att3.html>.*

The complete IARU news release on the WRC-03 changes may be found on the Web at *<http://www.iaru.org/rel030703.html>..*

*From the CQ Newsroom*

## ARRL becomes an affiliate program of Citizen Corps

*via ARRL Bulletin*

ARRL now is an official affiliate program of Citizen Corps, an initiative within the Department of Homeland Security to enhance public preparedness and safety. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, signed a formal Statement of Affiliation between DHS and ARRL during the ARRL 2003 National Convention June 21 in Dallas, Texas.

Chief Operating Officer of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (FEMA) Ron Castleman represented DHS at the signing. Citizen Corps Liaison to the White House Liz DiGregorio called ham radio operators the "first of the first responders."

"You are there. You are part of that very, very first response when it happens locally," especially in the initial stages of an emergency or disaster, DiGregorio told the overflow audience at the signing ceremony.

She urged amateurs to explore ways to expand their role in the community beyond being the last resort when other communication systems fail. "You need to show your community that you're engaged," she said. "They need to know as a community that ARRL is there."

Among other things, the affiliation statement calls on DHS and ARRL to raise public awareness of Amateur Radio as a safety resource. In addition, DHS and ARRL will cooperate in providing training and accreditation for Amateur Radio emergency communications and promote the formation of local Citizen Corps councils.

*via ARRL*

## DLARC PICNIC

**Time to start thinking about the club picnic.**

This year the picnic will be held on

**Sunday, September 28th at the Louise W. Moore Park, just off the Hecktown exit of Route 33.**

The date is later this year, since the blistering weather of last year. Hopefully we won't have the excessive heat during the fall months. Please start planning to attend, and what you would like to bring.

As always, the club will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks. We will need the additions, such as salads, chips, desserts, or other items. If you already know what you want to supply, please contact us, and we will put it down.

If you want to attend (especially the new members who have never been to one before), contact us to start getting a count, and we can fill you in as to things that we still need. You can reach us at any of the following; **E-Mail - kr3u@rcn.com** , **Phone - (610) 759-8099** , or on the repeater. We may be contacting some of our regulars to see if they will provide their usual cullinary treats.

*de Dennis KR3U& Pat KB3IDQ*

## Hershey Centenital Parade

*byEric, WB3FPL*

**On September 13, 2003** Hershey, PA. will be holding a parade to celebrate its 100th year. Amateur Radio has been asked to assist in this event by providing a communications network. The parade is expected to be the largest parade to be held in Central Pennsylvania with more than 5,000 participants.

The parade will be televised by WGAL-TV Channel 8, Lancaster. Dauphin County Emergency Coordinator Jim Acri, N3JRO is in charge of Amateur Radio particpation.

Needed are approximately thirty (30) Amateur Radio operators to help fill the Amateur Radio positions. The APPROXIMATE start time is 10:00 am APPROXIMATE end time is 4:00 pm. We are looking into the need and availability of parking passes and volunteer credentials.

If you are interested in being part of this event contact Jim Acri , N3JRO, at n3jro@aol.com. Please supply the following information; Callsign Name Address Telephone number Shirt size - On behalf of N3JRO, KA3PDQ, K3PD and myself we are looking forward to a very successful event.

*de Eric, WB3FPL SCM EPA*

## Thanks to the club from Bob, WF3H

I'd like to post a note in the newsletter thanking the club members for electing me as ham of the year....here it is:

As club members know, I was given the Amy Zimmerman **"Ham of the Year"** award for **2003.**

I want to thank all club members for this honor, named in memory of a ham I knew very well, and who was an inspiration to all of us.

I especially want to thank **Bill, K3ANS,** for nominating me. The award is certainly an incentive to continue working for the benefit of the amateur community, and also to bring a greater knowledge of ham radio to the community at large. Thanks to all **DLARC** members!

*de Bob,WF3H*

## SKYWARN Coordinator

*by John, WX3W*

I want to inform all members that I have taken the position of Lehigh Valley SKYWARN Coordinator again.

I took the position again at the request of Joe Miketta of the Mt Holly NWS. I have has been the Coordinator for over 5 years off and on.

**Bruce Hull, KA3ONZ,** is the Assistant Coordinator. SKYWARN Nets if required will be on 146.700 (pl 151.4) the primary repeater and if 146.700 is being used for ARES/RACES, then we will go to 147.135 (pl 167.9).

There will no SKYWARN Training being done this year, but I have plans on having one next year at the Lehigh Valley Red Cross Building. You don't have to be a SKYWARN Spotter to pass weather information. Check out the WX2PHI website at www.wx2phi-skywarn.net for information on what needs to be reported. If anybody has any questions, feel free to contact me and I will try and get an answer for you. I can be contacted at wx3w@arrl.net.

*de John, WX3W*
*Lehigh Valley SKYWARN Coordinator*

Member of the Mt Holly, NJ NWS Technical Committee
*wx3w@arrl.net*

## NEWS & PRESS RELEASES

*via ARRL*

DX Engineering **(http://www.dxengineering.com)** has a new accessory for those of you putting up serious verticals this summer - the Stainless Steel Radial Plate. Now you may be wondering what the big deal is about a piece of metal, but the folks at DX Engineering added value to this thing by providing a sturdy and secure way to connect the coaxial feedline to the vertical and radials. The feedline connection always seems to wind up as a weak link, so this is a good development. See the "Technical and Technique" section below for a handy radial installation idea.



ICOM IC-756ProII and IC-746Pro owners will find the BetterRF Company's **(http://www.betterRF.com)** new I-MATE accessory of interest. It plugs into the microphone jack and implements the external keypad functions to control the voice keyer in the radio. The I-Mate accepts ICOM and Heil microphones and there is a digital audio port, as well. The TUNE-MATE feature of the I-MATE generates a pulsing audio tone to reduce amplifier load during tuneup. All in all, a handy little box.

Another great book for your summer reading pile is "YASME - The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions" by Jim Cain, K1TN. It's published by the ARRL and sponsored by the YASME Foundation. Whether or not you worked Danny or the Colvins, their exploits basically set the tone for modern expeditions. OT's and rookies alike will find the book fascinating. If Jim's name sounds familiar, it may be because he was an ARRL staff member for a number of years.

## TECHNICAL & TECHNIQUE

If you are at all interested in mobile VHF/UHF contesting, you owe it to yourself to check out the Rover Resource Page at **http://www.qsl.net/n9rla.**

Lots of stories, photos, and a couple of great how-to introductory articles. There are also VHF contesting calendars and announcement pages. (Thanks, Dan N9RLA)

If you have battery charging needs, the ST Microelectronics PB137 looks like you can just supply it with 16 Vdc, slap on a couple of capacitors, and presto! You have a 1.5 amp trickle charger. It's available in the latest Mouser Electronics catalog (http://www.mouser.com) at less than a dollar. (Thanks, Jim KK6MC/5 and Steve KD1JV)

Maybe the PB137 won't quite do it for you and you need something with a little more oomph to it...and wheels? **http://www.webpal.org/webpal/b_recovery/3_alternate_energy/electricity/lawnmower/generator/generator.htm** is a Web site that shows how to turn an old lawn mower into something useful, like a generator, by using an automotive alternator. Who knows, it might even get you out of mowing the lawn! **http://theepicenter.com/tow082099.html** is another similar site. (Thanks to the QRP-L list)

If you like the idea of a radial plate, but the thought of burying all those radials seems daunting, "Right now, the NE is drying out from a the all-time wettest June on record - the best time to bury radials and ground rods.

This tool **(http://eztrench.com/tp300.htm)** seems like it would be very effective and the rental price was very reasonable for 4 hours at Home Depot." (Thanks, Bob W2SR).

## DLARC HAMFEST - SEPT 20, 2003

*by Sue KB3IDW*

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be a little more than one month until the DLARC Hamfest, which will be held on Saturday, September 20th. This is a major event for the club and many more volunteers are needed to help out in the kitchen, with the parking, and additional miscellaneous tasks for that day. Make plans now to come out and enjoy the fun, food, flea market finds, and meet up with fellow amateur radio operators; and also consider volunteering a few hours.

Plans are well underway for this year's event. Several door prizes have already been received. Additional donations are welcome. Area hamfest chairmen have been asked to publicize the DLARC hamfest at their club meetings and hamfests. The Internet sites: ARRL, e-HAM, QSL.net, and DXZone event calendar listings have been updated to include the DLARC hamfest. Additional media outlets will be contacted during August to run public service announcements on the event.

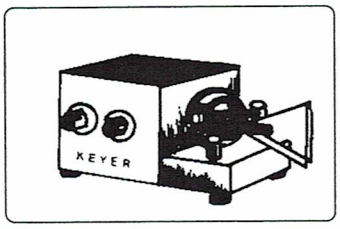
Flyers are available for this year's hamfest. Please contact me if you need some flyers to post at your work place or to distribute at businesses you frequent. I can be contacted at 610 797-1437 or by e-mail at kb3idw@arrl.net or sms@enter.net.

Let's make this event a success. Hope to see you there.

***de Sue, KB3IDW***

## "BPL IS A PANDORA'S BOX OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS," ARRL TELLS FCC

Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. In response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI) published May 23, the League this week filed a 120-page response--including studies. The NOI, which asked how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals, attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.




"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once

(1) cause widespread interference, and

(2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception.

The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 34 dB to 65 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix," the League said.

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies.

ARRL's comments and additional information are available on the ARRL Web site **<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>.**

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site

**https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>**

***The ARRL Letter***

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## Handouts from August Meetings

***by Paul, N0KIA***

We had a good turnout for the July presentation on Crossband Repeating. However, after the presentation I had some requests for handouts. I don't do handouts as a rule (saving trees and such...) but the slides are available on the web for individuals to download and print copies for personal use. They are located at:

**http://www.w3oi.org/programs/xband-rpt.ppt**

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# VE TEST

Schuette N3SNZ to General

Michael Courtade- new no code Tech

V E's

Skip K3CC

LaMar N3AT

Bill N2DH

***deThalia KB3CSR***

## ARRL becomes an affiliate program of Citizen Corps

*via ARRL Bulletin*

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*via ARRL*

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# Just the Minutes

***Jill Brodt, N3ZSR***

President Jeff Keller, N3QZT called the July 10th club meeting to order at 7:30 PM, with 29 members and 5 guests present.

The June minutes was approved with a motion from Bud, W3BUD with a second from Bill, N2DH.

Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for June was approved with a motion from Paul, N0KIA with a second from

George, N3SQD. Motion passed.

We were reminded the event chairpersons keep Barry and Clarence informed for the Web page and Newsletter.

VE session scheduled for July 11th at IU20 had 4 people registered.

Club classes for the fall will start on September 8th.

Sue, KB3IDW, Ham fest Chairperson had sign up sheets at the meeting. She said the planning is moving along. ARRL now has us on their Ham fest list.

Bryan, AA3WM said that about 33 people attended field day. We have about 1566 points.

Jeff welcomed the following guests to the meeting:

Ed, K3IFE / Bob, K2TI / Paul Sklodowsky / Brad Snyder / Charlie, KB3DEA.

The following new members were voted in:

Bob, N3SNZ (reinstatement) on a motion from Bill, KA3RBH with a second from George,

N3SQD. Motion passed.

The following applications will be voted on at the August meeting:

**Charles Lazarchak, KB3DEA.**

Program Chairperson, Bill – KB3RVH announced the following programs:

**August – N3SNZ, Racing Communications.**

**September - KA3JWE, Foxhunt**

Up Coming events:

July 20 – Red Cross River Run and Derriere in the Delaware tube float.

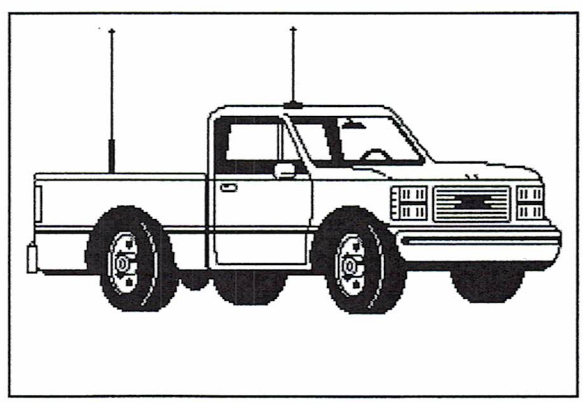
September 20 – D.L.A.R.C Hamfest

September 28 – D.L.A.R.C. picnic at Louise Moore Park (NOTE NEW DATE and LOCATION).

The program for the evening was by Paul, N0KIA on Cross Banding.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM on a motion from Gabriel, KZ2A and seconded by Bob, N3SNZ.

***Jill, N3ZSR, Secretary***



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

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

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==2002-2003==

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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 IU 20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to *(w3pyf@aol.com}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
717 Porter Street, Easton, PA 18042-1548
visit our web page
**http://www.dlarc.org**

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DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-03
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
346 CREST DRIVE
WHITEHALL PA 18052-7204

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

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