Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004

Meeting August 5th at IU20

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM



We have had a good start of summer: The MS 150 event and Field Day 2004 are over, and by the time you get this newsletter, the Lehigh River Run and the Derrière in the Delaware will be over for another year as well. Some of the up coming events in August and September include the DLARC Picnic, the Hamfest, the license preparation classes, the PA QSO Party, and the Emmaus Halloween Parade. That is quite a few events for two months, and I encourage you to think about and plan where you as a DLARC member might be able to participate in one or more of these events.

The DLARC Hamfest will be on September 18th this year, and it is a great source of income for the club. Last year, we made over $1,200 after expenses, which equates to about 20% of our current balance! Bob, WA3MGN, is chairman of the Hamfest this year, so if you are able to help out, contact him. **NEW** for this year: we will be offering a VE Test session at the Hamfest – so invite your friends that would like to enter the hobby by getting licensed, or those that would like to upgrade their license. Those of you that are VE's and would like to volunteer to help with the testing, please contact Bill, N2DH.

There is another set of "events" coming up in the next few months that I would like you start thinking about. At the October 7th club meeting, we will be holding elections for the DLARC officers and executive board members. This is an important event for the club, and I encourage all of you that can make it to come to the October meeting and cast your vote. Leading up to the election is something as important, if not more so. That is the nominations for club officers and executive board members. This nomination process starts in August with the forming of the nominating committee, and then continues to the September 2nd meeting when nominations are finalized and closed. Please be thinking about who you would like to see on the board, and give your input to the nominating committee, which will be announced at the August 5th meeting. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact me by August 2nd.

I'd like to thank all of you that have given me your input on why you joined the DLARC, or given ideas and suggestions on how to make the club better. There have been a few ideas that look promising, and I and the rest of the board will be discussing them in the near future. For those of you that have not gotten back to me yet, it's not too late. Feel free to bombard my email with ideas and suggestions or questions regarding the DLARC!

de Bryan, AA3WM

August Program

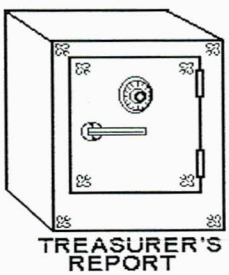
By Tom, KB3IUE

I got Bob (WF3H) to do a presentation in August. He will relate some of the trials and tribulations he encountered with the local government when he moved and attempted to erect his new towers. Hopefully providing help and hints for us all....

De Tom, KB3IUE

Treasurer's Report for May

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 5/31/04	**$6,326.04**
INCOME	
Club Dues	$7.00
Interest Checking	5.94
TOTAL INCOME	$12.94
EXPENSES	
Newsletters	$251.75
Postage	70.00
Telephone	17.77
	$339.52
Balance 6/30/04	**$5,999.46**

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

DLARC General Meeting Minutes, July 1

by Bryan, AA3WM



DLARC General Meeting,
July 1, 2004

Call to order 7:30 PM

- ✓ 31 members present / 24 members needed for a quorum

June General Meeting Minutes

- ✓ No changes; motion to accept as printed – Bill, N2DH; 2nd – Lamar, N3AT; Passed

Treasurer's Report (Bryan AA3WM on behalf of Dick, KA3MOU)

- ✓ No changes; motion to accept as presented – Dave, KD1GT; 2nd – Barry, N3NVA; Passed

REPORTS:

Repeater / Web Site (Barry N3NVA)

- ✓ W3PYF repeater is up and running – Use it! It is putting out about 60 watts.
- ✓ 146.700 Equipment: Squelch tail is still picking up CAT Country 96
- ✓ Repeater usage tips:
  - o Talk in a normal voice, across the microphone, 2" – 6" away from your mouth
  - o Hang up your microphones
  - o Wait about 1 second after keying up to begin talking
  - o Wait for the courtesy tone
- ✓ Barry is going to try to use some of the equipment we have to set up a portable repeater system to be used at events.
- ✓ Give event information to Barry for posting on the web site.
- ✓ Pictures from Field Day will be up on the web.

VE Session (Bill N2DH)

- ✓ No VE Session at the IU20 until October 8th
- ✓ Next VE session will be at the Hamfest on September 18th.

W3OK Club Station (Al W3CE)

- ✓ Activity is low (for the summer).
- ✓ Al has made contacts to Romania, Kuwait, and other Middle Eastern countries.
- ✓ It was noted that those that use the Milk House should keep it picked-up and clean. Garbage can be put in the dumpster in the parking lot.

Classes (Bob KE3AW)

- ✓ Classes will start up again September 14th (Tuesday) for 9 or so weeks.
- ✓ Two people are already signed up for them.

Visitors:

- ✓ Jim Seacrest and Jeff Bauer, WA3PNY.

New Memberships / Reinstatements:

- ✓ Voted on Ralph Buratti, K3AGK. Motion to accept – Bob, KE3AW; 2nd – Blair, K3YD; Motion carried – Welcome Ralph!
- ✓ First Reading for J. P. Fox, III, N3GWR. To be voted on at the August meeting.

Announcements

- ✓ Lehigh River Run July 18 - contact Charlie N3VUO.
- ✓ Derriere in the Delaware - contact Dick KA3MOU or Jeff N3QZT.
- ✓ Chairman needed for DLARC picnic September 12th.
- ✓ Get your feedback to the Milk House survey to Al, W3CE.
- ✓ Get your feedback to "Why did you join the DLARC" to Bryan, AA3WM, or one of the other board members.
- ✓ Bill, K3ANS, and Blair, K3YD, gave information on the following up coming hamfests: Murgas Hamfest July 3rd, Firecracker Hamfest July 4th, MARC (Kimberton) Hamfest July 11th, Sussex Hamfest July 11th. Blair also gave a quick update of the Mid Atlantic QSO Party held the 2nd weekend in May.

New Business

- ✓ We were invited to participate in Bethlehem's First Annual Science Fest, but unfortunately it is the same weekend as PA QSO party. We will decline to participate in this event this year unless someone who really wants to do it and is willing to organize it lets Bryan, AA3WM, know by Friday, July 2, 2004.
- ✓ Bryan, AA3WM, is looking for volunteers to be on the nominating committee, and he encouraged everyone to be thinking about the nominations coming up in September.
- ✓ Al, W3CE, announced he has a digipeater (for APRS) up and running.

Programs

- ✓ Tonight's program is on Batteries by George, N3SQD
- ✓ Give ideas for future programs to Tom, KB3IUE

Adjournment:

- ✓ Motion to adjourn – Barry, N3NVA; 2nd – Louis, KF2WO; Passed

de Bryan, AA3WM

JULY 28 Q&A at The W3OK Club Station

By Charlie, W3DEA

Hello All, I (Charlie W3DEA) will be hosting the July 28, DLARC ARES RACES Wednesday night net from the W3OK club station (the milkhouse).

Al W3CE and myself would like to invite all members to the milkhouse who are interested in or have questions about working QRP (low power) and / or CW (morse code).

Al and myself will bring some QRP equipment and will also cover the basics involved in making your first CW QSO.

WE WILL BE THERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AND LET YOU WORK THE RADIOS.

So, if you are interested in low power ops (I've worked Poland on 5 watts /cw) or are unsure of how to get going on a brasstapping QSO come on out.

July 28 at the W3OK club station -- directions can be found on the club web page - www.dlarc.org

De Charlie, W3DEA

Another Successful MS-150 Bike tour:

By Jeff, N3QZT

The annual MS-150 Bike Tour took place on June 12th and 13th. This fundraising activity for the Multiple Sclerosis Society guided more than 550 bicyclists over a 75-mile route from the JC Penny Trucking and Logistic Center near Trexlertown to Kutztown University and back the next day, with 50-mile, 75-mile, and 100-mile options for riders with lesser or greater expectations. As has been the case for the past several years, members of the DLARC and other interested hams provided communications for event vehicles and locations over the entire route. The net control station, N3KU, was located at Kutztown University. A special thanks to W3JD for once again getting permission from Kutztown University, to allow us to have the Net Control center on the University.

This year's event did have some medical emergencies, the first, and only transport, took place just after the event started. But they and all the other traffic that went over the two repeaters used for the event was handled efficiently and courteously by all operators.

Appreciation is extended to the owners and users of the 146.700 repeater in Nazareth (W3OK) and the 147.180 repeater in Reading (WB3FPL) for allowing the use of their machines for more than twelve hours on each of the two day event.

I want to mention and thank each one of the 26 hams and one non ham that helped with this year's event. They are (in no particular order): W3JD, N2BSC, KA1RAH, KB3FIH, GREG (son of KB3FIH), N3RAD, KB3AMY, N2ADD, KE3AW, N0KIA, KB3DEC, KB3FDM, N3QZT, W3DEA, KB3JMR, KB3JMQ, KB3JMS, N3NRB, N3VUO, W3CE, WA3ZGL, N3UGH, N3QZR, N3TFG, WA1LLD, AA3WM, and N3NYM.

Thanks to Bruce / KB3FIH for bringing some of the special computer equipment and Jeff / N3MFT for getting Service Electric Co. to provide six (6) NEXTEL phones to aid in coverage

The long hours spent by each volunteer operator were also greatly appreciated by the bike riders and the MS Society staff. Thanks…

De Jeff, N3QZT

June 30, 2004 ARRL Rate Sheet

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

(Reprinted with permission)

DX Engineering announces its new TB-1P Tilt Base mounting plate that enables operators to raise or lower Hustler BTV, Cushcraft and Butternut vertical antennas in seconds while leaving the base securely attached to the mounting post. This is really handy for portable operation where you might not want to leave the antenna vertical all the time. The TB-1P mounting plate resists corrosion and complements the DX Engineering RADP-1P radial plate which is shown with the TB-1P at http://www.dxengineering.com.

Gigavac (http://www.gigavac.com or 1-800-755-2000) has introduced three new low-priced, high-voltage vacuum relays that are priced from $69 to $119. The GH1 HAM is rated at 5 kW, the G41C HAM is rated at 18 kW, and the G2 HAM at 42 kW. Lest eyebrows be raised at the size of the ratings, relays used in hot-switched applications such as HF transmitting should be rated very conservatively. All of these relays carry a 1-year warranty and are available directly from Gigavac.

The USA Headquarters station for the IARU contest will return to the tenth district this year. Listen for W1AW/0 under the capable management of Walt W0CP.

Rin JG1VGX, who operates from the JA1ZLO contest station, contributes some links to photos of several of the big JA stations:
JH4UYB –
http://www.dxcom.jp/fedxpfront/jh4uyb.html
JE1ZWT –
http://www010.upp.so-net.ne.jp/TTRC/
JA6GCE -
http://jh6qil.hp.infoseek.co.jp/photo/ja6gceant.htm

He also reminds us that, "For us the contest starts at 9 AM Saturday morning and ends at 9 AM on Monday. Normally we work on Saturday also." What that translates to for NA contesters is to work the JA stations on our Friday and Saturday because many of them will be at work as the contest comes to a close.

A new pileup simulator, Pilemania, created by Yasushi JA1DYB, is available at http://www.jg1vgx.net/etc/pilemania0.09.zip. The only Web information is in Japanese, but you can start running it without documentation. Isn't that what we do anyway? Here's a very short set of instructions after downloading, unzipping, and running the program:

1) Replace "My Call" and "Send Number" with your own.
2) Make a CQ with F1. You will be called back.
3) Fill in the "Call", and press F2, it will send Call and your number. You can press F4 here to ask them to call you again.
4) Move to Number field with SPACE bar, then copy his number. You can press F3 here to ask them to send NR again.
5) Use Enter to log a QSO.

The program has only been tested on Windows XP systems. (Thanks, Rin JG1VGX)

TECHNICAL

Bob W2SR has found some terrific, low-cost insulators for wire antennas and other RF applications. Check out the BW-KK-10 electric fence insulators at http://www.dareproducts.com/catalog/images/catalog_ad-3349/products/bw-kk-10.jpg. Bob reports that they are UV-tough, don't get hot when microwaved, and are darn cheap. Look for them in stores that handle electric fence components.

Reading the July issue of "The Pack Rats Cheesebits" (the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club newsletter) I discovered some neat software, RainScatter!, by Andrew Flowers K0SM. The program downloads National Weather Service radar images and calculates beam headings for two stations trying to use the weather systems to communicate at microwave frequencies. Even if you're not a microwaver, you might find RainScatter! interesting. New radars are being added to the radars already included from W1, W2, W3, eastern seaboard south through SC, Great Lakes region, and all of MN/SD/CO. Learn more at http://mail.rochester.edu/~af006m/RainScatter.html.

The most commonly available ferrite cores use #43 and #61 material, which is generally considered to be effective for suppression only at VHF and low UHF. However, Jim K9YC reminds us that those cores are quite effective in the HF spectrum if you put multiple turns of cable or wire through the core.

George K5KG contributes a neat trick for making an 80-meter inverted-Vee do double-duty for phone and CW without a tuner. "Cut the inverted-Vee for phone. Install an SO-239 connector about one foot from the distant end of each leg. It doesn't matter whether which wire goes to the SO-239 center pin. When operating phone, connect shorted PL-259's to each SO-239. For CW, replace the shorted PL-259 with one attached to a length of coax, shorted at its distant end. This adds length to the inverted-Vee, making it resonant in the CW band. For example, make the inverted-Vee 119' long for resonance at approximately 3900 kHz, or 59.5' on each leg. Install SO-239's as described above. When operating CW (3600 kHz), replace the shorted PL-259s with six-foot sections of shorted coax at each SO-239 connector."

The following explanation of how to use "staggered stubs" for effective harmonic filtering was posted by Ken K2KW. "A single shorted 1/4-wave stub (RG213 type coax) will give you approx. 30 dB attenuation on the 2nd harmonic. (RG-8X may only reach 25 dB.) Cut one stub for the phone portion and a second stub for the CW portion of the 2nd harmonic band. Install the stubs separated by 1/4-wavelength at the center of the 2nd harmonic band. For example, to reduce 20-meter harmonics from a

40-meter transmitter, cut one stub for 14.050, a second for 14.225 and space them 1/4-wavelength apart at 14.150 MHz. The spacing distance is not critical, but don't forget to account for the velocity factor of the coax. Peter VE3PN cautions that this procedure assumes a low SWR on the line. If the impedance at the point of stub insertion is very far from 50 ohms, attenuation will suffer. Either improve the system match or use a network analyzer to adjust stub length at the actual line impedance. For those of you that want to know more about stubs, check out George W2VJN's excellent book, "Managing Interstation Interference" at http://www.qth.com/inrad/.

Pictures From July Program

George, N3SQD teaching us about rechargeable batteries.

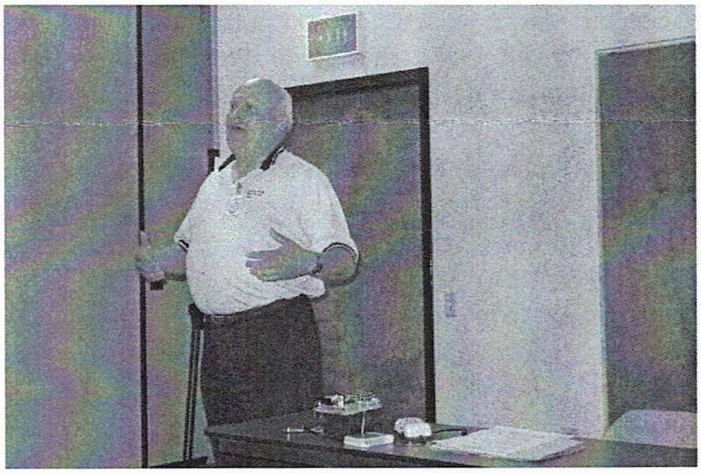


Photo by Bryan, AA3WM

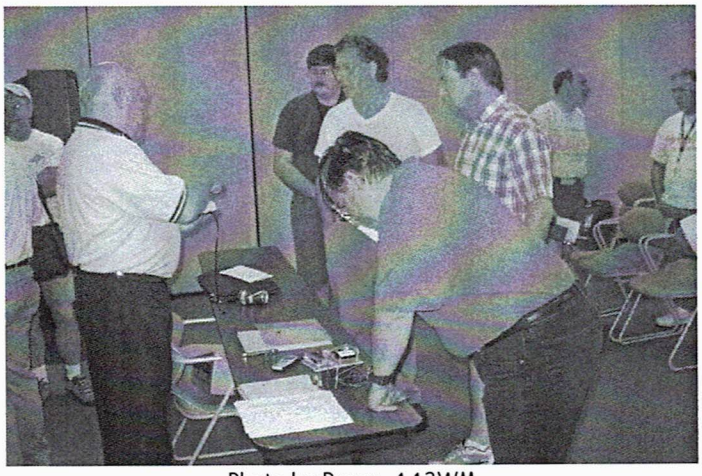


Photo by Bryan, AA3WM

This is a homebrew battery analyzer that George built:

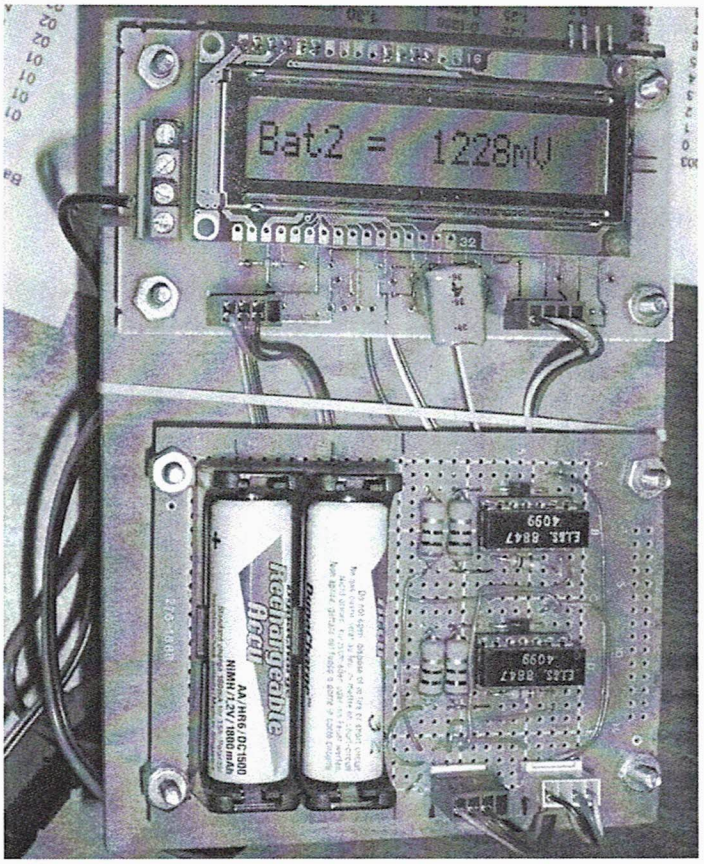


Photo by Brad, KB3JXQ

Field Day Car License Plates

By David, N3EYT

Here are some license plates seen at Field Day 2004.



De David, N3EYT

Web Sites To Visit

Be sure to visit our club page www.dlarc.org and check out the pictures of field day there.

From Blair, K3YD: I found web site on lightning safety; for both people and structures (as in tower or wire in the sky). The National Lightning Safety Institute (NLSI) is a non-profit advocate of lightning safety.

SEE: http://www.lightningsafety.com/

The link (#5) on the web page labeled "Structural Lightning Safety" leads to many articles.

News From The ARRL

New vanity fee goes into effect August 6: The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of $20.80 for the 10-year license term will go into effect August 6, 2004. Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the $16.30 fee per vanity call sign application until the new fee goes into effect. All applications received at the FCC on or after August 6 must be accompanied by the new, higher fee.

2004 AUGUST 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 **CLUB MEETING**	6 NO VE TESTING	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Executive Committee Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Send your calendar entries to: kb3jxq@snycomp.com			

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and 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 7:00 PM

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

== 2003-2004 ==

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CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
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visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-04
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
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