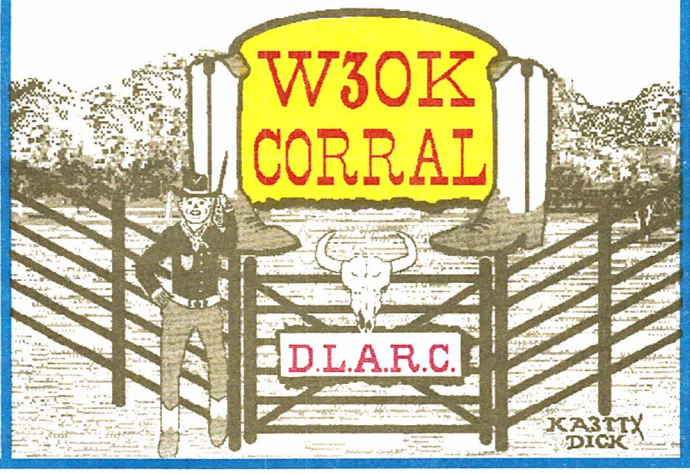
DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W3OK

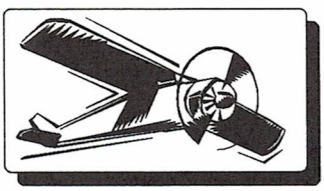
September 1995



SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB
ARRL Affiliated Club

Finding RF leaks from the air

Our September 7th Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club program will feature **Bob Dickinson W2CCE**, telling us why, where, and how he detects RF leakage in cables on land using air surveillance.



Bob's business involves the locating RF leaks by air. He is our "resident expert" and has some interesting stories to tell and slides and maps to show why and how this tracking is done, how the information is displayed, and how it is used.

The location of our meeting room at the Northampton Community College was not available at newsletter press time. It will be announced for you on the DLARC nets, on packet, and on 146.70 in daily conversations, once known to us. When you learn of the location, please pass the word on to other DLARC members.

Novice-Tech classes to begin

by Chris, NU3L

Free classes for the Novice & Technician licenses will start on Monday, September 11 and continue for 10 weeks. Classes will be held in the Graystone Building at the Gracedale Complex near Nazareth, PA.from 7 to 9 PM. At each session 1 hour will be devoted to theory and 1 hour to code.

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

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

de Chris, NU3L

DLARC Hamfest a success

by Bob, KE3AW

From our preliminary assessment, our **4th Annual DLARC Hamfest** was a big success. Thanks to all the committee chairmen and all the members (and spouses) who helped in all the ways they did -- whether circulating announcement flyers, talking up the hamfest, selling tickets, working with the vendors, directing cars at the parking lots, announcing prizes, working talk-in, demonstration stations, or VE sessions, counting the money, providing the security, selling ARRL literature, cleaning up afterward, and anything else missed here.

continued on Page 2

Continued from page 1

We also owe a big round of applause to Robin/WA3T and Chuck/KD3SQ for their coordination of our successful '95 Hamfest.

We had beautiful sunny weather which especially helped our tailgaters and buyers outdoors. It was an enjoyable experience to see friends, get those needed items, and savor -- among other foods--a delicious HAM sandwich.

A more detailed hamfest report will be given at an upcoming DLARC general meeting.

Hamfest VE sessions

At this session, 27 candidates took a total of 57 elements. There were two upgrades, and eleven new licenses...

Thomas Walk, N3LOQ	**upgraded to Advanced**
Lewis Edwards, N3UIP	**upgraded to General**
Michael Nigron	**new Technician Plus**
Michael Wachter	**new Technician Plus**
Joanne Bevan	**new Technician**
Jonathan Blatman	**new Technician**
Eugene Brossman	**new Technician**
Kevin Farrell	**new Technician**
Anthony Gentile	**new Technician**
Eva Patterson	**new Technician**
Eric Reper	**new Technician**
Susan Spevak	**new Technician**
Brian Karfunkel	**new Novice**

Thanks to the VE's who gave up their bargain-hunting time at the hamfest, particularly those who served, or offered to serve, at both the morning and afternoon sessions.

George, AA3JU; Bill, W3FYK; Van, K3CP; Skip, K3ZTJ; Greg, N3MTU; Mike, AA3IH; Kevin, KD3KZ; Rick, N3MHW; Mark, KB3AZR; Martin, N3RCA; Bill, K3ANS; and Robin, WA3T.

The next test session will be on September 8th; team 1 will be in attendance on that date. I am in the process of updating the VE schedule: if you are a VE and haven't yet returned my note about scheduling, please do so, so that I can take your preferences into account when constructing the schedule for the remainder of 1995 and for 1996. If you are a VE and haven't heard from me, please let me know.

73 de Robin, WA3T, Team Liaison

The thanks of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club is due to Van, K3CP who has for the past 6 years written the IMA LIDD column for the W3OK Corral. He will be missed by many of his ardent readers.

Clarence W3PYF

Editorial

by Clarence W3PYF

I need help. Every month I must push and shove to get the material in for this newsletter. Cooperation has been great from some of our corespondents but, at the last minute, I am pushing to get this to the printer.

If you will help try to get the material for the newsletter before the deadline of the 15th of the month. If it gets here on the 15th, it will be at least 2 or three days until I get it done.

Also as a member of a 431 member club, why don't more people monitor **OUR** repeater. I find many times that as I sit here at the computer, calls from people out of the area are completely ignored. If you travel as I have, and have been other areas this is prevalent. Why not make this the friendly repeater that it was in the past.

DLARC again awarded SSC



On page 117 of the September QST, the **Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** was again awarded the prestigious **Special Service Club Award**. by the American Radio Relay League. This award is given to clubs for their public service activities and we in the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club sure have done our part.

Lets keep it up.

How to keep from running out of steam

Equipment Review

de Mark WA3KIF

I have never written a review before and I do not intend to act as a representative for this company, however I have recently purchased a **Power Station** and have not been so thrilled with any equipment for a long time.

I have seen the advertisement in QST for The Power Station, a portable DC source for running equipment, lights, radios (commercial and amateur) etc. and have been contemplating its purchase. I finally wrote the check and received my unit last week. This item is excellent as a low cost back-up power for weather related power outages or as a power source for RACES / ARES activities where long radio use is necessary.

The Power Station is a small portable lead / acid battery which will not overcharge and does not develop a memory. It can be charged after any amount of use. It weighs about 5-6 pounds and is encased in a neat plastic case with a molded handle which makes its carrying a delight. It has output jacks (1/8S) for 3V, 6V, 9V on the side and a female cigarette jack on the front panel to accommodate 12V appliances. On the back (behind a nice little door) are two screw terminals for 12V output. The Power Station boasts a 2 week life of voltage delivery (depending on how long winded you are. This would certainly take one through a ARES / RACES activity ! In fact, Jeff, N3QZT, told me he used his Power Station as his primary DC source during the MS 150 this year (which lasted for 2 days).

The state of the battery can be monitored using the analog DC voltmeter right on the unit. When necessary, The Power Station can be charged from an AC source (house) with an included adapter in about 8 hours or from your car (cigarette lighter 12V input on the front of the unit) in about 3 hours using the included cable (car lighter to 12V in put on front of unit - recommended to have the engine running. Remember, the unit cannot be overcharged. It delivers 3V, 6V, 9V and 12V at 7 ampere hours.

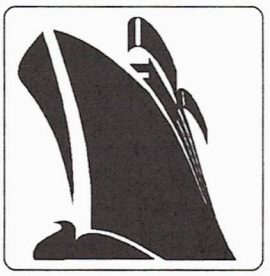
I purchased some connectors and wire and made every kind of patch cable necessary to run various appliances. I bought a plastic utility box (similar to small plastic tackle box) to store all my cables. Radio Shack makes a universal jack which will accommodate a variety of female sized jacks, sufficient to run any DC powered device. A 9V commercial portable radio could be operated while running, for example, a 6V camping lantern and even my HT.

The Power Station sells for $49.95 plus $8.50 shipping and handling. It is available from - The Ham Contact, PO. Box 3624, Long Beach, CA 90803. I feel this is a wonderful addition to my shack as both an emergency device as well as a great source of DC power for RACES / ARES activities. It comes with some cables, voltmeter, handle and output / input jacks and at the price, is now an essential part of my gear. ***de Mark, WA3KIF***

Hams Call from Grounded Ship

Hams call home for grounded passengers

On the evening of June 10th, the cruise ship Royal Majesty ran aground on a sandbar, off Massachusetts' Nantucket Island, as it made its way back from Bermuda to Boston. Passengers included **Arnie Zunick, K1BPM,** and **Thad Litchfield, K1AFS,** and their wives. By the next morning, the ship's satellite telephone communications were overloaded by the 1000-some passengers trying to reach their families and friends.



Zunick and Litchfield climbed to the uppermost portion of the ship with 2-meter hand-helds and listened for active repeaters (Nantucket is some 80 miles from Providence and about 90 miles from Boston). The timing was right, signals were good, and the two were able to autopatch through their local club repeater in Danvers, Massachusetts (145.47), to their families, assuring them that everything was okay. They then made more patches for other passengers while their batteries lasted.

Later in the day it became obvious that the ship would not be off the sandbar that day and would spend another night aground. With recharged batteries, Zunick and Litchfield this time were unable to raise the Danvers repeater, but they found an "unknown" repeater on 146.88 (belonging to the Hartford-area Insurance City Repeater Club), and contacted Chuck Motes, K1DFS, in Plainville, Connecticut. "He took all the traffic and graciously made telephone calls for us, informing our families and employers of the situation and the fact that we would be aboard for another day," Zunick said.

When the Coast Guard then took command of the ship the two amateurs were able to listen to them on their hand-helds.

Zunick said "My thanks to the many other operators that came up on frequency and offered their support."

The preceding from The ARRL Letter.

de Chris KD3OA, ARRL EPA Bulletin Manager

W3TDF, #2 in nation

Ray, W3TDF made it to second place in the **QCWA** national ***Contest.***



In both, CW and Phone he was in that area. Not bad, considering that in the phone contest, there were, 128 entries, and in the phone contest there were 148 entries.

The Lehigh River Run

by Van, K3CP

The annual Red Cross sponsored Lehigh River Run was held on Sunday, July 23, 1995. This year's event far exceeded any previous years in the number of participants. The run starts at Allentown's Canal Park and proceeds along the canal towpath to Riverside Park in Easton. There are five people on a team and each person runs a leg which varies in length from approximately 3.5 to 5.5 miles. The average speed of the winning team was a little more than 5.2 miles per hour. Some of the runners elect to run the entire course of 22 miles. Hams from the DLARC were stationed along the route at the start, at each relay spot and at the finish line.



The hams participating were:
Bruce, KA3ONZ at the start line.
Bob, KE3AW and **Jim KA2ZQI** at Sand Island.
Brad,KA1RAHatWillow Grove Hotel in Freemansburg
Jeff, N3QZT at Industrial Steel Co in Palmer Twsp.
Glenn, N3ULW at Hugh Moore Park.
Clarence, W3PYF at the finish line.
Amy, KD3TI was net control.

I wish to thank them for the fine job they did. The Red Cross was happy to have their services. Those who participated will receive T-shirts to commemorate the event. ***de Van, K3CP, chairman***

American RED CROSS
LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER

July 27, 1995

Dear Radio Club members:

On behalf of the American Red Cross, our sincerest thanks for again assisting in the Race.

Your efforts are not only helpful, but absolutely necessary and truly appreciated.

We look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sharon Tercha, Media Rep
Sharon Tercha
Lehigh Valley Red Cross.

Friendship-Friendship

something to think about

I see you at the meetings, but you never say hello
You're busy all the time you're there, with those you already know



I sit amongst the people and yet I'm a lonesome one
The new fish are as strange as I
You old members pass me by

But darn it you guys asked us in
and you talk of fellowship
You could just step across the room, but you've never made the trip

Why can't you nod and say "hello", then go sit among your friends?
Now that I'd understand

I'll be at your next meeting, perhaps a nicer night to spend
Think you could introduce yourself??
I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND !!
= *author unknown*

Well. Hmmm. I did not write this, but boy, do I concur. Makes me think. Am remembering my first Amateur Radio club meetings .. and how difficult it was to "break the ice"? How about yourself? Hmmmmm.

73 Mark in Eureka, Far Northern California

The Voices of the USA

by Ken, KE2EP

How lucky we are, what a grand and glorious hobby we are permitted to share. Amateur Radio Operators, around the world, with a common bond. Our uncensored signals cross all boundaries, to every part of the world and beyond! And the people! Sure there are some, a small minority, who, in any situation would be a problem; but it's a small minority. What a "melting pot" of people, all shapes, sizes, colors and religions; meeting on a common equal ground in friendship.

Many club members are "only on UHF or VHF", but they too, under the right conditions, can be heard for a long, long, way. Consider yourself an ambassador each and every time you "key" or press the "mike" button. In the International radio allocations we are the N, W, K, and A people. The voices of **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

de Ken, KE2EP

The Prez Sez

by Bob, KE3AW

Club activities are in high gear. Throughout our newsletters each month you see the evidence. They are many public service activities on VHF. Certainly they are important and show the coordination of club members. However, there are innumerable ham activities, usually less announced and less publicized, and generally individual activities. Many of these are on HF. We have many **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** members who are not on the high frequencies.. Why not?



Operating **HF** bands isn't always easy, in terms of bands being open. Trying different bands may help, but you may need to upgrade your license class for those privileges. If you a person faced with this, no problem. DLARC has classes for Novice, Tech, General, Advanced and Extra Class licenses. As for the VE tests, ours are held each month at 6:45 pm on the Friday after the DLARC monthly meeting. Classes and VE exam sessions are held right here -- in Gracedale.

Moving into **HF** can result in a lot of questions. If that is your case, why not find an Elmer in **DLARC?**

Where to you get the equipment? Do you have some equipment catalogs? They are great for specs. and ideas. You also can get good ideas at hamfests, from other hams, and from radio equipment outlets. Most outlets have 800 numbers to call, toll free, to request catalogs, or to speak with someone about a particular product.

Are you right on the edge of **HF** operation, but not there quite yet? Need a nudge? The **PAQSO Party**, a perennial favorite, is **October 14 and 15**, with a lot of **HF** activity. Your QSOs can help **DLARC** keep the **PAQSO Party** trophy, too. There is still time!

Take advantage of the nice weather. Work on your station improvements before the ravages of winter. Contrary to typical ham tales, antennas **DO** work well when installed in good weather conditions! Like now! There is still time before winter to upgrade the home station, and yourself, for the enjoyment of **HF**. For the next half decade or more, we will have increasing propagation with the sunspot cycle in our favor, and the increasing popularity of **HF.**

So, do what you need to get onto HF, if you are not on it. And if you are on HF, how about being an Elmer for some newer hams? Enjoy HF with DLARC.

73, Bob KE3AW

July 7, VE Session

by Robin, WA3T

At this session, two candidates took a total of six elements. There was one upgrade, and one new licence...

David M. Reiger, KB2KHF to Technician Plus
James C. Eshleman new Technician Plus

The VE's turned out in force for this session: Bob, W2CCE; Martin, N3RCA; Ken, WC3Y; Tony, KE3RP; Bill, K3ANS; Mark, KB3AZR; and Robin, WA3T.

The next regular test session will be on September 8th; team 1 will be in attendance on that date.

73 de Robin, WA3T, Team Liason

For Sale

Antenna, Rotator and Tower

MOSLEY CLASSIC 36, 24' boom, all elements (but needs hardware) estimated value $35.

HAM II or similar rotator (no control box).

CRANK UP TOWER extends to about 50' (one 26' and one 32' section, but needs hardware, cable, etc. No tilt over base -- base is concreted in ground. Tower needs some work, has some rust.)

All items are disassembled, ready for loading.

$160 for the lot. (Coopersburg) .

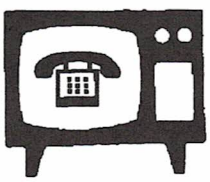
Call John Tekowitz, 282-2922

de Bob/KE3AW

New Media Systems
The House Telecom Bill

By Joe Chuk, W3JD

On August 4th, the House of Representatives passed HR 1555, their version of telecommunications reform legislation. This bill and the version passed by the Senate earlier this summer will now have to be consolidated into a single law to be sent on for the President's signature. Here are some of the major points of the House version:



One of the most controversial provisions is the "Manager's Amendment," which, among other things, makes it easier for the Regional Bell Operating Companies to enter the long distance telephone market. Obviously, the local telcos are happy; the existing long distance companies are not.

Concerning use of the Internet, the House bill allows service providers to take steps to limit offensive content, but does not impose liability on those who make reasonable efforts in that direction. In contrast to the Senate version, it specifically prohibits the FCC from imposing content regulations on the Internet and other interactive media systems. Some observers are still unhappy with this approach to content restrictions because there is no clear distinction between obscenity (a criminal act) and indecency (protected speech), thus criminalizing the transmission of some constitutionally-protected speech online.

Like the Senate bill, HR 1555 requires that television set manufacturers install a "V chip" to allow parents to block out offensive programming, but it does not mandate a program rating system. (The Senate would have the government set up its own rating system if the networks failed to do so.) Instead, it encourages the television and video industry to establish industry-wide technology standards and rating procedures which would allow parents to block programming they deem inappropriate for their children. This provision of the bill was actually defeated at first, but was passed during a last-minute reconsideration.

Some good news for community-based media was the provision for including PEG (public, educational, and government) channels on video dial tone systems to the same extent that they are accommodated on existing cable systems.

On the issue of increasing caps on television station ownership, the House version provides for the same jump to 35 percent of the national audience that the Senate proposed. This was a reduction from the 50 percent limit contained in an earlier version of the House bill.

The bill, however, provides for several other forms of media ownership concentration. It eliminates existing restrictions on the cross-ownership of broadcast stations and newspapers in the same market. It also allows telephone companies to own significant portions of cable systems in their service areas. Existing television stations would be permitted to control up to six new digital broadcast television channels in the same market.

The next step in telecommunications reform is for the Senate and the House versions to be reconciled through the work of a conference committee. The results of that committee's discussions will then go to the President Clinton. His administration has already voiced its displeasure with the laws as proposed by the two houses of Congress.

Referring to the House measure, Vice President Gore remarked, "Without significant changes to the legislation, the President has said he will be compelled to veto it." Media ownership concentration (a feature of both proposals) and cable rate deregulation (more severe in the House version) are two of the points to which Clinton has the most objections. In light of the large margins both measures enjoyed during the congressional voting, the threat of a presidential veto is less significant, since it would probably be overruled.

Congress is on summer break as this goes to press, but the work of the conferences committees begins when the break is over. Some observers are expecting new legislation -- finally replacing the Communications Act of 1934 -- by the end of the calendar year.

de Joe, W3JD

N3THP gets scholarship FAR presents

Jeffrey Ruth (N3THP) received one of the 56 scholarships given by various sources (mostly radio clubs) for the 1995/96 school year.

Jeff will be attending King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The award was for a one-time amount of $700.00 and was one of 14 scholarships given by the Quarter Century Wireless Association through the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.This particular award had no residency preferences and license class restrictions. The applicant did however need the recommendation of a current member of the QCWA. Jeff was recommended by Ray Bilger (W3TDF) whose signature was acquired just three days before the deadline for the scholarship application.

Jeff and his dad, **Danny (KA3AQV)** are both members of **DLARC.** Jeff has a Tech Plus license and owns an ICOM Delta 1 triband handheld.

Contest Calendar

by Barry, KU3X, Contest Editor

Sep 2-3	All Asian DX Contest
	LZ-DX Contest (CW only)
	Radio Club de Panama XXV
Sep 9-10	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
	European DX Contest, SSB
Sep 16-17	ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
	North American SSB QSP Party

Exchange

Asian DX Contest: OM's = RST + age;YL's = RST+00
LZ-DX contest: RST and ITU zone
Radio Club de Panama: RS and serial no.
HF QSO Party: Grid square locator, RST optional
European DX Contest: RS, serial no. and state

de Barry, KU3X

Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration

The ARRL decided after the results of last year to again run the celebration of the cofounder's birthday. This year look for ARRL volunteers signing /126. This year the ARRL is allowing the VE's, AEC's (Assistant Emergency Coordinator), QSL Bureau workers and award managers who are members to participate. Life members are also included this year.

The award will be endorsable in increments of 25 up to 100 this year. Another beautiful certificate, similar to the one ARRL offered last year, will be offered to stations that work at least 25 of the /126 stations. W1AW will be on September 2-3 weekend, with a special QSL card offered.

It starts **0000Z September 2 until 2400Z September 10.** W1AW will operate 0000Z September 2 until 2400Z September 3, on all modes and bands, including satellites, RTTY, SSTV, and packet. The exchange will be all stations signing /126, send RS(T), their appointment, and their name. Others will send RS(T) and their name.

To get the award, send in a log extract with the date, time, band, call worked, and exchange for each contact. Include your name, call sign, and address, and tell the ARRL how many /126 stations you worked. Mail it in with a check or money order for $3 to HPM Celebration, c/o ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. For the special QSL card from W1AW, send your QSL card and an SASE to W1AW, c/o ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494.

de John, N3IGA EPA ACC

Easton Hospital Walk-Run 1995

by John, N3IGA

It was an overcast day on August 6 for the annual Easton Hospital Run. It was raining until about 15 minutes before the start of the run. At least the weather wasn't hazy, hot, and humid. With John, net control, and the other club members in position, everything went smoothly. Thanks to:

Woody-KA2ZQI,
Jeff-N3QZT,
Brad-KA1RAH,
Glenn-N3ULW,
Joe-W3JD,
Carl-KA3TEQ and Marcia,
John-N2MWQ

Another job well done. I know that Easton Hospital appreciates the fine service that the **DLARC** provides them every year. Again I want to thank everyone for a job well down.

de John, N3IGA

Repeater access codes

Important!!!

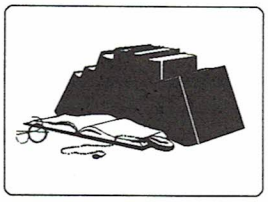
We have been having a number of instances where our repeater autodial has unauthorized and malicious use. We feel this use is by non-hams who learn a lot by listening to us give the tips on the air. Your DLARC repeater access code should never be given to any operator on the air -- or off the air, for that matter. **It is not for non-member amateur radio operators. It certainly is not for non-hams!** When an amateur radio operator really needs the services of our autopatch or autodial, especially to Northampton County Communication Center, a club member should offer to bring up number, rather than telling them on the air the process to do it. ***de Bob/KE3AW***

Just the Minutes

August 3, 1995

by George, N3SQD, Acting Secretary

The August meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio club was called to order at 7:30 P.M. Thursday August 3, 1995 by club president Bob Green, KE3AW.



Bob, noted a correction to the minutes of the last meeting regarding the donation received from the Bucks County horse show. The corrected amount is $80, and not the $100 reported.

The treasurers report was presented by the club president. The report showed an ending balance of $3,476.03

The president reported that the club had received a thank you note from Pete, W3HFI, for the sympathy card from the club. In addition, Bob mentioned that John, N3IGA of our club has been appointed a Leadership Official with the ARRL,

Applications for membership were received
Charles Lamont, N3BUO
Jim Kelly, KA3UQP
The membership voted to accept them into membership

Blair, K3YD presented the Mid-Winter Contest Awards (Novice Roundup). A plaque for the Top Extra Class Award from the club was presented to George, AA3JU. George scored his points while working CW mobile. The club high scorer was N3HVX.

George, N3SQD, presented a report on the equipment loan program, and noted that demand for the SWR analyzer was increasing.

Van, K3CP reported that the Red Cross appreciated our assistance at the River Run. He noted that they had underestimated the number of runners and that there was a resulting shortage of T shirts. Van mentioned that the T shirts will be forthcoming.

In other news, Bob noted that there will be a program on a fly-over RFI detection on September 7th by Bob, W2CCE. Candidates for club officers will be presented at the September meeting, and voting for club officers will be held at the October 5th meeting. The membership was reminded that the PA QSO party (Oct. 14-15) is drawing near.

Chuck, KD3SQ reminded members of the club Hamfest on August 13th. He provided an overview of the Hamfest operations and noted that the success of the event was dependent on the support of the membership. It was mentioned that several functions of the event still required additional volunteers. Bill, K3ANS mentioned that he planned to distribute flyers at the upcoming Warrington Hamfest and requested some assistance. Barry, N3NVA reviewed the various VHF frequencies to be used during the Hamfest.

A sign-up sheet for the club picnic on August 20th was passed around the membership. Bob noted that Jeff, N3QZT was coordinating the event.

George, AA3JU reminded that membership of the Blue Valley Farm Show Special Event Station on August 26th.

Robin, WA3T reported that he was looking for volunteers for the VE session at the Hamfest. In addition, he noted that those seeking information on class schedules should call the clubs hotline.

For the August Product Spotlight, Martin, N3RCA reviewed the CMOS Memory Keyer as described in the August issue of QST magazine. Martin demonstrated the operation of the keyer and noted that it took two evenings to construct. He mentioned that some of the soldering was rather difficult.

Barry, KU3X highlighted a carrying case for the MFJ SWR analyzer that can be improvised from a Lunch-2-Go case he purchased at K-Mart. Barry noted that the case was significantly less expensive that the corresponding case available from MFJ and that the Lunch-2-Go case had ample room for holding a gel cell to power the MFJ (as opposed to the internal batteries).

Bob mentioned that photos from earlier field day and picnics where available for review. He also suggested that the club benefited when members renewed their ARRL memberships through the club. Bob, WF3H, announced that he needed about 10 operators for the MS 25 Bike Tour to be held on October 8th.

Tom, N3LLL reported that there were still problems with frequency stability of the 440 machine and that the machine was "down".

KA3AQV, Dan announced that his son Jeffery had received a scholarship from the QCWA towards college tuition. The meeting was adjourned by the membership at 8:26 P.M..

de George, N3SQD, Acting Secretary..

The Story of Digipeter Rabbit --

a No Code Fable

By Frank Terranella, N2IGO

Part 1

Once upon a time, in the far-away kingdom of Radio, there was a peaceful valley called Hamville, inhabited by a group of rabbits. Hamville was originally settled by the Whiskey family, and the patriarch of that family was an old hare called Charlie Whiskey.



Charlie Whiskey was a farmer by trade. He came to the beautiful valley of Hamville when it was all open meadows. He saw the potential for farming the vacant land and over time he developed a thriving carrot plantation. Charlie Whiskey's carrot plantation was the envy of all the inhabitants of the kingdom of Radio. He succeeded year after year in producing a bumper crop of carrots. All the other residents of the kingdom came to Charlie for advice on planting carrots. Charlie would always tell them, "The secret's in developing a good ear." No, Charlie didn't have superior hearing, but he had developed a very special skill. You see, Charlie picked his carrots with his ears.

In fact, Charlie had worked hard at perfecting this skill and was able to harvest at better than 20 carrots a minute. All of Charlie's family learned to pick carrots with their ears. Soon they were all picking at better than 20 carrots a minute. Charlie was so proud of his special skill that he insisted that everyone who came to work at Hamville first show that he could pick carrots with his ears. Charlie would not give new settlers any land unless they could demonstrate to his foreman, Victor Echo, that they could pick at least 5 carrots a minute with their ears.

When they could pick 13 carrots a minute, Charlie gave them more land to work. When they were able to pick carrots by ear at the rate of 20 a minute, Charlie made them full citizens of Hamville.

This process of learning to pick carrots with your ears went on for some time. In other parts of the kingdom of Radio, other rabbits began to pick carrots by ear. However, there were some noisy ducks, known as the Quackers, who lived in the community of Good Buddy. They used their mouths to pick their crops instead of their ears. They had much larger mouths than the rabbits and saw no need to use their ears. The rabbits all looked down on the Quackers. "We must always require ear harvesting skills for entry into Hamville," they said. "That way we will keep out those noisy Quackers." So everyone who came to Hamville had to learn how to pick carrots by ear if they wanted to stay. Charlie Whiskey was adamant about that. "If you don't want to learn the skill of ear harvesting then go work in Good Buddy with the Quackers," he would say..

And so the years passed, and new methods of farming were developed. These new methods were easier to learn than ear harvesting, especially for the animals who didn't have the big ears that the rabbits had. What's more, the new methods were just as efficient as ear harvesting. As time went by, fewer and fewer of the young animals were willing to learn the skill of ear harvesting. The population of Hamville began to dwindle. All the residents of Hamville were getting on in years. To make matters worse, there were new neighbors nearby who coveted the beautiful open farmland of Hamville. They wanted to come in and turn it into commercial uses like shopping centers. And worst of all, the pollution from the Quackers, the other Rabbits, and the Mice (known in Hamville as the QRM group) was having an adverse effect on farming in Hamville. The future looked bleak indeed. Then, one day, a stranger called Digipeter Rabbit came to Hamville. He was an educated rabbit who had studied at the School for Scientific Bunnies (SSB). He had majored in Farm Mechanics and knew all of the latest scientific agricultural methods. But for all his education and know-how, there was one thing that Digipeter could not do. He could not master the skill of picking carrots with his ears. And since he already knew how to pick carrots more efficiently with new scientific methods, he was not interested in learning.

Charlie Whiskey was outraged. "What do you mean you won't learn to pick carrots with your ears? Why, we in Hamville have been picking carrots that way for 75 years. It's a tradition here. It shows that we're special and that we're better than the Quackers. If you don't have the desire to develop a good ear, then we don't want you here in Hamville."

But Digipeter was adamant. He saw no reason to learn an obsolete skill just to stay in Hamville and he refused to even try. Charlie Whiskey took the matter to the Ancient Royal Rabbit League, which he had founded. The ARRL decreed that everyone in Hamville must learn to pick carrots with his ears or be banished. And so Digipeter Rabbit left Hamville and founded his own village called Techietown.

Soon, all the young animals in the land of Radio were flocking to Techietown. But Digipeter had his own entrance requirement. A good ear and a good memory were not enough for him. No one could stay in Techie- town unless he could demonstrate technical knowledge, understanding and ability, and the desire to contribute to the advancement of Techietown.

Digipeter encouraged all the residents of Techietown to experiment in the cultivation of new unexplored lands, never before farmed. Digipeter showed them how to overcome pollution problems. He showed them how to use the land they had more efficiently. Digipeter even perfected a method of farming which allowed a number of rabbits to farm the same land at the same time. And while the residents of Hamville were picking 30 carrots a minute on a good day, in Techietown, harvests of 300 carrots a minute were possible. Using Digipeter's methods, and those developed by the other bright, young residents, Techietown soon became the most prosperous village in the kingdom of Radio. This did not escape the notice of the Field Carrot Council, which governed the kingdom of radio.

To reward the residents of Techietown for their contributions to the kingdom, the Field Carrot Council gave Techietown more and more land to work, until its borders touched those of Hamville.

courtesy Jim, KA6KMD via packet radio

continued next month...

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 Rick Saeger, K3OO
The Nets are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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--CLUB MEETINGS

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