Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

September 1997

ARRL Atlantic Division Director to Speak

Kay Cragie, WT3P to speak

by Tom, N3LLL, president

Kay Craigie / WT3P our Atlantic division director of ARRL will be our meeting on **September 4th.** Kay will be filling us in on the services that ARRL provides. Sometimes I think we take a lot of what goes on there behind the scenes for granted, this will provide an opportunity to understand the inter workings of the League better. I hope you can all make the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Northampton County College, but the room has not been assigned at press time. Check the net for location.

Novice/Tech Classes

by Chris, NU3L

Free classes for the Novice & Technician licenses will start on **Monday, September 15th** and continue for 10 weeks. Classes will be held in the Greystone 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.

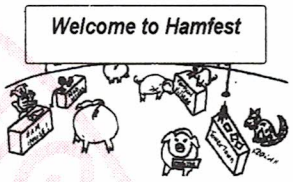
While code is not required for all license grades students should expect us to strongly encourage them to learn CW. For those wishing to purchase a text in advance, we will be using **"Now You're Talking"** published by the American Radio Relay League.

If you know of anyone who is interested, call **me, Chris, NU3L @ 610 965-4151** and leave a message, and someone will get back to you.

DLARC 50th anniversary hamfest

by Ray, W3TDF

Please note that this is not the 50th hamfest, but just the 50th Anniversary of the founding of this great club.



You can't really afford to pass up this one. It's very affordable. Just **$1.00 admission,** and tailgate spots only **$2.00.** How could you not want to bring out those old boat-anchors, and your other surplus equipment and parts. This is a bare-bones operation. No inside vendors. There may be some of the big vendors outside. No VE testing will be conducted. AND, the location is easy to find.

Schnecksville Fire Company grounds, located on the West side of PA-309, just 4 miles North of US-22 (Allentown). We will have talk-in on 146.70(R) and 146.52(S). There will be a hot dog and soda vendor for those who do not want to bring a picnic lunch.

Official notices will be in **QST, CQ** and **World Radio**, in the September issue. There are no flyers or any other notices except the packet message on **W3PYF (144.99)** addressed to **'FEST'.**

Remember this is low-key. There is no official access time, except you cannot get on the grounds before daybreak.

The date, **September 27, is a Saturday, NOT SUNDAY.** Hope to see you there!

de Ray,W3TDF.

911 Club access

by Barry, N3NVA

I want to update our club members of the new 911 Auto Patch.

First, please remember that these access numbers are for club members ONLY. Please **do not let these numbers out over the air.** If someone has a request to call 911 I suggest that you ask them, Is this an emergency? You make the patch and tell them that they must ID. as an amateur operator and give the incident information directly to county.

***1**=The non-emergency access number to Northampton County

***9**=The emergency access number to Northampton County.

Please remember that ***9,** the (911 Line) is for **EMERGENCY'S ONLY**. An emergency is a fire causing property damage, or a life threatening situation like an accident with possible injuries or the vehicles possibly in danger of causing another accident. I guess we could say any call that requires a RED LIGHT response would be an emergency. If you use the ***1** non-emergency number it will be handled the same as in the past except that 911 lines get priory answering.

A reminder for at home, the non-emergency telephone number is **330-2200** from anywhere in Northampton County.

Dialing 911 from home will display your name and address from the address of the 911 call. If you would like 911 Dispatch to have any additional information like any persons in your home with an illness or a hazard emergency responders should know about, call your local Police or Fire Dept. and they will forward that information to 911's data base.

de Barry, N3NVA

Easton Hospital run 1997

You could not ask for a better day for the annual **Easton Hospital Run/Walk.** It was sunny with the temperatures in the mid-60's. A perfect day to run. There was a little problem before the start of the run, but otherwise everything went smoothly. The **Delaware-Lehigh Radio Club** came through again providing communications for this annual event.

The following participated in the event: **John, N3IGA; Clarence, W3PYF; Jeff, N3QZT; Jill, N3ZSR; Glenn, N3ULW; Bob, KE3AW; Thomas, N3YRP; Brad, KA1RAH; and Amy, KD3TI,** riding in the ambulance.

I want to thank all who volunteered their time and help make this another successful event for DLARC and Easton Hospital. Easton Hospital appreciates the fine job that DLARC has done over the years in making their Run/Walk a safe event. Hope to see you all next year.

de John, N3IGA

Pillsbury Doughboy dies

Veteran Pillsbury spokesman Pop N. Fresh died Wednesday of a severe yeast infection He was 71. He was buried Friday in one of the biggest funerals in years.

Dozens of celebrities turned out including Mrs. Butterworth, the California Raisins, Hungry Jack, Betty Crocker, Sara Lee, and the Jolly Green Giant. The graveside was piled high with flours, as longtime friend Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy, describing Fresh as a man who "never knew he was kneaded".

Fresh rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a smart cookie, and wasted much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Still, even as a crusty old man, he was a roll model to millions. Fresh is survived by his secon wife. They had two children, and...(you knew this one was coming:)

..one in the oven.

author unknown

Something to think about!

When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or his wife is new.

Novice-Tech Classes to begin on **September 15th**, if you have any members of the family or know of anyone who is interested, call **Chris NU3L** at **610-965-4151** and leave a message

Contest Calendar

by Barry, KU3X, Contest Editor

Sept 6-7	All Asian DX Contest, phone
	LZ-DX Contest (CW only)
Sept 7	North America CW Sprint
Sept 10-12	YLRL Howdy Days
Sept 13-14	Worked all Europe SSB Contest
Sept 13-15	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sept 14	North America SSB Sprint
Sept 20-21	ARRL 10 Ghz and up Cumulative Contest
	Air Force 50th Anniversary QSO Pty
	Scandinavian CW Activity Contest
Sept 27-28	1996 CQ WW RTTY Contest
	Scandinavian SSB Activity Contest
Sept 28	Heart of Dixie QSO Party

Exchanges:

All Asian DX Contest: OM's = RST + age;
YL's = RST + 00
LZ-DX contest: RST and ITU zone
VHF QSO Party: Grid square locator,RSToptional
European DX Contest: RS, serial no. and state

de Barry, KU3X

Rich, N3NXF and Wendy

by Rich, N3NXF

Well, it was a long time comming (officially 6 days overdue), but little Daniel Wesley Shevalier made his appearance at 3:22 PM on Friday July 18. He weighed in at 7lbs 15.5oz, and measured 21 inches long. Both Wendy and Danny are doing fine.

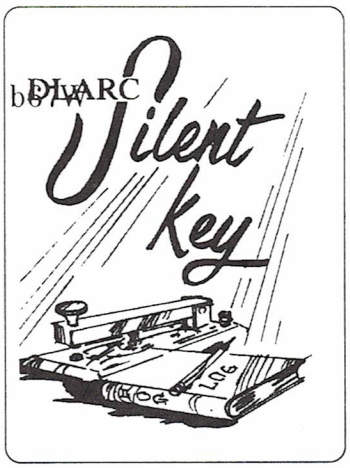


He had sort of a rough start. He was in fetal distress, and Wendy's labor was induced. He came out battered, and blue, and had a real knot in his umbilical cord. Once he was born though, he rallied quickly (it is amazing how resilent little babys are). He has been tested and examined since, and been pronounced "perfect" by the Pediatritians.

Danny's big brother is not sure what to make of all this yet, but he says he loves Danny, and wanted to buy him a ball for a present the other day (which we did).

editors note:

Sorry, this baby waited until a day after the August Nessletter went to press, but from all of us in DLARC the best of good health to all.



KA3QOM

Jim Lettich

Jim Lettich (71)a long time member of DLARC died on Saturday July 26.

Jim worked for Champion Spark Plug comany in Hellertown for 27 years. He was also a singer for the Earl Keller Melody Singers.

He leaves 4 children and nine grandchildren.

RIP Jim from all of us.

Estate Sale

1. **Yeasu FT227RA** 2 meter mobile radio with Heathkit Power supply andCushcraft Ringo Ranger Antenna. $75

2. **Cushcraft A3 tri-band beam**, **Rohn HBX40 tower, and apprx. 75-100 ft hardline** with two connectors. The beam and tower must be taken down by purchaser. **Make offer for these items.**

Please contact **Erma Kromer at (610) 759-0264**, or **Dennis KR3U,** on 2 meters, at (610)759-8099, or e-mail to pookie@nni.com

For Sale

Kenwood TS830S by original owner.

Includes outboard VFO 230 for split operation. **Also includes 500 Hz CW filters for both IFs (YK-88C and YG-455C).**

Extra set of final tubes (6146B).

Complete set of operating manuals. This is one of the best radios Kenwood ever made. **$750 firm.**

Heathkit SB303 Rcvr, SB401 Txmtr, SB620 Scanalyzer, SB600 Spkr.

Will not sell separately. **$400**

Contact NU3L, Chris at 610-965-4151 or

e-mail me at my address on the DLARC web site.

The River Run

by Amy, KD3TI

On July 21st, the American Red Cross held their annual Lehigh River Relay Run As in the past, they requested **DLARC** to provided communications for safety and coordination of the event. Despite the early hour, all amateurs were on station and ready to go The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club operators help track the progress of the race, pass messages among the Red Cross officials and call for help as needed along the course.

With our help. the race went smoothly and safety. We used the N3LWY repeater on 146.665.

I have a couple of ideas for next year's run, we will see what we can do next year.

Ham radio operators participating In this event, **N3QZT- Jeff, KAlRAH- Brad, N3UGH-Paul, N3ULW- Glen and N3ZSR, Jill**, who recently passed her exam. exam. Thanks to all for their participation and hope you all had a good time.

de Amy. KD3TI

Derriere in the Delaware

by Clarence, W3PYF

Following the River Run, 17 members of the Club acted as safety watch for the floaters on the river. All went well with **Dick, KA3MOU** and **Norm, N3GXW** as net controls.

John, N3IGA, acted as control at the Eddyside park location.

The following members of the club participated in the operation:

Paul, N3UGH, Joe, W3JD, Ami, KD3TI, Brad, KA1RAH, Jill, N3ZSR, Glenn, N3ULW, Jeff, N3QZT, Tom, N3EBH, Bob, N3NET, Juli, N3CSQ, John, N3IGA, Thomas, N3RYP, Norm, N3GXW, Dick, KA3MOU, and **Clarence, W3PYF.**

de Clarence, W3PYF

No cancer link to EMF

from Amateur Radio Newsline

On the medical front, there's good news for ham radio and anyone living near power transmission lines. Researchers studying health effects of electromagnetic fields have concluded that power lines do not increase the risk of leukemia in children.

The new findings were to be published in the July 3rd edition of the New England Journal of Medicine and is expected to relieve some of the fears that surfaced in the late '70s and early '80s. This, when some scientists claimed that they though they had found a connection between cancer and the fields given off by power lines and electrical appliances.

But this latest study financed by the National Cancer Institute and the University of Minnesota's Children's Cancer Research Fund found just the opposite. It looked at 638 children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and compared their living conditions with those of 620 youngsters without cancer. They also had engineering teams measure electromagnetic fields in each child's home and at former homes. The researchers also checked to see if the mother lived near power lines when she was pregnant. They discovered that no matter how they measured a child's exposure to power line fields there was no evidence that the children with leukemia had been exposed to more electromagnetic energy than healthy children in the control group.

via Amateur Radio Newsline #1039
Via various news reports)

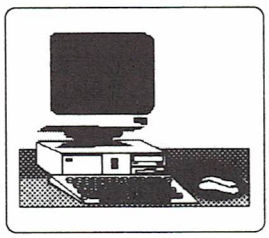


SIR, MAY I TEMPORARILY SET MY MAG MOUNT ON YOUR HELMET? " CAN'T SEEM TO HIT THE REPEATER FROM HERE".

If Dr Seuss wrote technical manuals

supplied by Rich, N3NXF

If a packet has a pocket on a socket on a port, And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort, And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report!



If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, And the double clicking icons put your window in the trash, And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash, Then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on your cable on the gable on your house, Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, But your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of Gauss, So your icons in your window are as wavy as a zouse, Then you may as well reboot and go without a bang, 'Cause as sure as I'm a poet, the thing is gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk, And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary RISC, Then you hafta flash your memory, and you'll want to RAM your ROM, Quickly turn off your computer and be sure to tell your mom.

author unknown

Prez Sez

by Tom, N3LLL, president

It is hard to believe that it has been almost two years since I replaced **Bob / KE3AW** as president of the club. Bob's commitment to the club through the board and his other activities has been a long one. It takes six years to go through the clubs chairs. It that kind of continuity that makes this organization work.



As fall is approaching so is the **DLARC Hamfest**. There is no excuse not to be at Schnecksville, fill up your trunk with all of the goodies you have been meaning to part with and be there bright and early on a clear cool fall day **Saturday, September 27.** The price for admission is One dollar, Two dollars for tailgating that is cheaper than a cup of coffee and a donut.

Field day pictures in the Newsletter caught me doing what I do best, eating. The pictures were great.

Clarence / W3PYF is looking for more participation from the membership providing articles and tidbits for the newsletter. Although I pick on him a lot, the DLARC newsletter is one of, if not the finest in the country. He deserves our support, it is hard to face the composition of a document that large each month. One does not have to be an author to contribute, remember it is the clubs newsletter. While I am giving credits do not forget our publisher **Norm / K3NZ** and our distribution manager **Bill / KA3OEG** without whose services we would not receive a newsletter.

For Sale

Heath HW 100 80/10 SSB/CS, power supply with **D104 microphone** and manuals	**$150.00**
Johnson 1KW matchbox	**50.00**
Johnson Low Pass Filter	**10.00**

Make offer for the following:

Heath VFO
Heath Q Multiplier
Heath Q Meter
Heath R.F. Signal Generator
Heath Capacitor Tester
Heath Decade Capacitor
Tyme Meter Digital Clock
Meisnner Signal Generator

Call Roger, WA2HXQ at 610 867-3596

Hamfest (Don't forget)

Don't forget the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Hamfest on Saturday September 27 at the Schnecksville Fire Company

To heck with Paris!

For hams it's Ohio in Springtime!

"The AA3JU Dayton Chronicles"

For the uninitiated and recently licensed a brief explanation is in order regarding Dayton and it's significance to the amateur radio world. First Dayton is not "A" hamfest it is "THE" hamfest, second Dayton is the ham radio equivalent of Mecca to the Islamic community. I have personally poured over the ARRL handbook and all of part 97 and have not actually found the specific clause that requires a pilgrimage to Dayton once in every ham's life but darn it I know it is in there some place. Fully believing this the spring of 1997 was to be my time to make this holy journey.

The day started early for me with little sleep the night before, mind you, I was late getting to my departure point having to quadruple check all of my "stuff" to make certain I had everything I would need. As usual it looked more like I was headed out for a month long DXpedition rather than an 800 mile trip to Ohio. We started our journey with a hearty plate of eggs and other cholesterol laden goodies. This brings me to a first observation, going to Dayton was going to be as much about consuming meals that would make my Dr. cringe as anything else.

Our first stop was to be at a restaurant from the Cracker Barrel chain. My traveling companion recommended this particular chain for having some pretty good food and I am here to report that after dining there I can concur that he was very accurate. The food was sort of a mix between American country style with a hint of German influence, any way the stuff was good and not a whole lot more than a burger chain. Our bellies full we traveled on through the rolling hills of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. All the while I was reading and incessantly quoting some less than fascinating facts from my computer print outs and AAA trip tickets. I learned something really interesting if you quote things from a map to a grown man enough times he is likely to feed you that map for supper.

We stopped for the night about one hour outside the holy land at an American icon, Motel 6. I could have sworn that Ol' Tom Bodet himself had left the light on for us. The place was sparse but clean. We ate at a place across the way from the motel and it proved out that sometimes the food you find on the road is little more than road kill. I began some furtive prayers that I would not come down with some form of incurable food poisoning. This night would be the one that my friend would learn my deepest darkest secret, that I not only snore but that I am a champion snorer.

Well we got up early the next day and headed off for the promised land. Upon our arrival at the gates, the nice folks at Hamvention treated us to about an hours wait in what felt like arctic temperatures. And at last I had my ticket and readied myself for the flea market.

Upon entering I felt like I was the winner of some sort of shopping spree contest everyone literally ran to tables. And like the lemming that I am I ran too with cash waving in the air. I realize that the old hands at this mealy stand by and watch the newbies do this dance and get a chuckle at it all. I also quickly learned that no matter how hard you try that you cannot possibly buy everything at Dayton. It is just not possible to do so though I did give it a good run for the money. I thought I was being slick by bringing a back pack with me to carry around my goodies. The trouble with this thinking is that most ham gear has lots of metal in it and as such is very heavy. The result being that after a few days in Dayton I now have 2 permanently etched grooves in my shoulders.

Eventually the main Arena opened up at 1:00. This is where the purveyors of new equipment set up. Everyone that ever had an ad in QST or CQ was there. Tables strewn with the latest and coolest stuff was there, From the wholly computer based HF rig to the micro miniature QRP VHF walkie talkie for 2 meters. Good Lord was there stuff to look at. Buttons to push, knobs to turn, literature to pickup. And the organizations were there too, ARRL, YLRL, OMIKE, DARC all of them. I even had a chance to talk to Gordon West, he shook my hand and I took his picture and he is a really nice guy. The folks from RSGB gave me a souvenir from England and the guys from MARS invited me to the forum the next day. How all these people remained so friendly is beyond me, but they were.

The Hamvention closes for the day at 5:00 PM but this is by no means the end of the festivities at Dayton. After checking in to our "luxury" hotel in down town Dayton (A note, if you are in Dayton do not under any circumstances stay at the Travel Host down town. It will stand out as the single worst, dirtiest and poorly maintained hotel I have ever stayed at, and the surly and rude attitude of the staff didn't help at all either) we ventured out for dinner (I told you this was really about food didn't I?) we ended up at the Spaghetti Warehouse. This place was sort of like a TGI Fridays kind of atmosphere but featuring pasta dishes. The place was loaded with hams everywhere and the waitresses and staff were really friendly and helpful. There were club logos as far as the eye could see and there was some really happy chatter going on at every table. After supper we wandered across the road to the Crowne Plaza hotel where the "hospitality suites" were located.

I am a member of the Frankford Radio Club which bills itself as the greatest contest club in the universe, this I suppose would be bragging if it was not true and provable. We sponsor a suite at Dayton this is where the who's who of DX-ing and contesting invariably show up at. I met more big guns that night than I had ever done before, even on the air. I even got to shake the hand of my personal hero, ON4UN/John Delvedore. Combined there was more information on ham radio in that room than in all the books ever written on the subject. There was a competition to see who could send and receive Morse code the fastest, I left before they were all done, but I understand that the winner got up towards 78 words per minute! Damn I can't even talk that fast, let alone copy CW that fast. Tell me this is not the field of the greats!

Well that is it for this installment. Next time we head upstairs to Society of Midwest contestors and I will introduce you to some of the folks I met at Dayton. I want to take a minute to say Thank you to my traveling companion who is purposely being unnamed, thanks for putting up with me, you are a good friend.

de Ger ge, AA3JU

Part 2 of this story will appear in the October issue.



Friends Without Faces

We sit and we type, and we stare at our screens,
We all have to wonder, what this possibly means.

With our mouse we roam, through the rooms in a maze, Looking for something or someone, as we sit in a daze. We chat with each other, we type all our woes, Small groups we do form, and gang up on our foes. We wait for somebody, to type out our name, We want recognition, but it is always the same.



We give kisses and hugs, and sometimes flirt, In IMs we chat deeply, and reveal why we hurt. We do form friendships - but - why we don't know, But some of these friendships. will flourish and grow.

Why is it on screen, we can be so bold, Telling our secrets, that have never been told. Why is it we share, the thoughts in our mind, With those we can't see, as though we are blind. The answer is simple, it is as clear as a bell, We all have our problems, and need someone to tell.

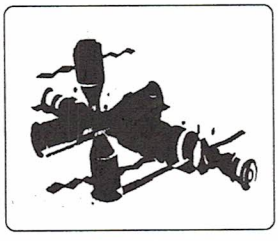
We can't tell real people, but tell someone we must, So we turn to the 'puter, and to those we can trust. Even though it is crazy, the truth still remains, They are Friends Without Faces, and odd little names.

Take this time to have fun, and be sure to let those, "friends without faces" know how much you appreciate them!

author unknown (supplied by N2OCW)

Linenger, MIREX lauded in Congressional Record

Ham astronaut **Jerry Linenger, KC5HBR**, and MIREX were recognized in the pages of the Congressional Record earlier this year. The Congressional Record of May 23, 1997, contains the remarks of Sen Carl Levin (D-Michigan) marking the occasion of Linenger's return after 5 months aboard the Mir space station. During his tour of duty aboard Mir, Linenger and his crewmates experienced a fire and problems with the station's oxygen-generating systems, lost of power and coolant system leaks. Also mentioned was Linenger's use of ham radio to speak to a fifth-grade class in Charlevoix, Michigan, during his time on Mir. Levin recognized Linenger, an Eastpoint, Michigan, native, for "courage, perseverance and professionalism" in the face of adversity and congratulated him on "a mission heroically accomplished."--*thanks to Will Marchant, KC6ROL*



The ARRL Letter

Electronic vanity applications flood gate 3

Gate 3 vanity filers flooded the FCC with nearly 1200 electronic and only around 300 paper applications Wednesday. The disparity was in apparent reaction to the FCC's announcement last month that it would give priority in processing to electronically filed vanity applications.

But the actual number of electronic filers could be far less than the 1182 the FCC received on August 6. FCC officials in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, believe that many hams filed more than one electronic application, possibly as a result of a glitch in the electronic filing system. Several callers to the ARRL reported that the on-line filing system seemed to crash at the end of the electronic Form 610V. This apparently prompted many applicants to start all over again.

Whatever the final tally, the number of first-day Gate 3 applications was far fewer than the more than 3600 that showed up on the opening day of Gate 2.

The FCC will not begin to process the applications until the 10-day deadline to receive the $30 application fee has passed. Only applications for which a fee has been paid will be processed.

To clear the decks in anticipation of processing the Gate 3 applications, FCC personnel in Gettysburg have been making nearly daily runs of vanity applications that arrived prior to the opening of Gate 3 on August 6. As of today (August 8), the FCC had processed vanity applications received through July 11.

The FCC is not expected to begin processing the Gate 3 applications until mid-month at the earliest.

The vanity application fee increases to $50 on September 15. The FCC has not announced when it plans to open Gate 4.

The ARRL Letter

Just the Minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary

The August meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh ARC was called to order by Tom, N3LLL, at 7:30pm in Kiva Hall. There were 50 members and guests present.



The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Motion was made by Glenn, N3ULW, to accept the minutes with Amy, KD3TI, seconding.

The Treasurer's report was given by Dick, KA3MOU. The old balance was $3926.03. Expenses for the month were $948.72. The ending balance, as of July 31, 1997, was $3207.31. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Mark, K3MP, and seconded by Thomas, N3YRP.

Barry, N3NVA, updated the members on the progress of the repeaters. The 440 has been fixed and is up and running. The mods have been done on the 440 side for linking. As soon as the board comes in for updating the.70 repeater, the link will be ready. The repeater will also be ready for the PL to be activated in February. Barry informed everybody that the .70 repeater will be down during modifications.

Blair, K3YD, has volunteered to be the Chairman for the Nominating Committee. Along with Blair, the other members of the Committee will be Bob, KE3AW, and Jeff, N3QZT.

Chris, NU3L, announced that the Novice-Tech Classes will start on September 15 and run for about 10 weeks. If you know anybody that is interested in coming to the classes, have them contact Chris.

Tom, N3LLL, informed the members that **Kay Cragie, WT3P**, our Atlantic 1Division ARRL Director, will be our speaker at the September meeting. Kay will talk about the ARRL. It should be interesting to everyone especially the new Hams.

The club would like to welcome the following new members:

Jennifer Branda
David Bokan, KE4FTY
Stephen Brickman, KC2CEO
Edward s. George, KB9LQP
Warren George Jr., WA3FWD
Richard Herron, N3SXD
Jill Brodt, N3ZSR

Clarence, W3PYF, made the motion to accept the new members with Chris, NU3L, seconding.

The program for the night had two speakers. One was **John, N3IGA**, and the other speaker was **Mark, N3NBL.** John gave a talk on some RFI stories that he read in a book called "Interference Handbook". Some of the stories were thought provoking and some were funny. Mark, N3NBL, gave an interesting talk since he does TVI for GPU Energy. He brought some of the equipment that he uses to show everybody. Everybody who stayed seemed to enjoy the presentation.

de John, N3IGA

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

7/1/97 Through 7/31/97

Balance 6/30/97	$3,926.03
INCOME	
Dues Arrl Misc	$230.00
TOTAL INCOME	230.00
EXPENSES	
Field Day	452.76
Newsletters	169.60
Postage	90.00
Refund	1 1.00
Renewal	168.00
Telephone	57.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	948.72
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-718.72
Balance 7/31/97	**$3,207.31**

Total Membership 356

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Remember!

RACES-ARES-DLARC NETS meet

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM

and WEDNESDAY at 7:00 PM

Make it a habit to be on.. Important Club information is available at these times.

HTX-202 Dead NiCad Battery Fix

by Douglas E. Trapp (KC6ZOF)

Introduction:

The **HTX-202 Radio Shack 2 Meter HT** is probably the most common radio used by Hams in North America. With a common radio comes a common problem; a non- functional NiCad battery.



The factory battery supplied with the 202 is a very efficient battery, if used correctly. However, although the manual mentions proper care of this battery, it fails to mention that this battery will experience "Memory Factor" charging loss unless it is used properly. Memory factor is common in older types of NiCad batteries, and Radio Shack has not upgraded to the newer style.

In order to maintain the charging efficiency of the supplied NiCad battery for the 202, you MUST allow it to drain completely before recharging it. One common mistake is recharging the battery as soon as transmitting is no longer possible. This battery should be brought to the very lowest possible voltage output by keeping it attached to the radio, with the radio on, until a hiss is no longer heard. The hiss indicates that the radio is still able to drain the battery, even though transmitting is no longer possible. This hiss will stop when the radio has fully, or close to fully de-charged the battery. The voltage at full drain will be typically about 3 volts ... some a little more or less.

Another common mistake is keeping the battery attached when also using an external power supply source. This, too, will destroy the memory of the charge capability. Never attach a power supply with the NiCad attached. I have read that some of the newer 202s will not harm the battery with a power supply attached, but it is difficult at best to determine which radio is one of these since Radio Shack does not supply the serial numbers for them.

Once the Memory Factor on the 202 NiCad has been washed, the battery will hold a charge for a very limited time. This can be a few minutes to none at all. The problem is noticed when attaching a freshly charged battery and witnessing the "Low Battery" icon only minutes after attaching it to their radio. Checking with a VOM will show it has a full charge, but the battery thinks it is low. It will not allow for transmission long in this case, and you will find yourself recharging the battery constantly.

The following is a description of a simple FIX for the above problem. I hope you find it works for you, but I cannot guarantee it. In most cases, this will work. The idea is simply outsmarting the NiCad. So, read on.

Fixing the NiCad with Memory Factor loss:

Go to the store, or locate a flashlight bulb capable of handling 7 volts. This will be a bulb made for 5 or 6 cell flashlights, like the long Police types. Another alternative is an automobile headlight, tail light, or blinker bulb. A headlight bulb will have to be soldered or taped with strong duck tape to wires, remembering polarity is important. Since you are a HAM, I trust you have the ability to be innovative.

Now that you have the bulb, attach the center bulb point (+) to the positive (+) point on the battery, then tape the bulb so that the outer (screw) part of the bulb is touching the negative point of the battery, or the metal grid. The bulb will now light. Tape it to the battery in a way that will keep it attached without having to physically hold it in place. The bulb will get hot, so don't hold it with your fingers. Place the battery with the lit bulb attached in a safe place, and keep an eye on it. The tape may dislodge, so you may have to re-attach it. If you are using a more innovative device, disregard the tape comments.

Allow the battery to drain until the bulb is no longer lit. Now, immediately disconnect the bulb and plug in the charger. Do Not allow the battery to sit after de-charging because the NiCad will recharge itself a little in time. You want the very lowest possible voltage output before you start charging.

Allow the battery to charge for 24 hours. That's right! 24 hours is what it takes, but we aren't done yet. After 24 hours disconnect the charger and reattach the battery to the bulb again, as described above. The bulb will be brilliantly lit now, but watch it drain down to nothing. It may take an hour or so, but let it drain.

Once it is drained again, do the same as mentioned earlier. Make sure that you reattached the charger immediately upon discovering that the bulb is no longer lit. Charge for another 24 hours.

After the second 24 hours, the problem should be fixed. The battery will now be charged to about 7.5 volts, and will hold a charge to 3 volts or less before the "Battery Low" icon appears. If, by some chance, the battery still does not hold a charge, try the procedure again. If it still doesn't work, the battery may be completely dead, and un-fixable. Now, be sure that you allow the battery to completely drain as I mentioned in the Introduction section of this text. When you no longer hear the hiss, charge it immediately. Remember to charge it immediately, and don't let it sit for a while before doing so. Drain it completely, and charge it completely. BTW, complete charge on this battery takes more than 12 hours, and 24 is a good safe method. The battery will not over-charge.

Conclusion and Acknowledgments:

I have personally performed this procedure on my NiCads, all of which react the same way. This was not entirely my own discovery, but some of the advise above reflects my own personal experiences. I would like to give credit to both KB5OPH and KB5QHB for their initial advise on the use of flashlight bulbs. I just heard from KB5QHB and KB5OPH, and both acknowledged that what I am writing here is accurate, with some very good additional information. However, KB5OPH was the HAM who first told me of the flashlight bulb fix. I hope to hear about your little FIX ideas for other problems, remembering that HAM Radio is designed around experimentation.

de Doug, KC6ZOF

Editors note:

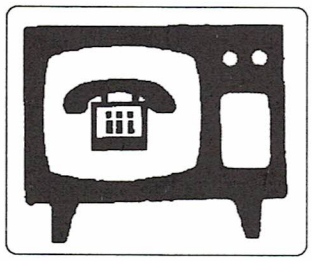
I have tried this on batteries for two of my HT's and it works like a charm..

My thanks to Doug for permission to use this story which I found on the Compuserve HamNet forum.

New Media Systems

S-Band DARS Needs Repeater Help

By Joe Chuk, W3JD



Much of the public commentary (this column included) on the transition to digital broadcasting has concentrated on digital television (DTV) -- both on the promise of higher definition and on the magnitude of the equipment changes needed by broadcasters and consumers alike. Considerably less attention has been given to the impending change from analog to digital radio broadcasting.

This transition to "digital audio broadcasting" (DAB) will take place in two very distinct venues: earth-bound systems, similar to the analog AM and FM service we currently use, and satellite systems. The terrestrial systems being developed have their own set of considerations, and these will be the subject of a future column in this space. It's in the area of satellite DAB, known specifically as Digital Audio Radio Service (DARS), that a number of recent developments have occurred, and not without controversy.

One area of disagreement internationally is the frequency band to be used for these satellite broadcasts. The International Telecommunications Union has designated the L-band spectrum segment of 1452 to 1492 MHz for DARS throughout the world. Because the United States currently uses that segment for military communications, however, the FCC has decided to use the S-band portion of the spectrum from 2310 to 2360 MHz for DARS assignments in (or, more accurately, above) this country. The method chosen by the FCC for assigning channels in that band -- through an auction -- was itself controversial, since it was the first use of an auction for broadcast frequencies.

The two companies who were the successful high bidders for the two available sets of channels were Satellite CD Radio and American Mobile Radio Corp., who bid $83 million and $90 million respectively in the April 1997 auctions.

Now that they bought the right to develop DARS systems, which will provide a type of "premium" radio requiring listeners to pay a subscription fee, the two companies are claiming that satellite transmissions alone will not be able to cover all areas of the country (the main reason for a satellite-based, rather than a terrestrial, service). They claim, with justification, that the higher frequency location of the S-band assignments would prevent transmissions from reaching some areas. In agreement with this assessment, the FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to provide for terrestrial repeaters for the DARS signals. Predictably, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) has voiced strong objections to any such earth-based transmitters.

The NAB's primary concern is to support the interests of current AM and FM broadcasters, whose analog programming has historically served local communities. Although a changeover to digital technology by terrestrial broadcasters need not change the local focus of their service, DARS systems, by their very nature, are national broadcast media. Inserting terrestrial repeaters in communities throughout the country, therefore, represents a threat to the traditional localism of radio broadcasting.

To bolster their objections, the NAB claims that neither of the DARS operators has presented the necessary technical information in their applications to demonstrate how the complementary terrestrial repeater network would be implemented. In their reply comments to the NPRM, the NAB expressed the need for such information about the repeaters as expected effective radiated power, expected antenna gain and pattern, specific technical criteria used to establish the need for repeaters at any given location, repeater interference characteristics both with the satellites and with other repeaters, and required spacing between repeaters.

In response, the applicants went on record to say that additional specific information is unnecessary since FCC rules for satellite DARS licenses already restrict out-of-band interference, and these are applicable to terrestrial repeaters.

Although a change in frequency to the lower L-band segment to be used in Canada and Europe would minimize the need for terrestrial repeaters, the FCC has shown no indication of a change in that direction. And that means that, for any DARS system to be commercially successful as a nationally available radio broadcast service, the satellite transmissions will have to be supplemented with repeaters. If the FCC does not implement rules to allow the repeaters, the service may literally never get off the ground

de Joe, W3JD

What is ARES/RACES?

ARES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Service, and can be called into action at any time. It is sanctioned by the American Radio Relay League **(ARRL)** and is independent of any Federal or local government. It uses our normally allocated frequencies and is the normal channel for-providing communications support to non-profit events and public service programs.

RACES stands for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, and like its name implies, it's part of the federally mandated Civil Emergency Service. It is closely linked to the Federal Emergency Management Agency **(FEMA)** and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency **(PEMA)**. An activity falls under the Executive Director of EMA.

RACES guidelines when an emergency is declared by the federal or local government in most respects, you won't be able to tell the difference, but differences do exist.

First off, **RACES** may employ any amateur to accomplish the task at hand. Preregistration as an **ARES** operator is not required, but is highly encouraged.

Races operations, however demand that only **RACES** registered operators be used. Of course, this means that one must be on the county's civil defense roles to act as a **RACES** station during declared emergencies, in addition, a federally declared emergency may preempt the amateur bands and only **RACES** registered operators would be allowed operation on specific ham frequencies. So, it's good practice to sign up in both **RACES** and **RACES.**

What do **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** members do in the Amateur Radio Public Emergency Services? Northampton County is in Emergency District 4. In District 4, amateurs support Red Cross, local communities and charity/non-profit organizations for both specific events and on an ad hoc basis for emergencies and weather related disasters. Recent events in District 4 were the MS Walks in Easton, and Stroudsburg, the MS 150 Bike-A-Thon, the Emmaus Halloween Parade, the Lehigh River Run, the Derriere in the Delaware, the Easton Hospital Run, the Wheelmen and others. What's it take? Just 4 to 8 hours of your time to volunteer per event.

If you don't have time to volunteer (We can fully appreciate that), but would still like to be part of the organization you can check in to weekly **ARES/RACES** nets. The Northampton County nets are Sunday at 0930 local time and Wednesday at 1900 local time on **W3OK/RPT 146.700** with an alternate of **W3PYF/RPT 145.110.** These nets are a good place to find out about public service events and items of interest to amateurs such as license classes, VE testing, hamfests, etc. In addition, your check-in counts as a vote for amateur participation when we have to defend our use of the RF spectrum against competing interests.

The Radio Officers for Northampton County are **Clarence Snyder, W3PYF** and assistant Radio Officer, **Dick Dech, KA3MOU**. Incidentally, if you have any special skills or services available (such as **MD, EMT training, 4WD vehicle, snowmobile, etc.), be sure to let one of the Radio Officers know.**

Researcher in Brazil Seeks Participants for Study

from Joe, W3JD

After discovering the **DLARC web page**, a communications student in **Sao Paulo, Brazil** has asked if club members would be willing to answer a series of questions in an email survey concerning language used to express apologies in various situations. While the topic may seem unrelated to ham radio, certainly talking is a big part of what we do in enjoying our hobby, so perhaps that fact was what motivated the student to contact us.

So if you get a message from **Beatriz Ferreira** with survey questions attached, you'll know that she got your email address from the club web page and has chosen to ask you to participate in her research. Of course, the choice of whether or not you take part is your own. You can feel free to ignore the message. On the other hand, if you are ableand inclined to take the time to answer the questions, your participationwill help further a research project, and you'll be extending some international goodwill -- which IS very much a part of ham radio!

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

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

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