Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2001

Hamfest on September 15th



DLARC Hamfest Saturday September 15

by Carl, AA3IX Chairman

It's that time of the year again. The annual Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Hamfest/social gathering/information sharing/fun event. So box up your unused equipment and join the gang at the Schnecksville Fire Co. Located North on Route 309 when on Route 22 or 78.

Come and support your club and have a bite to eat. I still need some extra volunteers to help out. If interested, please contact **Carl AA3IX @610-261-0403 or at AA3IX @ arrl.net.**

de Carl, AA3IX

DLARC meeting September 6

Civil Air Patrol

by Steve, KC2CEO

What is probably the best kept secret, is an organization that offers something for almost everyone. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the only congressional recognized auxiliary of a uniformed service, The US Air Force. It had its beginnings performing coastal patrol along the eastern seaboard searching for German subs in the 40's. Its mission was later expanded to search and rescue of warplanes returning to the states, that may have an accident en-route. Later they started doing border patrol in the west.

Receiving official recognition from the Air Force the leaders expanded the organization into every state, organized much like its parent, with Wings, Groups, Squadron, and Flights, under a national command.

Today's CAP offers training for search and rescue missions originated at HQ USAF triggered by satellite hits of the Emergency Locator Device (ELT) which goes off when an aircraft meets the ground in n inappropriate fashion.. Ground teams and air crews are dispatched to locate the site of he signal. Youngsters from 13 on are eligible to join as well as adults. Besides search and rescue, there are classes in aerospace education, and emergency services. Folks in he Amateur Radio Community appreciate the many opportunities to operate in CAP frequencies which are just outside of the HAM bands in HF,UHF/VHF, as well as SSTV. In fact CAP has the largest network for communications in the US. The featured speaker is the current Commander of Squadron 805, LTC Bruce Brinker, former Group Commander, and also former CO of Squadron 805.

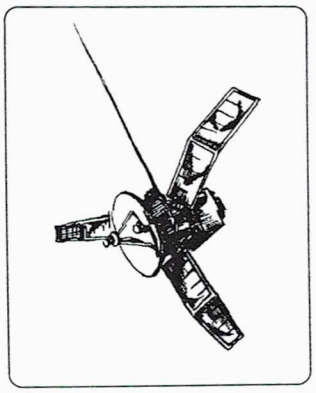
Squadron 805, having both Cadets and Seniors, meets at Hanger 7 at Lehigh Valley International Airport (old ABE) every Tuesday Night

Training takes place there, Hawk Mountain, or Ft. Indiantown Gap.

LTC Steve Brickman KC2CEO

NEW AMATEUR SATELLITE TO LINK REMOTE APRS NODES

A new Amateur Radio tracking and communications satellite called PCSat is scheduled to launch **September 1** (0100 UTC) from Alaska. PCSat will augment the existing Amateur Radio Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) by providing links to the 90 percent of Earth's surface not covered by the terrestrial network.



Designed and assembled by midshipmen at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, PCSat's first mission was to provide practical hands-on experience in support of the students' aerospace curriculum. The midshipmen worked under the guidance of Academy Senior Project Engineer Bob Bruninga, WB4APR--the acknowledged "father of APRS."

"We hope that PCsat will be a new direction for amateur satellites by serving the communications needs of travelers with only mobile and hand-held radios anywhere on Earth," Bruninga said. PCSat will be the first satellite to report its exact position directly to users via its onboard GPS. This means that whenever the bird's in view, users won't need tracking software to determine its position.

According to Bruninga, the satellite will demonstrate vehicle tracking and communication for GPS-equipped remote travelers--including Naval Academy vessels at sea, cross-country travelers, expeditions or anyone far from the existing APRS terrestrial tracking infrastructure **<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/digis.html>**

In addition to its APRS capabilities, the satellite will offer 1200 and 9600-baud packet operation on VHF (145.825 MHz) and UHF (435.250 MHz). For APRS digipeating, the satellite will use the recognized North American APRS frequency of 144.39 MHz.

Bruninga said that PCsat should make a great classroom tool, since its telemetry can be received by any hand-held packet radio for display to students on their PCs. "And with the Internet connectivity of ground stations worldwide," he said, "classes are not limited to observing passes only over their school, but anytime PCSat is in view of any other participating school."

PCSat was deemed spaceworthy last month. Bruninga left this week for Alaska and the launch preparations. PCSat will be one of four satellites in the Kodiak Star payload, and the only one with Amateur Radio capabilities. The others are Sapphire, Starshine III, and PicoSat.

For more information, visit the PCSat Web site, **<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/pcsat.html>**

via ARRL Letter

Val Sez

by Val, W3EFL

I have a spelling checker I disk covered four my PC. It plane lee marks four my revue Miss steaks aye can knot see.

Eye ran this poem threw it. Your sure real glad two no. Its very polished in its weigh, My checker tolled me sew.



A checker is a blessing. It freeze yew lodes of thyme. It helps me right awl stiles two reed, And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays comes posed up on my screen Eye trussed too bee a joule. The checker pours o'er every word To cheque sum spelling rule.

Bee fore wee rote with checkers Hour spelling was inn deck line, Butt now when wee dew have a laps, Wee are not maid too wine.

And now bee cause my spelling Is checked with such grate flare, There are know faults in awl this peace, Of nun eye am a wear.

To rite with care is quite a feet Of witch won should be proud, And wee mussed dew the best wee can, Sew flaws are knot aloud.

That's why eye brake in two averse Cuz Eye dew want too please. Sow glad eye yam that aye did bye This soft wear four pea seas.

de Val, W3EFL

When joining or renewing your ARRL membership, be sure to give your renewal to Treasurer, Dick Dech.

The club receives a commission.

DLARC License Preparation Classes

by Bob.KE3AW

The free **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** sponsored License Preparation Classes will begin on Monday, September 10 in a new location. We have secured a room in the Thoder Towers, which is the tallest building on the Gracedale Complex. We will be using the room adjacent to the cafeteria on the first floor. The new site will afford both handicapped parking and handicapped accessibility in the building.



Please help DLARC and potential amateur radio operators by mentioning this series of 10 Monday classes to family, friends, around the workplace, wherever... We want people interested in becoming hams to know that we can assist them in not only passing the tests through better knowledge of the topics being addressed in the tests, but also to be better amateur radio operators when they become licensed. Remember, we've had successful students from age 8 to 80+! Of course, licensed hams are always welcome to sit in the class sessions, too.

We'll again offer both theory and Morse code instruction. **Chris/NU3L** and **George/N3SQD** will be the instructors.

As a convenience, study guides will be available at the classes at cost. So that we have an idea of the size of class to anticipate, interested persons should email **ke3aw@juno.com,** or call **(610) 432-8286,** leave their name, address and telephone number, and e-mail address (if available), and any questions they might have. That's all there is to registration. Confirmation of the registration and directions to Gracedale will be provided.

de Bob, KE3AW

The Fox Hunt

by Don, KA3JWE

Well, I don't know where most of you who said that you would like to participate in the foxhunt were, but I can tell you that the guys that did hunt for the elusive fox had a fun time. Although no one actually found the fox by the 9 o'clock deadline, they got very close. Of the nine guys that came out to play, Bob, N3OLH, came to within 25 feet of the fox and probably would have seen it if it wasn't getting dark. Charlie, KE3NN, also looked like he might have found it earlier if only he had kept going in same direction a little bit longer. Charlie was the first to actually find the fox but it was about 10 minutes after 9:00. So, I guess that I'll just have to save the trophy for next time.

For most, this was their first try at foxhunting. They all gained valuable experience and will put that knowledge to the test next time. But mostly they had a good time and that's what the real purpose was. Perhaps there will be another one in a month or so. Maybe on a Saturday or Sunday when more of you would be available.

de Don, KA3JWE

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc

Income and Loss Statement

INCOME	
Dues Arrl	112.00
Interest Checking	4.62

TOTAL INCOME	**116.62**
EXPENSES	
Hamfest Stamps for Flyers	68.00
Postage	70.00
Supplies Labels & Printer Ribbon	36.93
Telephone	30.68

TOTAL EXPENSES	**205.61**
OVERALL TOTAL	**-88.99**
Balance 7/31/01	**$1,901.04**
C D 6 MONTHS	**1,000.00**
C D 12 MONTHS	**2,000.00**

OVERALL TOTAL WITH CD'S	**$4,901.04**

de,Dick,KA3MOU, Treasurer

FCC Checking ARRL VEC Exam Session

The FCC has announced the audit of a second ARRL VEC Amateur Radio examination session. The ARRL VEC alerted the FCC to discrepancies in the May 19, 2001, exam session in Statesboro, Georgia, and forwarded relevant documents, prompting the FCC audit. Last month the FCC also announced that it was auditing a May 10 ARRL VEC exam session in Trumbull, Connecticut.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the 11 volunteer examiners listed on the Test Session Report remain suspended pending the outcome of the FCC audit. Suspension is standard operating procedure in such situations, he explained.

In an letter to the VEs originally sent July 23 but revised August 3, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said that based on the evidence he's seen, volunteer examiners at the May 19 Statesboro session used exam question sets and Morse text identical to those used at several recent exam sessions. Hollingsworth said that apparently contradicts the intent of Section 97.509(f) of the Amateur Service rules, which prohibits administration of a "compromised examination.

"Furthermore," Hollingsworth continued, "it appears that the test candidates had been shown, or had access to, the Morse code answer key for the examination administered."

There were 13 applicants at the May 19 session. Eleven of them qualified for a new license or upgrade. At the FCC's direction, all applications are being held by ARRL VEC, pending the outcome of the FCC audit.

The FCC's letter of inquiry went out to volunteer examiners Ellie Waters, W4CJB; Cheryl L. Waters, W4CLW; Joanne D. Sharpe, KF4WFN; John W. Sharpe, WA4BE; Joseph A. Horne, N4ZAJ; George B. Grant, KF4WPU; Robert T. Jernigan, W4RTJ; Kathy L. Lanier, KD4MVY; Marshall R. Thigpen Jr, W4IS; Lawrence A. Lewis, K4RRR; and Charles F. Roberts, AI4A.

Jahnke said that, while the names of Roberts and Lanier appeared as participating VEs, information provided to ARRL VEC after the session indicated that neither was at the May 19 session. For now, they remain suspended along with the others listed.

Among other things, Hollingsworth has asked the 11 VEs to explain their roles at the Statesboro session and to detail any relationship between the Morse and theory tests administered at recent examination sessions and the ones used on May 19. He also asked them to state the relationship between the theory tests used for class and/or practice sessions and the theory tests administered at recent examination sessions.

He also wants to know the dates and locations of all exam sessions they've participated in over the past two years.

The ARRL Letter

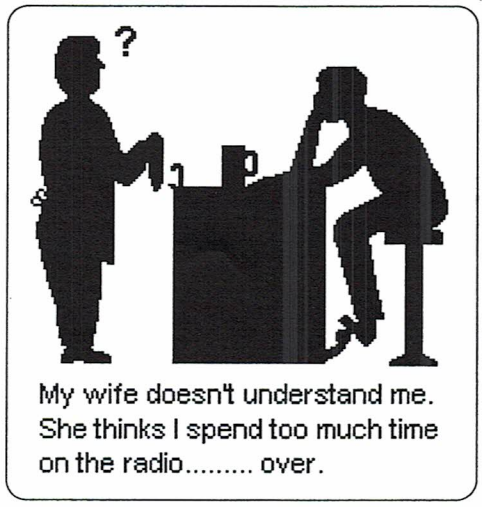
Pennsylvania Has New Emergency Coordination Districts District Changes

de Mark - WA3KIF

When contacting the Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager, **Eric Olena (WB3FPL),** I was notified of some changes in my role as District coordinator and restructuring of the districts as well. Following, is text I received from Eric via an e-mail:

... you [WA3KIF] are CoDEC in District 2. We revamped the Districts and went from 11 Districts to 5 Districts. N3THJ [WILLIAM H. EISENHARD, JR 2527 PERKIOMEN AVE MOUNT PENN PA 19606] and you share District 3. Since it was the only one of the new combined districts I let you two in place. District 3 now consists of; Berks, Carbon, Schuylkill, Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties.

de Mark, WA3KIF



Riley Hollinsworth K4ZDH,

To speak in Reading on September 14

submitted by JP, N3GWR

We are pleased to announce that at the Friday, September 14, 2001, Reading Radio Club monthly meeting, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will be our guest speaker.

In 1998, Riley joined the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Compliance and Information Bureau as the legal advisor for enforcement. In November 1999, he was appointed FCC Special Council for Amateur Radio Enforcement. Riley holds an Advanced Class license and has been an Amateur Radio operator for more then 41 years. His interest has always been to enforce responsible behavior and while in law school, he was part of "Nadar's Raiders".

I have heard Riley speak on two occasions. He is an excellent speaker and has a stimulating and thought-provoking message to deliver to the Amateur Radio community.

Plan to be at this meeting, and please bring a friend, so that we can demonstrate that the Radio Amateurs of Berks County support the excellent job he has done in the past few years, enforcing compliance in the Amateur Radio service.

The September 14, 2001, meeting will start at 7:00 p.m., in the first floor auditorium, at the Berks County Agricultural Center located off County Road in Bern Township.

Everyone interested in the future of Amateur Radio is invited.

Riley will have a short Question and Answer session after his talk. I received this from the Reading Radio Club and I'm passing it along for the consideration of members of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club

de JP, N3GWR

Aug VE Session

by Bill, N2DH

Successful candidates

Jose Rodrigues **KB3FPJ** to Extra

James Peppard III **N2UZG** to General

Four other took exams but failed

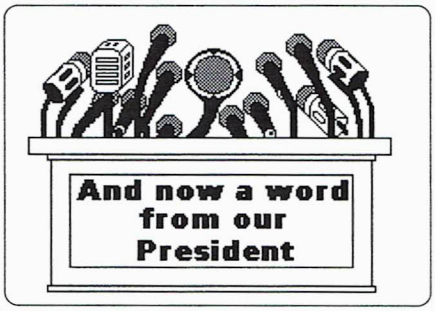
VE's at session **N2DH KE3AW K3CC**

Thalia KB3CSR

The Prez Sez

by Don, KA3JWE

It's hard to believe that the summer is already winding down. By the time you read this the club picnic will be history and the next major club event, the hamfest, will only be a month away. Time sure flies when you're having fun.



At August's regular meeting the attending members voted almost unanimously to purchase the Kenwood TS-940S HF radio for the club station. It should make a nice addition to our equipment at the club station and I hope that many of you will come and operate W3OK. The Executive Committee and other members have put a lot of effort into re-establishing the club station and providing a nice operating environment. I would like to thank them for their perseverance and patience when working with the Northampton County agencies. Although, I must say, we were all quite frustrated at times.

The upcoming September meeting brings us around again to that time when we must select a roster for the elections to be held at the October meeting. I would like to encourage all of you to give serious thought to running for one of the positions on the Executive Committee. The club needs your guidance and expertise to continue to move forward in a positive direction. If you feel that you would like to participate, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee and let them know of your interest. You can also attend the September meeting and throw your hat into the ring yourself if you want. If you would like to really make a difference then, please, step forward and run for office.

See you at the September meeting...

de Don, KA3JWE, president



Just the Minutes

by Jill Brodt, N3ZSR secretary

President Don Reamer, **KA3JWE** called the August 2nd club meeting to order at 7:33 PM, with 33 members and 1 guest present.



Bob, **N3OLH** made a motion to approved the July meeting minutes, as they appeared the newsletter with a 2nd from Mark, **K3MP**. The motion passed.

The Treasurers Report shown elsewhere in this newletter was accepted with a motion from Eddie, **W3APE** and seconded by Ken, **N3IYX.**

There was no repeater report.

The VE Session for August had 4 people registered as of that evening. Bill talked at the meeting about needing more VEs, and if we are interested in continuing to do VE sessions every month. He also suggested to do just Tech testing every month and the other test quarterly. The bottom line is that if we are to continue with the VE sessions he must have more EXTRA class VEs.

Lamar, **N3AT** was welcomed to the meeting as a guest.

Franklin Labar, **KE3UU** was reinstated into the club on a motion by Clarence, **W3PYF** and 2nd by Bruce, **KB3FIH.**

Don presented a certificate to Charlie, **N3VUO** for chairing the Red Cross Runs.

Nothing has been heard from the judge on the phone line reduction.

Don said that everyone had a good time at the Foxhunt. The fox was not found as there was a time limit but everyone was very close.

Don was not able to get the 940 radio to do the problem that Mark said it had. The radio is in good shape. The club voted in favor of buying the 940 radio for $600.00.

Carl, **AA3IX** said he still needs a cook for the hamfest.

Mark, **K3MP** will chair the nominating committee for 2001.

The American Lung Association has a 4-mile walk on October 20th from Sand Island. We passed on doing this event due to the lack of being able to get volunteers.

Upcoming events that were announced are as follows: **August 19 Club picnic September 15 D.L.A.R.C Hamfest**

Classes will be starting on September 10th. They are now going to be held in the Gracedale Towers from 7-9 for 10 weeks.

The program for the evening was on Short wave listening and Dxing presented by Bob Schuette, **N3SNZ.**

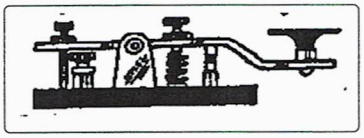
The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM on a motion from Carl, **AA3IX** and seconded by, Dick, **KA3MOU.**

Jill, N3ZSR, Secretary

CW?

submitted by Bob, KE3AW

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background.



A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office. The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet.

They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours." None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his. **CW IS!**

NOAA Weather radio gets new voice

submitted by Jeff Kelly, N3MFT

NOAA Weather Radio, the nation's automated radio weather warning system, will soon have a new voice. The National Weather Service (NWS), an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), evaluated five voices and reviewed 19,000 Internet survey comments from the public in the effort to find the new voice.

NOAA has awarded Siemens Information and Communication Network of Boca Raton, Fla., a $633,615 contract for the voice improvement. The weather service will begin implementation of the new voice's text-to-speech software program early in 2002, following successful testing and integration within the NOAA Weather Radio system.

The weather service first used a computer synthesized voice technology as part of a console replacement system in 1997. Automating NOAA Weather Radio enabled the weather service to send out multiple independent warnings over multiple transmitters simultaneously, allowing speedier delivery of severe weather warnings and more lead-time for the public.

"The old voice was state-of-the-art when first placed in service in 1997, but advances in artificial speech technology now make it possible for us to provide a service that is more understandable to the public," said retired General Jack Kelly, director of the National Weather Service. "This reinforces our commitment to continuously use new technology to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of public warnings."

As part of the contract, Siemens will team with SpeechWorks International of Boston, Mass., to provide software that combines phonetic sounds with natural language modeling.

"SpeechWorks is working with us to make NOAA Weather Radio even better, said Greg Mandt, director of the weather service's Office of Services. Mandt said a series of focus groups conducted around the country are indicating wide support for the new voice. "We'll use this feedback to help us further improve the voice and find out what changes our listeners might want in the NOAA Weather Radio service. We're confident these voice improvements will help to increase NOAA Weather Radio's listening audience, which translates to protecting more lives and property."

NOAA Weather Radio, sometimes referred to as the voice of the National Weather Service, is a portable device that enables the public to receive continuous weather broadcasts and hazard alerts directly from local weather forecast offices. Transmitting from a network of 583 stations nationwide, the NOAA Weather Radio can be heard by more than 85 percent of the U.S. population.

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NWS operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. To learn more about NWS, please visit **http://www.nws.noaa.gov.**

de Jeff, N3MFT

Club Picnic

by Jill, N3ZSR

About 45 people attended the club picnic that was held on Sunday, August 19th at Hacketts Park, Easton, PA.

The event was co-chaired this year by Jeff, N3QZT and Jill, N3ZSR.

The charcoal grill was fired up at noon for the cooking of hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausage sandwiches that was provided by the club. Everyone came with a wide variety of covered dishes. We enjoyed everything from freshly picked corn on the cob, chili, baked beans and salads to cakes and homemade ice cream.

It was a nice afternoon just sitting and talking with people, watching and or playing horseshoes and the games that were going on at the picnic tables.

Malcolm, N3XRL came with his sound equipment to provide us with music all afternoon.

After a hard fought battle between the teams of: **Ray, W3TDF** and **John, WX3W Don, KA3JWE** and **Barry, N3NVA** Horseshoe championship was won by **Don & Barry** with a score of 21 to 18.

de Jill, N3ZSR

New Member Application

We just received this application for reinstatement from **Bob Unger WB3DTG**. He was sponsored by **Dick Dech KA3MOU**.

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

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The W3OK CORRAL is published monthly and is the Official Publication
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==2000-2001==

CLUB OFFICER

President -Don Reamer.(donster@enter.net)..KA3JWE...610-252-3063
Vice Pres. Jeff Keller ....(n3qzt@ptd.net).....N3QZT.....610-928-3897
Secretary -Jill Brodt.....(n3zsr@fast.net).....N3ZSR.....610-588-6977
Treasurer - Dick Dech....(ka3mou@enter.net)..KA3MOU..610 837-1585

EXECUTIVE COMMITTE

Joe Chuk.....(chuk@kutztown.edu).....W3JD...610-799-0337
Barry Vogt.....(n3nva@enter.net).....N3NVA..610-863-7204
Al Krensavage.....(wo4h@ enter.net).....WO4H...610-559-1836
Glenn Brodt.....(n3ulw@fast.net).....N3ULW..610-588-6977
Dave Blankenship.....(n3eyt@aol.com}.....N3EYT....610-974-8749
Bob Green.....(ke3aw@juno.com).....KE3AW..610-432-8286

NEWS STAFF

Editor - Clarence Snyder .....(w3pyf@aol.com)..W3PYF.610-252-2109
Circulation.....Richard Dech & YL Maryann.....KA3MOU 610 837-1585
Mailing List .Richard Dech.(ka3mou@enter.net)KA3MOU 610-837-1585

CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at IU 20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to *(w3pyf @aol.com}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
717 Porter Street, Easton, PA 18042-1548
visit our web page
http://www.dlarc.org

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