Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2002

September 5th meeting at IU20

September Meeting

by John, WX3W

The September DLARC Meeting will be a SKYWARN Spotter Training Class.

Joe Miketta, from the Mount Holly, NJ NWSFO, with me assisting, will conduct the only SKYWARN Spotter Training Class that will be held in the Lehigh Valley this year. Certification for a SKYWARN Spotter is only good for two years. You need to get recertified every two years. If you have not been a Spotter, or it's been a long time since you went through a Spotter's Training Class, here is a great chance to get your certification. Upon completing the course, you will receive a Spotter's ID card with a Spotter's ID number, which is on record at Mount Holly, NJ NWSFO.

Don't forget that we, as Spotters, are the eyes for the NWSFO because they can't see what is going on down at ground level. Here is another public service that we as Amateur Radio Operators, can provide our communities. Hope to see everybody there.

de John Holmes, WX3W

EPA ASM for SKYWARN Coordination

Lehigh Valley SKYWARN Coordinator

SKYWARN Technical Committee Member, NWSFO, Mt. Holly, NJ

New Classes

by Bob, KE3AW

Fall already? That means the amateur radio classes will start soon!

Absolutely correct! As we have done in past years, shortly after Labor Day we'll begin our Fall Series of amateur radio classes. We welcome persons (aged 8 to 80+) interested in becoming licensed hams, or upgrading to General class, or just interested in understanding some basic electronics, and gaining a better appreciation of the many aspects the hobby includes. **Chris/NU3L** and **George/N3SQD** will be the instructors.

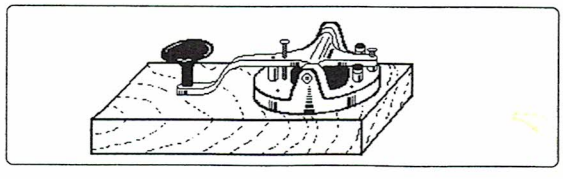


The 2-hour classes will be begin September 9, at 7 pm at Gracedale. They'll run for 7 Monday evenings.

All we ask is to have the interested person contact me to register (so we have an idea of the number in the class) and to get further information, including directions to the Gracedale location, at **ke3aw@arrl.net,** by phone, on the air, or in person. That's all there is to registering!

Thanks for getting the word out!

de Bob,KE3AW



Just the Minutes

by Jill, N3ZSR

President Jeff Keller, N3QZT called the August 1st club meeting to order at 7:33 PM, with 30 members and 1 guest present.



A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Bill, N2DH with a 2nd by Joe, W3JD. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report shown elsewhere in this newletter was accepted with a motion from Don, KA3JWE with a 2nd by Al, WO4H.

Barry, N3NVA said that there were no changes. He reminded everyone that club events appear on the club page under quick calendar.

Malcolm, N3XRL said that he still needs workers for this year's Hamfest, especially in the kitchen.

The Lehigh River Run and the D.I.D. went smooth this year with enough people to cover both events.

There will be no VE session in August.

Jeff welcomed the following guest to our meeting: KB2WSJ, Carlos

The following new members were voted in: **WV1B, Andrew Parker**, on a motion from Norm, N3NZ with a 2nd by Barry, KU3X. **WZ1X, Marylon Parker**, on a motion from Bob, N3QZR with a 2nd by Glenn, N3UWL. **WB3JXI, Walter Speck,** on a motion from Dennis, KR3U with a 2nd by Bob, N3QZR. **KB3HPN, Rob Disbrow,** on a motion from Tom, N2TTQ with a 2nd from Tom, N3LWY.

The following new applications were read to voted in during our September meeting: KB2WSJ, Carlos Morales

Club picnic chairpersons Dennis, KR3U and Pat, KB3IDQ past the sign up sheet around. The picnic will be on August 18th, at Hackett's Park.

Bob, KE3AW said that fall classes should start on either September 9th or September 16th.

The milk house has 2 working computers. Things are also being re-arranged so that 1 station will be more handicapped accessible. When things are done we will be able to run 3 stations at once. There needs to be some more antennas' put up. The web page has pictures of people there on Wednesday evenings.

There was no program for the evening.

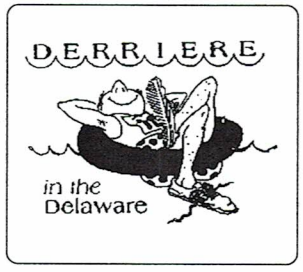
The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM on a motion from Glenn, N3ULW and 2nd by Barry, N3NVA.

de Jill N3ZSR, Secretary

Derriere in Delaware

by Jeff, N3QZT

Derriere on the Delaware 2002 went off with out much problem, just the occasional jet skier or boat going to fast and to close to the tubers. The weather was hot and humid, good for the tube floaters but rough on us just watching, all of this made for a great day to go tubing down the Delaware River. 620 people thought it was a good idea to jump into the river. The DLARC hams along with River Rescue squads from around the county were there to help make it a safe event.



Our duties along the river consisted of keeping a watchful eye for unsafe acts like fighting or leaving your inner tube also administrative duties like keeping a count of the people entering the water as well as knowing where the buses that transported them were and passing information to the Kiwanis staff people and the River Rescue teams.

The tube floaters were picked in Scott Park and taken by bus up to Eddy side Park to enter the water. The event ran from10:00am and ran till about 4:30pm 11 volunteers helped out, with this many hams we were able to cover all the positions and still have people to send out in relief of those already on station.

I want thank the Hams that gave up a Sunday afternoon (some did double duty and also helped with the Lehigh River Run held earlier that morning). In no particular order: John/WX3W, Malcolm/N3XRL, Christie/Malcolm's friend, Bob/KE3AW, Glenn/N3ULW, Jill/N3ZSR, Clarence/W3PYF, Joe/W3JD, Bruce/KB3FIH, (special thanks to Bruce for allowing us to use his mobile communications van, alias "Big Blue") Greg/Harmonic (of KB3FIH), Jeff/N3MFT, Chris/N3RPV, Erik/AA3ID and me Jeff/N3QZT.

Thanks to everyone who helped out.

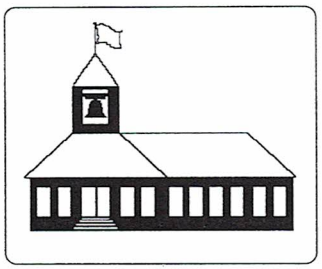
de Jeff, N3QZT

Bushkill School Science Fest

by Bob, KE3AW

Any takers? Bushkill's Science Fest, 2002.

The Bushkill Township Elementary School Science Fest committee has again asked our club the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club to participate in this year's **SCIENCE FEST**. DLARC has been participating in the event for a number of years.



Our demonstration always brings in kids and adults with real interest and serious questions, sometimes an interest in talking on the air ~ to those who have no idea what ham radio is.

I was ready to return the inquiry, saying we'd do it.. Then I noticed the date scheduled is Sunday, October 13. That just happens to be PAQSO WEEKEND.

I intend to dedicate that weekend to the PAQSO contest.

So, on behalf of DLARC, I'm looking to the membership with an opportunity for someone to head the radio demonstration. It involves the setting up and tearing down a station operation, including installation of the antenna(s), typically on the flat roof of the school, which is done in the morning, prior to the noon Fest start. Fair to say, the person heading it should have a group of hams assisting. This is not a one person effort. If anyone is interested, please contact me by September 7, as I need to tell them yea or nay, so they can do their planning.

de Bob, KE3AW

W3OK Club Station

by Jim, KN3DZY

The W3OK "MILK HOUSE" HF shack

Over the past four or five months, with the help of many of our club members, the "MILK HOUSE" HF shack is becoming an operator friendly place. Operating tables have been built, walls and floors have been painted, adequate electricity has been installed, chairs acquired, and paper, pens, and paper has been provided. The shack is even air conditioned!! The 2 meter radios are operational and the HF radio interfaced with the logging computer running LOG-EQF. A TNC and 2 meter radio have been provided for DX spotting, APRS, etc.

Near future plans call for the installation of a vertical HF antenna, replacement of the existing trap dipole, and hopefully, a tri-bander on a tower. At this point in time the shack is open and manned by control operators on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 or as long as someone wants to stay. The shack is accessible 24/7 by showing your club membership badge to the 911 operator in the Greystone building and getting the milk house key from that person.

Operators who do not have HF privileges or HF rigs are welcome to operate the station to the license limits of the control operator present. Here's your chance to work some of that rare DX on the low end of the bands, both SSB and CW. Even unlicensed persons may operate under these conditions, so bring your interested friends to the W3OK shack!

Many members have stopped in to see the progress being made and some including, but not limited to, Skip,K3CC; Ken,N3IYX; Barry,N3NVA; Bill,K3ANS; Rob,KB3HPN; Rich,KB3DEC;Tim, KC3QO and Bruce,KA3ONZ have taken the chair to do some SSB or CW operating and made exciting contacts with 9A7ZZ,Croatia; J45PC,Greece; LZ2KV,Bulgaria; UR4GI,Ukraine, and many more.

Come on out to the "MILK HOUSE" on Wednesday or Friday evening, play some HF radio, "chew the rag", and put some faces to the calls you hear on the repeater. This could also be a good time to ask that technical question or bring along that balky piece of equipment that just doesn't want to program correctly.

Come prepared to have an enjoyable time and everyone will!

Hope to see you at our W3OK "MILK HOUSE" HF shack!!

de Jim KN3DZY
kn3dzy@fast.net



Feeling Left Out?

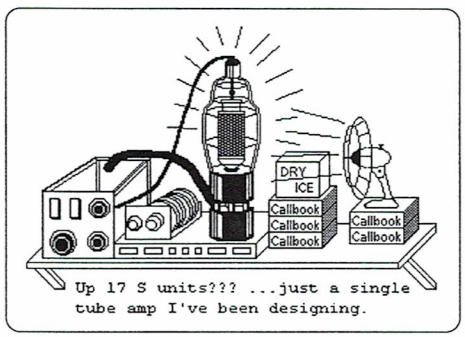
by Bob Sobkoviak N9AJA

reprinted from E-Ham Net

Sometimes I sit back and wonder what it must be like to have happened upon ham radio in a way other than I did. What if I was 15 or 16 or even 25 or 30 and learned about this thing called ham radio. What if I knew nothing about ham radio and what it was like in the "old days?"

A Child's View of Ham Radio in the Old Days

My dad is a ham (WA9NYO), and I grew up in a house with a tower with beams and verticals on it; a house with the sights, sounds and smells (yes, <smells) of ham radio.



Up 17 S units??? ...just a single tube amp I've been designing.

The smell of hot solder & amp; melted rosin, the shrill sounds of SSB being tuned in and the calls of "CQ CQ CQ", the smell of dust frying on tubes that are heating up, the jolt you get from a bad ground after leaning up against a steel Hammarlund cabinet, and turning off the light in the ham shack to see the glow of the tubes through that Hammarlund's perforated case! And ah...that first burn from a soldering iron ("that'll teach you!")

I guess I just had a natural interest in amateur radio. As a lad, I was fed spoonfuls of RF with my mashed peas. My dad's drawers of resistors, coils, connectors and wire made up the candystore glass showcase that I pressed my nose up against. I was a kid with the ham radio bug.

Now that I have kids and as I think back to my youth, I don't think my dad really wanted me to take an interest in his hobby.

I think he valued the time he had to himself--the time he had to do his own thing. But it was my dad who took me to my first ham fest at Santa Fe Speedway and bought me my first rig, the Knight Star Roamer. With a long-wire antenna, I was soon on my way to tuning in many more stations than I could on the all-band portable that I had been using. My dad was sharing his hobby with me.

My dad sacrificed a corner of his ham shack for that StarRoamer...and then the Realistic DX-200. He cleaned off a shelf for me to put my soldering iron and tools. Then he cleaned off another shelf for more gear and paraphernalia that I was importing into his ham shack. Ham radio had become our hobby. I enjoyed being an SWL, and though I built a code practice oscillator and bought a theory book, I never did commit to getting my ticket.

I got involved in high school activities, then college, then work and then starting a family, but the ham bug bit again. After getting the material I needed, I was once again (though almost 20 years later) studying for my license. I got my Technician license and got active in our area ham club.

Then I upgraded to General class and get more involved in emergency communication. And I enjoy talking with the 45 years old and up hams about the "old days". The old days were pretty cool and classy...especially the memories I have--those of a child at the time.

Thanks, Dad, for making your hobby accessible to me.

Becoming a Ham Today–Being the Ham of Tomorrow

If you come from a background with no electronics or radios, you really are no different than many other hams. Lots of hams figured it all out for themselves with no Elmers. Lots of hams took the first steps on their own, often not really understanding the hobby (or lifestyle) that they were entering.

A lot of these hams will go on to have a child (like I was) who will find their way into the hobby whether you want it or not. Some of these hams will cause a neighbor...child or adult...to ask about those funny looking antennas on the tower. Some of these hams, wearing RACES or ARES insignia, will inspire a grateful member of the community to find out more about our hobby.

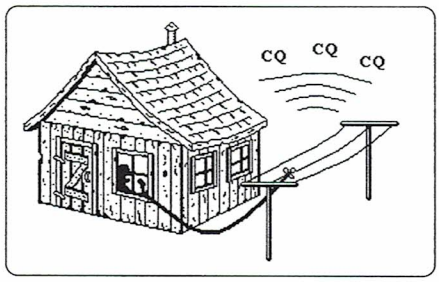
Ham radio needs to be accessible to people. We hams need to welcome in people that would like to be in our hobby. Hams need to be thoughtful with questions from people new to the hobby. There is no place in this hobby for "hazing" new folks, even if the rules for obtaining a license have changed. If a person is licensed by the FCC, then he or she is a ham...that's the only requirement. To me it doesn't matter if they know the code or not (if they're a Technician class) because they are interested in the hobby--interested enough to learn about it, take an exam and shell out money for a transceiver. If they go on to know CW at 5 wpm or

Continued on Page 5

Continued from page 4

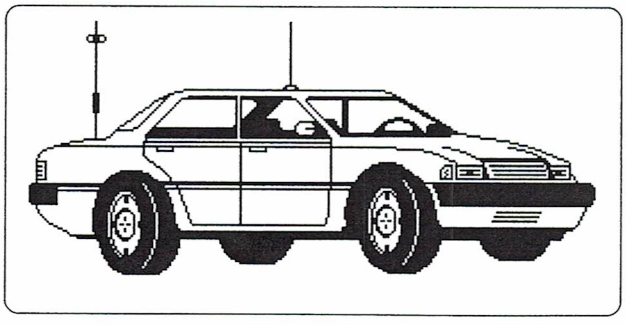
15 wpm, it doesn't matter to me because they took the time to learn what was required of them and didn't complain about it.

People who become hams today, when they are much further along in life, will look back at today as the old days. They will talk about CW, they will talk about non-duplex communication, they will talk about transceivers that were as big as an ashtray (and people will ask "what's an ashtray?"),they will talk about those monochrome LCD displays...they will talk about all of these things with a gleam in their eyes. They will look back on the olds days fondly, though some may complain about the new modes and rules of the day.



But if we don't make ham radio accessible and make new hams feel welcome, there won't be any old days 20 years from now. If we make someone feel lousy who can't possible comprehend the old days because they weren't there, then people will stop joining our merry little band of communicators. Then we will lose our spectrum for lack of use, and when people say "do they still do that" when they talk about ham radio the answer will be "no".

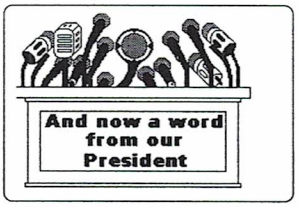
So why not monitor 2m every now and then, and when one of those new hams with a new prefix gets up the nerve to say "KC9XXX listening", why not call him back and welcome him to ham radio. Then clear a shelf off for him and teach him a little bit about ham radio. Tell him the difference between an HT and a mobile rig. Tell him how much better a beam is than a dipole. Tell him the difference between RG-58 and RG-8. Answer his questions without making him feel dumb. Be an Elmer, not a Fudd..



Prez Sez

by Jeff, N3QZT

The end of summer is rapidly approaching, by the time you get to read this the club picnic will be history and we will be getting ready for the DLARC Hamfest. The summer did go by fast, even if it has been very hot and humid. A lot of things have happened over the past few months one of them being the club station getting to an operational state (special thanks to those who have greatly helped getting it to this point). Some other things like public service events that the club helped with also went fine. So thanks to all of the club members (and non-club members) for a job well done.



I would like to take a few minutes and just reiterate a problem that has many times been talked about, that is getting club members to help with different club events. This year's editions of the club picnic almost didn't happen because no one would take the "chair position" for this event (thanks to KR3U and KB3IDQ). I know that the chair person for the Hamfest (N3XRL) is having difficulty getting enough help for the clubs major fund raising event. Another position that is going un- manned is that of "Program chair person". The September program is the last one that is planned after that one is over; it's up to the club if we are going to have anymore programs. You don't need to be chairperson for a whole year just take and organize one program. There are plenty of hams in our club with enough expertise in some areas or others have contacts or even an idea of what a program could be about, that no problems should arise getting this done.

Last but not least, since it is September this not only means that the kids go back to school but also it's time for club elections. At the September meeting we must select a roster for the elections which are held at the October meeting. I want to encourage all members in the club to participate in this process. If you feel that you would like to run for a position please contact a member of the nominations committee and they will get the needed information.

This is your chance to make a difference in the direction the club takes.

de Jeff, N3QZT, President

NCVEC Endorses trial of amateur testing via videoconferencing

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. Meeting July 26 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the NCVEC voted 6-3 with two abstentions to back a one-year trial run to be conducted by the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, of the Anchorage VEC told his VEC colleagues that it's very expensive to provide Amateur Radio test sessions to the thousands of Alaska residents who live in remote areas. The vote followed discussion on whether having a VE team remotely monitor a test session while an unlicensed individual proctored the exams on site would comply with FCC Part 97 rules. Section 97.509(c) calls for three VEs to be "present and observing" the examinees.

"It was a classic 'how to do something' discussion," the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, told ARRL. Cross was among several FCC staff members attending the annual gathering. "I told them that the VEC and the VEs are responsible for the proper conduct of the exams and that no rule changes appeared to be necessary because the rules do not address the 'how to' of exam administration." Cross said VECs already have authority under Part 97 rules to determine the manner in which their VE teams conduct examination sessions.

Cross emphasized no VECs would be required to coordinate exam sessions using a testing method they were not comfortable with. He said the conference seemed willing to allow the Anchorage VEC to conduct a trial of the program, once it's described in greater detail.

Wiley said he believes ham radio tests can be administered using videoconferencing technology without compromising exam integrity while maintaining "the same level of confidence in the testing process" that now exists. He agreed to provide progress reports to the NCVEC on the videoconferencing trial.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said he abstained from voting because he did not believe a vote was necessary, since the FCC's Cross had indicated that the concept could be applied under existing rules.

In other business, the NCVEC gathering turned back a proposal to bring back multiple-choice format Morse code examinations. The vote was 9-2. The NCVEC also decided unanimously to create a Web site over the next few months to post news, question pools and other exam-related information.

John Creel, WB3GXW, of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club VEC in Maryland chaired the NCVEC conference.

The ARRL Letter

For Sale

de Dave, N3SQE

11 Element 2m Yagi - 100$
6 Element 440Mhz Yagi - 50$
Icom 2GXAT HT, with charger, needs new battery - 75$
Dual band Super Station Master - 150$
About 20 feet of 3 legged tower - FREE
Random 40 foot runs of 1/2" 50ohm Hardline - Donation
Spool of about 600 feet 3/4" 75ohm Hardline - Take what you want OFF spool-
FREE DSS dish and mount. No box, No feed. Great for Microwaving - 20$
10 foot Steel TVRO dish, nice and smooth, perfect for EME - 150$ including mount/motor/set box/controller I also have some 10GHz stuff, email me about that.

Please help me get a rid of this stuff. I have NO use for it anymore. I will ship close to Hellertown. I will not ship the tower/dish.

Email - dmr220@psu.edu
Phone - 610-838-7355 evenings

de N3SQE David

Red Cross Run

By Charlie, N3VUO

The 12th annual American Red Cross Lehigh River Relay Run was held on **Sunday July 21.**

Six hundred and sixteen runners - ages 14 to 70 - help to raise $20,000 for the programs and services of the American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley. " When disaster like fires or floods strike revenues from events like this help provide families with immediate emergency needs " said John Hughes, executive director of the local red cross.

lub members that volunteered to assist with communcication were **Bruce, KA3ONZ; Bob,KE3AW; Bob, N3NRG; Jeff,N3MFT; Joe,W3JD**

Next year the event is scheduled for Sunday July 20.

de Charlie, N3NVO

FCC Enforcement Bureau supports granting Amateur Application

Almost two years ago, when the US Supreme Court effectively ended his battle to retain his Amateur Radio license, Herb Schoenbohm--formerly **KV4FZ**--vowed to one day return to ham radio. Following a hearing earlier this year to determine Schoenbohm's fitness to once again be an amateur licensee, it appears that the FCC Enforcement Bureau is willing to grant him another chance.

"The evidence supports granting Herbert L. Schoenbohm's application for a station license and a General class operator license in the Amateur Radio Service," the Enforcement Bureau said in its Proposed Finding of Fact and Conclusions of Law in WT Docket 01-352. The Bureau said there's sufficient evidence in the record to support a finding that Schoenbohm had rehabilitated himself and would be unlikely to engage in future misconduct.

The document--the equivalent of closing arguments in a jury trial--was submitted in early July to FCC Administrative Law Judge Arthur I. Steinberg.

Schoenbohm, who lives in the US Virgin Islands, told the ARRL that the Enforcement Bureau's decision to support his application was unprecedented. "It just does not work this way in the usual federal litigation" he said. "When the government comes after you, they mean to win their point."

The FCC put Schoenbohm's renewal application for KV4FZ up for hearing in 1994 following his 1992 felony conviction on federal fraud charges. The Commission finally turned down his renewal application in 1998, the US Appeals Court upheld the FCC's decision in 2000, and the US Supreme Court declined to hear the case later that same year.

In March 2001, not long after his authority to operate as KV4FZ had expired, Schoenbohm took and passed the examination for a General ticket. A couple of weeks later, he passed the Extra test. The FCC has refused to act on the second application before dealing with the first, however, and it subsequently designated Schoenbohm's General license application for hearing on the basis of character issues. The Enforcement Bureau's proposed findings and conclusions resulted from testimony at that hearing, held May 7 in Washington, DC.

Schoenbohm testified that being denied amateur privileges for 15 months had caused him "personal shame" and was an adequate sanction. He also acknowledged "fatal mistakes" in hearing testimony during his renewal fight, when the FCC had accused him of a lack of candor.

One sour note concerned Schoenbohm's participation in a DX contest operation from his station conducted last October by Steve Reichlyn, AA4V, under Reichlyn's call sign. Schoenbohm took the mike for about two hours while Reichlyn was in the vicinity. The Enforcement said the hearing findings "support, and it should be concluded" that Schoenbohm's operation of Reichlyn's station violated federal law, because the station had to be under the physical control of a licensed control operator, and Schoenbohm no longer was licensed.

Acting as his own attorney, Schoenbohm submitted a similarly supportive brief to Judge Steinberg. In his comments, Schoenbohm asserted that he's kept out of trouble for the past 10 years, his criminal conviction was based on actions that had occurred in 1987 and that he had not violated FCC rules during his appeal.

Judge Steinberg could issue an opinion within a few months following a period for reply comments. The FCC has the final say in the matter. Documents in this proceeding are available via the "Search for Filed Comments" page **<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi>** on the FCC Web site. Enter "01-352" in the "Proceeding" field and click on "Retrieve Document List."

The ARRL Letter

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc

Income & Loss Statement

Balance 6/30/02		**$4,631.70**
INCOME		
Club Dues	$9.50	
Donation Income 50 -50	28.00	
Interest Checking	8.78	
TOTAL INCOME		**$46.28**
EXPENSES		
Telephone		$36.04
TOTAL EXPENSES		**$36.04**
Balance 7/31/02		**$4,641.94**

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

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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==2001-2002==

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CLUB MEETINGS

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

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MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-02
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