Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2005

Meeting September 1st at the 911 center

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM



On July 20, 2005, the DLARC lost a long-time member—dating back to the origins of the DLARC—when Clarence Snyder, W3PYF, became a Silent Key. Over the many years that Clarence was a member, he has done many things for the club, and he will be missed. The DLARC Executive Committee is considering making one of the issues of the W3OK Corral a memorial issue for Clarence. If you have stories (and I know many of you do!) or articles about Clarence that you would be willing to contribute for that issue, please let me know at sbw1@enter.net or at 610-737-7502. Thank you.

During the September 1, 2005 meeting, the nominating committee, consisting of Bob [KE3AW], Earl [KB3MHY], and Larry [KB3JMS], will be presenting and finalizing the nominees for the DLARC Executive Board. If you haven't already done so, please give your input, to someone on this committee, as to who should be nominated to the executive board, or if you would like to run for a spot yourself. The only members that are not eligible to be nominated are the committee members themselves.

Upcoming events in September and October include the DLARC Picnic, the license preparation classes, the PA QSO Party, and the Emmaus Halloween Parade. The picnic will be held on September 11th this year, and will be at the Louise Moore Park. The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club's free classes for FCC amateur radio licenses will be starting Tuesday, September 20, 2005. For more information on these classes, and to download a flyer that you can hand out or post, go to:

http://www.dlarc.org/classinfo.htm

Don't forget that we will be holding elections for the DLARC officers and executive board members at the October 6th club meeting. This is an important event for the club, and I encourage all of you that can make it to come to the October meeting and cast your vote.

de Bryan, AA3WM

FALL RADIO CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 20!

by Bob, KE3AW

Do you know anyone interested in becoming an amateur radio operator? On Tuesday, September 20, the first of 9 classes will be held for persons interested in passing their entry-level radio license and becoming a ham. Classes are free and will be held in the Gracedale Complex, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on 9 consecutive Tuesdays.

Please pass the word to family members, co-workers, friends, and acquaintances!

Posters are available for downloading and printing at: http://www.dlarc.org/2005%20FallHam%20poster.doc

All that we ask is that you have the person contact me at 610.432.8286 or ke3aw@arrl.net. We like to get a count of the people we can expect to be there. We also can answer questions they may have about amateur radio, and give them specific driving directions to the class location.

Again, George-N3SQD, Chris-NU3L, and Al-W3CE will be the instructors.

And, as always, licensed hams are welcome to sit in the sessions, too! You are guaranteed to learn something, or get a good refresher!

de Bob, KE3AW

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 6/30/05	**$5,576.32**
INCOME	
Class Materials Book sold	$17.00
Donation Income MS 150	32.00
Donation Income 50-50	22.00
Interest Checking	1.59
TOTAL INCOME	**$72.59**
EXPENSES	
Education Books Bob Green	$171.50
Equipment Bryan Williams Suction Cups	50.80
Equipment Bryan Williams Suction Cups	18.84
Field Day Pizza Gen. Gas Tom Mc Donald	62.06
Field Day Drinks Dave Blankenship	61.60
Field Day Groceries Charles Lazarchak	157.40
Memory of Veronica T. Laudenslager	25.00
Memory of Clarence Snyder	25.00
Telephone	17.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$589.97**
Balance 7/31/05	**$5,058.94**

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer of DLARC

D.L.A.R.C. GENERAL MEETING - AUGUST 4, 2005

by Charlie, W3DEA

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by Bryan AA3WM 27 members present, 24 needed for quorum

Bryan AA3WM passed along to the club that Clarence Snyder W3PYF had passed away and called for a moment of silence.

REPORTS:

Secretary Report - Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ Minutes had not been submitted from the July meeting. Charlie reported that the minutes have been misplaced and is still looking for them.

Treasurer Report - Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ No changes, 1st - Dave N3EYT, 2nd - Bill N2DH, Passed

Repeater / Web Page - Barry N3NVA (Bryan AA3WM)

- ✓ The W3PYF repeater (145.11) is currently off the air. It will be off the air until further notice.

VE Session - Bill N2DH

- ✓ VE sessions begin again in September
- ✓ The board voted to have VE sessions every other month beginning in September

Club Station (W3OK) - Al W3CE and Ken N3IYX

- ✓ Proposal for power supply has been submitted to county

- ✓ Proposal for the erecting of tower to be finished and submitted to count
- ✓ 35A power supply and TNC were hit by lightning
- ✓ FT857 is not putting full power out - being looked into
- ✓ Milkhouse open after the meeting (tonight's presentation)

New Membership / Visitors - Bryan AA3WM and Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ Voting into membership - Frank Mukics N3EWV (not present) - 1st - Bill N2DH, 2nd - Rick KB3LLM, Passed
- ✓ Application for membership - Carl Stevenson WK3C
- ✓ Visitors - Carl WK3C, Zeke W3GMN, Judy (xyl - KU3X) Kery and Danny (son of Earl KB3MHY)

OLD - Continuing Business:

- ✓ Lehigh River run went well, Charlie N3VUO
- ✓ Derriere in the Delaware was cancelled (unknown to us), Dick KA3MOU and Jeff N3QZT
- ✓ DLARC picnic is September 11, a chairperson is still needed. Club will supply hamburgers and drinks

New Business:

- ✓ Nominating committee announced consisting of Bob KE3AW, Larry KB3JMS and Earl KB3MHY
- ✓ Carl Stevenson WK3C introduced himself to the club so we could Q & A him as he is running for an ARRL position
- ✓ New License classes start Sept. 20, Bob KE3AW

Adjourn, 1st - Dick KA3MOU, 2nd - Bill N2DH, passed

de Charlie, W3DEA

Lehigh River Relay Run Report

by Charlie, N3VUO

American Red Cross 15th annual Lehigh River Relay Run

The club's all-star professional team volunteered for the 15th annual event that provided communication for the 515 runners to run the twenty-three mile course from Allentown's Keck Park to Easton's Riverside Park. The team consisted of: to get the event off to a good start and a vibrant kick off was Tim, KC3QO; receiving them at the second leg was Bob, KE3AW; waiting to receive at the half way point was Larry, KB3JMS; as they began to approach two-thirds of the way to the finish line waiting to receive them was Jeff, N3MFT; then it was on to the beginning of the final stretch and waiting to receive them was Kathy, KB3JML and Scott, KB3LMQ.

The weather was cloudy and at one point it did rain some. However, there was some sunshine and that was the presence of YL Alyssa daughter of Kathy, KB3JML and Scott, KB3LMQ.

Proceeds from the race benefit the lifesaving programs and services of the American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Gross revenue from runner pledges and corporate sponsorships totaled nearly $20,000.

Thanks to the efforts of this professional team, teams such as the 5 Wild Women were too able to run in the event because guru Woody Geary of Lower Mt. Bethel is recuperating from cancer surgery.

There were some creative names such as The Mercer Street Striders Sweethearts, Wheezers Geezers, A Handful of Wacki's, Lazy River Road Chain Gang, Wiz! Bang! Klunk!. Most creative team name: Lehigh U Hissin Goose Chasers. Best dressed team: Hot Five.

One of the runner's characterization of the race echoes the structure of the Red Cross itself - the collaboration of its volunteers and employees to create an organization that helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

There were 150 volunteers on foot and bicycles distributed water and sports drinks, provided

direction along the course, assisted with first aid, timing and recording, assembled race packets and helped with overall logistics.

Overall male iron runner ran the race in 2:34.

Overall female runner ran the race in 2:35.

Participants ranged in age from 14 to 73 and hailed from nine states: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Montana, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley serves more than 660,000 residents of Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton counties. Last year the Red Cross provided health and safety education training; a personal response service for seniors and emergency relief to more than 20,000 Greater Lehigh Valley residents. For more information about the American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley or volunteer opportunities, call 610.865.4400 or visit www.redcrosslv.org.

Next year's event is tentatively scheduled for Sunday July 16, 2006.

I have to thank Janice Osborne, Director of Communication and Marketing for supplying me with information for this article.

73's

de Charlie, N3VUO

Ground That Station!

By Bill Goodman, K3ANS

On September 1, 2005, Thursday, 7:30 PM the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club will have its monthly meeting. After the business session, I will present a program on the benefits and methods of grounding a high frequency (H.F.) ham station. You may know that I built a fairly large station which has excelled in contesting and DXing, especially with weak signals on 160 and 80 meters CW (Morse Code). It has three standing towers, many trees for antenna supports, and many antennas for each H.F. band. I believe that my extensive grounding system has aided in our ability to receive and copy very weak stations, which others could not hear. I have worked every DXCC entity or country, I have DXCC honor roll on both phone and CW. I have DXCC on all 9 H.F. bands, 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. I have Worked All States on all major H.F. bands, 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10. I did not bother on the other bands, since I was more interested in DX. Operating W3FRC from K3ANS we broke the record for high score multi multi. Operating multi multi and single we and I have scored high in many DX and domestic contests. Thus I believe the grounding system has been instrumental in this success. Many DLARC members helped build and operate the station, especially WF3H, K3YD, NU3L, N3IYX, K3CC, N3MX, and W3ZL. They can attest to the effectiveness. Unfortunately, it has been fairly quiet the last few years because I have increased business and family responsibilities, which leave little time for ham radio at home. I hope that will change in future years. The station is idle, but the system is still there and will rise again.

The grounding system has prevented damage by lightning strikes to my home, trees, radios, computer equipment, and antennas. I watch storm clouds with lightning quiet down as they pass over my towers. The high towers with elaborate grounding systems probably discharge the high voltage potential build up, thereby reducing the chances of sudden lightning strikes I am a firm believer in the advice, techniques, and equipment published and sold by Polyphaser Corp. I will pass around their classic textbook and recommend that you buy and read it. It has become a prime reference. I also rely on the ARRL Handbook, the ARRL Antenna Handbook, and advice from many experienced hams who have built similar and bigger stations. I am appalled at some hams who advocate using no grounds. That is as flushing a toilet without a sewer line! You must get rid of the nasty byproducts of the electronics in your radios and computers, and the noise in the atmosphere which comes in your antennas. The floating R.F. can interfere with your reception. I refuse to operate my equipment at a station that is not grounded. Look at a radio schematic. It shows many capacitors carrying A/C and R/F voltage to ground, which must be removed from the radio.

I will show the layout and system I used including around 50 ground rods and about two miles of ground wire. It includes a Faraday Shield around the station. I have invited a few other serious H.F. station builders and operators to join us at the meeting, hoping they will share their experiences and ideas. I also invited a few non-hams who know a lot about safety engineering and telecommunications. See you at the 911 headquarters, Gracedale, PA 248, near Nazareth, PA. Talk in on 146.70 mcs., W3OK/R, PL 151.4. Bring your friends.

de Bill, K3ANS

Updates

by Dick, KA3MOU

Members of DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. / W3OK. For the records please let me know if you are a member of ARRL. This information will help to keep the club records updated. Also if you have any other changes such as: home address, telephone number, call sign, E-Mail Address, etc. let me know. You can E-mail me this information. My E-mail address is listed below.

Also, we would like to keep the club database updated so please check the club's web site http://www.dlarc.org Let me know if your information is correct and your E-mail address is correct. Any changes send the changes to me: Dick / ka3mou@enter.net

de Dick, KA3MOU

Pics from the August meeting

By Brad, KB3JXQ

After the August meeting, we adjourned to the club's station at the milkhouse. I didn't get there soon enough to get more pictures, but here are the two that I did manage to take:

Pete, KB3JWQ working some echolink on 2 meters:

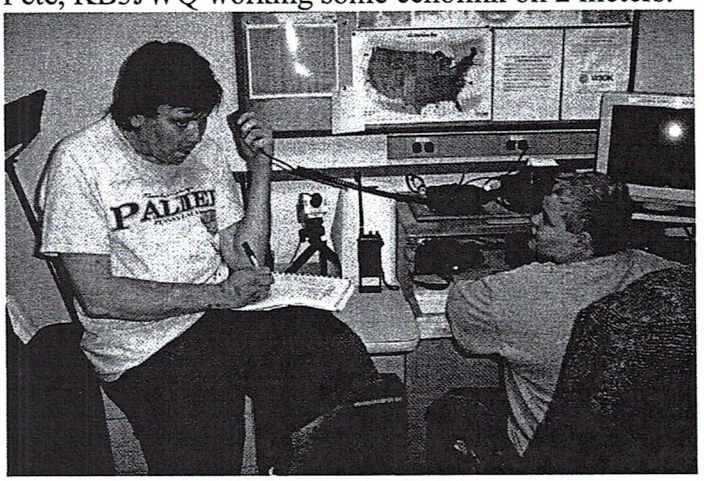

Photo by Brad, KB3JXQ

Ricky, KB3LLM working on HF. Since the August meeting, Ricky has moved out of our area to Ohio. Try to catch Ricky on 40 meter novice band.

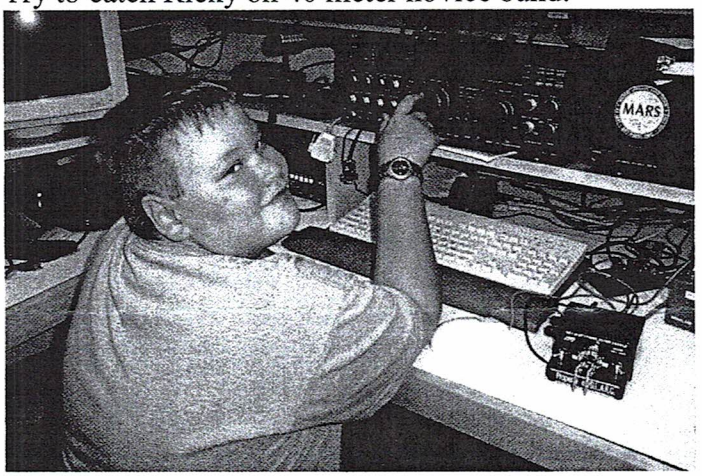

Photo by Brad, KB3JXQ

de Brad, KB3JXQ

Ramblings On The PA Dutch MS-150 (part 2)

by Paul Ryan, N0KIA

-- see the August, 2005 newsletter for part one of Paul's article.

What else might you need, even if you're a one-day volunteer? Well, sun block, Chap Stick, liquids (if you won't be near a rest stop), special meds, aspirin, sunglasses, cap, rain gear, etc. Just think of a day at the beech. What would you need to take along to be comfortable and secure? Okay, that's your list, now

make sure you have the items ready for the Saturday morning deployment.

How are you going to haul all that stuff? Your choice, but I use a small roller suitcase, advertised as an "overnight" size. It's just large enough to fit my personal items, radios and all the accessories, and it's easy to roll across campus to the dorms with 20 pounds of radio gear dragging it down! As a side benefit, it's just wide enough to fit into the side jump seat on an ambulance, where it doubles as a supply locker/work surface. Of course, you could also use a duffle bag, sports bag, laundry bag, paper bag, or whatever holds all your kit, but I prefer the roller. I also prefer to "combat load" the suitcase for efficient setup. If you're not familiar with the term, it means to pack the equipment you'll need first at the back of the supply vehicle, so it's immediately available when you arrive on station. Applying that principle to the suitcase, it means I pack my personal clothing and gear on the bottom, radio gear on top and rain gear in an outside pouch. That way, when the suitcase is positioned on the ambulance jump seat, I can open it and start to do setup with the radio equipment packed on top. Later, when I need a piece of personal gear, such as a change of socks, I'll have easy access since the radio gear will be out of the case. And, in the very likely event that it rains, my rain gear will be right there in the pouch.

Well, it's a week or so before the event. Now is a good time to download the route sheets, assignment sheets and any other good stuff that you find in your e-mail from the event organizer. I usually print all the route sheets, one route to a page, and along the top I highlight the Saturday sheets in orange and the Sunday route sheets in yellow. Choose your own colors. It just makes it easier to keep them separate when I'm filing them for the run. Look at the sheet with the repeater frequencies and where they'll be used. On each route sheet, mark the approximate location where you'll be changing repeaters. Also, write in the repeater frequencies on the route sheet. There's no time to be referring back through the paperwork when you're responding to an injury site in the ambulance. You'll have a full time job just hanging on! Oh, make sure all the event frequencies are programmed into your rig before Saturday morning. Don't forget the PL tones. You might also want to make note of net control's phone number. I program it into my cell phone just in case. Never had to use it, but you never know.

We're now down to Friday before the big event. At this time I'm charging my HT, gathering the odd bits and pieces for my spares/repair kit, watching the weather for choosing appropriate weight clothes and setting my alarm clock for 0400 hours. I've been packing the radio gear over the past week and now's the time for a final check against my equipment list. On Friday evening I do any final packing and try to be asleep by 2100. The more sleep you can get, the better, since Saturday is usually a long day.

SETUP

Its 0530 Saturday morning and you arrive at the velodrome (or your assigned rest stop) dragging your roller case behind you. Your first task is to seek out the on-site amateur coordinator for any last minute changes and to help locate your vehicle. Try to park near your vehicle for ease in setup. I usually carry much more equipment in my car than I'll take along on the event and the shorter the trip between the two, the better! You might also consider things like extra coax, extra connectors, duct tape, small ladder (I'm vertically challenged!), coffee (I've never seen coffee available at the start, or rest stops, for that matter), and anything else that will ease setup. For me, the coffee is probably the most important.

Once you've located your sag wagon/ambulance/staff car in your semi-conscious state, size up your assigned vehicle and introduce yourself to the driver/crew. Let them know what you'll be doing and ask if they have any special concerns about your planned configuration, then start the setup. I usually do the antenna first, since that takes the most rigging. I plunk the antenna on the roof and route the RG-58 through the right doorway. If your mag mount has a rough base, you may want to cut a sheet or two of plastic from a shopping bag to use under the magnet. A small moistened cloth to clean and dry the area first will also help prevent dirt abrasion from the magnet. I use poster putty to secure the coax to the gutter and door pillar so it will clear the top corner of the door and also to keep in from flopping about and getting caught in the door jamb. Try to use the original, blue, hi-tack putty. I've found it works the best and won't let go like the white stuff. It also releases cleanly when you're done.

When running the coax, remember, RG-58 doesn't stand a chance against a 100 pound door swinging shut! And pinched/shorted coax doesn't transmit well at all. I route the coax outboard of the shoulder harness/seat belt and behind the passenger seat. Make sure it's clear of any crew cases so it isn't pinched while underway. Also, beware of heavy ice chests filled with provisions that may shift underway. Keep your coax from ending up beneath it and being ground into the floor. Finish the antenna installation by running the coax to the radio location and securing any extra coax length where it won't get tangled or underfoot. You may want to secure the extra looped coax with a baggie tie or nylon tie. Throw a dozen or so in your kit, just in case.

With the antenna in place, look to your radio setup. Connect mike, speaker, antenna, and lastly, the power. I've had great luck with green RV anti-slip matting sold by Rubbermaid. Place it under the radio, speaker and SLA battery and the gear will stay put like it's bolted down! Cut the pieces to size before you leave home or take a scissors along. Oh yes, now's a good time to try out that microphone clip you've been working on. When all the gear's in place it time to power up. If you're using the onboard 12 V socket, you'll need the driver to switch it on. Call net control for a radio check. With some luck, they'll come back with "Sounds great" or "Radio check OK". With that, the vehicle's comm/nav position is ready to go.

(continued next month)

2005			September			2005
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Officer nominations are this month!				1 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	2 VE Testing 7:00 pm	3
4	5	6	7 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	8	9	10 **Newsletter Deadline**
11 DLARC Picnic	12	13	14 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18	19	20 License prep classes start	21 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	22 Executive Committee Meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	29	30	

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and ARES nets: 51.76, 146.70, and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11 (pl 151.4)
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

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

== 2004-2005 ==

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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 the Northampton County 911 Center.
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
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visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

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MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-05
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