Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

Meeting October 6th at IU20

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM



Well, it is that time of year again! It is time for electing a "new" DLARC Executive Committee. This committee is made up of 10 individuals from the club. There are four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and five Directors, which are elected each year. The tenth member of the Executive Committee is the most recent past President, which in this case is Jeffrey Keller, N3QZT.

At the September meeting, the names of those nominated were presented by the Nominating committee (Bob, KE3AW, George, N3SQD, and Blair, K3YD), and then the nominations were opened to the floor for any additional names. There were no additional names proposed, and the nominations were then officially closed. This year, the four current officers are running unopposed for their positions, and there are seven people running for the five Director positions. Thank you Bob, George, and Blair for being on the Nominating Committee this year!

The elections will take place at the beginning of the October 7th meeting, and will be closed promptly at 7:45 PM. If you cannot attend the meeting, or you know you will be getting to the meeting late, I encourage you to cast your vote by following the directions on the official absentee ballot, which should be included with this newsletter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, or by email (my contact information can be found on the last page of the newsletter). You can also use the enclosed absentee ballot to look at those people nominated, so that you can think about who you are going to vote for.

Upcoming events in October are the PA QSO Party and the Emmaus Halloween Parade. I hope to see you at the October General Meeting!

de Bryan, AA3WM

October Program

By Tom, KB3IUE

Hello everyone! Al, W3CE, will be providing the presentation at the October meeting. He will be speaking about A.R.P.S., which is Global Positioning through Ham Radio. This should be a very interesting evening. Please plan to attend if you can. Also, I am still in need of a program for November if you have a topic you would like to talk about... or, if you have an idea, please contact me. Thanks!

de Tom KB3IUE

EMMAUS HALLOWEEN PARADE: Hams needed!

by Bob, KE3AW

The Emmaus Halloween Parade Committee again is requesting communication services of DLARC for this year's parade.

We'll need about 15 amateur radio operators for this helpful and enjoyable event, Friday evening, October 16 (Rain date is October 18).

We position ourselves in vehicles interspersed with entrants in the parade. We watch for problems that could affect the parade's progression or the welfare of the spectators. We link with the parade marshal and emergency officials.

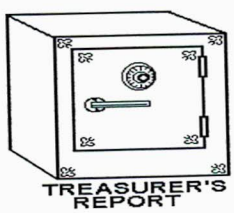
We'll have our annual post-parade Dutch Treat of a snack, meal, or desert at a local restaurant again this year for those who like a bit of socializing after the event.

If you are interested, contact me! Not having done this event in the past is no excuse for not volunteering in 2004!

by Bob, KE3AW

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 7/31/04	**$5,742.00**
INCOME	
Class Materials	$33.50
Club Dues	36.00
Interest Checking	4.81
TOTAL INCOME	$74.31
EXPENSES	
Equipment (2) Canopies Dick Dech	$373.95
Field Day Bev. & Ice David Blankenship	109.55
Postage	70.00
Telephone	17.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	$571.23
Balance	**$5,245.08**

de, Dick, KA3MOU

DLARC General Meeting September 2, 2004

by Charlie, W3DEA

Meeting called to order at 7:31PM – 33 members present (24 needed for quorum)

REPORTS:

Secretary – Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ No Changes – 1st Ken N3IYX, 2nd Bill N2DH, Passed

Treasurer – Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ No Changes – 1st Ed W3AP, 2nd Tom KB3IUE, Passed

Repeater / Web Page – Barry N3NVA

- ✓ Static burst on repeater is gone
- ✓ Could George N3SQD update loaner list for the web page

VE Sessions – Bill N2DH

- ✓ Next VE session will be at the hamfest, those helping with it please be there at 9AM

W3OK / Club Station – Al W3CE

- ✓ Feel free to browse the station and ask questions after the meeting
- ✓ Going thru excess equipment to sell at hamfest to raise money for club
- ✓ Station could use a step up transformer 120V to 240V

Membership – Bryan AA3WM & Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ VISITORS: Susan Brown (no call), Ray G7VUO, Ricky KB3LLM, Briana Lazarchak (no call)
- ✓ MOTION: Bill K3ANS to vote into club John Greenage WX3C (not present) and Charles Briner WA3MGD (not present), 2nd Blair K3YD, Passed
- ✓ No new applications

Hamfest – Bob WA3MGN (not present)

Club Picnic – Missy N3TFG (Bob N3QZR)

- ✓ Needs someone to transport gas grill
- ✓ Please let Missy know if you are coming and what you are bringing

Programs – Tom KB3IUE

- ✓ Tonight: PA QSO Party by Charlie W3DEA and Don KA3JWE as well as the Milkhouse is open for touring
- ✓ October will be Al W3CE on ARPS
- ✓ Suggestions for future programs can be submitted to Tom or on the club web page www.dlarc.org

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations – George N3SQD (not present), Bob KE3AW and Blair K3YD

- ✓ Absentee ballots will be included in the next newsletter (October)

President – Bryan AA3WM
Vice President – Bill N2DH
Secretary – Charlie W3DEA
Treasurer – Dick KA3MOU

For the executive committee (5 seats to be filled):
Al W3CE (incumbent)
Dave N3EYT (incumbent)
Barry N3NVA (incumbent)
Bob N3QZR (incumbent)
Tom KB3IUE
Larry KB3JMS
Rich KB3DEC

- ✓ MOTION: Ken N3IYX that the nominations be closed 2nd Al W3CE, Passed

Dogswalk Against Cancer, Tom N3MQL – Anyone interested please contact Tom. The date of the event is October 23 9AM to noon.

Emmaus Halloween Parade, Bob KE3AW – October 16, interested in helping contact Bob

Technician License classes, Bob KE3AW – Start September 14, please spread the word.

Adjourn:
1st Barry N3NVA, 2nd Dick KA3MOU, passed

de Charlie, W3DEA

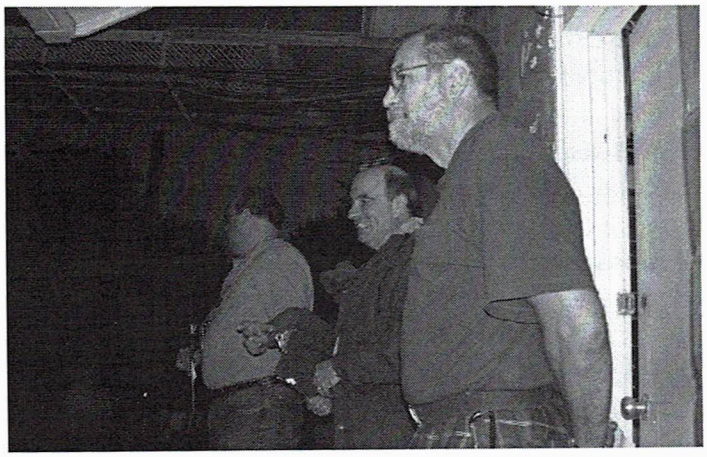
Pictures From September Meeting

by Dick, KA3MOU

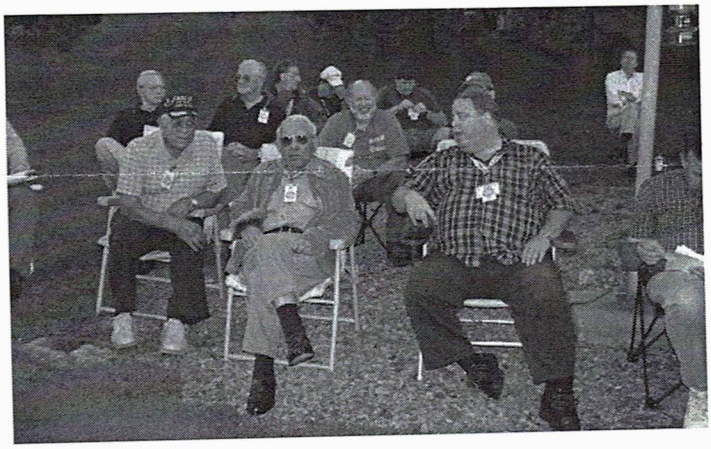
This picture was taken at Thursday night's club meeting September 2, 2004. Starting from the left in the front row is Eddie/W3APE, Jeff/N3QZT, and Joe/W3JD, standing Al/W3CE. Sitting behind Eddie is Bill/K3ANS and David/N3EYT. Behind Bill are Philp/KB3HMK and Rich/KB3DEC. Guess who is sitting in the chair to the right of Rich/KB3DEC? Eddie and David what did you see up in the sky?



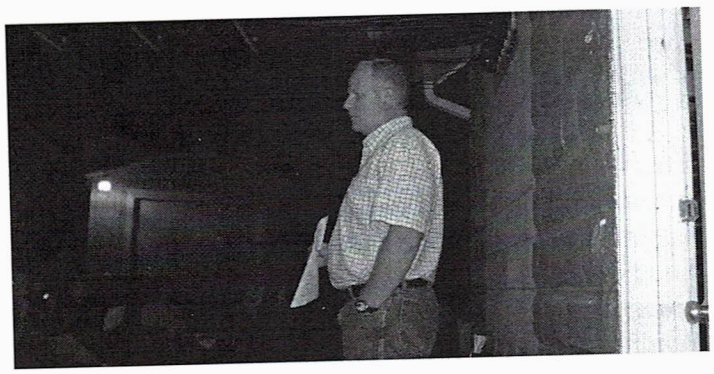
This is another picture from the September club meeting. This is a picture of the nominating committee. Starting from the right is Bob / KE3AW and Blair / K3YD. Missing from the picture is George / N3SQD who is the chairperson of the nominating committee. To Blair's right is our club president Bryan / AA3WM.



In this picture you will see many club members at Thursday nights club meeting September 2, 2004. Some of these members have been DLARC club members for many years. How many members can you identify? For those of you who have moved out of the area and cannot make club meetings you can see what your friends look like today.

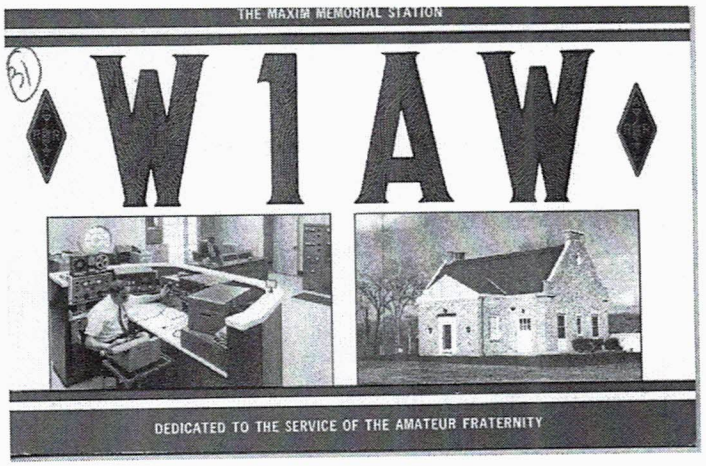


In this picture is Don / KA3JWE who is a past President of DLARC. At the September club meeting Don gave his talk on the PA QSO party which will be the weekend of October 9 & 10, 2004. Don also has a free logging program for the PA QSO party.



QSL From The Past

Submitted by Charlie, W3DEA



Steve WX3MAS

Thanks for the 3400 MHz.

SSB contact of 12/31/70

1928 GMT.

Your signals RST 59

Info 73 CUL

Don WA2NRE VISITING opr.

George Hart, W1NJM, Trustee
ARRL Headquarters
225 Main Street
Newington, Conn. U.S.A. 06111



WX3MAS / W3OK
The Delaware-Lehigh
ARC Inc.
Lewis + Rogers Sts
Bethlehem, Penn
18017

News From the ARRL

Submitted by Blair, K3YD

From the August 25th Rate Sheet, used with permission.

NEWS AND PRESS RELEASES

DX Engineering announces their new RR8-HD remote antenna switching system that has a number of new features unavailable on competitive units. For example, it has a plug-in control line connector so you don't have to take the unit apart on the tower to connect and disconnect it. The antenna port selections are configurable for stacking and phasing, as well as grounding or leaving open the unused

ports. The RR8-HD has built-in lightning protection and unterminated port-to-port isolation is more than 70 dB at 30 MHz, Inexpensive CAT 5-style control cable can be used, too. It looks like someone was paying attention to existing products and decided to go them one better. List price is just under $250.

Vibroplex is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the patent for the Original Bug (August 9, 1904) with the release of the 100th Anniversary Special Edition Bug. The black powder coated base duplicates the smooth but "weathered" look of the early cast bases and includes distinctive gold pin striping and gold leaf designs in each corner. They are also announcing the new Chrome Warrior, a deluxe version of the popular Code Warrior Jr. featuring a brushed chrome base with polished brass upper parts and clear paddles. The 100th Anniversary bug lists at $199.95 and the Chrome Warrior at $139.95. Photos of these beauties should soon be available on the Vibroplex Web site (http://www.vibroplex.com/).

Marlin P. Jones has an August special on a coaxial crimping tool kit for $39.95 (http://www.mpja.com/productview.asp?product=14667+TL). It crimps just about everything you could consider coax. I doubt that it's production quality at this price, but if you have been holding out for a low-priced occasional-use tool, this may be it. There is an additional discount for orders of five or more, so this would be a good club purchase.

Has your antenna's resonant frequency been creeping downwards for no apparent reason? Have you been feeling a little tired lately? Maybe you're just red-shifted. Here's an interesting, non-spoof story about a gradual change in the speed of light - http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=39733 (Thanks, Harold W4MMC)

If you haven't seen the movie of soldering in space aboard the International Space Station, check it out - http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/16aug_solder.htm?list610324. (Thanks, Rick K7LOG)

TECHNICAL

When starting a rebuilding project for a basket case R7000, I put out a call for help about what was "inside the box" that matches the antenna to 50-ohm coax. Right away I got a response from John EI7BA. He has done the work on this network and made it available on his Web site at http://www.iol.ie/~bravo/. Quite the homebrewer, there are several other interesting projects described there - a homebrew crank-up/tilt-over tower, a hex beam, info on low-band verticals, and more. Worth the browse!

Can't find the data sheet for that digital or analog IC? Try the Univ. of WA Electrical Engineering Department's resource page at http://www.ee.washington.edu/stores/. Along with links to data sheets, there is a circuits archive, too.

The simplest of projects still requires some kind of enclosure and the drilling thereof often reduces the most elegant of electronics to a grubby, gougy mess. A recent discussion on the QRP-L mailing list debated the merits of how best to deal with flimsy metal boxes, such as the popular metal mint tins. The best combination was to fill the enclosure with water (or immerse it) and freeze it. The ice supports the wall against the pressure of the drill. A Unibit (a stepped drill bit available at a variety of hardware emporia) also got high marks as not tearing the metal as regular fluted bits tended to do.

Paul WN7T reports that the best lubricant for sliding contacts in edge-wound roller inductors seems to be Molybdenum disulfide applied as a slurry solution in a very light film. It's a dry-lubricating film that does not attract dust and bonds to the metal substrate and with intrinsic metal-like conductivity. He found the product at the Rose Mill Company's Bemol Lubricants http://metalshopper.websitecandy.com/category.asp?category=19.

From the September 8, 2004 Rate Sheet. Used with permission.

DX Engineering (http:// www.dxengineering.com) recently introduced a dozen new MaxiCore(tm) Current Baluns with ratios of 1:1, 2:1, 4:1, 6:1, 9:1, and 12:1. The baluns are designed to concentrate flux in the core, which results in minimal insertion loss and a low SWR from 1.8-30 MHz. (The H05-P model has a bandwidth of 1-60 MHz.) The product line also includes special antenna tuner models that accommodate the extraordinary stresses of tuning across the entire HF spectrum. The baluns are priced from $39.95-$139.95.

TECHNICAL

As the flux falls, so does interest rise in that most oft chosen of contesting armaments, the amplifier. Maybe you are ready to rumble on down to the local purveyor of potency and write a check, but the good

bargain is hard to pass up and often a necessity. In response to such a question, Dave K8CC, super-station proprietor, offered this quodlibet, surveying many of the popular models available on the used market:

SB-220: Reasonably reliable in contest service up to 1200 W output or so (which is roughly equal to the orignal 2000 W PEP input). An extra muffin fan or two to suck hot air out of the amp is a good idea. The 120 V antenna relay is an issue with modern radios.

TL-922: Similar to the SB-220 except cost is higher. The extra $$$ buys you 160-meters and little more.

MLA2500: No tuned input so SWR to the radio is poor on 15 and 10-meters. The tubes are very precious. Not well suited to surviving the "occasional high SWR due to transmitting into the wrong antenna at 3 AM". I own one of these, solely because it's a great DXpedition/contestpedition amp (44 pounds).

Alpha 374: I don't know whether you'll find the bandpass tuning all that useful, unless you only operate where your antennas are matched very well. See my comments later on 3CX400/800 tubes in general.

Al-80/SB-1000: This is a 600 W output amp in contest duty, period. Decent compact box for DXpedition or mult chasing.

I have had problems using most of the 3CX400 (8874 and variants), 3CX800 and even the 3CX1500/8877 amps in contest duty. They work great once you're tuned up on a frequency - the problem comes when you QSY or you have several antennas on a band. You tune up on one antenna and everything is fine, then you switch another and BAM! the grid meter is on the pin. If you have only one antenna on a band, it's not a big deal.

In my opinion, the best value in contest amps right now are the Ameritron AL-1200 and AL-82 series. Both of these (plus the AL-1500) have the same case, HV power supply, plate tank, etc. I owned an AL-1200 for five years and it never made less than legal limit with 100W drive, even with some loss from a bandpass filter. They have an AL-82 down at WP2Z which has seen a lot of abuse and damage, but when it's running it puts out legal power with no fuss.

CONVERSATION

Ready, Study, Know

With the one-two punch of Hurricanes Charley and Frances leaving Florida a soggy mess in many locations, thousands of hams are performing vital public service across the state. More are needed as the initial volunteers finish their "tours of duty" and return to their homes. (http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/09/06/100/?nc=1). As the winter approaches, there will surely be opportunities to support your local public safety, Red Cross, weather watchers, and other emergency and disaster relief agencies. The time to consider your station's readiness is now, not when the first storm warnings are making the nightly news. Sometimes neglected in favor of equipment is the operator. Are you personally prepared to provide useful service in time of need? I'm not talking about your station or your "go kit" but your emergency communications training. Even the best-equipped amateur can be more of a hindrance than a help without untrained. There is an understandable tendency for many of us to think, "Well, I've been a ham for years and I've checked into lots of nets, so I know what I'm doing. I'll just pick it up on the fly." NOT! Although it's not difficult to learn, emergency communications has a definite rhythm, jargon, and structure that you need to know to be effective. Just like contesting, you wouldn't expect to place in the Top Ten without having some experience and tutoring. For example, the Incident Command System is now the norm for how emergency and disaster response are managed. Are you familiar with ICS? If you haven't been trained on it in the past couple of years, the chances are you don't know about it. Do you know the message format for your local and regional agencies? It's probably not the ARRL Radiogram form, although that is the standard for the National Traffic System. The last thing an emergency worker needs to hear from you is, "Huh?" so it's a good idea to learn these things in advance. Luckily, there is a great opportunity to learn the basics from the comfort of the chair in which your bottom resides right now. The ARRL's EC-001 course opens for registration on the first Monday of each month. (Registration is open through Sep 13 at http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec001) It's an excellent introduction or refresher into "emcomm", including how the ICS works. The course is FREE if you complete it - you get reimbursed for the $45 registration fee via your credit card. Right behind EC-001 is the course for net control training, EC-002, which is also FREE after completion. (Your editor is about to finish that course.) Acting as a net control is an excellent way for contesters to put our pileup

management skills and operating stamina to work. If you acquire a taste for emcomm, EC-003 will prepare you with leadership skills, as well. Of course, "book learning" is no substitute for the on-the-air practice. Your county or section probably has some kind of active emergency group. These may be folks you've never met, but are working hard and have good skills to share with you. How do you contact them? The most direct way is to contact your ARRL Section Manager and ask about volunteering. Another good way is to check into a local emergency net. Go to the ARRL's on-line Net Directory at http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/client/index.html and check "Local Nets", select your state, and click "Search for Nets". You'll see the nets you're looking for in the list provided. An excellent opportunity to get some practice is coming up in the October Simulated Emergency Test (http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html) on 2-3 Oct.

Now's the time. Prepare your station, have your emergency supplies ready, and be sure to prepare yourself, too. Ready? Study. Know!

2004			OCTOBER			2004
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 PM	7 DLARC meeting 7:30PM	8 V.E. Test Session	9 PA QSO Party weekend
10 Newsletter Deadline	11	12	13 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 PM	14	15	16 Emmaus Halloween Parade
17	18	19	20 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 PM	21 Executive Committee Meeting	22	23
24	24	26	27 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 PM	28	29	30
31	Send any items that you want to appear in this calendar to: kb3jxq@snycomp.com					

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and 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 7:00 PM

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

== 2003-2004 ==

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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 IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, Editor
4260 Cedar Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088

visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

MEMBERSHIP EXP 12-31-04
ROBERT A GREEN KE3AW
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WHITEHALL PA 18052-7204

The W3OK CORRAL

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