Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2005

Meeting October 6th at the 911 center

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM



THANK YOU! Thank you for having me as the president of the DLARC for the last two years! I have enjoyed my term as president, and look forward to continuing to serve DLARC for at least another year as the 10th Executive Committee member as the "most recent past president."

The nominations are in, thanks to the Nominating committee consisting of Bob KE3AW, Earl KB3MHY, and Larry KB3JMS. It is important that you help select the make up of the Executive Committee by casting your vote — either with the absentee ballot enclosed with this newsletter, or in person at the October 6, 2005 general meeting. All of the officer positions are running unopposed, but there are eight people running for the five other Executive Committee member positions, so your vote does count! Please consider carefully who you would have serve DLARC this coming year and then VOTE!

The license preparation classes have started – contact Bob KE3AW if you or someone you know is interested in attending, or go to:
http://www.dlarc.org/classinfo.htm

Events that are coming up in October are the PA QSO Party (October 8 & 9), the Emmaus Halloween Parade (October 15), and the American Cancer Society Dog Walk (October 22). Also coming up on December 10th and 11th is the W3MAX Christmas City Special Event Station. Why not participate in one of these events?

I would like to thank the rest of the Executive Committee for helping make my term as president go smoothly. Thank you Bill N2DH, Charlie W3DEA, Dick KA3MOU, Barry N3NVA, Tom KB3IUE, Dave N3EYT, Bob N3QZR, Al W3CE, and Jeff N3QZT – I have enjoyed working with you all!

de Bryan, AA3WM

October means the Emmaus Halloween Parade!

by Bob, KE3AW

Time once again to use our amateur radio talents and our radios to provide the necessary communication in the Emmaus Halloween Parade. This year's parade will be Saturday evening, October 15 (with a rain date of Monday, October 17).

Again this year it will be a long parade. We'll need about 15 hams with mobile rigs and/or HTs to ride in the parade and provide feedback to the net control

operator who will be with the parade marshal. In this way, emergencies can be dealt with quickly, and logistics keep the parade moving on schedule.

If you want to help in this very valuable and fun ham activity, let me know. Spouses, kids, friends in the car with you are allowed, and after the parade we again will enjoy socializing at our traditional Dutch treat of a snack, meal or desert at a local restaurant.

Previous participation in this activity is NOT a pre-requisite. Questions? Give me a call!

de Bob, KE3AW

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU



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

Balance 7/31/05	**$5,058.94**
INCOME	
Club Dues	$16.50
Donation Income 50-50	22.00
Donation Income	.50
Interest Checking	1.61
VE Test Session	14.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$54.61**
EXPENSES	
Postage	$70.00
Refund William Twaddell VE testing	14.00
Telephone	17.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$101.70**
Balance 8/31/05	**$5,011.85**

de Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer of DLARC

DLARC General Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2005

by Bryan, AA3WM (for Charlie, W3DEA)

7:34 PM Called to order by Bryan AA3WM, 33 members present – 24 needed for quorum. Van K3CP was recognized as the last living original member of the DLARC.

REPORTS:

Secretary – Minutes as published

- ✓ One spelling correction ("count" to "county") was the only change to the minutes as published, 1st – Bill N2DH, 2nd – Dick KA3MOU, Passed

Treasurer – Dick KA3MOU

- ✓ No change to report as given, 1st – Earl KB3MHY, 2nd – Bud W3BUD, Passed

Repeater – Barry N3NVA

- ✓ Barry N3NVA gave an update of the repeater systems and the web site

VE Session – Bill N2DH

- ✓ No one is registered for tomorrow night's VE session yet

W3OK Club Station (Milk House) – Al W3CE & Ken N3IYX

- ✓ We have received permission from the county to hook up our UPS with some conditions
- ✓ The FT857 has been fixed
- ✓ The ARRL News is being aired on the repeater Wednesday nights at 9PM

Tech Net – Charlie W3DEA

- ✓ No report given
- ✓ Next Tech Net is October 5th at 8PM. Check in, even if you only plan on listening; you never know when YOU may be able to answer someone's question.

Guests – Bryan AA3WM

- ✓ Guests tonight were Joe N3YW and Stephanie WX3K – Welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ✓ It was announced that the Executive Committee made Dick Teasdale and Nick Tylenda Honorary Members of the DLARC.
- ✓ DLARC Picnic is September 11, 2005 at Louise Moore Park, Pavilion 2
- ✓ Classes are starting September 20th, if interested contact Bob KE3AW
- ✓ Emmaus Halloween Parade is October 15th (rain date is the 17th) – contact Bob KE3AW if you can help out
- ✓ PA QSO Party is October 8th and 9th – see Al W3CE if interested
- ✓ WX3MAS Christmas City event is December 10th and 11th this year – see Al W3CE if interested

New Business:

- ✓ Earl KB3MHY, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, which also includes Bob KE3AW and Larry KB3JMS, listed the nominations for this year. The nominees for officers are Bill N2DH for President, Al W3CE for Vice-President, Charles W3DEA for Secretary, and Dick KA3MOU for Treasurer. The nominees for the 5 non-officer Executive Committee members are Dave N3EYT, Tom KB3IUE, Brad KB3JXQ, Paul N0KIA, Barry N3NVA, Bob N3OLH, Jeff N3QZT, and George N3SQD. No additional nominations were added by the floor. Motion to accept the nomination slate as presented – 1st Van K3CP, 2nd Don KA3JWE, Passed.
- ✓ Tom N3MQL announced that the DogsWalk for the American Cancer Society is October 22nd at 8:30 AM. See Tom if you are interested in helping out.
- ✓ Bill N2DH and Thalia KB3CSR are looking to relinquish the post of VE test coordinators and are looking for someone to take their place. Please see Bill if you are interested.
- ✓ Charlie N3VUO talked about the Lehigh River Run and the possibility of it being expanded next year.

Membership – Bryan AA3WM

- ✓ A new procedure for voting in members was announced. Potential members will be voted on at the meeting their application is read instead of waiting until the next meeting. In addition, the potential member(s) will be asked to leave the room, and there will then be a time for discussion after a motion to accept new members has been stated and seconded. After the discussion and vote the potential member(s) will then be asked to rejoin the meeting.
- ✓ Voted in at this meeting – Carl WK3C and Zeke W3GMN, 1st – Bill K3ANS, 2nd – Bud W3BUD. After discussion, separate votes for Carl and Zeke were taken, both passed. Welcome Carl and Zeke!
- ✓ No new applications were read at this meeting

Program:

- ✓ Tonight's program is given by Bill K3ANS on Ground That Station.

Adjourn

- ✓ 1st – George N3SQD, 2nd – Barry N3NVA, passed

de Bryan, AA3WM

The DLARCforum

by Don, KA3JWE

The DLARCforum is a club sponsored mailing list (email reflector) that is used to keep club members informed on upcoming events, send general announcements, relay information on weather or emergency situations and drills, and pass along any other information on club activities. It is also intended as an open forum for all club members to use to discuss club issues, general ham radio related topics, or tap the wealth of knowledge and experience of the membership at large.

All club members are welcome to subscribe. To join go to this URL: http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/dlarcforum and fill in the information. After you fill in the web form your information is sent to the list administrator for verification. Your identity and membership in DLARC will be verified since this is a closed list and is limited to DLARC members only. That means that you will not get any spam or junk mail from the reflector.

The DLARCforum is a text-only reflector. If you send HTML formatted email to the reflector it will attempt to convert it to plain text. When you post a message to the forum, please try to use plain-text only because sometimes HTML formatted messages will not be converted properly and some of your message may be lost. Since the DLARCforum is a text-only system, no file attachments, pictures, or programs can be sent along with a message. This is advantageous in that no viruses, Trojans, malware, or spyware can be distributed via the reflector.

Please remember that you can only post a message using the email account that you used to subscribe to the list. If you try to post a message from another account (your work email, etc.) it will be rejected by the system because that account is not subscribed. You can subscribe to the DLARCforum with more than one account if you want to be able to post from various accounts/locations.

Note: If you subscribe to the DLARCforum using an arrl.net account you will only be able to receive messages. You will not be able to post a message because you cannot send messages from arrl.net due to the fact that it is an email forwarding service only.

The mailman.qth.net webpage has links to help you with any questions you might have regarding subscribing and using a reflector. You will also receive instructions along with your welcome message when you subscribe. If you have additional questions please contact the list administrator.

General Guidelines:

The DLARC Board of Directors has established basic rules and guidelines for reflector usage. Many of the rules for on-air operation of an amateur station also apply to the reflector. Below are a few of the guidelines as I remember them.

1. Topics should be club or general ham radio related.
2. Foul language will not be permitted.
3. Jokes or humorous stories are permitted as long as they are non-offensive in nature and are on an occasional basis only.
4. Advertisements or solicitations for non-amateur radio related business or activities are not allowed. Open invitations for members to join an outing or excursion which is non-radio related are permitted as long as the activity is not for-profit. (example – going to a ballgame or joining a fishing expedition)
5. The Executive Committee has the right to determine what is inappropriate use of the forum and has the right to moderate, censure, or remove any subscriber it deems in violation of the guidelines or acceptable usage of the forum.

Please follow these guidelines when posting a message. If you are unsure whether something is appropriate for the forum, contact the Board for an official interpretation.

The DLARCforum is an un-moderated reflector, which means that when you post a message it is not held for approval before it is sent out to all subscribers. Once a message is sent, it cannot be retracted. Avoid putting the DLARCforum address in the CC: line of an email. If you intend to post a message to the forum, please direct it exclusively to the reflector and its members. And, as always, please review all posts carefully before hitting the send button.

de Don, KA3JWE, List Administrator

Ramblings On The PA Dutch MS-150 (part 3)

by Paul Ryan, N0KIA

-- see the August and September, 2005 newsletters for part one and two of Paul's article.

When everything's working, clean up any extra coax, adapters, spilled coffee, and police the area. I usually take a few minutes to return extra items to my car and stow the roller case on the spare jump seat. On the edge of the opened case I slide my cell phone and spare HT tuned to the simplex frequency or tuned to net control if I'm venturing out of the vehicle. Next, I'll get the appropriate route sheets for the day and put them on the clipboard. File the backup data sheets nearby, but not in the way. Get the ballpoint ready and pre-position the rain gear, just in case.

Last item is to brief the driver and assistant on our assigned role, in case they're unfamiliar with the operation of the MS-150. Finally, buckle up, and for me in the ambulance, I'm done. Check with the vehicle crew and if they're ready, let net control know that "Vehicle so-and-so" is ready to go.

OPERATION

This is it! Net control's cleared us to start on the route. If it's your first event, you'll probably be a bit anxious. That's normal. Just remember to keep net control in the picture and try to keep your assigned position on the route. If you're not driving, you'll have to keep the front office crew apprised of any instructions from net control. They'll be busy just keeping the vehicle on course. Let net control know when you arrive and depart any assigned stops. In general, you'll be keeping half your attention on the radio, and the other half on being aware of your position and event situations. Listen to the radio, even if the traffic isn't yours. Try to keep the event's "little picture" in mind for your part of the route, even though you'll be hearing only some of the traffic. Only net control has the total "big picture" available, since they're monitoring all the event's frequencies and cell phones.

Remember back in the setup section I called my station a comm/nav position. Why did I call it a nav position? Well, most ambulance crews work well together. The right seater is reading the route sheet and relaying checkpoints, mileage, "next" and "next after" position instructions to the driver. It's great to see them function as a team. But not always! There are the few right seaters who wouldn't read the route sheet even if their life depended on it. It's then that your radio position on the team has to take over the role of navigator. You'll call mileage to the next check point, street name and left/right/straight turns to the driver. Once he/she sees that you know what you're doing, it becomes much easier. It also helps you keep track of your position on the route sheet. It's a bit of a bother in the ambulance, since you'll be riding backwards, twisting your neck around a'la "The Exorcist" trying to see through the front window, but it can be done. You can also spot street signs thru the back window as a double check on your position.

When the driver gets comfortable with following the route markings, you can ease back and just double-check your progress by matching the turns to the sheet. An occasional cross check for confirmation every few minutes is best. It's not as bad as it sounds, but you may find yourself having to take the lead in getting the vehicle rolling on the proper course. In many cases, the amateur will be the most experienced MS-150 participant in the vehicle. You'll have to explain terms such as "sweep", "proceed on course" vs. "proceed direct", "without delay" and "hold" in the context of the event. Be sure to offer information when it seems appropriate, like when you notice bits of Sullivan County landscape drifting by, or you find your vehicle crossing the Delaware River eastbound. Try to keep them on course! And try to know where you are at all times – net control wants to know.

That brings us full circle back to net control. With rare exception, they will be the only station you communicate with during the event. Net control may call you, such as "Net control to Ambulance Alpha.". Your response should be "ID, position", such as "Ambulance Alpha at Foxtrot niner." or "Sag Bravo approaching Charlie eleven." Unless you are already aware that net control knows where you are, it doesn't hurt to update them when they call. In fact, that may be the only reason they're calling you, to see where you're at! For instance, compare the following exchanges:

EXCHANGE 1

"Net Control to Ambulance Bravo."
"Ambulance Bravo approaching Foxtrot 5."
"Thank you Ambulance Bravo. N3KU"
"WB3ZZZ."

EXCHANGE 2

"Net Control to Ambulance Bravo."
"Net control this is Ambulance Bravo."
"Ambulance Bravo, what is your position?"
"Ah, er... Standby net control"
(ten to twenty second pause)
"Net control this is Ambulance Bravo."
"Go ahead Ambulance Bravo."
"Net control, Ambulance Bravo is between Foxtrot 4 and Foxtrot 5."
"Thank you Ambulance Bravo. This is net control, N3KU."
"This is Ambulance Bravo, WB3ZZZ."

See the difference. Exchange 1 took 8 seconds; Exchange 2 took at least 30. Same information is conveyed in both. Strive for the exchange 1 format. Notice, also, that net control signed with his FCC call sign in his second sentence in exchange 1, indicating the communication was completed and giving Ambulance Bravo a tacit prompt to likewise sign. Clean. Efficient. Professional.

What if you have to call net control? Why not start the info transfer with a position update, just in case net control has a relief crew sitting in who may not be aware of where you're at. For example, Ambulance Bravo has been sitting at Hoppes Farm for an hour and wants to go over and grab a turkey and cheese hoagie:

"Net control, this is Ambulance Bravo at Hoppes Farm."
"Go ahead Ambulance Bravo."
"Request permission to leave the net for ten minutes."
"Permission granted. Contact Net Control when you're back on frequency."
"Understood, WB3ZZZ."
"N3KU"

Notice the succinct, but clearly understood use of tactical IDs. Notice that they're not needed with every spoken sentence. Notice the initial use of a position identifier. Notice that the stations cleared with their FCC call signs to keep it legal. Nice flow, clean communication, mission accomplished.

When net control gives instructions, they expect them to be followed in a timely manner. If your crew cannot comply, notify net control and seek an alternate solution. Don't just ignore net control. And don't try to second guess them. You may think you know a better way to solve the current problem, but net control has more oars in the water than you do. There may be other situations they're trying to deal with that impact you without your knowledge. Listen, confirm and comply. In that vein, I've started to read back to net control all but the most basic of instructions just for clarification. I've misunderstood or misinterpreted too many instructions in the past! Here I have a pet gripe. <GRIPE> If net control wants you to stay at a position, then they should use the term "hold", such as "Hold at F3" or "Hold your position at French Creek." The ambiguous term "stay", such as "stay on course" or "stay at your current course location" can be easily misconstrued into something it's not. "Hold" is much more concrete -- it means "stop moving!". </GRIPE> That's also a prime example where read back for confirmation would help.

Also, when you've been given instructions, and you can comply, such as "Ambulance Bravo, when possible, proceed on the 75 mile route. Advise when you're underway.", then let net control actually know when you're underway. They're trying to keep their parade of support vehicles moving about the course and would really appreciate knowing if and when you actually resumed on course. If you're going to be a few minutes before proceeding, let net control know so they don't have to waste time querying you status. Strive for efficient communications and anticipate questions before they need to be asked.

After an hour or two into the event, you'll be relaxed and getting the knack of efficient communication. With luck, your crew will be working as a team and you'll be relaxed enough to enjoy a break at the next rest stop. You can count on water, sports drink and fruit at all the stops, and sandwiches at the lunch stop. Assorted candy has been spotted in the past at the rest stop with the dancing Hershey's Bar. And for the brave, there's the peanut butter and banana sandwiches! Oh, that reminds me, NEVER pass up a chance to use the PortaPottys at the rest stops. You never know when you'll be on extended deployment along the route attending to an injured cyclist or trying to find a lost one.

WRAPUP

There you have it. That's a lot of information to digest. I'll be creating some check sheets for packing items, spares kit, radio requirements, etc., and will be sharing them on the web in the near future. That way, you won't have to read this whole article all over again next May when you're getting ready to volunteer. And I hope you WILL volunteer. One objective of this article was to take away some of the "unknown" factor and made you feel you're ready and able even if it's your first time on the course. Trust me, you can do it, it's really worth your time and it's a great way to pay back for the privileges we enjoy as hams. Everyone benefits, you'll feel tired but proud, and you'll probably be ready to sign up for the next year's event as soon as the last rider rolls

into the velodrome! Looking forward to riding with you next year and perhaps you'll also share your experiences with the rest of the community.

73, Paul, N0KIA

Picture from the September meeting

By Brad, KB3JXQ

This picture is of Bill, K3ANS giving his "Ground That Station" presentation.

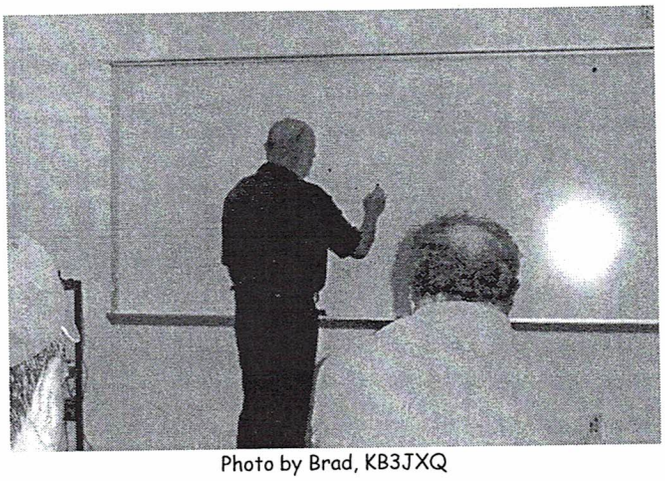

Photo by Brad, KB3JXQ

2005			OCTOBER			2005
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Send newsletter and calendar articles to kb3jxq@snycomp.com						1
2	3	4	5 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm TechNet 8:00 pm	6 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	7	8 PA QSO Party
9 PA QSO party	10 **Newsletter Deadline**	11	12 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	13	14	15 Emmaus Halloween Parade
16	17	18	19 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	20 Executive Committee Meeting	21	22 Dogswalk against cancer
23	24	25	26 ARES / RACES Net 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30	31	**Elections this month!**				

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)

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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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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