Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

November 1997

Proper soldering techniques and how to do it

Soldering: Get It Right!

There are few fundamental skills related to amateur radio more important than the techniques for proper soldering -- and that's what the November program is all about. **Tom, N3LLL, Chris, NU3L**, and perhaps a few more club members will demonstrate the best ways for soldering connections and surface-mount components. And they'll also show how to **UN**solder them! (or is that **DE**solder?)

Some of our more recently licensed members are sure to find this program enlightening, but the more experienced among us might pick up a few tips, as well. There's nothing quite like the smell of freshly-heated flux to bring back those memories of putting together a new Heathkit (as one of our new directors can surely testify) -- but there are also plenty of projects in the Handbook and each month's QST to help keep your soldering skills sharp.

So make a point of coming to the **Delaware Lehigh Radio Club** meeting on **November 6th, beginning at 7:30 pm,** and then clear off that bench for some soldering

Meeting will be at the **Northampton Community College, in Kiva Hall...** Talk in available on 146.70 if needed

The Prez Sez

A New Adventure

By Joe, W3JD, President



I've been a licensed ham for 33 years, but assuming the role of president of The **Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club** is by far the most significant event in my amateur radio career. I thank all of you for your support, and I look forward to what will certainly be for me a new adventure with a group of people for whom I have a great deal of respect. I will strive to make respect for one another one of the hallmarks of my tenure as your president.

Some notes of appreciation are in order for the people who have just finished their terms of service as officers and board members. **Bob, KE3AW,** has served us admirably both as president and on the board as past president. His contributions continue, of course, with the licensing classes, one of the most important activities of the club. Working with Bob at those classes is **Chris, NU3L**, who always helped to keep board discussions focused on the topic at hand. It would be difficult to quantify the collective wisdom of **Robin, WA3T,** and **Ray, W3TDF** (who, it seems, has other demands on his time lately!) -- both of whose generous assistance in various projects was always greatly appreciated.

To those who are maintaining their roles as officers and directors, I express my personal thanks for their continued willingness to do their part to help the club. **Tom, N3LLL**, of course, continues on the board as past president, and I will be depending on him to help ease the transition to new leadership. **John, N3IGA**, and **Dick, KA3MOU,** take care of a multitude of details as secretary and treasurer respectively that the average club member simply is not aware of. **Barry, N3NVA**, continues both as a director and as our repeater maintenance maven. **Don, KA3JWE**, has moved from a director's seat to the vice-presidency, and I look forward to collaborative efforts with him in leading the club.

All of us who are continuing on the board extend a warm welcome to the newly-elected members: **Al, WO4H; Glenn, N3ULW; Mark, K3MP;** and **Danny, W3ZF.** I will be counting on their advice and energy. As I mentioned in my first remarks as president in the October meeting, I will be relying on the help not only of the board but also of the whole membership to keep the **DLARC** the great organization that is.

de Joe, W3JD

Contest Calendar

by Barry, KU3X Contest Editor

Nov 1-3	ARRL CW Sweepstakes
Nov 7-8	Japan Int'l SSB Contest
Nov 8-9	European DX Contest, RTTY
Nov 9-14	Peace Country ARC QRS Contest
Nov 11-12	VK/ZL Oceania Contest, CW
Nov 15-16	ARRL International EME
	IARU Region-1 160 Meter Contest
	RSGB 1.8 Mhz Contest, CW
Nov 15-17	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
Nov 29-30	CQ WW DX CW Contest
	OK/OM DX Contest

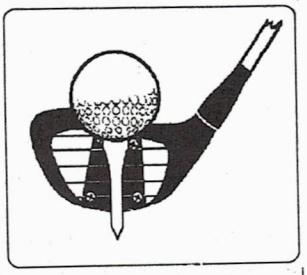
Exchanges:

Europesn DX RTTY Contest = RST + Serial number
CQ WW DX Contest = RS(T) + zone

de Barry, KU3X

Golf and the wayard minister

It seems there was this minister who just LOVED to golf, but he had been very busy for many months and had not been able to get away to go golfing. Well, one Sunday morning he woke up and felt he just HAD to go golfing. The weather was just beautiful.



He called up the church and claimed he had a really bad case of laryngitis and couldn't preach, so the church told him to rest for several days. He then got out his clubs and headed off for the golf course.

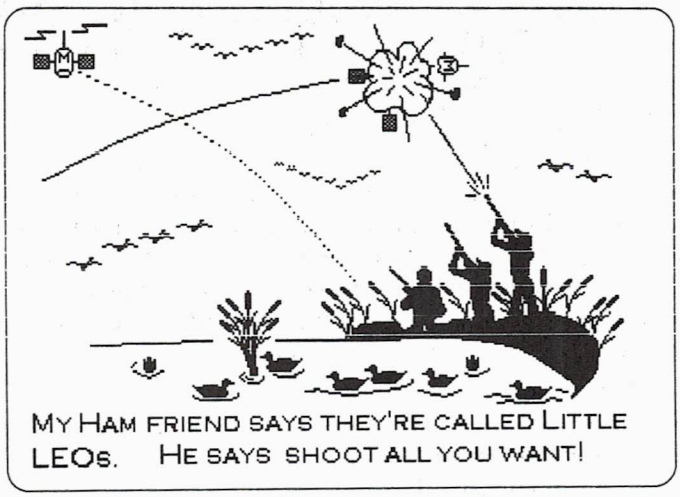
He set up at the first hole, making sure no one was there to see him playing hookey, and blasted that ball with his wood. It was a beautiful shot! It went straight and true; it bounced, and bounced (right up onto the green) and rolled its way closer... closer... a hole in one!

The minister jumped up and down in his excitement. He struts off to the green, collects his ball, and tees off at the second hole, repeating his performance on the first hole, much to his astounded delight.

All this time St. Peter and God have been watching him from the gates of heaven. St. Peter has finally seen enough to pique his curiosity.

"Lord," he says, "this minister seems to be a real trouble maker. He ignored his congregation and even LIED to go golfing. And now you reward him with a hole in one! Why?"

God smiles and looks over at St. Peter and says, "I'm punishing him ...after he finishes his game by himself, who can he tell his story to?"



VE test results

Name	License Class	Call
August		
Jonathan M. Mordosky	**Tech**	**N3ZUI**
September		
Elias Grim	**Tech**	**N3ZVS**
Jonathan C. Mordosky	**Tech Plus**	**N3ZIL**
Jeffrey Kocher	**Tech**	**N3ZVR**
Larry Darrohn	**Tech**	**N3ZVQ**
Joseph Breish	**General**	**N3LQV**
Michael Diefenderfer	**Tech Plus**	**N3ZVP**
October		
Bruce Lawrence	**Tech**	**N3ZXT**

de K3MP Mark, Team Liaison

Nice Sunday morning chat with Mir

by Tom N3CXP

I was fortunate enough to have a horizon to horizon QSO with Mike Foale about 12:30utc Sunday September 7, when he answered my general CQ.

The QSO was made just several hours after Mike switched over to 70cm and was QRM free, as many didn't realize the move had been made to the higher band.


Soviet spacestation MIR

The contact was made with my Kenwood TS- 440, a microwave modules transverter, Mirage brick and computer tracking. Two kilohertz Doppler corrections were plugged into my memories, however I can do a one-shot-at-a time Doppler correction with Station, a really nice program written by Paul Willmott, VP9MU from Amsat.bm. The program is available from the Amsat-Bermuda website and you can get to it through the AMSAT NA website. All of the proceeds go to Phase 3D.

Anyway, the contact was made over the packet braps. Mike does not like to turn it off, or else data will be lost.

Here were some of the Questions and responses from the QSO:

N3CXP: Mike, how 's the MIR?

R0MIR: Were finally getting the place in shape again. We've been in a state of complete turmoil here for the last month or so - with the EVA's and just want to clean up the house so we have some cool air flying and the fans and filters are clean. We are reviewing a lot of the recordings that we took from during the EVA. ....we're running around the station trying to find windows to take shots...

N3CXP: Were you able to repair the leak in the module that was having all the problems?

R0MIR: Negative on that, unfortunately we learned a lot but didn't win. Basically, Anatole dug away and dug away in the piece that was suspected to have the hole and found a pretty clean hole under the insulation and some bent tubing on the outside but inside it was just clean.. So we then moved on to the solar array mounts where the solat array extends into the body of the module. There's a powerful motor.. about two foot into diameter and that motor is bent by about a centimeter on and it's clearance with the bearings is out on one side by about a centimeter.. .there was a very, very large impact with that part of the structure and it is mounted directly to the pressure hull, so our feeling is maybe, there is a hole in the hull, deep down in that motor bay.

N3CXP: Mike, this is the first time we've worked.. ..UHF is a pleasure right now.. .without competing with a whole lot of stuff... ..we're located in Allentown, Pennsylvania and with you directly to our north over Canada the range is about 1200 miles.

R0MIR: Well Tom, it is a pleasure to talk to you and I have a big feeling of guilt really.. that I haven't worked 2 meter voice over the U.S. much. Mostly it was because when we are using two meters vhf ahh through the station com system, it actually stop the receiver from picking up 2 meter com, so I've been forced to use 70cm a lot for packet, however when I tried 2m voice with people, the QRM is so intense I cannot make out who is talking to me and.. ahh.. people here me but every call gets jumped on and I cannot write it down or even log it. Over..

N3CXP: UHF is great here l... I've programmed in the various Doppler corrections and the next step is to get some computer control over it... ...have you have many other voice contacts here on 70cm yet?

R0MIR: No this is the first time I talked here on voice, I only switched to this channel this morning

and ahh I heard someone over in New Zealand people are having some trouble with the Doppler.. it will take some time for them to get it down, but it's probably a good experiment for everybody.

N3CXP: We'll it's fun for me, I can vouch for that!

R0MIR: And for me too. .tell me do think it's widely known that we switched to 70 cm?

N3CXP: No, I don't think so. ..it won't take long however. .there aren't as many hams who have the capability for Doppler correction however. .I found it on the e-mail mailing list for MIR.

R0MIR: It sad to exclude people, however it was getting to the point that I didn't work it (voice) at all because it was getting frustrating for me. Over.

N3CXP: I can believe that. You're at four degrees Mike. .it was certainly a pleasure. .reminiscent of chats with Sergei Krialev..73's it was a pleasure working you and your down at three degrees.

N3CXP good morning.

R0MIR: And this is R0MIR, clear with N3CXP a pleasure Tom and catch you again! Over

N3CXP: 73's I hope to work you again, Mike, have a nice day!

editors note:

After receiving this story from Tom, I took a copy to the Easton Office of the Morning Call, and as a result, the Morning Call called him and did a Front page story with picture of N3CXP and his equipment.

Clarence W3PYF

Just the Minutes

by John, N3IGA, Secretary



The October meeting of the Delaware-Lehigh ARC was called to order by Tom, N3LLL for the last time. There were 70 members and guests present. Don, KA3JWE, made the motion to accept the Septembers meeting's minutes as printed in the newsletter. Amy, KD3TI, seconded the motion.

Dick, KA3MOU, gave the Treasurer's Report. Starting Balance was $ 2733.62. Expenses for the month were $600.27. There was income of $550.53. The Ending Balance, as of September 30, is $2683.88. Norm, K3NZ, made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with Mark, K3MP, seconding.

John, N3IGA, gave the report on the Novice-Tech Class. There are 5 students attending right now. There are some interested in the code.

John also made the announcement about the next SKYWARN Training Session. It will be held on November 4 at the Lehigh Valley ARC's club meeting. It will start at 7:30pm. The meeting place is the Lehigh valley Red Cross Building off Airport Road. This session is not only for club members, but also for anybody interested in becoming a certified SKYWARN Spotter. Anybody needing directions, please contact me either by Email at jholmes@fast.net or contact me on the .70 repeater.

November's meeting will be on Soldering Techniques. If you want to learn the proper way to solder, don't miss this meeting.

Ray, W3TDF, gave a report on the Hamfest. There were 19 helpers. There was a total of $356.00 in revenue and $245.20 in expenses. That gave the club a profit of $110.80. Not bad for a "Fun" Hamfest. Everybody that came or was tailgating had a good time. We may go back to the firehouse again next year.

Ray also talked about the Christmas City Special Event. WX3MAS will be on the air December 13 and 14. Ray will have a sign-in sheet next meeting.

Barry, N3NVA, informed everybody that the linkage is done. There still needs a little adjustment to be done and we should be in good shape. He asked that anybody that has a Yagi on 2m to listen on input of .70 for this person or persons that is using the auto-dial and making noises on the repeater. We need to get a fix. Barry has narrowed it down to between Allentown and Bethlehem. The signal is more toward Bethlehem.

Josh, N3VJA, made the notion and Thomas, N3YRP, seconded that the following individuals be approved for membership:

Jeffrey Kocher, N3ZVR
Larry Darrohn, N3ZVQ
Leo Drany, N3UKR
John Fina, N3ZUU

Tom, N3LLL, turned the reins over to the new President, Joe, W3JD. Joe talked a little about what he expect to do. He said that he would be asking the members for help with all the events that the club does each year.

Bob, KE3AW, JP, N3GWR, and Chris, NU3L, passed out ballots to the members that were present. After a very careful count those elected to the **Executive Committee were:**

Glenn Brodt, N3ULW
Al Krensavage, WO4H
Danny Roth, W3ZF
Barry Vogt, N3NVA
Mark Petruno, K3MP

Congratulations and good luck in the coming year.

The program for the night was the PA QSO PARTY. Ray, W3TDF, gave his usual hints and pep talk to get everybody ready for October 11 and 12. Don, KA3JWE, showed his updated program for logging this year. He really out did himself with the new program. Lets get out there and win the trophy again and make it 8 out of the last nine years. Ray also announced that this is his last year as the DLARC whip cracker for the PA QSO Party. Thanks for the great job over the years Ray.

de John, N3IGA.

Backup Repeater with patch

Dave, N3LWY ,offered the use of his repeater 146.655 - 146.055 , P L is 136.5, as a backup if 146.700 is off the air.

Dave's repeater has auto patch to Lehigh and Northampton Counties. For information for the Code for Lehigh and Northampton County, contact **Dave N3LWY** or **Dick KA3MOU.**

de Dick KA3MOU



Hamfest report

by Ray, W3TDF

Hi guys, Well it is all over, and no-one is happier than me, about that. As you will recall, way back when no one wanted to chair this hamfest, I said I would do it but on my conditions, which included no desire to make any money for the DLARC, and to have a good time. I must admit, that, along the way I realized the possibility, due to the $1 admittance, that we stood a chance of being inundated. I did my best to prepare for that eventuality. But, with the change of location, changing from Sunday to Saturday, etc., I also concluded that I could be totally wrong, which I was.

With 19+ people, (a very small percentage of the membership), It was easy for what turned out to be a small operation. We had approximately 60 tailgaters, and 225 buyers, and, of course, 19 helpers who were variously buyers and tailgaters; some of em, that is.

Total receipts. .	**$356.00**
Expenses; Rental for grounds . .	$100.00
Porta-pots (2 ea.) . . .	127.20
Incidental expenses	18.00
Total expenses	**245.20**
Net profit	**$110.80**

Certainly not much return for the efforts of the 19 who pitched in to make it work, but, I recall stating that I was not looking for a big profit. I had hoped that we could make it a fun-club affair with the 50th anniversary theme. There were a lot of club members who showed up, AND, we didn't lose money, so, I guess we can call it a success. My personal thanks to those who showed up to help, and make my job easier.

de Ray,W3TDF

DLARC Members!

Interested in helping the club in a public service activity? **On Saturday, October 18,** the annual Emmaus Halloween Parade will be held. DLARCwill provide communication throughout the parade route with a vehicle and 2-meter operation, in communication with authorities by having an operator with each division in the parade.



This is an opportunity to help the club and have a fun time. If you are available for this event, contact **Bob/KE3AW** as soon as possible.

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc Income & Loss Statement. 9/1/97 Through 9/30/97

Balance 8/31/97		**$ 2,733.62**
INCOME		
Dues Arrl Misc	194.53	
Hamfest Income	356.00	
TOTAL INCOME	**550.53**	
EXPENSES		
Equipment - Battery Case Cover	9.75	
Guest Meals	29.85	
Newsletters - For October	127.20	
Novice Class - Materials	224.00	
PA QSO - PA QSO Plaque NARC	30.00	
Postage -	99.40	
Supplies - Infor Copies at Staples	44.51	
Telephone -	35.56	
TOTAL EXPENSES	**600.27**	
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES -		**49.74**
Balance 9/30/97		**$ 2,683.88**

Total Membership 367

de Dick, KA3MOU Treasurer

SKYWARN Training Session

There will be a **SKYWARN** Training Session on Tuesday, November 4 at 7:30pm. It will be part of the Lehigh Valley ARC meeting.

The meeting place is the Lehigh Valley Red Cross Building off Airport Road. This Training Session is not only for Club members, but for anybody interested in becoming Certified SKYWARN Spotters.

Anybody needing directions, please contact me via Email jholmes@fast.net and I'll get right back to you.

John Holmes, N3IGA
Lehigh Valley SKYWARN Coordinator

Human "genius" at work:

Tech Support: "What does the screen say now?"
Person: "It says, 'Hit ENTER when ready'."
Tech Support: "Well?"
Person: "How do I know when it's ready?

911 Club access

by Barry, N3NVA

I want to update our club members of the new 911 Auto Patch.

First, please remember that these access numbers are for club members ONLY. Please **do not let these numbers out over the air.** If someone has a request to call 911 I suggest that you ask them, Is this an emergency? You make the patch and tell them that they must ID. as an amateur operator and give the incident information directly to county.

***1**=The non-emergency access number to Northampton County

***9**=The emergency access number to Northampton County.

Please remember that ***9,** the (911 Line) is for **EMERGENCY'S ONLY**. An emergency is a fire causing property damage, or a life threatening situation like an accident with possible injuries or the vehicles possibly in danger of causing another accident. I guess we could say any call that requires a RED LIGHT response would be an emergency. If you use the ***1** non-emergency number it will be handled the same as in the past except that 911 lines get priory answering.

A reminder for at home, the non-emergency telephone number is **330-2200** from anywhere in Northampton County.

Dialing 911 from home will display your name and address from the address of the 911 call. If you would like 911 Dispatch to have any additional information like any persons in your home with an illness or a hazard emergency responders should know about, call your local Police or Fire Dept. and they will forward that information to 911's data base.

de Barry, N3NVA

FCC announces electronic renewal Form 900

via ARRL Bulletin 48

Hams now can renew their licenses on line. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one form. Form 900, Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations, is an interim measure to permit all WTB licensees, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically. This form is only for renewals, not for license modifications.

You can only enter changes (eg, name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window (within 120 days of expiration). You cannot use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically. No Form 900 paper applications will be accepted. When filing Form 900, you will be required to enter a Social Security Number for a taxpayer ID number. Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, **http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html** (click on Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications to access the Form 900). Click on any item number for filing instructions. Once you have filed the form, clicking on Electronic Renewal Query lets you view or print the information submitted. Once you have successfully submitted Form 900, it is important to click on the Continue button to obtain the fee information pertaining to your filing. The screen will prompt you with a Fee Remittance Advice, Form 159. The form will indicate that there is no charge to renew an Amateur Radio license (except for vanity call sign holders, who won't have to renew for several more years yet). Form 900 updates will be batch processed at night. They are not instantaneous. Send comments about the FCC Form 900 to sreed(at)fcc.gov.

For technical assistance, call the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. Other general information may be obtained from the FCC's National Call Center at 888-225-5322 (CALL-FCC).

The new teacher

A new teacher trying to make use of her Psychology courses, started her class by saying,

"Everyone who thinks you're stupid, stand up."

After a few seconds, little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, *"Do you think you're stupid, Johnny?"*

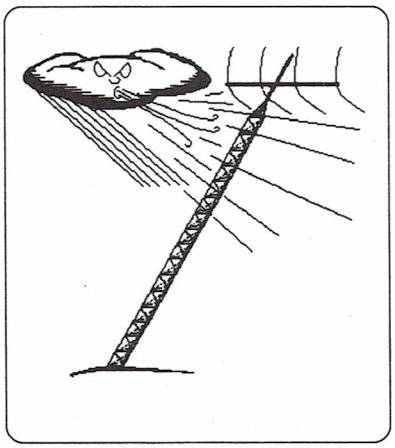
"No, Ma'am," he said. *"But, I hate to see you standing there all by yourself."*

EL Nino's coming

By Dewi, N3FNW

The purpose of this essay is to stimulate your thought process. The examples cited are from personal experience or from discussions with friends. Every incident in which you involve yourself will present unique situations that will require unique solutions.

There is speculation among the experts how **El Nino** that is brewing in the Pacific will affect our area. Some say that this winter will be very severe and others, very mild with a couple snow storms that we will remember for a long time. A friend, a noted meteorologist told me of his research and expects his answer to be ready early in May of next year. One thing is certain, virtually every corner of Planet Earth will experience the effect of **El Nino.**



Now is not too soon to get ready, but tomorrow may prove to be too late. In the worse case scenario, power lines, telephone lines and perish the thought, cable television lines may be wiped out if things get as bad as some predict. Historically, Amateurs have been able to help with our specialty, communications. I have my mobile rig out of the car for cleaning, tuning up and general cable maintenance, (cleaning connectors etc.) It is almost ready to re-install. My generator to run the furnace is tuned up and I will put a fresh supply of gasoline in the garage during the next few weeks. (If need be, I can use the generator to run my radio equipment.) I will buy some pre-packaged frozen dinners to heat in the generator powered microwave oven. During an extended power outage the refrigerator can be plugged into the generator for an hour every ten to twelve hours. This will keep it cold and the frozen stuff frozen. If you have a gasoline driven generator be sure to keep it far away from the house to prevent the exhaust from getting inside and asphyxiating you and your family.

When an earthquake virtually destroyed Whitier, California several years ago amateurs were pressed into service. Carrying Ht's they, with representatives from the Red Cross and Emergency Management went from door to door assess the physical condition of the residents and determine the immediate needs of the community. More recently a tornado damaged or destroyed the power and telephone lines, and fallen trees isolated my neighborhood. Power lines and telephone cables were twisted together and we were not sure if there was power in the system. We (my neighbors and I told every one of the potential danger and assessed the blockages that had stranded us. Teams were established to check the elderly and handicapped and tell them of the possible dangers in their phone lines. I moved my car (with mobile radios) to the highest point, the top of my driveway. I checked all the local repeaters and they too were affected by the storm and many were not in service. I finally got through to the DLARC 146.70 repeater and told the responders of our emergency. They kept the repeater manned and ready to help should we have need of communications assistance. The neighbors were told that if they have an emergency, I would be able to report it and get them the help they needed. A few of the younger men surveyed the blockage and decided which end of the road could be cleared in the shortest time. They dispatched the chain saws and able bodies to open the street in case police, fire or ambulances were needed.

The ice storms a few years ago and the blizzard of '96 presented their own problems. We were without power for nearly forty hours during the ice storm, (my generator worked fine.) The temperature in the houses without backup heating was in the mid forties and the Red Cross went from door to door with hot soup and coffee when they were finally able to get through.

Every emergency will have associated problems and there is no text book solution. Pre-planning is helpful but the plan must be flexible enough to bend as the emergency develops. Of prime importance, do not place yourself in jeopardy. Do not create another problem for already over worked rescue personnel. When operating your radios during any emergency, whether declared or not be courteous and on repeaters be brief and leave at least five seconds between all transmissions.

This could be a club project and will require the blessing of the Director of Emergency Management. **PRE-TRAINING** for this is a must. The Emergency Operations Centers' radio rooms are usually snowed (a pun) under during weather emergencies. The **DLARC's** club shack is on the same site as the Northampton County Emergency Management Agency, . A few members standing by in the shack could possibly lend a hand.

I guess that the only certainty is, **El Nino** is coming. If there are no problems the preparations will not be wasted. Your equipment will be clean and in good operating condition. The planning and training will keep you prepared. Your neighbors will be more tolerant and cooperative about occasional interference on television, radios and their telephones. With little doubt you will make some new friends and amateur radio will continue to enjoy the high level of respect it deserves

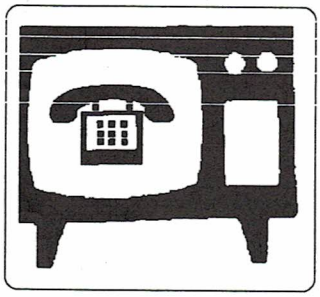
de Dewi, N3FNW

New Media Systems

DTV Antenna Problems

By Joe, W3JD

A column in this space a few months ago discussed in general terms the problem facing television broadcasters as they determine their antenna and tower requirements for broadcasting a digital television (DTV) signal while still maintaining analog NTSC service. The television stations in New York City, the country's biggest media market, face a particularly severe problem.



There are ten television stations currently transmitting from Manhattan, of which four are licensed in New Jersey. Before the World Trade Center was built, all of the television stations broadcasting from New York City at the time used the Empire State Building. With the construction of the World Trade Center, most of the antennas were moved to a 375-foot mast on the North Tower of the center, and there are seven there now. Three antennas remain at the Empire State Building. Now the New York Television Broadcasters' All Industry Committee (TVAIC) is searching for a common site for the antennas needed for the changeover to DTV.

It's important for all stations to be located at the same site so that audience members don't have to re-orient receiving antennas when tuning between stations. While cable television is available in New York, as it is in other major cities, it's unclear how long it will take cable systems to make the necessary changes to pass along digital television transmissions. Until that happens, consumers who want to see DTV programming will have to pick it up over the air.

New York's TVAIC is considering several options. One would be to erect another 375-foot tower on the South Tower of the World Trade Center. A problem to be considered, though, is the fact that there is an observation deck one floor down from the roof of that tower, and any construction would have to avoid interrupting the revenue stream from that attraction. There's also a concern about the public's proximity to the high-power RF radiation from the DTV antennas.

Another option would be to build a 3,000-foot free-standing structure on Governor's Island with elevators and an observation deck to generate income as a tourist attraction. This would be a very expensive project, and would likely take several years to plan and build. The current FCC timetable for the rollout of DTV service doesn't allow for that kind of lead time, with DTV operations expected to begin the New York market by the fall of 1998.

A short-term option for getting the stations on the air would be to erect a small 100-foot mast on the corner of the North Tower. The stations could then work on a more permanent antenna location. The problem with this solution is the fact that the existing 375-foot mast at the center of the same roof would disrupt the radiation pattern of signals from the shorter mast. Depending on which corner of the building is used, viewers in either Brooklyn or New Jersey would be affected.

In somewhat of a return to the past, the stations could also use the Empire State Building for the DTV antennas. WCBS-TV already has antenna space there, which it uses both for back-up analog service (the main antenna is at the World Trade Center) and for a temporary antenna for an experimental digital station that is currently broadcasting under the call sign WCBS-HD. WCBS is redesigning its permanent antenna to accommodate both their own DTV transmissions and those of one or more other stations through the use of combiners.

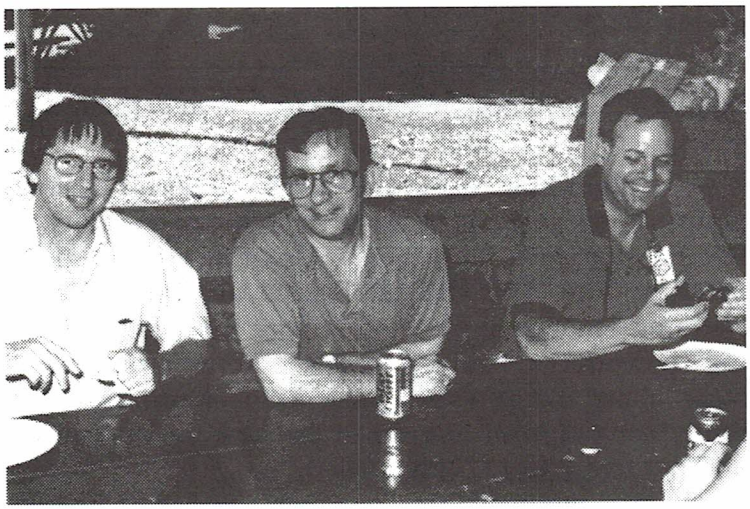
While using the Empire State Building as a site for analog transmissions would bring with it the problem of multi-path interference form signals bouncing off the higher World Trade Center, DTV receivers with echo-canceling capabilities would greatly lessen this problem in a digital world. In fundamental terms, these receivers would be prevented from interpreting a received "0" as a "1" because of a reflected signal.

The developments in these New York City television transmission systems will certainly be of technical interest to us as hams, but it will also be interesting to see the eventual impact they will have on visitors to the Big Apple.

de Joe, W3JD.

ARES, RACES, DLARC NETS MEET
SUNDAYS AT 9:30am AND
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

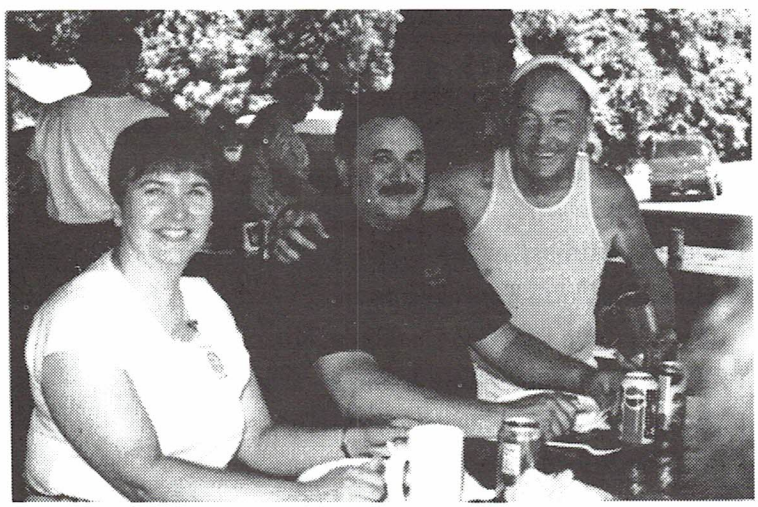
DLARC Annual Family Picnic 1997

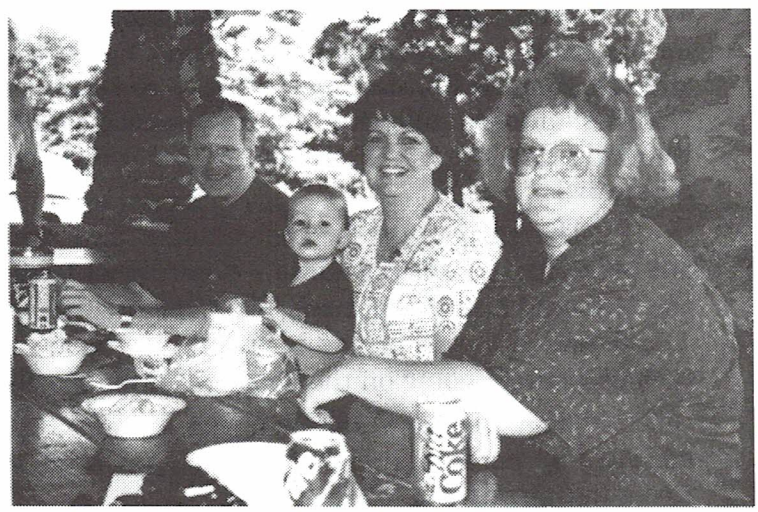












Were you there? If not you missed a good time!

Photos by Al WO4H Scans and graphics by Norm K3NZ

Noah's Ark... If it happened in 2000

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water and all the evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people, and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am commanding you to build an Ark." And in a flash of lightning, He delivered the specifications for an Ark.



"Okay," said Noah, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints.

"Six months, and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You'd better have the Ark completed, or learn to swim for a very long time."

Six months passed, the skies clouded up and rain began to fall. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, weeping. ..... And there was no Ark.

"Noah," shouted the Lord, "Where is the Ark?"

"Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project, and your plans didn't meet code. I had to hire an engineer to re-draw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system.

"Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard, I had to get a variance from the city planning commission.

"Then I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife that I need the wood to save the Owls. But they wouldn't let me catch any owls. So, no owls.

"The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or hammer. Now we have sixteen carpenters going on the boat, and still no owls.

"Then I started gathering up animals, and got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind.

"Just when I got the suit dismissed, EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that

they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being.

"Then the Army Corp of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed new flood plain. I sent them a globe.

"Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over how many Croatians I'm supposed to hire. The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country. And I just got a notice from the state about owing them some kind of use tax. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for at least another five years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled.

"You mean you're not going to destroy the earth?" Noah asked hopefully.

"No," said the Lord sadly. "The government already has.".

from AmSoft October/November 1997 Newsletter

Members parents celebrate 50th

Dave N3NAV's parents were honored by their family with a big party on Sepetember 20th. In addition to the honored couple, 50 years together have yielded a total of 10 children, 23 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

In addition to a large party they received a letter from Tipper Gore, from the Vice-Presidents office extending their congratulations on the anniversary of their wedding.

Dorthy Semper XYL of SK K3VUV found some more things of Clements she wants to sell.

Code practice Cassettes - ARRL Set 2 10 - 15 WPM

Tape 1 and 2 Wright Tapes # P - 68 6,7,8 WPM "
2 Metal Keys

1 Realistic Minisette - 19

Compact Cassette Tape Recorder

1 Ameco - Code Practice Oscillator Model OCM - 2

1 Archer - Dynamic Headphones 8 - Ohms

1 Yaesu - Dynamic Microphone MH -

1 BB 2 Coils for BW Window antenna

ARRL Amateur Radio Station Log Antenna Patch Panel Surge Protector Patch Cards

Dorothy can be reach at **(610) 746-1173** If interested in these items.

The Delicate Art of the QSL

A Personal Perspective

by Rich Shevalier N3NXF

It is common courtesy to punctuate a DX (or sometimes not so DX) amateur radio contact with a QSL card. Theses cards serve as a nice momento of a pleasant conversation, or a trophy of a sweet radio conquest. They are also a vital record in confirming a contact for a coveted award.

There is definitely a delicate art to coaxing these gems on cardstock out of DX stations, and in my experience, good form with handling QSL cards will increase your chances of getting any of the QSL cards you seek. What follows is a successful QSL procedure that I have developed for myself after several years of DXing on the HF bands.

PART ONE, The Card Itself

When I first upgraded to a "Tech-Plus" with privileges on 10m SSB, I did what most hams do, I ordered 1000 QSL cards from one of the QSL printers who advertise in the back of QST. They were fairly "plain Jane" (and relatively cheap). They had a silhouette of Pennsylvania in one corner and some pertinent information and fill-in boxes on the rest of the card. The cardstock was battleship gray in color (I had no choice). The only personalization I was offered was the color of the ink. I chose blue (I think the printer felt sorry for me, because he added some glitter to the ink to make it sparkle a little). Now don't get me wrong, these cards were acceptable, but over time, they fell prey to three main problems.

1. I would repeatedly have to add information to the cards (like my 10-X number which I received after the cards were printed). A rubber stamp helped for a while but there got to be too many things to add ALL the time.

2. I would get embarrassed as I received QSL cards from around the world that were multicolored and indicative of something personal about the operator.

3. I still have probably 600 of those cards, because I moved, and much of the information was no longer valid (anyone need a few dozen extra wide bookmarks ?).

Now most of us are not "Big Gun" DXers, dealing in thousands of QSL cards a week (my apologies to K3ANS who gets, he tells me, QSL cards by the several pound box), so ordering a thousand cards at a time seems excessive to me. I told myself there had to be a better way. I personally feel that QSL cards need to contain pertinent information, but should also reflect something of yourself (I know I find those cards more interesting). That is not to say they must have full color, whiz-bang graphics. There are ways to accomplish this using the "el-cheapo" method.

When I moved, I felt compelled to change my QSL design. It was no longer serving the original purpose; however, my first foray into experimenting with QSL's occurred somewhat earlier. When I put an HF rig in my first truck, I wanted to create an N3NXF/Mobile QSL card that **1)** reflected the information required from a mobile contact, and **2)** reflected a bit of my personality, and mobile station. I knew a friend who is a printer, and happened to have the same computer platform that I use (Macintosh). So, I used a drawing program to create a picture of my pickup truck (antennas and all), and a desktop publishing program to put all the design elements together into a nifty QSL card. This card had the standard fill in boxes, plus fill in boxes for the state and county I was traveling through, during the contact. I made sure the file was set up with 4 cards to a page, and brought the file to my friend for printing. When he discovered that I was only looking for around 250 cards, he told me the best (easiest) way to print them would be to run some card stock through his laser printer, and then chop them up.
The monster was born, though I must admit the possibilities of printing my own QSL cards on my laser printer didn't hit me until some time later (when I actually HAD a laser printer). Those first mobile cards turned out great. When it came time to abandon my old gray cards and start fresh at the new QTH, I turned to the computer and my laser printer and have never looked back. I started with my old QSL cards as a sort of template, but added things to suit my operating style, and temperament. I still have the silhouette of PA, but this one as a dot at the approximate location of my QTH. I have added fill in lines for things like "I'm you contact # ____ ". Of course, my 10-X number, my ARRL section, my grid square, my Long. and Lat. , and my e-mail address all appear on the card. I also have check boxes for all my rigs and antennas, and wattage's that I generally run. I have changed the format, and added several elements as I found them necessary. The really nice thing is I generally run off 10 sheets at a time (giving me 40 cards). When I need more cards, it's a simple matter to run them off. If I find that I really need more, or different information on the card, it is easy change/addition, and much less traumatic to replace 40 cards than 400 cards. Ultimately I have total control of my cards.

If I had a flat-bed scanner, and a color printer, I'm sure I would incorporate photos into my QSL cards too, but for now these suit me quite well. I have received many compliments on my "fine QSL cards" which always makes me happy, but always surprises me. In addition to my QSL cards, I always send along a half page (5.5 in x 8.5 in) piece of paper with what I call a QSL letter typed on it. It is just a little something about me, my family, my station, and my life. You will be surprised what interest that generates, which brings me to next months topic...

Next Month; PART TWO, My Philosophy on Exchanging QSL Cards. ***de Rich, N3NXF***

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate to the DLARC, RACES & ARES nets
on 146.70 W3OK/RPT with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00PM

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DLARC INFORMATION LINE 820-9110

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==1996-1997==

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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 Northampton County Community College
TALK IN ON 146.70

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should be addressed to *(csnyder@fast.net}* or Clarence Snyder, W3PYF Editor.
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visit our web page

http://www.kutztown.edu/faculty/chuk/dlarc/

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