Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

November, 1998

DLARC Meeting November 5th NCC

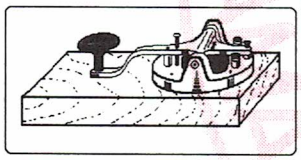
Do Ya Get the Message??

by Dan, W3ZF

Now here is a revoltin development!! A program that should interest BOTH HFers and VHFers!! CW ops and phone ops!! Come to the meeting of the Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club on **November 5th in Kiva Hall, NCC.** QROers and QRPers!! OMs or YLs!! DXers and Public Servants!! (*scratch that last one*). Heres an activity that lets Amateur Radio operators participate in a part of our hobby that is NOT getting much attention these days.



This is an activity that can bring MUCH personal satisfaction to anyone who partakes in it (and you dont need any fancy equipment to do it either).



What are we talking about here?? **MESSAGE HANDLING!!** What?? Yeah, message handling! When one examines the historical activities of Amateur Radio operators, this service appears consistently and honorably. The message handlers amongst us have taken the missives of our military and our citizenry and diligently "networked" the content with exacting accuracy until it reached its destination. Message handling nets are active every day and **THEY WANT YOU!** Messages you send could consist of anything from health & welfare traffic to birthday greetings. You could send a message to the Dalai Lama or to Dolly Parton.

Novembers speaker will be **Lamar Derk, N3AT** whos been a ham for over 35 years. His interests in radio encompass message handling and QRP operation. What he has to say might draw you into action. PLEASE consider coming to this meeting and staying for this presentation. The unconsumed beer at "meeting B" will taste better in December when its had a better chance to ferment.)

Check your Mail label It's that time again

by Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Dues Reminder for 1999 Dues are due check youre mailing label. If the label is **EXP. 12/31/98** your dues are due. **Here is the dues amount and how to pay your 1999 dues.**

18-65 years of age 1 year $17.00
July Dec. $8.50
Under 18 years, 65 years or Retired (no age limit). Jan. Dec. $12.00
July Dec. $6.00
Additional family Member, each $3.00
Associate Membership $7.00

If paying your dues at a meeting. Use an envelope with your call on the outside of the envelope. If paying dues by check make the check out to **DLARC**: If you mail your dues, mail the dues to: **RICHARD A DECH / KA3MOU 120 MCILHANEY AVENUE BATH PA 18014-1612** Any questions about dues you can call Dick / KA3MOU at 837-1585.

de Dick Treasurer of DLARC

Just the Minutes

by Amy, KD3TI, acting secretary

The October meeting of The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club was held on the first, in Kiva Hall at the Northampton Co. Community College. Called to order by President, Joe Chuck, W3JD.

Our first order of business was to reopen nominations for the office of secretary, as the prior nominee, Amy KD3TI suffered a schedule change that would have prevented attendance at any meetings. Dan Ruth, W3ZF was nominated for Secretary by KD3TI. Dan was not present at this meeting, but Joe had discussed the situation with him earlier, and Dan had said he was willing to withdraw his nomination to a board position and accept nomination for secretary. This nomination was seconded by Len Barish, N2BSC. No other nominations were made for the position. Ray Bilger, W3TDF made a motion to c lose nominations, seconded by Mark Petruno, K3MP. Bill Van Horn, K3CP, made a motion to accept the minutes of September as printed in the W3OK Corral. Seconded by Len, N2BSC and carried.

Dick Dech, KA3MOU gave the Treasurer. Report as follows. With a balance of $ 2, 023.01 as of Aug. 30, a total income of $ 2,563.80 and expenses of $ 1,322.79, our closing balance for September was $ 3,264.02. JP Fox, N3GWR, made a motion to accept, seconded by Amy, KD3TI and carried.

Carl Seier, AA3IX gave a closing report on the Hamfest. It was a big success and the breakfast went over very well. He also requested that we begin to move on next year s hamfest, as the firehouse is a very busy place and the sooner we get a reservation in, the better chance we have of securing the date we want. It has been suggested that we expand the kitchen idea next year. Al Krensavage, WO4H offered to check out dates to avoid conflicts with other, nearby hamfests. Saturday, Sept. 11 was given as a possible date for the next hamfest.

Joe, W3JD presented **Carl, AA3IX** with a certificate of appreciation for his hard work in organizing this hamfest. **Bob Green, KE3AW** reported that the new classes are running smoothly and we have about a dozen consistent students. Also, all are staying for the code portion. Expect to welcome a lot of new ham members soon! VE testing is being reorganized under **Jill Brodt, N3ZSR**. Her desire is to create fixed teams of VE s, one of whom will serve as liaison with her for specific sessions. Each team will have a month or two assigned to that team, so the VE quote s will be able to plan their schedules and know whom to contact for fill-ins. Any VEs, or hams wishing to be VEs, please contact Jill and provide her your information. Our test session for Sept. welcomed one new Extra- John, N3ZUI.

Barry Vogt, N3NVA gave the repeater report. The W3OK machine has been returned to its Nazareth location, due to some confusion and complaints by the Repeater Coordinating Committee. He was not able to complete the testing of the new site, but most were pleased with the new location.

There was a discussion about the Wind Gap site, and adding several link receivers at that site. Joe, W3JD asked if the Executive Committee should pursue formal recognition and approval t o permanently move the repeater to the Wind Gap site. Amy, KD3TI made a formal motion for the Board to seek approval to relocate to Wind Gap. Chris Hornaman, NU3L seconded. The motion was carried and the Board will pursue the necessary paperwork to relocate the W3OK repeater.

Application for renewed membership was received by **Steve Nordahl, NS3L**, moved to accept by Carl, AA3IX and seconded by Carl, N3GRK, Motion carried. Results of the elections were presented as follows:

President.- Joe, W3JD

Vice-President. Don, KA3JWE;

Secretary. Dan, W3ZF and

Treasurer Dick, KA3MOU.

The Board of Directors is as follows-

Norm, N3GXW;

Bob, KE3AW;

Barry, N3NVA;

Al, WO4H;

Gary, W2AZZ;

Glenn, N3ULW.

The sixth board position is traditionally filled by the immediate past president, but since he (Tom, N3LLL) moved out of the area, this was deemed the best way to fill the last board position so we operate with a full board. Respectfully

submitted by KD3TI, Amy- Acting Secretary..

Ensure adequate spectrum for amateurs

FCC Commissioner Susan Ness recently gave amateurs some cause for optimism. In remarks prepared for delivery September at the Personal Communications Industry Association of America's PCS '98 in Orlando, Florida, Ness promoted the notion that some spectrum should be kept off the auction block. The value to the public of certain spectrum uses "does not always translate into pure economic terms," Ness declared.

"For example, we need to ensure that adequate spectrum is available for public safety purposes, for unlicensed--that is, Part 15--uses, for the Amateur Service, and for experimental and scientific purposes," Ness said. "None of these needs would be met if auctions displaced judgment in the spectrum allocation process."

Addressing the topic "Blueprint for Spectrum Management," Ness said auctions work well but are not a substitute for the allocation process. The FCC, she said, must not back away from its fundamental duty to allocate "in accordance with the public interest."

via The ARRL Letter, Nov 2, 1998.

A Brush with History...

by Josh N3VJA

So there I was, in the thrift store, getting some clothes for a Halloween party. My friends and I are going to the Halloween dance as the cast of "Seinfeld"; guess who gets to be Neumann? (Think really hard!) Anyway, I was with a couple of my cohorts-in-crime and I just happened to turn around and look up, when what should appear in front of my eyes?



A Zenith Trans-Oceanic. Don't ask me what year, but the thing was in mint condition! I asked the clerk if I could plug it in, and the lady, obviously seeing the gleam in my eyes (although I like to think it was charm! *smile*) allowed me to plug the radio in in the back room. Now, I knew nothing about this radio.

Sure, I knew it was a collector's item and all, but I didn't know the finer nuances of the rig. Not knowing where to start, I did the first thing I could think of: turn it on! As I switched bands and turned the knobs, I wondered, "Why don't I hear anything?" Then I remembered that I had to let the tubes warm up. After a second or two, I heard some wonderful noise coming from the speakers; it was static, but it had a nice sound anyway! (Better than a solid-state or mini-circuit rig!) I flipped bands again and twisted the knobs, listening to some foreign stations. It was literally music to my ears. Unfortunately, my friends had a tight schedule to meet, so I had to give the radio back with an even bigger gleam in my eye and profuse thanks to the clerk. Next time I have $150, you KNOW what I'm gonna get!

de Josh, N3VJA

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

Balance 8/31/98		**$2023.01**
INCOME		
Donation Income fifty-fifty	33.00	
Dues Arrl Misc.	107.00	
Hamfest Income	1404.80	
Change Hamfest	600.00	
ARRL Books	419.00	
TOTAL INCOME		**2563.80**
EXPENSES		
Newsletters October	140.00	
PA QSO Plaque	30.00	
Picnic Beverage	44.10	
Postage	83.00	
Renewal ARRL	26.00	
Supplies Bucket	4.21	
Telephone	34.53	
Change Hamfest	600.00	
ARRL Books	360.95	
TOTAL EXPENSE		**1322.79**
TOTAL INCOME-EXPENSE		**1241.01**
Balance as of 9/30/98		**$3264.02**

Total Membership 363 as of 10/01/98

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

The passing of an era

Before television, and there really was a time before television-there was radio. Radio distinguished itself, in its early days, as being the lifeline between ships at sea and the remainder of the world. Incidents that live in the annals of radio history are many, but one particular comes to mind; when a young Russian immigrant, David Sarnoff, copied the dots and dashes of the distress message from the ill-fated SS Titanic. As most of us know, Sarnoff went off to become the head of RCA and probably did more to bring television into the homes of Americans than any other industry leader, but that is how he got his start.

As of **March 1, 1999,** the dots and dashes from the ships at sea will be silenced, as morse code will dissapear from the high seas. This is the date when all passenger ships and cargo ships over 300 gross tons will no longer be permitted to use morse code for distress calls.

It is interesting to note that the International Maritime Organization ends this phase of telegraphy only 22 days short of the 155th anniversary of of Samuel F.B. Morse first message "What hath God Wrought?"

The IMO says, "Morse code is being phased out because of its many drawbacks. These include the need for years of training and practice for operators to use it." The truth hurts, but the IMO says that if something happened to the radio operator, it is unlikely that anyone else onboard a ship would be able to use the telegraphy equipment.

This article I extracted from Broadcast Engineering, Sept. 98 edition, page 32.

I found this a good article, sad, but good...hope you did too.

de Larry, N2OCW

VE test session October 2

A test session was held on October 2nd. There were no test administered as no candidates showed for testing.

VE's in attendance were **Bill, N2DH**; Tom, **N3EBH**; John, **WX3C** Jill Brodt, **N3ZSR** was the VE contact person, with John, **WX3C** team liaison. If you are a VE, but have not been active with the club's test sessions, or if you want to become a VE, contact Jill at 588-6977 or at< gbrodt@epix.net>.

de Jill, N3ZSR

54 Shopping days 'til Christmas

by Bob, KE3AW

But only 41 days until the 1998 DLARC Christmas Cities Special Event station operation on the December 12-13 weekend. Mark your calendars to be sure you remember to hold some time open to operate at our **WX3MAS/W3OK** station at Gracedale.

To insure you have a time slot as operator (or logger) a sign-up sheet will be circulated at both the November and December club meetings. You can also contact me directly if you wish to select a specific time. First come, first served, but as always, **ALL CLUB MEMBERS** ***(Novice through Extra class)*** are invited to visit and operate in this fun event, 9am 'til 9 pm on both days.

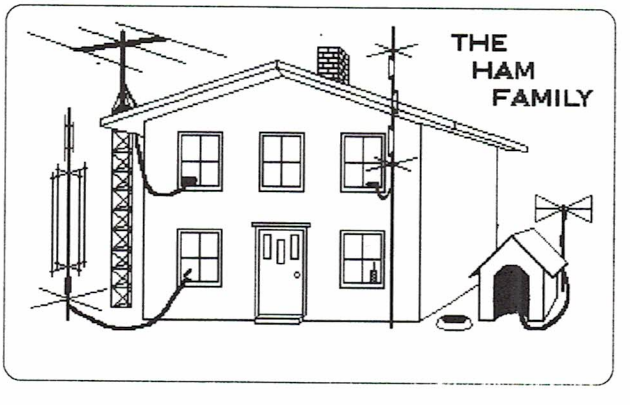
de Bob/KE3AW

PA QSO scores as of 10/16

via N3NVA

K3NZ	**"20,000 "**
K3ZTJ	**"24,912 "**
KA3JWE	**"102,925 "**
KA3MOU	**"21,584 "**
KA3ONZ	**"3,548 "**
KE3AW	**"52,881 "**
N3NNI	**"29,776 "**
W2AZZ	**"69,557 "**
W3FYK	**"31,500 "**
W3LR	**"9,400 "**
W3TDF	**"179,979 "**
WO4H	**"45,100 "**
WX3C	**"31,750 "**
WX3TAZ	**" 81,696 "**

"735,235 " TOTAL POINTS



Try this in your shack

submitted by George AA3JU

VE9DAN, Oyster River, NB. Rev 1. June 1/97

1) There shall be no talking by the family during a QSO.

2) The XYL shall assist with antenna construction when and only when required.

3) The shack budget will take precedence over all other incidental items such as mortgages, food, echoes, etc.

4) Christmas stocking stuffers for the OM must include at least two items for the shack (total value of not less than $300).

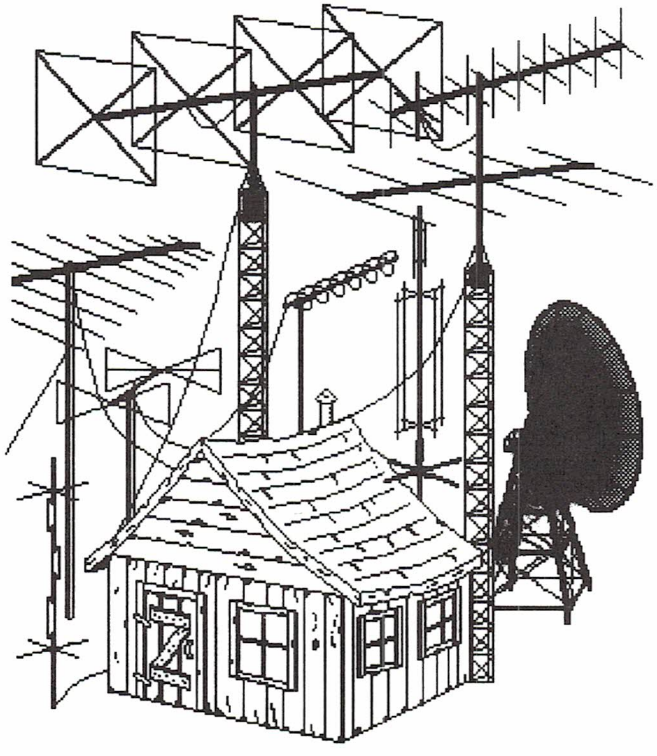
5) Flea markets, hamfests, and field days over-rule family holidays.

6) Furry pets are not allowed near the rig (except for testing purposes).

7) TVI never occurs within the home, or if it does, is negligible and does not count.

8) All trees around QTH shall be considered antenna supports, and not "greenery", "landscaping", or other such nonsense. Corollary: Any tree may be cut down, pruned, poisoned, dug up, or otherwise removed should it be in the way of wire.

9) The last postage stamp and envelope in the home shall be reserved for direct QSL mailings, and not for personal letters, bills, or mail orders (unless orders are for shack).



10) Any number of holes may be drilled in the family car to accommodate mobile whips. Corollary: Coax may droop across the steering column occasionally.

11) Never herewith shall insurance coverage of shack items be less than triple the replacement value, notwithstanding acts of God.

12) Burger King must never allow the holy whopper oven to cool.

13) Newly licensed hams must honor, praise, look up to, ask easy questions of, and purchase coffee for, old guys.

14) The XYL shall anticipate good band propagation conditions at all times, and whenever rare DX flows in, she shall without fail; a) keep log when requested; b) hold all phone calls - except those from other hams; c) call the OM's work QTH the next morning and cover his absence with a good excuse; d) appear very excited; e) change all her plans to suit; f) provide steaming coffee at 45 minute intervals; g) cancel all household chores, and in particular, cancel vacuuming.

15) All materials owned by the work QTH can and will be used for ham projects.

16) These rules may be modified at any time, without notice, to continuously be in the OM's best interest.

17) The most recent licensee must beareth the brunt of our collective teasing until the next new licensee fills his humiliated shoes.

18) All members of all radio clubs must support, in unsurpassed vigor and cooperation, whatever the resident "contest man" suggests-ith.

19) Whence OM bears unrelentless fright of tower height, others must climbeth said structure unfailingly upon request.

20) Refer long-standing rule #15. Verily, if you cannot convince work QTH to donateth items for thine shack, thou shalt quit said despicable workplace without notice. Simply QRT-eth hastily-eth.

21) New rule added by Rich, WB2MBM, August 11/97 via pactor: I'd like to add a rule to the list... "Coax cables may be routed to achieve the lowest loss, regardless of whether they cause doors, windows, etc., to be blocked or otherwise not to function. And if the house appears to be trapped in a sort of rubber "spider's web," that's a plus rather than a minus."

de George, AA3JU.

Skywarn meeting report

by John WX3TAZ

The SKYWARN Technical Committee of the Mt Holly NWSFO had their meeting on September 30. Rob, WX3ROB, introduced Mike Hartmann, N3XYU, as the new SKYWARN Coordinator for Carbon County, PA. He replaces AJ, WB3VBR, who had to step down for personal reasons.

There was some discussion about the participation on the Thursday Night Net. It has really dwindled. It was then decided to have the Net twice a month starting in October, on the first and third Thursday of the month. In order to promote the SKYWARN Net, one idea was to start announcing the Net on other nets. Rob had mentioned maybe getting somebody from the NWSFO or even NJ State Police EMA office to have a question and answer session.

There was a discussion about changing the Technical Committee Meeting time and day. After a roundtable discussion, it was decided that the TC meetings will be held once every three months. If something comes up that needs immediate attention, everybody can be emailed or conference call. The nest TC meeting will be Sunday, December 13, at 1pm. The tentative meeting place is the Warren County 911 Center.

Watch the website (www.qsl.net/wx2phi) for more information.

Rob also brought up that a lot of clubs have asked him about having the TC members come to their club meetings. This would be a great way to receive feedback on the SKYWARN and APRS programs. They will not be a SKYWARN Training Session. Those are to be scheduled through the NWS. Rob, WX3ROB, and John, WX3TAZ, plan on making all these meetings if possible. Other members of the TC expressed interest in attending as well if there were no other conflicts. Please address any inquiries to either Rob (wx3rob@skywarn.net) or John (wx3taz@qsl.net). ,

de John Holmes, WX3TAZ Lehigh Valley SKYWARN Coordinator
Vice-Chairman-NEPA/Secretary of SKYWARN Tech. Committee, NWSFO, Mt. Holly, NJ

FCC Denies KV4FZ Petition for Reconsideration

ARRL Bulletin 086

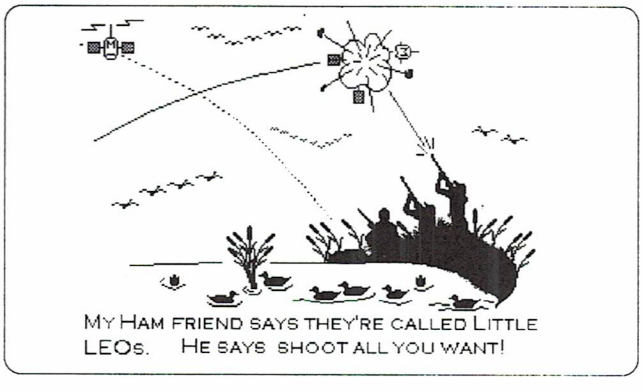
The KV4FZ legal saga appears headed for the courtroom. The FCC has denied a petition for reconsideration filed by Herbert L. Schoenbohm, KV4FZ. This past summer, the FCC upheld the supplemental initial decision of an administrative law judge denying Schoenbohm's application to renew his Amateur Radio licenses. The latest FCC action on October 6--simply affirms that finding.

The next step is the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which hears all appeals from federal agencies on adjudicatory matters.

ALJ Edward Luton had found that Schoenbohm, of Kingshill, Virgin Islands, had "engaged in misrepresentation and lacked candor" in testifying about his 1992 felony telephone toll fraud conviction and his solicitation of ex parte presentations. Schoenbohm was convicted in federal court of fraudulently using a counterfeit access device to obtain long-distance telephone service. The FCC also said he solicited others, using Amateur Radio, to make ex parte presentations on his behalf, in violation of FCC rules. The FCC said his behavior, in combination with his fraud conviction, justified nonrenewal of his ham ticket.

Schoenbohm has been trying to renew his ham ticket for the past four years. He maintains that the FCC should renew his license because his conviction was several years ago, his sentence light, and he's had a spotless record and been fully rehabilitated. The FCC disagreed, however, saying that Schoenbohm "has not demonstrated that he possesses the basic character traits of truthfulness and reliability that are essential to licenseeship."

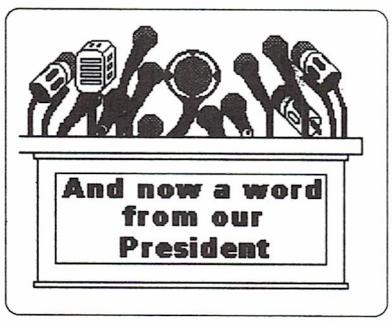
Schoenbohm's license expired in 1995, and his call sign no longer appears in the FCC database. However, he has been allowed to continue operating as KV4FZ until his administrative and judicial appeals are exhausted.



The Prez Sez

Voting For People and a Plan

By Joe Chuk, W3JD, President



Our October club meeting provided the opportunity for choices both about the leadership of the DLARC and the future of our club repeater systems. Annual elections were at the top of the agenda, but, before they could be held, the nominations that had been closed at the September meeting had to be re-opened for one of the officer's positions. Because the sole candidate for the office of Secretary, Amy Zimmerman, KD3TI, developed a schedule conflict with the Thursday night board and club meetings, she had to withdraw herself from consideration.

Since one of the nine candidates for the six open Director positions -- Danny Ruth, W3ZF -- had, prior to the meeting, expressed his willingness to be nominated as Secretary, the formality of re-opening the nominations for that office and presenting Danny as a candidate took place quickly. Since he was the only candidate for the office, his assuming the> role was assured, as was the case for the other three officer positions.

Although the ballot required voters to choose six candidates, a technicality in the DLARC constitution required that we recognize only the top five candidates as elected Directors. The sixth open Director's position (created by the absence of past president Tom, N3LLL) would need to be filled by Executive Committee vote, as it had been during the previous year in bringing Gary Hudson, W2AZZ (ex-N3PNT), to the Board.

That vote will have taken place by the time you read this, and the member to be placed in the Director position is the candidate who received the highest number of votes after the five who were directly elected, Norm Daniel, N3GXW. Thanks to the Nominations committee for their work in conducting the nominations and elections this year: Bill Fahs, NC3P (Chair); Chuck Drake, KD3SQ; and Walt Snyder, KE3SP.

Congratulations and welcome to all of the successful candidates. Besides myself, the returning officers are Don Reamer, KA3JWE (Vice President) and Dick Dech, KA3MOU (Treasurer). The new Secretary, Danny Ruth, W3ZF, is a former Director. Returning Directors are Glen Brodt, N3ULW; Gary Hudson, W2AZZ; Al Krensavage, WO4H; and Barry Vogt, N3NVA. Bob Green, KE3AW, former DLARC President, joins the Executive Committee again as the final elected Director. As mentioned above, the appointment of Norm Daniel, N3GXW, as a Director will bring the Executive Committee to its full complement. I'm looking forward to working with this fine group during the coming year.

Our experiment with a new repeater location was concluded last month, and the machines were returned to their coordinated location. While there were some reports of reduced coverage in certain parts of our service area, the consensus, confirmed by a vote of the members present, was that the proposed location is, in fact, a better one. A voting receiver system, improved transmission line, and a directional antenna would provide even better performance at the new location. Special thanks to Barry Vogt, N3NVA, and Jeff Kelly, N3MFT, for their much-appreciated efforts to improve the repeater system.

By all reports, the club hamfest, headed by Carl Seier, AA3IX, was a great success. The club made a reasonable profit, and, more importantly, all those involved had an enjoyable day. Special thanks to Carl and to all club members whose combined efforts made for a successful event. We have already set Saturday, September 11, as the tentative date for the 1999 hamfest.

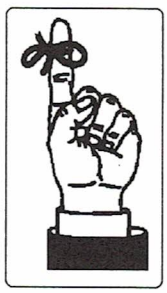
This column is being composed on the morning of the PA QSO Party, and all of us who will be taking part will be doing our best to regain the winner's plaque for the DLARC. It's events like this and the Christmas City Special Event Station in December that remind us that the roots of Amateur Radio are in HF operation and the experimentation to which the title of "amateur" refers. While many of our club members focus their ham activities on VHF and UHF repeater operation, the expanded possibilities provided by HF operating privileges should become obvious during these events that are so much a part of our annual cycle of club events.

We look forward also to our November club program, presented by Lamar Derk, N3AT, that will focus on another activity highly dependent on HF operations -- traffic handling. Don't miss what is sure to be an interesting and informative presentation..

DX Contest time!

by Bill, K3ANS, DX editor

The biggest contest world wide is the CQ magazine's sponsored World Wide DX Phone Contest, from **0000Z October 26 to 0000Z October 28. In local time it starts at 7 PM EDST October 25, Friday night, and continues to 8 PM EST October 27, Sunday night.** Note that the time standard usually changes during the weekend. The CW version is also very popular, conducted from **8 PM EST November 23, Friday night, through 8 PM EST November 25, Sunday night.** That schedule is internationally known as 0000Z November 24 to 0000Z November 26. That is a busy weekend, conflicting with Thanksgiving family activities and travel, and even more important, with the opening on November 26 of PA buck deer hunting season, one of my favorite sports. Although CQ WW CW DX contest is my favorite, I plan to skip it to go to my hunting camp in the PA north woods and wilderness.



In these DX contests, you do not need a big station to make many DX QSOs. After all the big guns work each other, they will be anxious to work all of you with modest stations.

The exchange is very simple: Give their signal reports, almost always 59 or 599 even if you can hardly copy them. This is not the time for accurate signal reports! Also give your CQ zone, which is 5 in Eastern USA. CQ Magazine has defined 40 zones for the entire world, so this is a very simple contest exchange to log. You must keep track of all countries and zones worked per band. You may work the same station once on each band for the score. We seek to work the same DX stations on 6 bands. Some of them issue special appreciation certificates for that accomplishment. I just received a beautiful certificate from V26B on Antigua for working them on 6 bands.

The final scoring is simple; the total number of stations worked are multiplied by the total of the number of countries plus zones worked per band. The contest is on only 160, 75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. No VHF or UHF this time. I hope 10 meters opens to Europe this year. It has been wide open most mornings, including during the PA QSO Party.

The popular computer logging programs are K1EA's CT, K8CC's NA, and N6TR's TR. They are all good. Avoid trying to use a regular logging program for this contest, even if it says it can handle it. You will be slowed down by the cumbersome logging. I prefer CT or NA. Be sure the lists of prefixes and countries are current. Do not worry about being too perfect or sophisticated if all you care about is having fun and working new countries. But if you want to maximize your success, get more recognition, and perhaps win some awards, then submit your log to CQ Magazine.

If you make more than 200 QSOs you must include a duplicate check sheets, showing all your QSOs per band in alphabetical order. Then study those sheets seeking to eliminate duplicate QSOs in your score. Do not delete them from you logs, because the DX station may not have your first QSOs listed.

The computer programs do much of this work for you automatically, preventing accidental duplicate QSOs. I always log all dupes worked. It is quicker and easier than stopping the QSO to tell the other station he is a dupe. Then he asks you many questions about the QSOs, which will slow you down. Besides, you may not be a dupe in his log. I would rather just log him and keep moving quickly. I then mark his QSO as a dupe and do not count it.

You may work all stations, but you do not get QSO points for continental USA stations (48 states). You do need to work one station each in zones 3 and 4, in central and Western USA, just for the zone multipliers and USA multiplier. However, extra USA contacts do not help your score. They do help your friends. Alaska and Hawaii count as countries, not as USA states in this contest. Working Canada all day long on 160 and 75 meters is a good way to build your score, even if it is not exotic. However, most of the excitement is when working far away rare DX. The QSO points are better for working other continents. High volume DX QSOs are best when running Europe from our dawn to around noon on 20 and 15 meters. We often work over 150 DX stations an hour on each band during that time. Europe has many hams who are seeking you. Late in the afternoon, aim your beam west to the Pacific islands and northwest to Japan, Korea, etc.

CQ Contest Committee does take all computer logs submitted on disk and enter them into a big data base to conduct very careful cross checks. If your logs do not match, you lose the QSOs, perhaps the mulitpliers, and are penalized. For example, if you have a 5% QSO error factor, the penalities could be another 10%, causing you to lose 15% of your score. I saw cases in the 1997 contest where participants lost 45% of their scores because of errors! So accuracy is very important. If you submit your log on paper not using computers volunteers still key your log into their computer, so you do not escape the cross checking. Smaller logs do not get as much checking as major entries.

Back to the fun: Many hams make special trips (DXpeditions) to activate rare countries and zones just for these contests. Here is an opportunity to increase your total number of countries and zones worked. After you get their QSLs (ofter the harder task) submit them to ARRL for DXCC and CQ for Worked All Zones awards. Additional awards are issued for each band and each mode. In some future months I shall write more about them.

My friends and I plan to operate a modest multiple transmitter and multiple operator station at K3ANS for the CQ WW Phone contest. In past years we averaged around 2500 DX QSOs in the 48 hour period, and often work over 100 countries on each of three or four bands. Many DLARC members are serious about this contest, so you will hear familiar calls. We enter under the Frankford Radio Club banner, again to bolster our contest club's total score. We are being challenged by the Yankee Clipper Contest Club in New England, New York, and northeastern Pennsylvania.

Jump in; the water is fine. The HF bands will be jammed full. They are by far the most popular operating events of the year. If you do not have an HF station go to a friend's home and operate together, probably in the Multiple Operator - Single Transmitter category. Put up some antennas. Dipoles work well. Beams and quads work better. Perhaps you can gain access and fire up W3OK, the DLARC club station at Gracedale. I wish it had better antennas and was higher. Again this contest has many categories. Read the details in CQ Magazine or log into the CQ Contest reflector on Internet.

See you on all bands!

73, Bill, K3ANS

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

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==1998-1999==

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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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