DELAWARE-LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Inc.

November 2026

W3OK CORRAL

Club Meeting November 12, 7 pm
at the Nancy Run Firehouse.
3564 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020
Zoom will be available

November Program
Elections and Awards

Because the terms of the current Officers and Directors have concluded and the election remains pending, there will be no October Board meeting. No regular Board business will be conducted during this interim period. This is intended to avoid any question or perception that the outgoing Board is exercising authority beyond its term while the membership awaits the election of its new leadership.

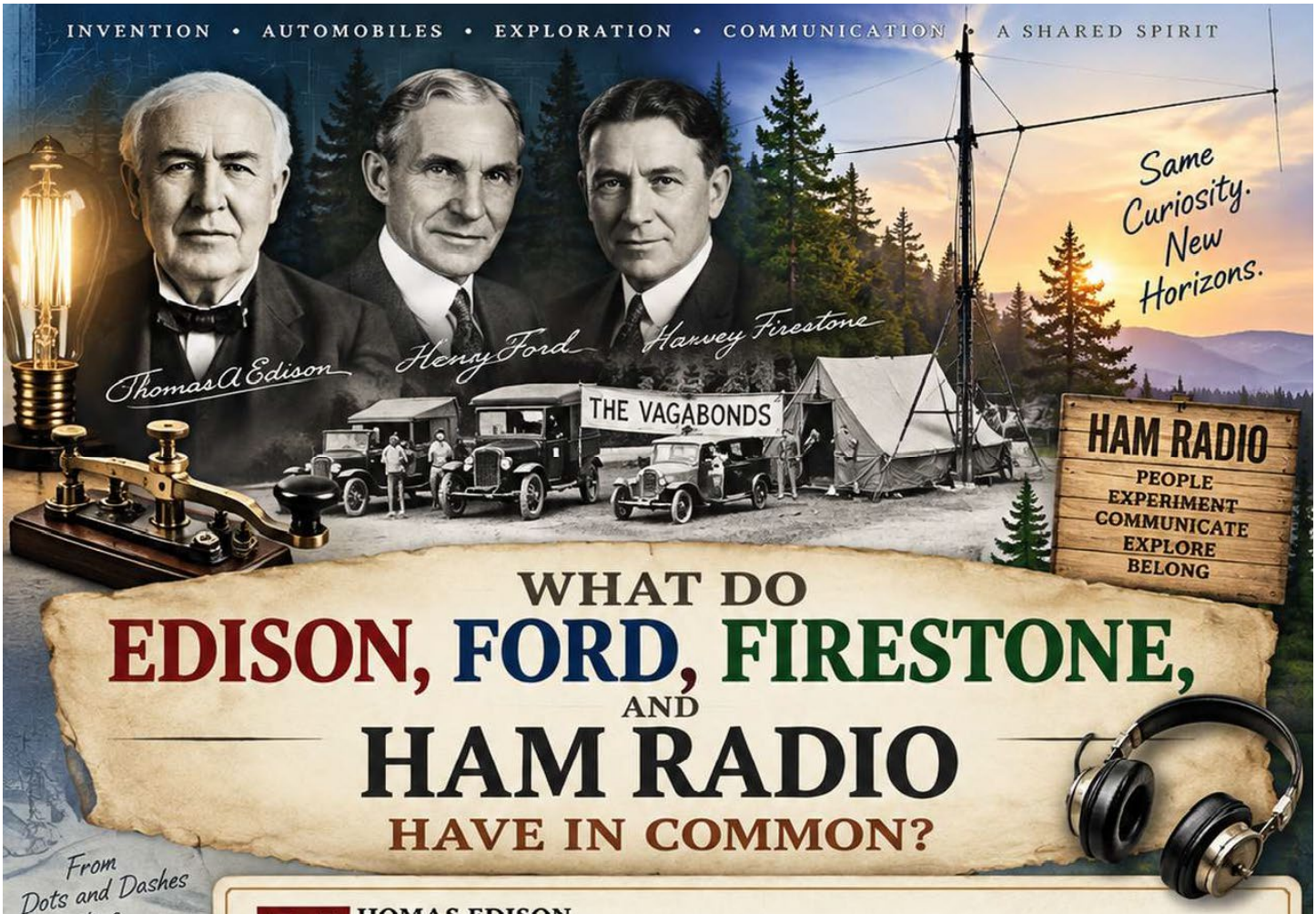
Candidates for Election

Since there were no election last month, it was decided in the best interest of the Club to have the elections at the November General Meeting.

Here is the list of candidates in case anybody needs to be reminded:

Officer nominees were Dean, AB3BD, for President; Jay, KC3ZFR, for Vice President; Wayne, N3FQ, for Secretary; and Larry, KC3JTK, for Treasurer.

Six candidates were running for five Board positions: Steve, W3NAM; Henry, KD3AFL; Aiden, KD3BHM; Bob, KD3BFW; Adam, N3LAG ; and Tim, KC3WMT. Nominations, including nominations from the floor, were closed, and the slate was set.



WHAT DO EDISON, FORD, FIRESTONE, AND HAM RADIO HAVE IN COMMON?

From Dots and Dashes to a Brighter World

DIFFERENT TIMES. SAME SPIRIT.

RADIO CONNECTS GENERATIONS

THOMAS EDISON.
Henry Ford.
Harvey Firestone.
And amateur radio.

At first glance, one of these things doesn't seem to belong.
Edison helped electrify the world. Ford put America on wheels. Firestone helped put tires under those wheels.
And amateur radio?
Well, we put antennas in trees.
So, what could these possibly have to do with another?
As it turns out, quite a bit.
And the trail begins with something every CW operator will recognize. Before Edison Was the Wizard.
Long before Thomas Edison became famous for electric lights, phonographs, and motion pictures, he was a telegraph operator.
That little detail turns out to be important.
Edison learned telegraphy as a teenager and eventually worked professionally as a Electricity and communications became central themes of his early career.
And Morse code wasn't something Edison simply left at work.

IDEAS • PEOPLE • TECHNOLOGY • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

His child, Marion Estelle Edison, was nicknamed "Dot," a direct reference to the dots and dashes used in telegraphy. Her younger brother Thomas A Alvia Edison Jr. become "Dash."
Think about that for a moment.
Plenty of amateur radio operators love CW. We put Morse on coffee mugs.
We put it on T-shirts.
We put our callsigns in Mors on shack signs.
Thomas Edison named the kids after it.
That's commitment.
But the best Edison Morse Story was still to come.
The World's Shortest-Range Communications System.
After Edison's first wife, Mary, died, Edison met a Young woman named Mina Miller.
Soon Edison encountered a communication Problem that generations of young couples would later solve with text messages.
How do you have a private conversation when the family is sitting right there?
Edison had a solution.
He taught Mina Morse code.
According to the National Park Service, Edison Said that he and Mina could then communicate secretly even while members of the family were watching.
And apparently the system worked rather well.
Because Edison claimed that one day he tapped a question into Mina's hand.
Would she marry him?
Mina tapped back:
Yes.
There was even a witness.
Edison's daughter Marion, appropriately enough the child nickname Dot, later claimed she saw her father propose to Mina using Morse code.
So, depending upon how generous we're feeling with our terminology, Edison had developed a private communications system.
No repeater.
No cell service.
No internet.
No encryption.
And absolutely no monthly subscriptions.
Admittedly, the effective range was only a few inches.
But the message got through.
Morse: 1
Nosy relatives: 0.
And if you're wondering whether that counts as a QSO, we'll leave that argument for the next club Meeting.

Morse Was More Than a Parlor Trick
This is where our story starts becoming more interesting.
Telegraphy wasn't merely Edison's first job.
It influenced the way he thought about communications and invention.
When Edison was developing the phonograph in 1877, his notes actually compared recording the Human voice with recording telegraphic signals.
The National Park Service documents Edison Thinking about telephone signals as a kind of "speaking telegraph." Telegraph dots and dashes could already be recorded and replayed Mechanically. Edison began considering whether human speech might be captured and reproduced in a similar fashion.
So the telegraph wasn't simply a colorful chapter from Edison's youth.
It helped shape the thinking that led to some of of his later inventions.
But we still haven't explained Henr Ford and Harvey Firestone.
For that, we're going camping.
Enter Ford and Firestone
Henry Ford became a close friend of Thomas Edison.
Add Harvey Firestone, founder of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, and naturalist and and writer John Burroughs, and we suddenly have a rather remarkable collection of friends.
An inventor.
An automobile manufacturer.
A tire manufacturer.
A naturalist.
What do successful men like these do when they want to escape civilization.
Apparently, they load an unreasonable quantity of equipment into vehicles and head into the woods.
Any amateur radio operator who has ever participated in Field Day should immediately recognize the symptoms.
Meet the Vagabonds
From 1915 into the 1920s, Edison, Ford, Firestone and Burroughs embarked on a series of automobile camping adventures.
They became known as the Vagabonds.
And calling what they did "camping" requires a somewhat flexible interpretation of the word.
As the expeditions grew, so did the operation.
There were automobiles.
Trucks.
Tents.
Equipment.
Food.

Support personnel.
People to maintain the vehicles.
People to prepare meals.
Photographers and reporters.
The Henry Ford's historical collection even contains photographs of their 1921 caravan of trucks and automobiles.
Let's review.
A group of technically minded people....
Loads several vehicles with far more equipment than any normal person believes necessary...
drives into the country side...
sets up a temporary camp...
plays with technology...
eats...
talks...
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A group of technically minded people...
loads several vehicles with far more equipment than any normal person believes necessary...
drives into the countryside...
sets up a temporary camp...
plays with technology...
eats...
talks...
occasionally naps...
and attracts curious people wondering what they're doing.
Ladies and gentlemen, we are getting dangerously Close to Field Day.
They were basically one antenna launcher away from needing an ARRL section abbreviation.
They Even Came Through Pennsylvania
Now this gets a little closer to home.
During the 1918 Vagabond expedition, Ford met Firestone in Ohio and then joined Edison and Burroughs in Pennsylvania. From there the Group traveled through West Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
So, picture the scene.
A caravan of vehicles loaded with equipment.
Thomas Edison is there.
Henry Ford is there.
Harvey Firestone is there.
They're traveling through Pennsylvania.
If someone had handed Edison a transmitter and said, "Tom, see if you can work New Jersey," amateur radio history might have become more interesting.
Unfortunately, we don't have evidence that the Vagabonds were operating an amateur on these expeditions.
So, we can't call it Field Day.
But we can certainly accuse them of suspiciously Field Day-like behavior.
But Where Is the Radio?
Up to this point we have a wonderful coincidence.

Edison was a telegrapher.
He knew Morse.
He used Morse at home.
He used ideas originating in telegraphy while thinking about other communications technologies.
And he went on elaborate camping trips with Ford and Firestone.
That's enough for a fun story.
But it isn't the real punch line.
Because Thomas Edison has a much more direct connection to radio technology.
And strangely enough, it starts with a light bulb.
The Edison Effect
In 1883, while Edison's laboratory was experimenting with incandescent lamps, something peculiar was observed.
A current could flow through the vacuum inside a Lamp between the heated filament and another electrode.
The phenomenon became known as the Edison Effect.
Edison made some practical use of it, but its greater significance wasn't yet understood.
Then along came British physicist and electrical engineer John Ambrose Fleming.
Fleming investigated the phenomenon and Eventually realized that it could be used to detect radio signals.
In 1904 he developed the thermionic valve.
The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History describes Fleming's device as the first radio tube and directly traces its development to the Edison Effect.
Now our little camping story has wandered straight Into the radio shack.
Follow the path:
Edison the telegrapher
Morse code and electrical communication
Edison's electrical experimentation
The Edison Effect
Fleming's thermionic valve
Practical radio tubes and electronic circuits
Radio
Amateur Radio
Suddenly the connection isn't just a joke.
There's an actual technological family tree.
Ford and Firestone Weren't Finished Either
Years later, our three friends would come together for something much more serious than camping.
In 1927, Edison, Ford and Firestone were concerned about America's dependence on foreign sources of natural rubber.
That was a significant problem.
Ford needed rubber for automobiles.
Firestone obviously needed enormous quantities of it for tires.
And Edison?
Edison did what Edison did.
He started experimenting.
The three men formed the Edison Botanic Research Corporation.
The following year a research laboratory was built in Fort Myers, Florida.
The goal was straightforward by enormously ambitious.
Find a plant that could be grown quickly in the United States and provide a practical domestic source of rubber.
Under Edison's leadership, researchers tested more than 17,000 plant samples.
Eventually Edison selected goldenrod as the most promising candidate.
Think about that.
Seventeen thousand samples.
Different materials.
Different experiments.
Different results.
Try something.
Measure it.
Change something.
Try again.
Keep what works.
Discard what doesn't.
Repeat.
Now that should sound familiar to amateur radio operators.
Except when a ham tries 17,000 different antenna configurations, we call it:
Saturday.
Maybe That's the Real Connection
Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone weren't the founders of amateur radio.
We're not going to rewrite history and issue them honorary callsigns.
But perhaps that's not really the point.
They lived during an extraordinary period when when electricity, automobiles, telecommunications

and radio were transforming everyday life.
They were curious.
They experimented.
They built things apart.
They identified problems and tried to solve them.
Sometimes their ideas worked.
Sometimes they didn't.
And occasionally they packed an absurd amount of Equipment into automobiles and disappeared into the countryside with their friends.
More than a century later, amateur radio operators are still doing many of these same things.
We experiment with antennas.
We build equipment.
We troubleshoot problems that nobody else knew existed.
We communicate using technology whose ancestry stretches all the way back to the telegraph.
We still use Morse code.
And every June, thousands of us pack radios, coax Antennas, batteries, generators, laptops, food, tents, tables, chairs, and approximately fourteen adapters that nobody remembers packing into vehicles and head into the field.
But I suspect they'd understand us.
Edison would recognize the Morse.
Ford would approve of the mobile installation.
Firestone would make sure we got there.

And if the Vagabonds walked into a modern Field Day site and saw the trucks, tents, generators, food, wires, equipment, and people enthusiastically Experimenting with technology, they might feel strangely at home.
They'd probably have only one question:
"What's the antenna for?"
And after explaining that we're trying to talk to someone halfway round the world using a radio Powered by a generator in the middle of a field, Edison would probably want to see the schematic.
Ford would want to know how everything fit in the truck.
Firestone would check the tires.
And eventually someone would ask the most important question heard at Field Day:
"Has anybody eaten yet?"
Because apparently some technologies really haven't changed very much.

73,
By Wayne (N3FQ) Westfield
Story idea Paul (KA3MTY) Eline



MEMBERSHIP DUES 2027.docx

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

DUES are payable for the calendar year 2027. It's easy to remit your club DUES and keep your valuable D.L.A.R.C. Membership current. Whether in person or by mail, CHECKS made payable to the D.L.A.R.C. is one method of payment. Payment by PayPal is being developed in the new software and will be available soon. If paying by check, please put your callsign in the memo field. Paying with cash is discouraged, but if you choose to, kindly be prepared with the correct amount. The rate table is shown below. Remember, if your DUES are not paid by the beginning of March 2027, your membership will expire.

2027 DUES Rates

Regular Membership 18-64 years of age: Jan. - Dec. -- $25.
65 and over or retired from all forms of employment (no age limit): Jan. – Dec -- $20.

Additional Family member each -- $5.
Associate Individual Membership -- $15.

You are strongly encouraged to MAIL your check. However, you certainly may bring your check to the Club meetings. Please do not mail any cash. At the Club Meetings I will accept cash, answer your questions, address your concerns, and welcome your thoughtful revenue raising and savings ideas. DUES should be mailed to:

Larry Butler
800 Maple Lane
Easton, Pa. 18045

Enclosing a S.A.S.E will bring your new membership card back to you. If you don't include a S.A.S.E., your card may be picked up at a general meeting or at the milkhouse. Membership cards will not be mailed without a S.A.S.E. You may write to me anytime with questions regarding DUES, or to discuss issues that you believe are my responsibility at: lrbutler@ptd.net include your phone number if you prefer a live reply.

De Larry / KC3JTK, DLARC Treasurer

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NETS

Additional Net Controls are needed for the Wednesday Night ARES, RACES & DLARC net. If we have enough interested operators, it will only be necessary for each operator to have only one net session in each three-month period. 13 weeks in a period, then 13 net controls would be ideal, and some extras to fill in if needed.

This would give us a pool of experienced controls, for any emergency which would arise. Interested operators should contact George, N3SQD at george@bioserv.com. The NIMS IS-700 and ICS- 100 courses are not needed to be a net control, but should the need arise, and we do supply controls and operators for real emergencies, then the courses requirement will be in effect and EMA issued IDs will need to be on the scene of an emergency.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ARES, RACES AND DLARC NET

All Radio Amateurs are welcome to take part in the ARES, RACES and DLARC net. This net meets Wednesday at 1900 hours local time, on the W3OK Repeater 51.76, 146.70 and 444.90 (pl 151.4). With an alternate frequency of 147.135 + DPL 315) W3OI Repeater. Other inputs are the 146.85 repeater, (151.4 PL) and Echolink at K2PM-R.

QCWA Chapter 17 holds a net Monday evening at 7:30 PM On 3958 +/- depending on conditions.

Mid-Atlantic D-Star Net meets each Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The following repeaters Dstar repeaters are available in the Lehigh Valley. W3OK -145.11000MHz -0.600 Port C – W3OI -147.16500MHz +0.600 Port C, – W3OI - 445.02500MHz -5.000 Port B

All repeaters on the net are linked through **Reflector 020 port A**, so all stations checking into the net should make sure that they have *their local repeater call sign followed by the letter "G" in the eight positions of the RPT2 field***.** Otherwise, you will only be heard locally and not over the Reflector. Dongle users wishing to check into the net should Log On by connecting directly to Reflector 20, port A, rather than through your local repeater to conserve local bandwidth.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025–2026

OFFICERS

President – Dean Guth / AB3BD ---------- president@dlarc.club
Vice President – Jay Reid / KC3ZF---------- vice president@dlarc.club
Secretary –Wayne Westfield / N3FQ----------secretary@dlarc.club
Treasurer – Larry Butler / KC3JTK----------treasurer@dlarc.club

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Gauntz / N3LAG
Bill Carlsen / KD3FLY
Steve Harper / W3NAM
Andrew Parker / WV1B
Henry Adam / KD3AFL
Terry Swinney / KC3JHT (Past Pres.)

PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DLARC CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE / MEMBERSHIP LISTING CLUB MEETINGS.

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Nancy Run Firehouse. TALK IN ON 146.700 (PL 151.4) Club Station Telephone Number **484-291-1527** Email Address – W3OK@arrl.net

THE W3OK TRUSTEE---- Barry Vogt / N3NVA

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