Delaware - Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

W3OK Corral NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2003

Meeting December 4th at IU20

Christmas Party!

By Brad, KB3JXQ



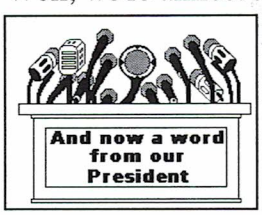
There will be no presentation at the December 4th meeting. However, we will be having our Christmas party, so don't forget to bring in some 'goodies' to share with everyone.

I hope to see you all there!

The Prez Sez

by Bryan, AA3WM

Well, we're almost at the end of another year!



Christmas season is upon us, and that means the WX3MAS Christmas City Special Event Station is in a few weeks. This two-day event has been a tradition of this club for quite a while, and it is an excellent opportunity to make some radio contacts around the world - especially on HF. Bob Schuette, N3SNZ, is this year's chairman of this event, so check with him on where you can help with this event. Also check out the DLARC website for additional information.

Of course, since it is the end of the year, DUES ARE DUE! Check out the mailing label on this newsletter. If it has something like "EXP 12 31 03" then your dues are in fact due.

As winter comes upon us, there is also a threat of bad weather. One of the services provided by members of our club is emergency transportation during bad weather. If you have a vehicle that is capable of transport duty during bad weather, such as a four-wheel drive SUV or truck (that has room for passengers), and you are willing to help out during such an emergency - contact Dick Dech and let him know. Last year, we were called on for this service, and we need to be prepared again this year.

I am looking forward to a great year in 2004, one in which we as members of the DLARC will continue making a contribution to our communities through the amateur radio service.

I wish you all a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

de Bryan, AA3WM

VE Test Results – November 2003

By Thalia, KB3CSR



There were 6 people tested, resulting in one upgrade and two new Technicians. Congratulations to:

Jeffrey Menegus, KC2LWB - upgraded to General
Brian Eckert - new Technician
Rebecca Eckert - new Technician

Congratulations also to **Stanley Kowalick**, KB3KDV and **Harold Carbonneau**, N3SWZ - both passed their General written exam.

VE's were: Al, W3CE; Bill, NC3P; Bill, N2DH; Charles, KB3DEA; and Bryan, AA3WM. Thank you!

de Thalia, KB3CSR

Treasurer's Report

by Dick, KA3MOU

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

Balance 9/30/03	**$7,051.49**
INCOME	
Class Materials	72.00
Club Dues	51.00
Donation Income 50 - 50 9/03	23.00
Donation Income 50 - 50 10/03	35.00
Donation Income Emmaus Parade	200.00
Interest Checking 10/15	5.11
Picnic Refund	64.00
TOTAL INCOME	$450.11
EXPENSES	
Card for Bruce KA3ONZ	3.70
Education Robert Green (Class Books)	184.86
Hamfest Butter Krust Baking (Rolls)	18.90
Memory Of Donald Meiley	25.00
Memory Of John J. Mentesana	25.00
Memory Of John H. Stahl Jr.	25.00
Memory Of Alda C. Fahs	25.00
Memory Of George H. Fahs	25.00
Newsletters July & August	104.00
PA QSO Plaque (NARC)	35.00
Picnic	49.00
Postage	70.00
Telephone	21.05
TOTAL EXPENSES	$611.51
Balance 10/31/03	**$6,890.09**

de, Dick, KA3MOU, Treasurer

Just the Minutes

by Charles, KB3DEA

Meeting opened by President Bryan Williams (AA3WM) at 7:30PM. Attendance was 35.



Opening remarks included thanking Jeff (N3QZT) for serving as club president and thanking board members who were going off the board for their service. Bryan introduced the current officers and board.

The minutes from the last general meeting were accepted. Motion: Bill N3CP, 2ND: Marvin KA3TED, Accepted: Unanimous.

Treasurer Report: Dick KA3MOU. Motion to accept: Bill N2DH, 2ND: Jeff N3QZT, Accepted: Unanimous.

REPORTS

Repeater / Web Page Report: Barry N3NVA

- Static fixed
- When using the repeater system, please announce if you are on 6 meters for him to track.

- Please hang up your microphone and/or do not sit on them. There has been a problem with open carriers timing out the repeater.
- Please send any info for the web page in a timely manor.

VE Sessions: Bill N2DH

- 2 registered for exams

License Classes: Bob KE3AW

- Class went for an extra week because of how the test fell in relationship to the scheduled end of the class. 9th week was question and answers.
- 5 should be testing (none registered)

Dues: Dick KA3MOU

- Dues are due. Check your mailing label for your membership expiration.

RACES: Dick KA3MOU

- Conduct for RACES nets
- Is working on updating expired RACES cards as well as new applications.

Milk House: Al W3CE
- Has done some contest operating
- Open on Wednesdays

Guests: Bryan AA3WM

- Ed K3IFE

Membership: Bryan AA3WM

- Membership Vote for acceptance of Dave KD1GT. Motion To Accept: Dick KA3MOU, 2nd: Al W3CE, Accepted: Unanimous
- New application reading of Ed K3IFE Will be voted on at next general meeting

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS
- None

NEW BUSINESS
- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bryan AA3WM: Brad KB3JXQ will be taking over newsletter editor.
- Don KA3JWE: A reminder to hand in your PA QSO Party logs to Nittany Club and to Barry N3NVA for web site.
- Bob KE3AW: Giving away an evergreen tree to whoever may want it.
- Upcoming events-- Christmas City Special Event Station
- Presentation tonight will be add-hock on antennas.
- Planned presentation fell thru at the last minute.

MOTION TO CLOSE GENERAL MEETING
Motion: Bill N2DH, 2nd: Rich KB3DEC, Accepted: Unanimous.

de Charles, KB3DEA

Dues Reminder!

By Dick, KA3MOU

If your DUES are not paid by FEBRUARY 5, 2004 membership will be terminated. Reinstatement to membership by the **MARCH** meeting will be accepted without penalty. Thereafter, reinstatement application shall be the same as for a new member.

Dues Reminder for 2004

Dues are due. Check your mailing label. If the label has **EXP. 12/31/03** your dues are **PAST DUE**. Dues are as follows:

Membership 18-65 years of age
Jan. – Dec. $17.00
July – Dec. $8.50
Under 17 years, 65 or over or Retired (no age limit).
Jan. – Dec. $12.00
July – Dec. $6.00
Additional family member, each $3.00
Associate Membership $10.00

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

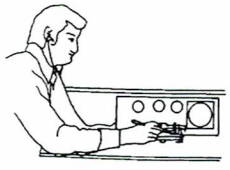
If you have any questions about dues, you can call Dick / KA3MOU at 610-837-1585.

73, de Dick Treasurer of DLARC W3OK

Fun With the MFJ-9040 Club Loaner

by Charles Lazarchak KB3DEA

The MFJ-9040 is a 5-watt cw transceiver, which



covers all the amateur class privileges on the 40-meter band. It needs a power supply to run and I am transmitting with a dipole. The power supply, antenna and radio are from the loaner gear available to anyone who is a member of DLARC (see George N3SQD). I am using an MFJ-557 practice oscillator as my key.

While all my experience has been on HF, I've always wanted to work CW/QRP and borrowing a radio from the club has given me the chance to do it.

I live in Bethlehem and space is a problem. Where can I go with a 40M dipole?

Why not right between my neighbor's house and mine (maybe a 10-foot separation).

The dipole at its feed point is roughly 12 feet up. The antenna runs north to south with the north end still 12 feet up the south end is up about 5 feet because of the slope of my property and a place to attach it. The north end is only set off my house by about an inch as well. Things aren't pretty but I refuse to not give it a go.

The first night is kind of frustrating, as I make no contacts answering CQ's. So I spin the dial and listen a little, maybe I'm doing something wrong. Well I have an advanced tag but I send at a newbie speed. What I mean to say is, that just because I have advanced privileges doesn't mean I should start in the advanced frequencies. Those guys, at worst, are out for a jog while I'm just learning to walk.

The novice area is pretty quiet as I also start calling CQ rather than try and answer it. For those of you who may be new to Ham Radio, it's courtesy to send at the slower senders speed and by calling CQ myself clears up any speed problems right from the get go.

Still, I get no answers, although I am starting to get comfortable using my key.

On August 10 at 2330 UTC, I finally here it! - KB3DEA KB3DEA de KC2EQB KC2EQB.

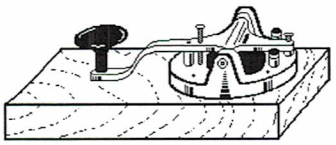
Now is the moment of truth! My turn to reply and let this Ham know who I am and what I'm about. My wife brings me a towel and a glass of water as I've broken into an incredible sweat and shed ten pounds in the time it takes to send my call sign and his twice.

Now I have read, and even seen people, almost helpless with nerves of jell-O. I've never really had that feeling. I was a pitcher in high school, played in a band, spoke in church, planetarium director, even a Paris Island Marine. I'm the guy who waves to you even though I don't know who you are.

I reach for the key...

At this moment I wish I had, at the least, nerves of jell-O. In fact I resembled Jell-O before the jell. Yes the liquid stage, because even the powder is more stable than I am at the moment.

I start to send the code back as if I am trying to drive my key thru the table. I tell him my name, the rig I am using, my QTH and that he is my first cw QSO. My turn ends and I look around for the spit bucket and the ice



to drive the swelling down. He congratulates me for being on cw and is pleased to be my first QSO.

He's in Peru, NY and his name is Ralph. He's very friendly and is sending at my speed, which I now realize is probably about 2 WPM, but I am thrilled.

The QSO ends. I'm a little balder, 30 pounds lighter and there's a divot in the table left from the pressure I've exerted on the key. I scribble the facts into my log and proceed to call everyone I know on the landline. It was nice talking to my kindergarten teacher after roughly 33 years.

After a few months, now, I don't sweat as much and I'm easier on the key. I've QSO'd with Canada, Cuba and even late one night, with Ted in Poland (SP4JWR - that's another story). I'm comfortable at around 7 - 10 WPM and have worked 17 states (Oregon being the farthest) all on 5 watts thru an antenna 12 feet up.

It's great!

de Charles, KB3DEA

News via the ARRL

Submitted by Blair Bates, K3YD

from ARRL Letter Vol 22, No. 44

NWS/ARRL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY SET FOR DECEMBER 6

The fifth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day will take place Saturday, December 6, 2003, 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. During the special event, Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is twofold: to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local NWS office. The event is cosponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. "You simply can't put a price tag on it," said Scott Mentzer, N0QE, organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable."

This year, radio amateurs once again proved their worth. On May 4, after tornadoes knocked out all communications in Stockton, Missouri, portable ham radio stations were set up and staffed by volunteers, with licensed NWS employees forwarding specific forecasts to hams at the Stockton Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In August, an Amateur Radio storm spotter in Iowa tracked a tornado until it lifted, providing the local NWS office in the Quad Cities with "ground truth." This resulted in more specific information and earlier warnings being disseminated to the public.

The story doesn't stop there. Deployed during a winter storm last March, hams in Fairbanks, Alaska reported pinpoint locations of freezing rain and snow. The information was relayed on 2 meters, which allowed the local NWS office to sharply define the warning area and provide detailed statements of ice accumulation. In Wisconsin, a volunteer operator reported to the NWS office at early one spring morning and solicited snowfall reports from amateurs across the region, allowing the NWS to produce a detailed snow graphic and make a public statement summarizing the storm. Amateur Radio success stories such as these occur every year, all across the country.

In 2002, participants logged nearly 23,000 QSOs during the 24 hour event. Last year nearly 70 countries were contacted. To learn more, check out the NOAA Web site. -- Thanks to David Floyd, N5DBZ, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Goodland, Kansas

* Progress Energy reaches out to NC hams on BPL: North Carolina amateurs are getting heard regarding broadband over power line Internet delivery by a company whose infrastructure would carry such a system. Raleigh, North Carolina-based Progress Energy has responded to many calls and e-mails this

fall from concerned hams by contacting several local Amateur leaders and beginning a dialog that will include Amateur Radio in their BPL testing. In October, Progress Energy network engineer Bill Godwin met separately with Wake County ARES EC Tom Brown, N4TAB, and Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Wake County ARES PIO, and talked by phone with Technical Specialist Frank Lynch, W4FAL. Godwin wanted to know more about Amateur Radio, what hams thought problematic with BPL, and who in the amateur community he and Progress Energy should work with. ARRL North Carolina Section Manager John Covington, W4CC, and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, were identified as primary persons for Progress Energy to work with. Godwin set a positive tone by promising that Amateur Radio operators would be part of the next phase of testing, to begin early in 2004 in Wake County, NC. Godwin asked about notch filters. It was explained that notching the ham spectrum might work in a limited sense, but it wouldn't protect other services like shortwave broadcast listeners, aviation, etc. Progress Energy completed their Phase I test in the Wakefield area of north Raleigh early last summer. Phase I was designed to give Progress Energy engineers experience with the hardware, and let them know if it really worked. Amateur Radio was not involved in that test, and no Amateur Radio interference monitoring was conducted. But they have been hearing from hams steadily, and stridently, ever since. Phase II is planned for the end of 2003 and early 2004. It will be a larger test and focus more on marketing than technology, but hams will be invited to participate, and their interest will be technical. Both Phase I and II tests involve mostly underground wiring. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare's testing in areas with underground wiring showed that substantial interference still occurred, though above ground wiring was worse. Progress Energy is testing a system manufactured by Amperion. More information about BPL and Amateur Radio can be found at the ARRL Web site at www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/ --Thanks to Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Wake County, NC ARES PIO

New Assistant Director of the Atlantic Division

News via the ARRL

Submitted by Brian, AA3WM

Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, has announced the appointment of a new Assitant Director to the Division leadership team. The new Ast Director is John V. Rodgers, N3MSE, of Butler, PA. John's primary responsibility will be the development of quality training materials for use by the members, clubs, and other organizations within the Atlantic Division. Topics may include such subjects as ham recruitment, served agency operations, licensing, field day operations, contesting and others of widespread interest.

Please join us in welcoming N3MSE to his new position.

Bernie Fuller-N3EFN
Atlantic Division Director

Bill Edgar, N3LLR
Atlantic Division Vice Director

ARRL Atlantic Division
Director: Bernard Fuller, N3EFN
n3efn@arrl.org

News via the ARRL

Submitted by Blair Bates, K3YD

FROM: ARRL Contest Rate Sheet for November 19, 2003

Tim EI8IC's "Contesting on a Budget" articles are well known in various magazines, but if you don't have the subscriptions, there's hope. He has created a number of forums at http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/forums aimed at the operators without the big towers and the latest rigs. Look under the general title 'Homebrew Hams' to find sections on Contesting, Antennas, Towers, and other areas of discussion.

N3FJP announces the release of Amateur Contact Log 2.5 which includes an interface to Logbook of the World with the ability to upload, download and perform management operations directly from the program. EQSL uploading, HamCall and QRZ Internet lookup services (with the appropriate subscriptions) are also included. Scott also notes a band duration clock problem with SS Contest Log 3.7 that has been repaired in version 3.8. Visit http://www.n3fjp.com for complete information on both of these programs.

The bands are pretty crowded lately, right? What would happen if we lost spectrum? It is a good idea for U.S. hams to encourage their representatives and senators to sign on to the Spectrum Protection Act (SPA), HR 713 and S 537. Sample letters are on the ARRL Web site along with complete information about how to contact your members of Congress and the complete text of the SPA at http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html.

Having trouble dealing with IRC's at the Post Office? Tell the Postal Clerk to look in their manual under section 372.1 that explains in detail how to handle IRC's. (Thanks, Ted K1BV)

Stainless steel hardware can be hard to find on occasion, but the folks at Bo'sun Supplies (http://bosunsupplies.com) have an extensive product inventory including such treasures as pelican hooks, boom bails, pintles, gudgeons, and the ever-popular transcom scupper. Sorry, no anza brushes or naiad pulse converters. (Thanks, Stokely W3SB)

Everything seems to be geared to the Windows-based PC, but Macintosh owners, take heart! The Ham-Mac mailing list is full of kindred souls - http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ham-mac. Macintosh ham radio software can be found at http://dogparksoftware.com/ and http://www.blackcatsystems.com. A Web site to bookmark is http://www.machamradio.com - "Devoted entirely to amateur radio operators using Macintosh computers." (Thanks, John K8AJS and Scott N9AI)

Hamfest Announcement

Submitted by Blair Bates, K3YD

Think spring---Hamfest announcements for 2004 already!

May 2, 2004

Hagerstown, MD - Antietam Radio Association (The Great Hagerstown Hamfest) Washington County Agricultural Center, MD Rt 65 S., Sharpsburg Pike, near Hagerstown, MD (I-70 Exit 29A, Go South on Route 65, 6.5 Miles)

Antietam Radio Association, PO Box 52, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0052

Carl Morris, WN3DUG, ARA Hamfest Chairman
5670 L.W.E., Fayetteville, PA 17222-1030
Telephone: 717-352-2865

Talk-In: 147.090+, 146.940- backup (W3CWC)

E-mail: cwmorris@pa.net http://www.w3cwc.org/

Cost: $5, kids U12 free; Tailgate: $5; Table: $10 advance, $15 at door; Indoor/Outdoor paved/covered space available

Opens: 6:00 am (gates), 7:00 am (building); Vendor setup Sat after 6pm

VE Testing*: 12:30 pm registration, 1:00 pm exams, walk-ins OK; Info

contact Joe Lockbaum, WA3PTV, ptvjoe@pa.net

All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to
Participate in the DLARC, RACES, and ARES nets
146.70 and 444.90 W3OK/RPT (pl 151.4) with an alternate of W3PYF/RPT 145.11
W3OK trustee Chris Hornaman, NU3L
The Nets are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

The W3OK CORRAL is published monthly and is the Official Publication
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== 2003-2004 ==

CLUB OFFICERS

President – S. Bryan Williams, AA3WM (sbw1@enter.net)..... 610-258-9470
Vice President – William Twaddell, N2DH (n2dh@rcn.com) 610-923-7904
Secretary – Charles Lazarchak, KB3DEA (reader7@snycomp.com)..... 610-954-5285
Treasurer – Dick Dech, KA3MOU (ka3mou@enter.net) 610-837-1585

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joe Chuk, W3JD (chuk@kutztown.edu)..... 610-799-0337
Barry Vogt, N3NVA (n3nva@enter.net) 610-863-7294
Jeff Keller, N3QZT (n3qzt@ptd.net)..... 610-928-3897
Dave Blankenship, N3EYT (n3eyt@aol.com)..... 610-974-8749
Bob Yankovich, N3QZR (n3qzr@yahoo.com)..... 610-866-9162
Al Wiemann, W3CE (w3ce@entermail.net)..... 610-262-6977

NEWS STAFF

Editor – Brad Snyder, KB3JXQ (kb3jxq@snycomp.com) 610-760-9737
Circulation – Richard Dech, KA3MOU & YL Maryann..... 610-837-1585
Mailing List – Richard Dech, KA3MOU (ka3mou@enter.net)..... 610-837-1585

CLUB MEETINGS

All regular meetings of the D.L.A.R.C. are held on the first Thursday of each month
7:30 PM at IU20 Building in Palmer Township
TALK IN ON 146.70, PL 151.4
Any comments or articles contributed to this newsletter
should be addressed to kb3jxq@snycomp.com or Brad Snyder, KB3JXQ Editor
4260 Cedar Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088

visit our web page

http://www.dlarc.org

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

The W3OK CORRAL
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