

WIRELESS HILL BEACON

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Meeting – August 14th 2013

The August meeting is our annual picnic, the event starts at 6:30pm and will be held in Watson Park, please contact Lance, KC2MTO lanceweight@comcast.net for further info

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the Directors & General Meetings

Board of directors meeting convened at 6:32 pm on July 10,2013

1. Ron took numbers off the generator in the shack.we need a new engine to fix to the mower.Dave is checking out possibility for new engine. At present Lloyd picks up Dave's mower and cuts grass at the shack.
2. Motion to pay Ron \$100 for deposit on porta-potty for field day. Passed
3. Discussion of orientation of rprr antenna &/or change location. Repeater firmware is ok. Need update on program for Dell computer.
4. Ron, motion for phone transfer of \$20 for 1 year subscription to Magic Jack was passed.
5. Hy says leave the outdoor lights as is for now. sodium lamps at \$30 each, 2 or 3 lamps are out.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

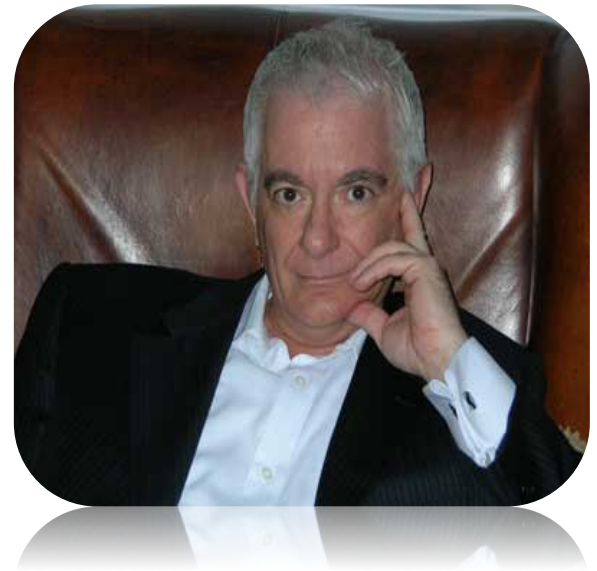
General meeting convened at 7:38 pm, members and guests were introduced

1. A new guest, Bob Cardone, KD2EIM passed his license exam 2 weeks ago and wants to learn more about our hobby.
2. Ron presented a balance of \$1567. Permit for picnic was \$25,\$100 dep for P.P for field day. Dave estimates a new engine for the mower
3. Lance Weight,KC2MTO, is making up a membership roster
4. Frank Palachak is chairman of the hamfest in Sept and listed in QST. The permit for the west Windsor park is free. Site is on Rt.571, Princeton-Hightstown Rd. One vendor needs a table plus tailgaters as required. Either invite food vendor or supply coffee, donuts chips, soda. Admission \$7. Solicit door prizes? Lisa KC3AHY, will design and print brochures.
5. Ron motion to open a separate Paypal account. Motion passed.
6. Lloyd reports good attendance at field day. Ron made VHF contacts. Two boy scouts at our last meetng visited. There was also a QRP setup.
7. Lloyd says there will be an article in QST of Frank soldering the legs on the tower.
8. Our next meeting will be the picnic at Watson park Ewing on upper ferry road.August 14th at 6:30pm.Sign up for potluck!

BALANCED LINES 2013 Installment 8
by Bob Schroeder, N2HX
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FEVERED PITCH

Here's a question for my readers who are CW enthusiasts. When you adjust your BFO, what kind of tone do you prefer, low or high or somewhere in between? If you have an audio oscillator or a musical instrument tuning app on your Smartphone, I'd like you to measure your favorite pitch either by beating it against your audio oscillator, or by direct measurement. If you'd like to participate in this little experiment, send me your results. You can email me at n2hx@arrl.net. Next month I'll let you know what I'm up to.



SCIENCE FICTION, OR SCIENCE PREDICTION?

For those of you who don't know me well, I have always been a huge science fiction enthusiast in both the literature and movie realms. Thanks to Amazon.com I have been able to purchase most of my favorite movies from the 1950s. Most of the inspiration that motivated me to go into science and engineering came from watching these films on TV. A few weeks ago, several movie titles popped into my head, so I proceeded to search Amazon to see if they were available. Luckily, they were. In particular, I was eager to purchase a copy of "Gog" (1954) featuring Richard Egan and Herbert Marshall, and "The Magnetic Monster" (1953) featuring Richard Carlson and King Donovan. Coincidentally, both stories were written by the Hungarian sci-fi writer Ivan Tors (1918-1983). It has been nearly fifty years since I've seen either of these films, so it was quite a treat to watch them in today's modern context. Ivan Tors' wife was actress and model Constance Dowling who played the character of investigator Joanna Merritt in "Gog".

Both "Gog" and "The Magnetic Monster" open with a dark, foreboding sense of doom and dystopia. Remember that these films were released during the hydrogen bomb era and the Cold War with Russia. The premise of both films is that technology has gotten the world into a mess, so we need technology to get us out of it. The power struggle is between the United States and the Soviets, yet the whole world is put at risk. As the old Swahili saying goes, "When elephants fight, only the grass gets trampled." What are some of these technological

threats? Very conveniently, both movies describe such threats in the first opening minutes. In the opening scenes of “Gog”, the narrator talks about solar mirrors and death rays, secret underground research laboratories in the American desert (a`la *The Andromeda Strain*), and, incredibly, wireless computer networks and cyberattacks. Those are pretty sophisticated threats for a movie made in 1954! In “The Magnetic Monster”, the voiceover in the opening scene talks about new, highly lethal atomic weapons, new and potentially dangerous atomic elements, and, oddly enough, unmanned radio controlled drone fighter jets. Very prescient concepts for fifty years ago! Tors worked for the US Office of Strategic Services, so it’s no wonder that he had real-life inspiration for his films- some of which may have been classified.

If you like classic 1950s sci-fi, you’ll enjoy “Gog” (named after the Old Testament characters, Gog and Magog) and “The Magnetic Monster”. You might think that computer hacking and cyberattacks and UAVs are 21st century concepts. Not so.

STRIKER FLEXIT LIGHT

Striker Hand Tools makes some pretty clever gadgets. One that I recently purchased is the model 00-112 Flexit Light. Given that necessity is the mother of invention, the Flexit Light is a flat rubber sheet that has sixteen LEDs embedded on the face of it. Its shape looks like a cross between a large fly swatter and a rubber jar lid remover. The battery pack sticks out on a flexible arm and has a pair of strong magnets so that you can stick the light to any magnetically attractable surface, or you can bend the arm to prop up the light on a table. The three-way push button on the battery pack lets you choose between just one LED, four LEDs, or all sixteen- which is pretty bright.

This work light is great for throwing illumination into a narrow space where a conventional flashlight won’t fit. In fact, the Flexit Light will probably fit into tiny workspaces where your tools won’t fit. I purchased mine through Amazon for \$26.99, or in other words, \$27.

AS I REMEMBER HIM

The first time I heard K2SNK was back in the Sixties when I was a short wave listener. While scanning the 75 meter band one Sunday morning with my Hallicrafters S-119 Sky Buddy II receiver, I heard several really strong AM stations come on the air at 0900. The net control was W2ZQ and the name of the net was the New Jersey Emergency Phone and Traffic Net and the announced

frequency was 3.930. The S-119 doesn't have an S meter, but all the stations who checked in sounded like locals. Among the check-ins was K2SNK. The Radio Amateur Callbook listed that call as belonging to Edward H. Vickner, Jr. in Ewing.

By simply listening to the net every Sunday morning, I learned that W2ZQ was on Bear Tavern Road by the airport and that the AM transmitter was a home-brew "composite". I was fortunate enough to visit W2ZQ and actually see that transmitter (which I have a picture of). When the HF bands migrated over to single sideband, I broke down and bought a gently used Hammarlund HQ-145X receiver from Allen and Hurley on South Warren Street. It had a stable VFO and its BFO was capable of recovering both lower and upper sideband. I listened to the Sunday version of the NJEPTN as well as the evening sessions, which went on the air at 1800 hours.

I didn't actually meet Ed until I joined the DVRA back around 1975. The meetings were at the old Mercer County CD headquarters in the Glen Rock Shopping Center. The only time I saw him regularly was at DVRA meetings and events. What many DVRA members don't know is that Ed, along with past president and former Ewing resident Dennis Silage, K3DS (formerly WB2LGJ) are the two people who originally built the 146.67 DVRA repeater. Lots of people contributed their own expertise to the project, but Ed and Dennis, both professors, put a lot of sweat equity into building the club's first repeater. Its original callsign was WR2ADE. Back then the FCC licensed repeaters with a "WR" prefix.

Around 1990 or so, Ed had gotten himself elected to the Ewing Township Board of Education. Ed was a teacher's teacher and had a very low tolerance for bureaucracy and incompetence. Since we saw eye to eye on a lot of things including education, he cajoled and twisted my arm to run for the Ewing BOE. I ran on a ticket with two other like-minded friends and got elected (I came in second). We didn't solve all the district's problems, but we did leave the Ewing school district better than we found it.

Besides having an enviable collection of Morse keys, Ed was quite a machinist and fabricator. Two years ago Bob, WB2F, and I sponsored Ed in the local gun club and once all three of us had retired, we used to go target shooting every week.

When the spirit moved him to purchase a vanity call, I don't know why Ed picked K2ZE. Perhaps I'll ask his wife Donna, WA2SMU. At one time, there were a number of wives who were DVRA members. I guess with the Technician Class license being so easy to get, having your XYL on the repeater was a convenient way to keep in touch (or not). Cellular telephones have destroyed that benefit. Still, the purpose of Amateur Radio is to be a social hobby. You can't join a square dancing club if you don't want to be around people. Amateur Radio works just the same way. Why we don't have more XYL participation, I don't know.

Most of the war stories that Ed and I used to exchange about teaching and old fashioned common sense can't be told lest they offend the politically correct. And most of the stories have faded away in my ancient neurons anyway. Suffice it to say, Ed and I were good friends and I never had to guess where he stood on an issue. Those are only a few of the things that I will miss.

All for now.

Comments invited.

Bob Schroeder, N2HX

Past President, DVRA

DVRA Nets

2-meter & 70-cm nets on the club repeaters 146.670 pl 131.8, 442.650 pl 131.8

2-Meter Nets:

The Pepper Net 10:00 PM Daily

Mercer Co. Emergency Net 7:30 PM Tuesdays KB2EGI, coordinator.

Training & Upgrade Classes

Don Wright, AA2F, periodically holds Technician and General classes.

Classes are held at various locations. Call Don at 609-737-1723 to register.

Logbook of The World

Mike AB2IO reports that the current W2ZQ LOTW

Latest QSL matches 7/23/2013

5240/16555 = LOTW QSLs/Total worked

YT3H	2008-02-16	17:55:37	20M	CW	14.01926	SERBIA
DL9GFB	2007-11-24	16:20:11	20M	CW	14.07357	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
DL9GFB	2006-10-28	18:03:12	20M	SSB	14.264	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
M0VPE	2008-03-02	20:42:50	20M	SSB	14.17300	ENGLAND

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Checkout the New Website!

Members are invited to take a look at the newly renovated DVRA website (www.w2zq.com). The old website was completely replaced. This new website provides the club a more readable format along with creating an accessible archive area. It is also intended to be an advertisement for the DVRA showing that we really do stuff as well as support the hobby in general.

Members can assist in further development of the archives with the following:

If you have any electronic copies of the DVRA newsletter since about 1998 that are not currently included (check if the date has a linked document), please forward them

- If you have presented a program at the monthly club meetings, and used slides or other material for the program, please forward me the package so I can add it on the site. This helps to provide a positive indication that the meetings offer more than a dull business meeting
- If you have a copy of a newspaper article mentioning a DVRA activity, I would like that too.
- Photographs of current DVRA activities. Include as many members as possible. Things of interest:
 - Shack events such as the 2nd Saturday, Contests, Demonstrations
 - Public Service Events: Walk-a-thons, Bike Tours, Emergency & Disaster Operations

If there are ham radio related events that the DVRA supports, that would be helpful as well. Keeping the home page updated with new things to do is a good indication that we have an active club worthy of membership. Things that I am aware of that will be added for next couple of months:

- Simulated Emergency Test (Both Mercer and Bucks County ARES)
- Alzheimer's Association Walk??
- Jamboree on the Air
- Major Contests to be operated out of the shack
- Holiday Party
- Radio Merit Badge Day

There is still work that needs to be done particularly in the Photo Archives. I don't have a Unix computer to work the software for the photo site. But, I may bite the bullet and transform one of my Windows computers to Unix or Linux.

If you do have material to be added to the site, please forward the material to n2kiv@aol.com. If the material is hard copy, bring it to the club meeting. Then I will take it and scan it in, like I did of the W2ZQ QSL Card on the contacts page.

CGI Racing Event

The DVRA would like to thank all members and people that helped out with the CGI racing event on July 20th & 21st. We would like to especially thank Steve Constanzo, KC2VDL for all the hard work organizing and running the event!

This is currently one of the major ways the club makes any money to support maintenance, power, insurance, fuel oil, telephone bills, PO Box fees, etc. Most radio clubs do not have a shack and grounds to maintain.

Fame and Fortune Await

Want to become rich & famous – write an article for the DVRA Beacon. Fame among local hams almost guaranteed – fortune is up to you (and your luck in Powerball). Deadline for submission is one week before the monthly meeting (that would make the deadline the first Wednesday of the month). For details contact Alex / AB2RC – ab2rc@ab2rc.net

Upcoming DVRA Events

Club Picnic – August 14th

Meeting – September 11th – What I did over my summer vacation

Hamfest – September 14th