

WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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Hamfests

Open

Meeting – October 9th 2013

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 9th, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, on Upper Ferry Road at Wilburtha Road in West Trenton. The site is easy to reach from I-95 or NJ-29. Talk-in is available on the 146.67 (PL 131.8) and 442.65 repeaters. The directors meeting is 1 hour earlier at the club shack.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the Directors & General Meetings

Minutes of the Director's Meeting

1. Motion to nominate members Tim (AD2CR) and Don (AA2F) as trustees.
2. Trustee Mike Moreken(AB2IO) appointed by Dave Norcross .
3. The lock has been changed at the shack: Members sign for keys-if dues are in arrears or no longer a member must turn in key.
4. Treasurer has set up a pay-pal account -a donate button is available on web site.
5. Lance gets info from arrl and fcc on new licenses to contact as future members.
6. W2ZQ has set up a new Yahoo group,this is a free service-please join.
7. Exams Sat. at Pennington library. Technician class will be held at Don's home on Sept.19th.
8. Oct 18 and 19, 20 Jamboree on the air -open house-volunteers needed for sat
9. Oct.26 Mercer Co. College - radio demos "Scouts to the Rescue" Cub-a-Rama. Lance,Lloyd,Frank, and Bob volunteered

Minutes of the general meeting at 7:35

1. Ham fest-6:30 for setup, start at 8am. Till 3pm then clean up.portable setup for talk in. PR table,restroom facilities present, need coffee pot ,soft drinks and donuts. 3 collectors at gate, dispense tickets for admission \$7.00 and sign up tickets for mailing list. Also build list for vendors
2. Speakers for what I did on my vacation was postponed.
3. Saturday Oct.19-Jamboree on the air 9am-4pmvolunteers needed. Oct 26th-Cub-a-Rama "scouts to the rescue" at Mercer Co. college- set up booth For PR and FM radio. Volunteers needed.
4. Don has exams on Sat. Sept 14th at the Pennington library at 12 noon start. Technician class on 19th at dons home starting at 7:30 on Thursday evening
5. Locks have been changed on the shack door.60 new keys_turn in old key for a new one.
6. Old business, picnic was a success. Connie, Gerry's wife was the cook-headaches- led to diagnosis of brain tumor-keep her in your prayers. Opened pay-pal account button for donations. Memories of 9-11 disaster.
7. New business - Tentec net starts at the shack Sunday-2pm on 7261 and 3pm on 14325. Two towers and a beam to be put up at the shack-donated by widow who will pay for installation. Frank has volunteered to help.

BALANCED LINES 2013 Installment 10
by Bob Schroeder, N2HX
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FEVERED PITCH- THE CONCLUSION

In last month's column I asked the question, "What is your preferred CW copying pitch?" Many of you answered, but said that you had no way to measure the frequency of the note. Those who responded to my poll could only say in relative terms that you preferred a "low note" or a "high note" depending on how much QRM was on the frequency. That's fine. I understand your limitations.

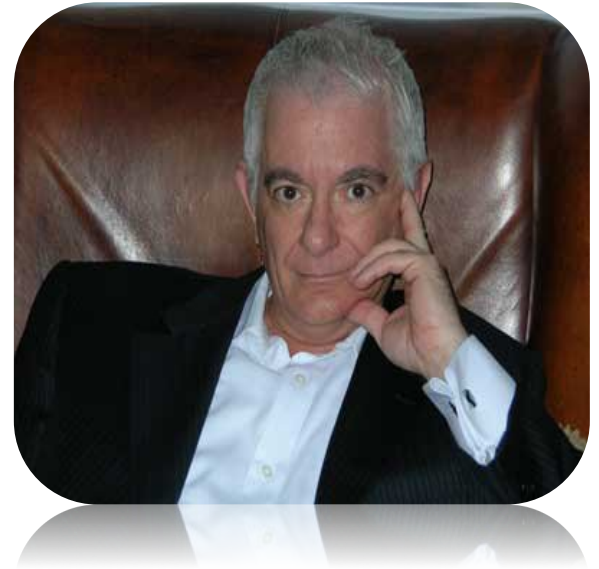
Without delving into a lot of detail, here's why I conducted this poll. On the chromatic musical scale, what we call "Middle A" is generally accepted to be 440 Hertz. On a piano, Middle A can be found in the center of the keyboard beneath the manufacturer's name. If you've ever heard a symphony orchestra tune up (actually, re-tune) on the stage, the oboe sounds Middle A, or 440 Hertz. But has this always been the standard frequency? The answer is no.

Archaeologists and other research scientists have discovered evidence that ancient civilizations once used the frequency of 432 Hertz as the fundamental frequency for its musical tuning. How do we know this? Ancient wind instruments, mostly. It would be impossible to tell from stringed artifacts because there's no way to prove what pitch the strings were tuned to because the catgut strings have all disintegrated. Without the aid of frequency counters, how did ancient civilizations know what 432 Hz. sounded like? We don't know. If you do a Bing search on the phrase "432 Hertz tuning" you will get several returns such as this one which offers a cogent explanation.

<http://thestreetphilosopher.tumblr.com/post/15553189702/the-importance-of-a-432hz-as-a-concert-pitch-for-music>

I have made several side-by-side comparisons of the same song played in both 432 and standard 440 Hz. tunings and I have to admit that the 432 Hz. version sounds "nicer" to my ears. Your ears may disagree. But being a musician myself, I know what I prefer.

Taking all this "feel good" evidence to a new level, I wondered if listening to Morse Code (CW) at a pitch of 432 Hz. would sound more pleasant and cause less fatigue during long operating hours such as Field Day. I contacted Steve Ford, WB8IMY, at ARRL headquarters and asked him to conduct a few tests and compile a survey as to CW operators' pitch preference. Steve said he'd fly it by the ARRL administration and get back to me.



You can try this experiment yourself. Unlike our ancient brethren who didn't have the benefit of scientific instruments, you can use a smartphone app to generate a calibrated 432 Hz. tone or if you have one, a decent quality calibrated audio oscillator. Simply generate the tone on your oscillator and then tune in a CW station on your radio and zero-beat the pitch of your oscillator with the BFO of your radio. Now you know what 432 Hz. sounds like. Try copying a QSO or an ARRL bulletin while using this pitch and see whether you feel more comfortable with that pitch. On that happy note, I'll leave you to experiment!

MOLEX SOLD FOR \$7.2 BILLION

Now that we don't home brew our equipment anymore, some of the old, tried-and-true company names have left our vocabulary. Gone are the days of hearing the names Sprague, Ohmite, Millen, Cornell-Dublier, Thordarson, Dow Key, and Mallory, to name a few. In the category of connectors, Cinch Jones and Molex were popular. The name Molex is probably the only remaining familiar name among hams.

This summer, the Molex Company was sold to Koch Industries (pronounced "coke") for a smooth \$7.2 billion. If you haven't heard of the infamous Koch brothers, their conglomerate owns a variety of companies across various different industries such as petrochemical, paper, and finance. They also own WNET Thirteen in New York City.

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
5243/16555 Matched as of Aug. 23, 2013

IK0XBX	2007-02-18	18:42:24	15M	CW	21.035	ITALY
IK0XBX	2007-02-18	13:03:07	20M	CW	14.034	ITALY
V31HK	2006-10-28	21:13:12	20M	SSB	14.277	BELIZE
I8IGS	2009-03-08	05:25:09	40M	SSB	7.1480	ITALY

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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