

WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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Hamfests

Open

Meeting – November 13th 2013

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, November 13th, 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 begins at 6:30.

Meeting Minutes

New format of combined directors and general membership meeting-called to order at 6:35pm

Yahoo groups can restrict member ship - non dues payers can be deleted.Be prepared to pay dues at the Decembermeeting.

The hamfest was a great success-\$1225 profit. Commercial vendors were all satisfied.

Gary suggested that a dues credit could be earned if members worked at the hamfest and the Triathalon since these two events can generate the club expenses of \$2500 for the year. The shack is a strong draw for the membership.

Mark suggested that the dues structure be tabled since more members are needed and we should consider student discounts.

The Trenton Computer Fair is not a reliable money maker. The first year payed little and the next year nothing.

Treasurers report: about \$1600. In the black this year. Allocated funds:\$300.for a new motor for the mower and \$300 for fuel Account balance was \$3250.

Discussion of how to allocate donations, Accounting practices will be discussed with Ron. Re: how they are entered in the budget etc.

Suggest table the discussion about our non-profit status until the subject of accounting practices are reviewed.

A repeater fund can be allocated. We do not need a separate account.

After meeting clean up and disposal of trash was dicussed.

Nominating committee: Don AA2F, Alex KC2VEM, Dave KD2DRN

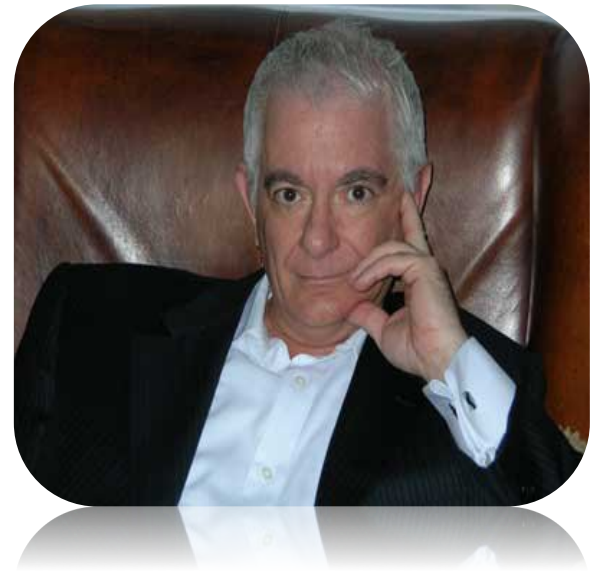
Lou Crocker gave an interesting talk on setting up Radio beams to guide aircraft to airports and how they work using Adcock antennas in pairs. Thus allowing a pilot to ride the beam and uses 200-400 kHz signal with letter designation such as . .-- .-. (EWR) for Newark.

Shack activities for Saturday - Boy Scouts on the air Jota Saturday October 19. Ten Tec net on 40 meters at 4pm October 19. Cub scouts at Mercer Co. Community College on the 26th will need a pop-up for FM operations and two adults to assist. A Boy Scout merit badge program will take place on the 26th at the Princeton plasma physics also.

BALANCED LINES 2013 Installment 11
by Bob Schroeder, N2HX
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THE DVRA AND THE NJ STATE MILITIA

Recently I dropped by the Militia Museum of New Jersey which is housed at the old 112th Field Artillery headquarters on Eggert Crossing Road in Lawrence Township. My friend Col. Jon Gribbin, USA (Ret.) is the curator there. While there I was introduced to Col. Donald W. Kale, USA (Ret.) who is the curator emeritus of the museum. To my pleasant surprise, Don is the son of one of the DVRA's most prominent members, Col. Sam Kale, USA (Ret.). Those of us who knew Sam knew him as W2VU, one of the DVRA's original members and past presidents. He also served as Trenton's civil defense director. In fact, the club used to hold its meetings at Trenton's civil defense headquarters on Perry Street before the neighborhood got to be too dangerous.



What made my visit to the museum so interesting is that there is an exhibit specifically dedicated to Sam. Visitors can see some of Sam's actual uniforms and kit gear. I had the pleasure to know Sam through my membership in the DVRA. When I told Don Kale that I knew his father through the club, he was very pleased that I recalled him so fondly. Not surprisingly, Don looks just like his father.

Whether you knew W2VU or not, I highly recommend you stop by the armory and spend some time walking through the museum. There's an entire section dedicated to military communications that includes some actual vignettes that depict how the commo gear was set up on the battlefield. There is a newly added wing that is devoted entirely to New Jersey's role in the Civil War. The minutiae for Trenton's role are absolutely stunning. The artifacts that you see on display are there entirely thanks to the various people who donated them to the museum.

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey is open Tuesday through Friday from 0900 until 1500R. Admission is free. Their web site can be found at www.state.nj.us/military/museum. Should you see Don while you're there, be sure to tell him that you're with the DVRA.

While you're there visiting the armory (which has its own rich history), consider that the DVRA used to hold its annual hamfest at that venue for many years. Our hamfests were so large that the tailgating area took up the entire floor of the

indoor rink, plus the parking area out back. The commercial vendors were put in the gymnasium. The classrooms situated around the gym were used for Amateur Radio related lectures and FCC testing. Club members who used to cook their own specialties and serve them to the attendees occupied the mess hall and kitchen. One of the more memorable menu items was sausage and sauce cooked by our own Robbie, K3MNX (SK). Those were indeed the Good Old Days.

WHERE DOES YOUR TAX MONEY GO?

If you think you have problems working your personal budget, here is a sobering web site where you can view the daily transactions of the U.S. Treasury. It's about as interesting and mind numbing as watching C-SPAN all day long, but I think it's worth a look.

<http://www.fms.treas.gov/dts/index.html>

OPERATING FLDIGI ON 220 MHZ.

The other day a club member asked me about the merits of getting on 220 FM. I told him that the NJ Office of Emergency Management has a repeater on 224.320 (PL 67 Hz.) that has nearly statewide coverage. Not only that, but just prior to my retirement from NJOEM I began experimenting with sending text messages and files through the repeater using Fldigi ("Fast and Light Digital Modem"). My work colleagues Bill, KC2VUT, and John, W2JLZ, and I set up a three-way network by which we were sending text files through the 224.320 repeater. It works perfectly. Connect up a printer to your PC or laptop and you no longer need to write out emergency message traffic by hand.

Here's what you need. First, you'll need a 220 MHz. FM transceiver with an antenna suitable enough to access the NJ2EM repeater. For the most part, a 220 MHz. vertical should suffice. Next, you'll need a computer. It doesn't happen very often, but Fldigi will run on any Windows, Linux, or Mac computer. This shows good emergency management interoperability. What goes in between the computer and the transceiver is pretty simple. For our NJOEM operation we chose the Signalink USB sound card. It's about \$90. When you order, specify what brand and model transceiver you're using and the manufacturer will make the interface cable with the correct microphone plug that fits your rig.

The hookup is fairly straightforward. You disconnect the microphone that comes with the rig and plug in the "transmit audio" cable that comes with the sound card. Then you connect the 1/8" phono plug to the headphone jack on the transceiver. This is your "receive audio" line. It should be obvious that while you're configured

for digital operation, you won't be able to talk on the transceiver or hear anything unless you unplug the sound card cables. As for the software, it's free. W1HJK and others distribute it. As I mentioned above, once you're serious about handling emergency traffic, you can add a printer to your PC to make hard copies of the messages.

Using Fldigi requires a little learning curve, but it's easy to figure out. There are a lot of settings that you'll probably never use, so just leave them at their default value. A little tweaking on the transceiver's volume control and you're good to go.

Because I'm the trustee of the NJ2EM repeater (which is at the WNJT tower in Baker's Basin), I approve the testing and use of digital modes on this repeater. It's idle most of the day, so you won't really be annoying anybody. As per FCC Part 97, you still must listen to the repeater first to see if it's in use before you start sending digital messages. Don't forget- when the Signalink is plugged into the headphone jack, you won't hear anything. The only indication you'll get is the "RX" LED on your rig, or a reading on the rig's S meter.

Have fun with it!

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.

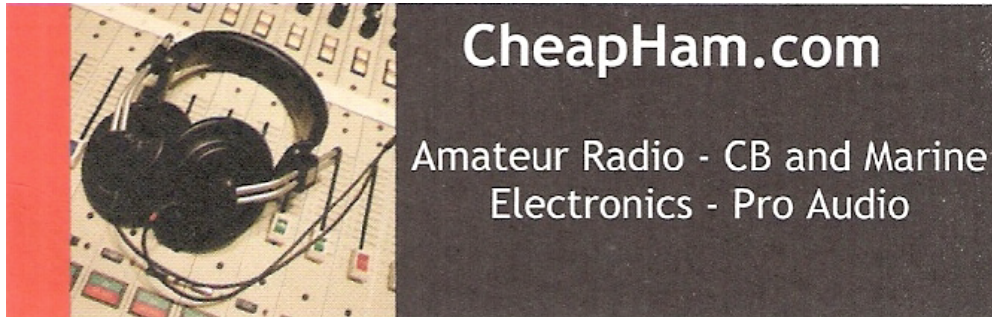
Classes are held at various locations. Call Don at 609-737-1723 to register.

Logbook of The World

Mike AB2IO reports that the current W2ZQ LOTW
5247/16555 Matched as of Sept. 23, 2013

UA4LCH	2008-03-01	13:38:17	20M	SSB	14.19364	EUROPEAN	RUSSIA
IZ5DKJ	2006-10-28	16:09:42	15M	SSB	21.221	ITALY	
T40C	2008-03-01	13:50:02	20M	SSB	14.19200	CUBA	
T40C	2008-03-01	09:30:34	160M	SSB	1.84813	CUBA	

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732-716-1600
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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

Upcoming Events –

Nov. 13, 2013 DVRA meeting 7:30 PM (Directors 6:30 PM at church)
Dec. 11, 2013 DVRA Xmas meeting 6:30 PM