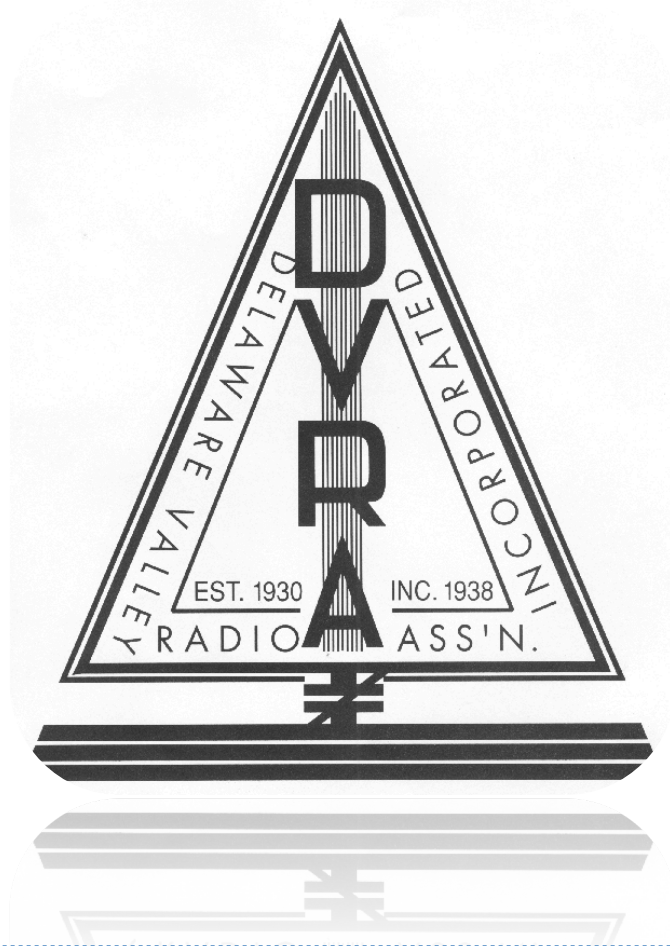


WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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M. Juza, KC2TGM

Hamfests

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Meeting – December 11th 2013

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, December 11th, 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. This is our annual holiday party, contact Lance KC2MTO lanceweight@comcast.net for details.

Meeting Minutes

Directors meeting

1. Radio merit- Badge class to be held at TCNJ on Sat., Jan. 4th. Volunteers needed.
2. Rotor on the n.-tower was repaired at a cost of \$300. speed is slower, hit button direction.
3. Balance is \$3254 -Treasurer reports.
4. New member: Lou Crocker-general, expires 2020, from Belle Mead, N.J. If join in Nov.-Dec. to pay 2014 dues.
5. Adjustable soldering iron needed at shack. This can be purchased on e-bay for \$120 motion made and approved, will be purchased by AD
6. New Member: "FATU" KC3BHD unanimous vote.
7. Don-AA2F will hold exams this Saturday at Pennington library.
8. Lloyd says ten tec nets going well, Tech class will take exams Saturday.
9. Nominations were Pres. Bob-N2HX, Mike-AD2IO, Tres.-KC2PQC, Lance-AC2MTO Secretary, and Alex-AB2RC for Publications.

General meeting called at 8PM

1. Xmas party will be on Dec. 11 th at 6:30 pm. Tell Lance what food you will bring.
2. Soldering class at the shack on Dec. 14. Will be soldering male and female connectors onto coax.
3. Cubarama was a success-Tim, Bob and Lance had a j-pole antenna and handhelds on the air.
4. Sarnoff club had 42 kids at there merit badge class. Radio merit badge classes will be held at TCNJ on Saturdat January 4th.
5. Don held exams at the Pennington library on Sat. the 16th.
- 6 Nominations were held as reported above.
7. Gary and Alex held a nice discussion on To Go Kits for Emergencies Covered power sources, first aid kits and battery packs.

BALANCED LINES 2013 Installment 12
by Bob Schroeder, N2HX
© 2013

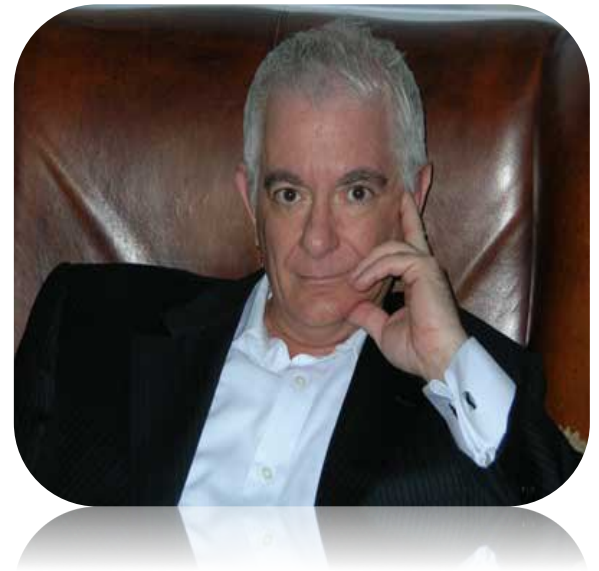
DOOMSDAY THUMB DRIVE

There are lots of web sites that you can visit to learn about establishing and maintaining an emergency “go kit”. Few people consider making these kinds of preparations because it’s one of those things that are not pleasant to think about, like making a will or funeral pre-arrangements. Others simply don’t think that emergencies can happen to them, so why bother?

At last month’s club meeting, Gary, K2GW, gave a presentation on communications go-kits as well as family go-kits and contingency planning. Family kits usually contain things like flashlights and batteries (which should be stored separately! Don’t leave batteries in any device because they will either go dead or leak.), spare medications and prescription drugs, water, food, etc.. All of this is sound, sensible advice. Establishing a contingency meeting place is also essential should family members become separated, but how about essential documents?

One thing we learned at NJOEM when the Hurricane Katrina evacuees came to New Jersey is that people often flee danger without carrying any of their essential documents (such as a wallet or passport) with them. Insurance companies often recommend taking still photos or a video of your home and all of its contents and then storing these images at some secure off-site facility like a safe deposit box or trusted relative. The problem with safe deposit boxes is that the bank you rent them at might also be destroyed or inaccessible in a widespread emergency. So even if your documents are safe, how are you going to get to them if you’re relocated temporarily or indefinitely? Some of the Katrina evacuees who came to New Jersey had great difficulty filing for FEMA aid because they had no documentation. You can’t flee an emergency and remember to pack every blessed thing you might need.

Making some of your essential data and documents portable can easily be accomplished by scanning your important materials and saving them to a thumb drive or memory stick. One such device is the Corsair Flash Survivor Stealth thumb drive. The Survivor Stealth is a 64 GB USB 3.0 thumb drive that sells on Amazon for about \$65. What’s nice about the Stealth is that it comes in an anodized aircraft-grade tube with a gasketed end cap. It’s waterproof to 200 meters as well as vibration and shock resistant. There’s an eyelet at one end so that you can make up a lanyard that can be worn around your neck, or to attach an ID tag in case of loss.



“The best time to plan for an emergency is on a sunny day.” says the National Weather Service. To archive your irreplaceable documents, use a bed scanner such as a CanoScan 9000F or a printer-fax-scanner document station such as an Epson Artisan 810. Save the files to your computer and then to your memory stick. (Hopefully, you have a back-up hard drive attached to your computer that you can also take with you.) Once you’ve transferred your important files and images to your thumb drive, put it in a safe place- preferably in your go-kit. Be sure to update your archived files periodically. Scan your DMV credentials and other renewed documents as the old ones expire. Scan and archive your deed or lease along with a utility bill so that you can prove your residence should the need arise. Name your Survivor Stealth or other thumb drive with your name or some word that you can easily remember.

One of today’s popular catch phrases is data portability. It’s a phrase commonly used to describe the utopia of being able to carry your entire medical history around with you. But other essential personal data should be portable as well. Now’s a good time to organize your personal data and store it for a rainy day- or worse.

THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

When I was attending Fisk School back in the Sixties, we learned in fifth grade science class about the ecological relationship between plants and animals. We learned that plants utilize sunshine and chlorophyll to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen- the process known as photosynthesis. At the same time, animals consume oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. This closed loop cycle is called symbiosis.

Much has been said about climate change and global warming. The information being released to the public puts the majority of the blame on the excessive amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, presumably being there by man-made industrial processes. The resulting effect has been dubbed the greenhouse effect. Both the scientific and the lay communities have gone gaga over things like carbon footprints, carbon cycles, and green ecosystems. The term “going green” (named after plants) is rather ironic in that the amount of “green” has been continually decreasing for more than a century.

Our politically correct and government-influenced media love to blame industrialization for the excessive amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. What they will never tell you is that part of the reason for this over accumulation of carbon dioxide is the man-made destruction of plant life on the planet. What the scientists and the media will never blame are development and construction, surface mining, and logging. That the amount of trees, grasslands and other vegetation have been steadily disappearing is incontrovertible. We see evidence of this all around us: new housing developments, office parks, shopping centers, parking lots and roads. Any hydrologist will tell you that creating impervious

surfaces like parking lots and roads has its own destructive consequences, but what I'm talking about is the removal of vegetation on a global scale.

Going back to my fifth grade science class, we learned that plants and animals sustain each other by way of their respiratory by-products. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand that if you remove the gas converting surfaces of plants, the amount of carbon dioxide will increase because there's less foliage to convert it. Even direr is the fact that decreasing the amount of global foliage means that there is less oxygen being produced for us to breathe. Where do you think our oxygen comes from? Is it delivered by the Culligan Man or by extraterrestrials? Obviously the answer is no. The planet's oxygen comes from plants. In all fairness to the lumber industry, they do practice good husbandry and plant new trees to replace the ones they cut down. The problem is, it will take decades for these new trees to grow to the size of a mature tree and produce the same amount of oxygen that a mature tree does. Oxygen is also produced to a certain extent by our Earth's oceans. This is accomplished by the action of the sun's photons interacting with the surface of the water. But even this output is being decreased because of global air pollution. Climatologists who study the global pan evaporation rate have confirmed this fact. The amount of photons reaching the surface has been decreased much like a neutral density filter. The pan evaporation rate, by the way, is one of the oldest meteorological measurements in the world.

Not too many years ago, NOVA produced a program about the experiment called Biosphere II, which is about 30 miles north of Tucson, AZ. When scientists built this self-contained domed ecosphere in 1991, it got off to a shaky, and nearly deadly start. To make this microcosm work, the number of humans and plants was carefully calculated so that they would mutually support each other. (There were four men and four women.) In an effort to get the experiment started as quickly as possible, the scientists entered the dome and sealed the door while the masonry inside was still somewhat damp. After a few days, the chemicals in the masonry began to absorb the carbon dioxide faster than the plants could, which caused a chain reaction. The plants got less carbon dioxide to breathe which in turn caused them to wilt. As they did, they began to produce less oxygen than was originally calculated. While they didn't know what was happening to them at the time, the scientists inside the dome began to experience neurological symptoms including cognitive impairment, confusion, and aggressiveness. Seeing that the scientists were in trouble, the team outside the dome opened the door and evacuated the scientists for medical evaluation. Only then was the wet masonry identified as the culprit.

I have been studying this defoliation problem for nearly a decade now. I've consulted with professors at both Rutgers' Cook College and Princeton University and they all agree with my observations and hypothesis. And so, it's not just our man-made mechanization and burning of fossil fuel. It's the decline of the world's foliage that's impeding the scrubbing mechanism. It's fifth grade

science! The next time you pass by a construction project where they're clearing the land, ask yourself where your next breath will come from.

WHERE DID THE TIME GO?

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. Writing these columns has been a lot of fun over the past 15 years or so. Even though I occasionally try, I can't find my very first Balanced Lines column. As I do each year, I thank my readers for their comments and suggestions for topics. You make it worth my time.

Beginning in January I will have the honor and pleasure to be the DVRA president- for the fourth time. Exciting things are going to continue to happen and I have no doubt the club will continue to grow. Human nature has its foibles and our membership is no different. Members join and drop out for a variety of personal reasons. On the subject of morale, I'll share with you this Chinese proverb. "A man may not be able to prevent birds from flying over his head, but he has the right to determine whether they shall make nests in his hair."

Have a merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

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.

Exam Schedule

For 2014 exams will be held on Jan 18, March 15, May 10, July 19, Sept 13 and Nov 15. All Exams will be at 12:15 on the listed Saturdays at the Hopewell (Twp) Branch of the Mercer County Library, 245 Pennington-Titusville Road, next door to the Hopewell Valley Central High School. Bring \$15, cash or check, and 2 forms of identification, at least one being a photo ID. For further information, contact Don/AA2F at 609-737-1723 or aa2f@arrl.net.

Logbook of The World

Mike AB2IO reports that the current W2ZQ LOTW
5276/16555 Matched as of Nov. 23, 2013

A07AAW	2007-11-24	16:22:33	20M	CW	14.07357	SPAIN
PY5ZHP	2006-10-29	14:09:45	15M	SSB	21.279	BRAZIL
PY5ZHP	2006-10-29	18:38:11	10M	SSB	28.390	BRAZIL
VE2SG	2007-11-24	03:41:36	80M	CW	3.55479	CANADA

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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 –

Dec. 11, 2013 DVRA Xmas meeting 6:30 PM