

WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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Membership

L. Weight, KC2MTO

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M. Juza, KC2TGM

Repeater Operations

R. Schroeder, N2HX

Physical Plant

H. Gold, AB2VG

D. Norcross, K2DRN (asst.)

Public Information

T. Reeg, K2TFR

Training & Examinations

D. Wright, AA2F

Publications

A. Flinsch, AB2RC

Programs

G. Wilson, K2GW

Immediate Past President

D. Norcross, K2DRN

Web Service

M. Juza, KC2TGM

Hamfests

Open

Meeting – October 8th 2013

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 8th, 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 takes place 1 hour earlier at 6:30 PM.

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.

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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

Help Wanted

Our club treasurer, Ron KC2PQC, is looking for a club member to help with the treasurer's duties. If you are interested, please contact him at 609-695-5990 or email ronk@snip.net.

Upcoming Events

HAMFEST – Saturday September 20th in West Windsor Community Park, contact Frank, KC2TKD frankpal@comcast.net or see last page of the newsletter for details.

Website

Our website has been updated, and looks better than ever. Take a look at it <http://www.w2zq.com>

Twitter: another tool in the ham radio toolbox

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams who are doing fun things. I hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulktel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today, for example,

@DXEngineering is offering \$55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it wasn't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.

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When not Tweeting about his latest amateur radio exploits, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW or teaching ham radio classes. If Twitter isn't your thing, you can still follow him by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com.

September Meeting Minutes & Notes

DVRA MEETING NOTES

September 10, 2014

Neither our President or Vice President could attend the meeting. President Bob Schroeder N2HX is ill and Vice President Mike Moreken AB2IO could not attend. It was determined to hold an informal meeting. These notes attempt to capture that meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion on some of the repairs needed at the shack and to the towers/antennas.

TOWER REPAIR COST ESTIMATE

John Cravelli (sp)	\$600	tower repair
Controller	\$570	
Antenna Lightning arrestor	\$200	
Controller Lightning arrestor	\$340	
Total Tower Repair	\$1710	

The consensus at the meeting was to proceed with the tower and associated repairs/replacements in the approximate amount of \$1710 as soon as possible.

REPEATER UPGRADE COST ESTIMATE

Yaesu Fusion Repeater (New)	\$1700
Climate Control for the repeater	\$500
Tower	\$3500
Hard Line	\$1000
Total Repeater Upgrade	\$6700

The consensus was to defer this at this time until funds could be raised.

DONATIONS FOR THE REPEATER UPGRADE

The members present were polled and asked how many could donate \$500 to the Repeater Upgrade project and five or six indicated they could donate. It was suggested that the total membership be polled as there may be sufficient possible donations to fund the project and move forward on this project in the next several months. All agreed the members should be contacted as soon as possible to see who would donate to determine if sufficient funds could be raised.

ROTATOR

A new or rebuilt rotator is needed with the cost estimated to be about \$2000.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

South Tower: It is fully extended which causes stress and could damage it. It should be lowered partially to the point where undo stress no longer occurs. This should be done immediately.

Shack Painting: Dave Norcross K2DRN, who has spent dozens and dozens of hours water blasting the old paint off, is now almost done painting the shack. He has also replaced and painted the fascia. While several others have stopped by to assist once in a while Dave has lead the way with this back breaking work. Looks great Dave! Thanks!!

Ham Fests: Frank Palacek KC2TKD has done a great job leading us in this effort . (As I type these notes, we now know the fantastic results of our Sept DVRA Hamfest. Thanks Frank!

The question was raised "Should we have two hamfests: Spring and Fall???????" The question was left out there for future discussion.

10/25/14 Cub Scout Emergency Activity: Gary Wilson K2GW announced this and asked for support.

January 2015 Boy Scout Activity. Gary K2GW said to save a spot on the first or second Saturday in January at the College of New Jersey.

PERSONAL HAM ACTIVITIES:

- >Alex KC2VDM: is working on cars and old radios.
- >Bob Cardone: Built a buddi pole; built an air core balun
- >Gary: built a loop antenna
- >Lloyd Price K2KPC: Assisted with putting up a 22 ton 33 element Log periodic Army MARS antenna at Doughboy Field at Fort Dix.
- >Gary Wilson K2GW: Open Heart Surgery with valve replacement. New Alpha Delta antenna.
- >Don Wright AA2F: Achieved DXCC on 12M. Congrats Don!

MORE MISC:

- Someone commented that a "1:1 Balun" by Jetstream at good price is available at Cheap Ham.
- Picnic: One and all had fun at the August DVRA picnic!

THOUGHTS:

Please remember Bob and Russ in your thoughts.
End of Notes:By Lance Weight, Secretary

The DVRA membership met on September 10, 2014. An informal round-table discussion was held.

The discussion points were as follows:

I. What to do to update our equipment?

A. An outline of equipment update expenses was presented and discussed

II. Goals:

A. Obtain a new repeater with an efficient antenna

B. Repair N. tower to accommodate the new HF radio

III. Idea: Focus on N. tower top, all in one service call

IV. Further discussion:

A. Need to keep S. tower lowered

B. We can sweep the repeater antenna

C. Without the hamfest, the club would be in the red ink this year

D. Are there people who can contribute significant amounts to (II.A. and

II.B)?

E. Investigation into Yaesu repeater continues

F. Should we conduct a survey of members preferences (for budgeting purposes)?

G. Repeater usage is reduced these days

H. Possibility of merging with other clubs (for VHF)?

I. Possible grant available?

Respectfully submitted, Ron KC2PQC, Treasurer

Logbook of The World

On September 23, 2014, Mike AB2IO reported the latest QSLs for W2ZQ logbook of the world were:

DL8WEM	2008-02-16	12:47:52	20M	CW	14.07792	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
DF2AP	2007-02-17	12:42:01	20M	CW	14.01600	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
PY2VZ	2009-03-08	16:12:06	15M	SSB	21.27001	BRAZIL
EC7DDZ	2007-10-28	17:22:48	15M	SSB	21.22330	SPAIN

Matched QSLs out of total contacts submitted to LOTW were 5430/16557, 32.8% matched.

New Members

The club officers would like to present the following new member for consideration: Steve Masticola WX2S. The officers would also like to present the following rejoining members for consideration: Leon Grauer NOTAZ and Bryan Fischberg KA2BKF.