

WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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D. Norcross, K2DRN (asst.)

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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 – November 12th 2013

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, December 10th, 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.

Holiday Party

The December meeting is our annual holiday potluck party, contact Lance, KC2MTO lanceweight@comcast.net for details.

New Member

The club officers would like to present the following new member for consideration: John Gardner K2JZO

Upcoming Event – Radio Merit Badge Day

It is that time of year again, when we get to introduce our favorite hobby to a group of potential future hams (aka Boy Scouts). We will be holding the annual Radio Merit Badge class at The College of New Jersey, on January 10, 2015, from 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM. If you can help out, please contact Gary Wilson, KC2GW k2gw@optonline.net

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

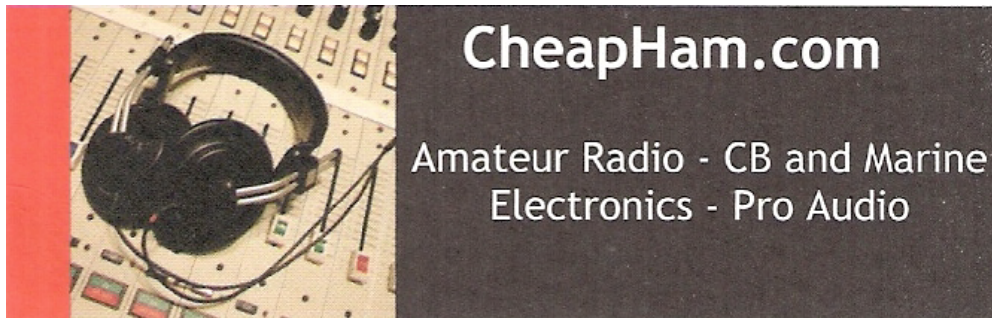
Don Wright, AA2F, periodically holds Technician and General classes.

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.

Website

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

Free Stuff!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm a sucker for free stuff. Below, you'll find links to a free transistor amplifier design program, a free printed circuit board design program, and a free tutorial on antennas. All of these look to be worth a look.

TransistorAmp 1.1

This is free software for designing bipolar transistor amplifiers. I found the link to this software (<http://en.transistoramp.de/>) on the AMRAD mailing list. Phil, M1GWZ, who posted the link, says, "A transistor circuit that I'm developing needed a 5x voltage gain stage. I could have thrown in a single op amp with split power rails and all that DIL8 real estate, but a single transistor stage would suffice. Trouble is, I'm an EE by inclination, not training, and all those calculations - working out those capacitor reactance values - well, I don't do them often enough for them to be easy. And I want voltage gain, not current. And then I found Transistor Amp 1.1."

"It's a nice piece of software," says Phil, "It installs easily and did the job for me quickly and easily. Oh, and when I built the circuit for real - voltage gain of 5x!"

[[NOTE: A screen shot of the software that you can use for the article can be found at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/specify-common-base-circuit.png>.....Dan]]

Altium CircuitMaker

CircuitMaker (<http://www.circuitmaker.com>) is a free printed circuit board design tool for hobbyists, people like you and me. Maxfield Parrish of EETimes says, "one key aspect of CircuitMaker is its intuitive and easy-to-use interface -- all of the important "stuff" is presented in an easily accessible manner in a ribbon at the top of the display. Another major consideration is that Altium has decided to make CircuitMaker all about "Community," so users can easily share ideas and designs, comment on designs and offer suggestions for improvement, and generally help each other along the way."

Free antenna tutorial

For a limited time, Rohde & Schwartz and the IEEE Communications Society are offering a free tutorial on Antenna Basics (<http://www.comsoc.org/form/tutorial-registration-antenna-basics>). This tutorial explains the basic functionality of an antenna, starting with Hertz's antenna model. It also includes a short introduction to the fundamentals of wave propagation, the important general characteristics of

an antenna and parameters, such as antenna gain, radiation pattern, bandwidth or VSWR. A more detailed explanation of the functionality of some selected antenna types (e.g. dipole or monopole) is also given.

Maik Reckeweg, Product Manager Antennas, Rohde & Schwarz GmbH, Munich, Germany, who is responsible for all the company's monitoring, measurement and communications antennas is the tutorial's.

The video is kind of dry, but I think Reckeweg does a pretty good job of discussing antenna basics. The video is also accompanied by a white paper that delves into these topics a little more completely. Overall, there's a bit more math than in most amateur radio discussions of antennas, but this makes the discussion a little more comprehensive.

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When not scouring the Internet for free stuff, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, working CW on 40m, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Logbook of The World

On December 1, 2014, Mike AB2IO reported the latest QSLs for W2ZQ logbook of the world were:

W2ZQ records as of Dec 1, 2014

ZP5CGL	2006-10-29 12:33:18	15M	SSB	21.24900	PARAGUAY
IN3VVK	2006-10-28 01:05:45	40M	SSB	7.01700	ITALY
MW0CRI	2008-03-02 16:51:11	20M	SSB	14.31550	WALES
EA1GA	2007-10-28 17:42:36	20M	SSB	14.16670	SPAIN

5446 matches out of 16557 QSLs submitted, so 32.9% matched to date.

November Meeting Minutes & Notes

DVRA MEETING NOTES

(not received in time for publication)