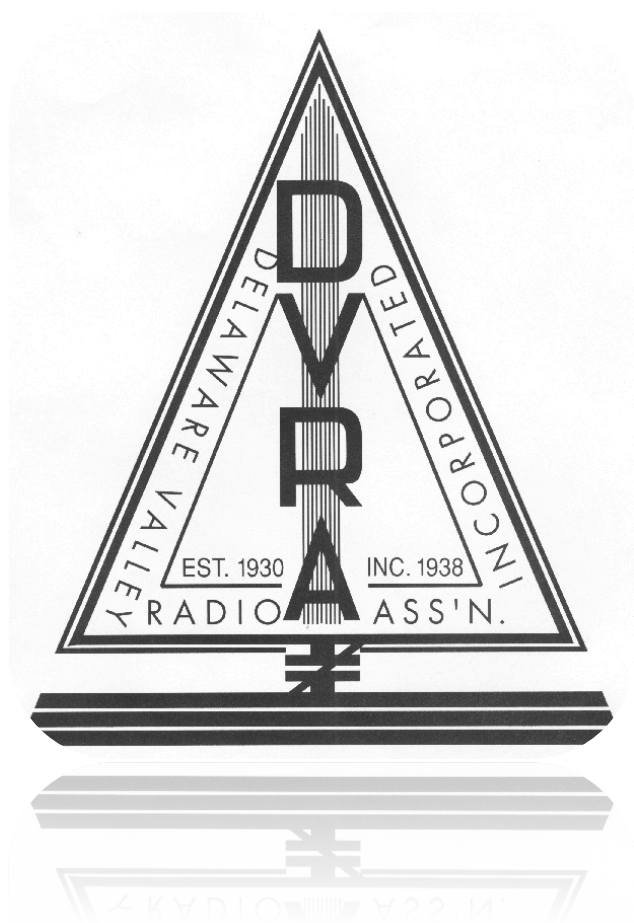


WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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M. Juza, KC2TGM

Hamfests

Open

Meeting – January 14th 2015

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, January 14th, 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.

New Member

The club officers would like to present the following new member for consideration: John C. Ottinger, KD2FIH

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

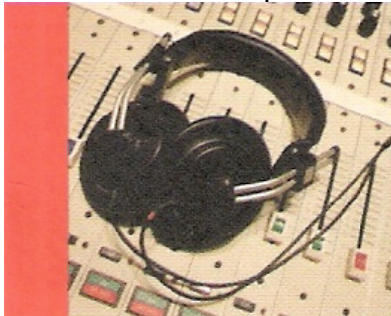
Don Wright, AA2F, periodically holds Technician and General classes.

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

Exam Schedule

January 17, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 12 and November 14. All are at 12:15 at the Hopewell (Township) Branch of the Mercer County Library at 245 Pennington-Titusville Road, midway between Route 31 and the Hopewell Valley Central High School. Please bring \$15, cash or a check made out to ARRL-VEC, and a photo identification - driver license, passport, etc. Contact Don/AA2F aa2f@arrl.net or 609-737-1723 for details.

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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

Website

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

Logbook of The World

On December 24, 2014, Mike AB2IO reported the latest QSLs for W2ZQ logbook of the world were:

W2ZQ records as of Dec 24, 2014

F5POJ	2007-11-24 16:46:04	20M	CW	14.07357	FRANCE
F5POJ	2007-10-28 14:17:00	15M	SSB	21.44000	FRANCE
F5POJ	2007-02-18 16:35:30	20M	CW	14.03300	FRANCE
LU8YE	2007-11-25 21:08:17	20M	CW	14.07750	ARGENTINA
LU8YE	2007-11-25 16:15:21	10M	CW	28.02201	ARGENTINA

5457 matches out of 16557 QSLs submitted, so 33.0% matched to date.

How do we promote better operating practices?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A lament that I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail saying, "I think there are too many hams out there that don't know how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is

certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something that we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the ARRL Operating Manual. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of the amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1 Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how to properly call CQ would help improve operating practices overall.

Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?

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When not worrying about the state of amateur radio operating practices, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

December Meeting notes (not received)