

WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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M. Juza, KC2TGM

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L. Weight, KC2MTO

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R. Kubinski, KC2PQC

DIRECTORS

Membership

L. Weight, KC2MTO

Radio Station

M. Juza, KC2TGM

Repeater Operations

L. Price, N2KPC

M. Juza, KC2TGM (asst)

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

R. Schroeder, N2HK (SK)

Web Service

M. Juza, KC2TGM

Hamfests

Open

Meeting – April 8th 2015

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

Mike Moreken, AB2IO, will be giving a presentation on contesting

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

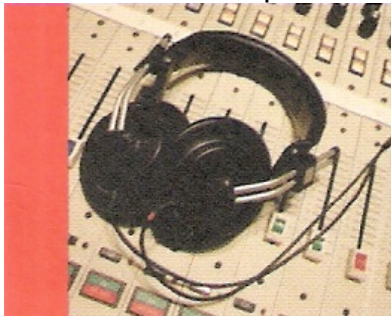
Don Wright, AA2F, periodically holds Technician and General classes.

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

Exam Schedule

January 17, March 21, May 9, 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 March 24, 2015, Mike AB2IO reported the latest QSLs for W2ZQ logbook of the world were:

W2ZQ records as of Mar 24, 2015

EC2AWD	2007-10-28	20:57:49	20M	SSB	14.29475	SPAIN
LU7YZ	2008-03-01	17:26:31	15M	SSB	21.29120	ARGENTINA
LW1HDJ	2006-10-28	20:56:13	10M	SSB	28.38000	ARGENTINA

5479 out of 16557 = 33.1% match

DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION MINUTES

At 6:45 pm, March 11, 2015, President Mark Juza KC2TGM opened the combined regular/director's meeting of the DVRA (based on requests from members, the regular and director's meeting are now held as one meeting) held at Our Lady of Good Council Church, West Trenton, Ewing, NJ.

MINUTES: Minutes are sent to the members via email. The February 2015 minutes were accepted as corrected. The Balance in February minutes includes the repeater fund

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Ron Kubinski KC2PQC said the balance is \$6660 (which is just barely enough to cover expenses like electricity, insurance, heating oil and basic shack repairs). The \$25 due for the NJ Business registration was paid. The monies set aside for the new Orion radio were paid to Ten-Tec. Hy Gold made a \$517 contribution to the funding of the Orion. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Vice President: Events the members can provide radio communications: On April 26 is the March of Dimes race; June 14 Tour de Cure; July 18-19 triathlon.

ACTIVITIES: Director needed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: No report.

PULICATIONS: No report.

SHACK: Co-directors Hy Gold and Lloyd Price: Hy reported that a new filter was installed on the heater; and the tank was filled.

THE RADIO STATION: Director Mark Juza said: The 440 was moved to the shack and is being tested. Lloyd Price put a new Discone antenna at the shack.

REPEATER: Director Rory reported that the club now has two new analog/digital YAESU DR-1X repeaters. (Gary Wilson K2GW bought one of the YAESU DR-1X repeaters at a cost of \$500 as a donation to DVRA.) Rory went on to say that he is looking forward to working with other members of the club who would like to assist and learn about the setup of the repeaters.

EDUCATION AND TESTING: EXAMS: Don Wright AA2F said there will be an exam session on 3/21 which he could use assistance.

WEB SITE: Bob Cardone KD2EIM is continuing to update our web site. He is looking for input and articles from members. Current events were discussed as an addition.

SCOUT SUPPORT: Gary Wilson said there is an opportunity to support the Scouts at the Scout Jamboree at Camp Ockinickin (sp) on April 24. Three areas will be emphasized: NOAA weather radio; direction finding; and HF radio with a station being setup.

Pi Day: March 14: 3/14/15: There will be a celebration in Princeton. An HF station will be operating at the Red Cross headquarters.

HAMFEST: Frank Paleck KC2TKD said that planning meetings will be kicked off shortly for this year's hamfest. He needs assistance from all members! The date is September 12. There was discussion about raffling an HF radio such as a FT-991 and/or System Fusion HT or mobile radio.

FIELD DAY: Lloyd Price is the FD committee head. He needs volunteers for a committee to plan this activity. A question is "Should we (DVRA) go back to Mercer County Park adjacent to Mercer County College as we have in the past?" Last year we operated from the yard at the shack.


CONTEST: Mark is still looking for input for the "Re-design of the interior of the shack Contest!". Winner(s) get a \$50.

PROGRAMS: Gary Wilson: We need speakers/programs.

BY-LAWS: Updating: Don made revision suggestions which will be posted on the website for comments.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:40 pm.
Submitted by: Lance E. Weight KC2MTO, Secretary, DVRA

R



peater Talk –

April 2015

This month's Repeater Talk article will focus on our clubs repeater roll out status and plans.

As you know the club is taking part in the rollout of the latest Yaesu System Fusion repeaters – first of all how about a bit of background on how they got to this point? Yaesu had a stroke of genius when they realized that they couldn't compete on price point against the recent flood of radios from the likes of Wouxun, Anytone or Baofeng and remain profitable with such a slim to nonexistent profit margin. So their product strategy was to change the game altogether by introducing a repeater into the market place that offered the benefits of both digital and analog to the users. This had the expected consequence of driving the sales of their equipment into the repeater, mobile and HT markets. What followed was very favorable pricing options for clubs that were looking to renew their repeaters and rejuvenate the membership base.

Recently the DVRA clubs was fortunate to have two members step up and buy gear for the club to use. That has allowed us to place on the air the 2 meter repeater using the existing antenna, feedline and duplexer. The results have been received with positive feedback and we are looking at changing it for the better in the near future.

The machines are currently set to allow either C4FM digital or traditional FM Analog users to take part. This is the key function that allowed Yaesu to begin gaining market share so quickly. Still you need to be certain to have your tone squelch set to 131.8 tone – as well if your radio has the option for a Busy Channel Lock Out – BCLO. The Tone Squelch will allow you to access the repeater to have your signal repeated as well as opening when appropriate your receiver. Normally the tone squelch would be transparent to you, however if by chance you are using a repeater and another user is taking advantage of the C4FM protocol you analog radio will hear the digital tone that is transmitting the voice. The BCLO will prevent you from inadvertently doubling over another user when mixed modes are active in a System Fusion machine.

The 440 machine is under test using a temporary antenna while the club explores options for renewing the installation. Initially we thought to use the South crank up tower and feedline, this turned out to be less than optimum! The range of the machine was less than 2 miles, this was primary due to undersized feedline that was most likely subjected to water intrusion. Regardless of the reasons we made the decision to shutdown the ICOM repeater and put off the commissioning of the new Yaesu 440 machine.

Hopefully we will have issues worked out over the coming month and the new 440 machine will come back onto the air in the West Trenton area. It may take a bit of effort to install feedline, and a tower but the energy is back and many are lending a hand with labor and/or funds.

As I have said before, if you are interested in the clubs repeater committee, drop me a note using my call at arrl.net

73 Rory NJ3U

Should we weep for amateur radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On an amateur radio mailing list that I subscribe to, one fellow wrote, "I weep for the state of amateur radio in the US, since this dispatch is apparently necessary..." He then pointed to an article on the ARRL website that reminded hams that while their local time may be switching to daylight time, Universal Coordinated Time did not change (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/change-local-clocks-this-weekend-but-not-utc>).

The implication, of course, was that we have dumbed down ham radio so much that a reminder like this was necessary.

This thread went on and on, eventually garnering 17 different replies. Before it morphed into a discussion of whether or not DST is a good idea in the first place, the replies echoed the sentiment in the original e-mail:

"It's become a push button, nanny state world, what do you expect, competence?"

"We are truly in a time of appliance operating, not only in ham radio, but in

practically every aspect of our lives. :-("

At first, I had the same reaction. I thought to myself, "How dumb are we getting in ham radio, if guys have to be reminded that UTC doesn't change when we switch to daylight savings time?" After thinking about this for a while, though, I've completely change my mind on this.

I work with a lot of newcomers to amateur radio, and many of them just don't know how UTC works. This is not their fault—they just haven't had the opportunity to deal with UTC. What these old timers (old farts?) didn't realize is that the ARRL article is not directed at them, but at the newcomers to ham radio.

I'll even go one step further. It's easy for us old-timers to be dismissive of newcomers' lack of knowledge, and then complain that amateur radio is getting dumber, but knee-jerk reactions don't usually help anyone involved. A much better approach would be to roll up your sleeves and teach them something. The only way newcomers are going to get to be old timers like us is if we help them learn stuff like this.

When not teaching newbies about UTC, 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.

STRAYS

Why is the concept of operating SPLIT still so tough in a world of so many DXCOPS to alert us to the violation !?

Stray de NJ3U

Please send me any of your own strays (but please no more black cats) to ab2rc@ab2rc.net

Fundraising

The DVRA is now participating in the AmazonSmile program; all purchases made thru AmazonSmile will result in 0.5% of your purchase being donated to the DVRA. Go to smile.amazon.com or the W2ZQ website for details.