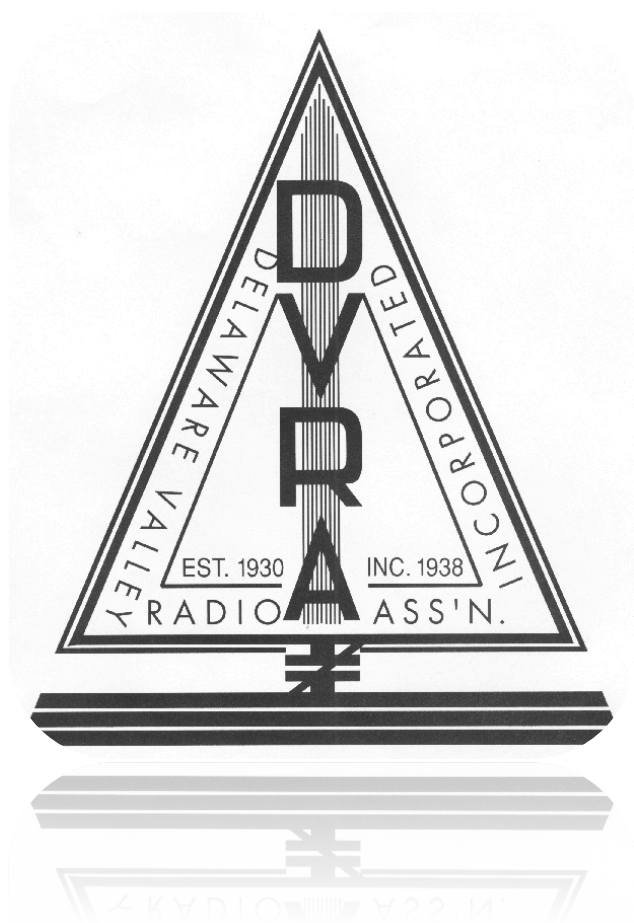


WIRELESS HILL BEACON

Delaware Valley Radio Association



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M. Juza, KC2TGM (asst)

Physical Plant

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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 – May 13th 2015

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 13th, 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

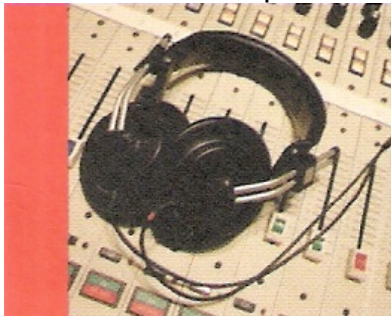
Don Wright, AA2F, periodically holds Technician and General classes.

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

Exam Schedule

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 April 23, 2015, Mike AB2IO reported the latest QSLs for W2ZQ logbook of the world were:

W2ZQ records as of April 23, 2015

7Z1SJ	2009-03-08	21:31:16	20M	SSB	14.24400	SAUDI ARABIA
7Z1SJ	2008-02-16	19:43:19	20M	CW	14.01931	SAUDI ARABIA
9K2K	2007-10-27	17:38:26	20M	SSB	14.20950	KUWAIT
9K2K	2008-03-01	13:45:44	20M	SSB	14.22107	KUWAIT

5498 matches out of 16557 QSLs submitted, so 33.2% matched to date.

DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION MINUTES

- not received in time for publication

STRAYS

My rechargeable batteries are revolting.

Please send any of your own strays 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.

New Member

The club officers would like to present the following new member for consideration: David L. McKay of Lambertville, NJ

What Would You Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

For the past three or four years, I've been threatening to buy a new radio to replace my ICOM IC-746PRO. The IC-746PRO is a great rig, though, and I've had trouble pulling the trigger on a \$3k – \$5k or more purchase. The radio that I've had my eye on is the Elecraft K3. Without a doubt the K3 is a better rig than the 746PRO, and it's certainly worth the price that Elecraft is asking. The question I keep asking myself, though, is, "Am I going to have \$5,000 more fun with a K3?"

To put it another way, the question is, assuming that I have a \$5,000 budget to spend on amateur radio gear over the next year or two or three, what's the best way to spend it? How can I maximize my purchases so that I have the most fun?

At this point, I think that I've decided not to buy that new rig and instead buy equipment that will help me make my own rigs. Some of the items that I have my eye on include:

- * Aoyue 968A+ SMD Digital Hot Air Rework Station (I have actually already purchased this unit.)
- * Rigol DS1102E 100MHz, Dual Channel, 1 GSa/s Digital Oscilloscope
- * Rigol DSA815-TG Spectrum Analyzer
- * A more professional workbench to replace the folding table that I'm currently using.
- * Peaberry SDR V2 Kit
- * More keys! I'd love to get a fancy Begali or N3ZN paddle, and the other day someone told me about the UR5CDX keys, which look like great deals.

Even if I purchased everything on this list, I'll have spent less than \$5,000.

One consequence of going this route is that I'll have less time for operating. I'm betting (hoping?) that the extra time spent on tinkering will be just as much fun, or even more fun than I'm having now.

It also means that I'll be going to Dayton with a much different mindset than I have the past couple of years. Instead of spending my time configuring the perfect K3 in my head, I'll be looking for kits and scouring the flea market looking for parts.

I may be overthinking this, but like most amateurs, I have a limited budget to spend on amateur radio. That being the case, making conscious decisions about how to spend that money should help me have more fun with ham radio, and

that's the goal, isn't it?

What do you think? Is this the right way to go, or am I going to regret this decision? If you've made a similar decision, I'd love to hear from you.

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When not making crucial decisions about his amateur radio career, 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.