

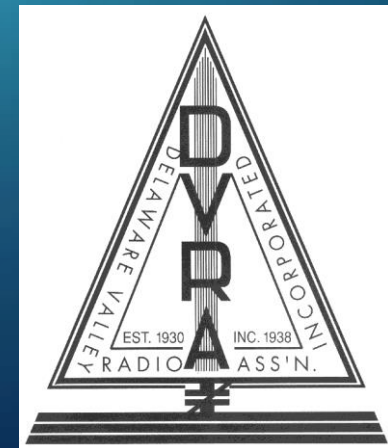


A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

GARY WILSON, K2GW — JOE JESSON, W2JEJ

A REMARKABLE JOURNEY

- It's rare for any Radio Club to exist for almost 100 years.
- It's important to know our history.
- It's important to embrace our future by building on our history.



THE BEGINNINGS

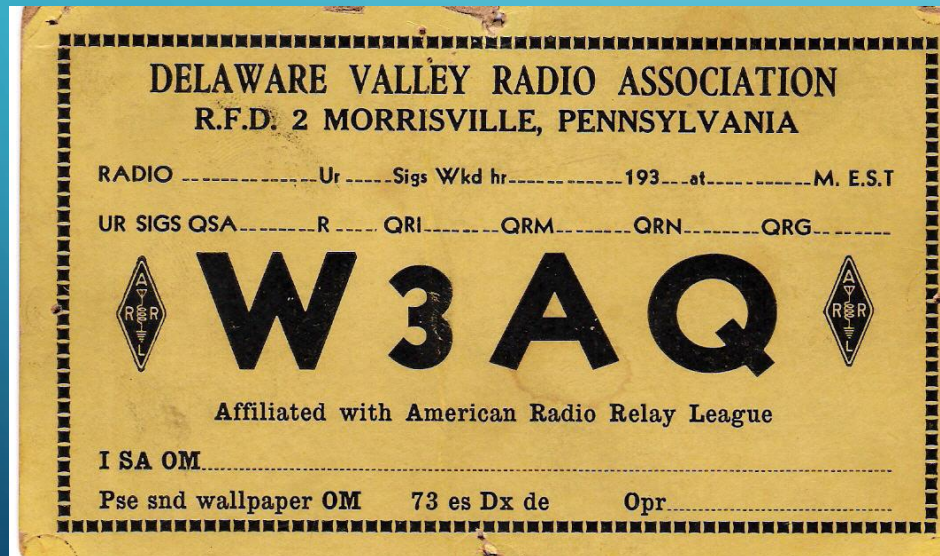
- Ed Raser, W2ZI Invites local hams and commercial radiomen to National Guard Armory to organize The Delaware Valley Radio Association in 1930.
- Incorporates 1931
- First Club License – W3AQ
- Affiliates with ARRL



THE BEGINNINGS

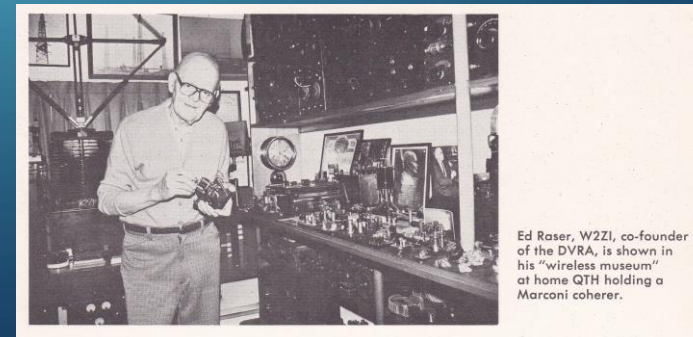
Club Station

- At a Pennsylvania Farm



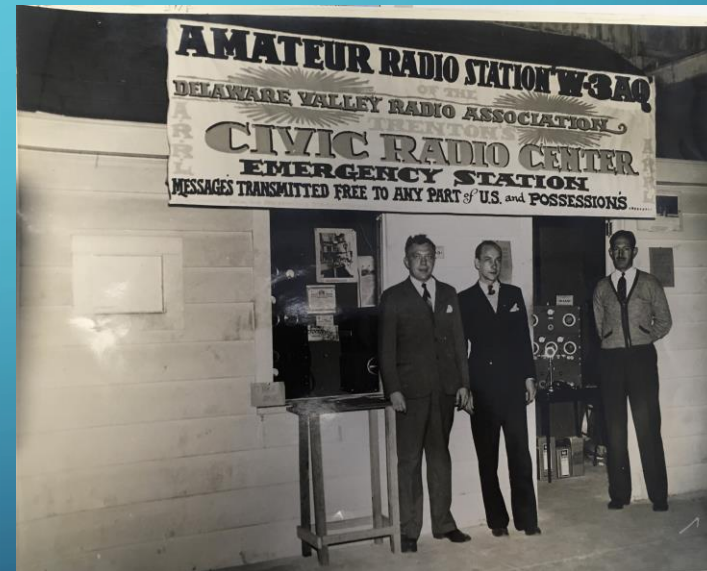
Member Highlight

- Ed Raser W2ZI – Born in Bordentown
- WW1 Radioman in USN at Cape May
- Establishes a Radio Station at Eggert's Crossing NG Armory listed in 1930.
- Helps put in first radios for NJSP
- Establishes Old Timers Club
- Noted Radio Historian



DEPRESSION & RECOVERY – THE 1930'S

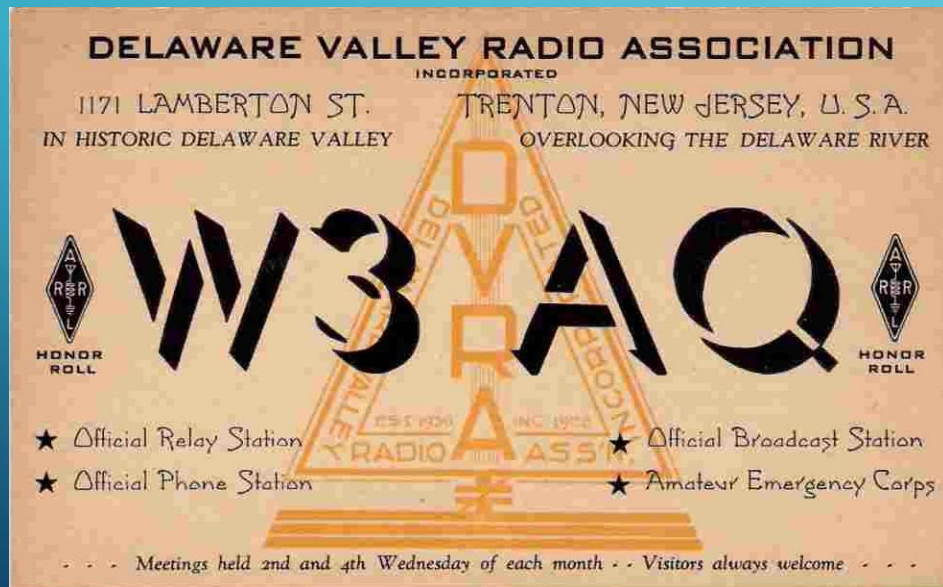
- Depression hits – Money Scarce
- Clubs ceases operations for a short time in mid 1930's
- Recovery occurs with new public events
- 1938 State Fair Message Booth publicizes club.
- "Rescue of Admiral Byrd" Lectures to raise money for a club building.
- Hamfest begun at Trenton State Fairgrounds
- Field Day starts in 1939, and we are there.



DEPRESSION & RECOVERY

Club Station

- Located at Trenton Yacht Club



Member Highlight

- Amory “Bud” Waite, W2ZK
 - USN Antarctic Radio Officer
 - Signal Corps Engineer
 - Antarctic Lecturer
 - Mapped Ice Caps with Radar Altimetry



DEPRESSION & RECOVERY

THE DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION
announces its

THIRD ANNUAL OUTING & HAMFEST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1939 (Rain Date Sunday, August 13, 1939)
10 A. M. till 8 P. M.

TRENTON STATE FAIR GROUNDS — TRENTON, N. J.
(The most popular and outstanding hamfest in the east)

BASEBALL — Annual game between the 2nd and 3rd Districts.

DANCING — Two orchestras — Continuous music — Professional entertainment "Big Jitterbug Contest."

BEER — Not limited as much as — **SODA POP** — For those who choose, sufficient supply.

EATS — Charcoal Roasted Hot Dogs — Variety of Tasty Sandwiches — Assorted fruits — Corn-on-Cob — Fancy Cake — Pickles — Olives — Etc., — Everything for the ideal Picnic Lunch.

GIFTS — For OM's — OT's — YL's — XYL's — SWL's — Etc., — Also Novelties for the little OM's and YL's.

(ONE ADMISSION PRICE NOTHING ELSE TO BUY)

ADMISSION PRICES

\$1.50 per person if purchased at the Gate.
\$1.25 per person if purchased before AUGUST 1, 1939.
\$.50 per child. (All children.)

Tickets available at various Radio Stores in and around the Metropolitan area. Also Club Treasurer — W3EUI 904 Edgewood Avenue, Trenton, N. J. and General Chairman W3GNU, 156 Stockton Street, Hightstown, N. J.

"A REAL TREAT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY"

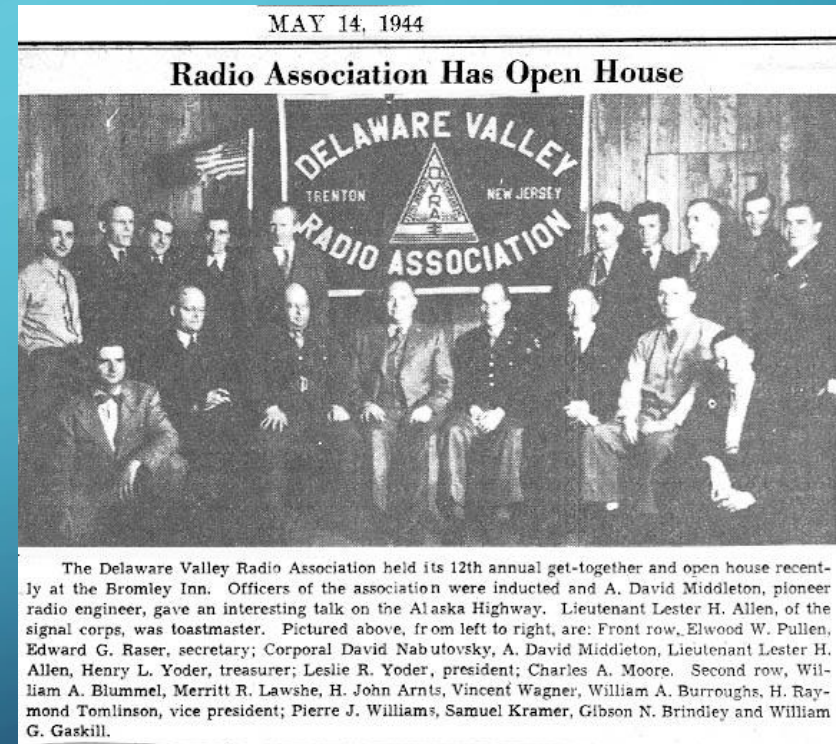
FOOD — FUN — FROLIC — FRIVOLITY

PLEASE QST THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE — "THANKS"



THE WAR – THE 1940'S

- War Interrupts on the air activities.
- Club station disassembled.
- Club members serve in Navy and Signal Corps.
- Club hosts meetings and talks



POST WAR BOOM

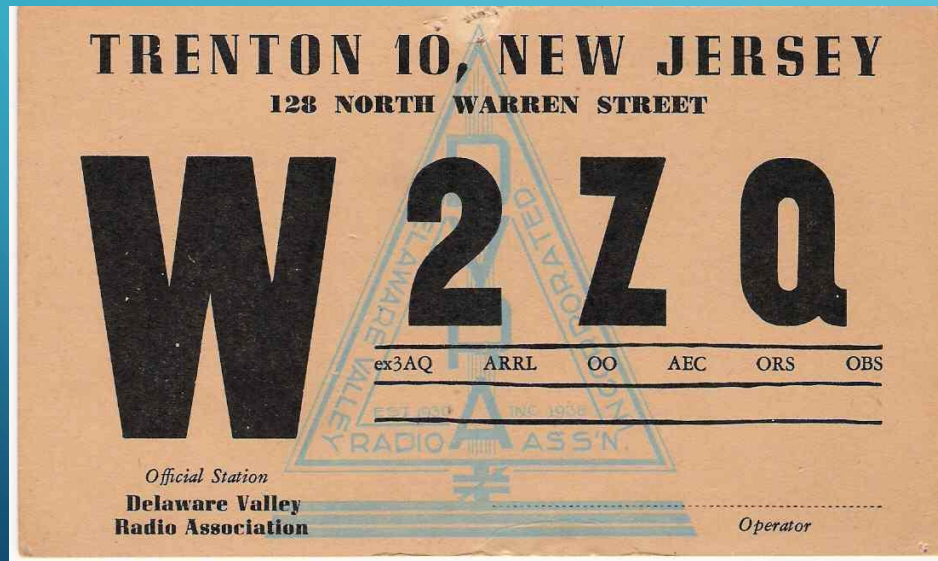
- FCC moves all of New Jersey to the Second Call Area.
- W3AQ thus becomes W2ZQ
- Club meets at Stacy Trent Hotel
- Starts Old Timers Night Banquet



POST WAR BOOM

Club Station

- Located at Izzy Marks's Garage



Member Highlight

- Sid Deitz, W2FDE
 - Establishes “The Pepper Net”

A PLACE OF OUR OWN- THE 1950'S

- Our long history of supporting Public Service pays off.
- Navy gives Trenton Naval Air Station to Mercer County in 1951.
- County CD/DC lets club use the acquired transmitter building in 1952 to establish an emergency communications station.



A PLACE OF OUR OWN

Club Station

- Located at Mercer County Airport



Member Highlight

- Les Allen, W3CCO
 - Club President
 - Radio Shop Owner
 - Allen & Hurley Radio Engineers
 - Signal Corps Lieutenant



A MAJOR EVENT – THE 1960'S

- Club moves it's Hamfest to Eggert's Crossing Armory.
- Largest Hamfest in East after Dayton.
- All of the parking at the armory and next-door NG HQ used for tailgaters!
- Inside of armory used for premium and commercial vendors.
- Cafeteria served breakfast and lunch
- Nets about \$10K in 1980 dollars.



A MAJOR EVENT

Club Station

- Located at Mercer County Airport

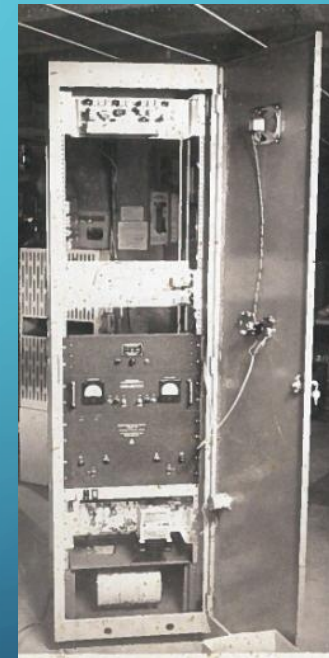


Member Highlight

- Harold Van Dyke, WA2YIA
 - Club President
 - Army Air Corps
 - RV Dealer

THE AGE OF MACHINES – 1970'S

- Migration of commercial VHF to narrow band makes wideband FM sets available.
- Club puts in four repeaters – 6M, Two on 2M, and 440.
- Technician members double club size.



THE AGE OF MACHINES

Club Station

- Located at Mercer County Airport

**AC2ZQ**
Trenton, New Jersey



In the spirit of the minuteman, today's radio amateur stands ready to provide communications when and where needed.

CONFIRMING CONTACT			
RADIO		DATE	GMT
MHZ	MODE	RST	WATTS

Delaware Valley Radio Association
QSL: Box 7024, West Trenton, NJ 08628

Operator.....

Member Highlight

- BB Wentzel, W2HK
 - Mercer County Radio Officer
 - PPPL Engineer



PEAK OPERATIONS – THE 1980'S

- Funding from Hamfest runs things
- Low dues encourages membership
- Message Booth at Quakerbridge Mall provides publicity
- HF station active in NTS
- Key link in Mexico City Earthquake
- Supports many public service events.




Frank Wildman, K3CPF,
DVRA's foremost traffic
man, at the W2ZQ HF
station during recent
holiday message center
operations.

PEAK OPERATIONS

Club Station

- Located at Mercer County Airport



50 Years of Amateur Radio

W2ZQ

REPEATERS
146.07/.67 MHz.
52.90/.70 MHz.

OFFICIAL
TRAFFIC STATION
BPL PSHR
RACES ARES

CONFIRMING QSO

RADIO	DATE	UTC	MHz.	MODE	RST	W2ZQ Operator

Delaware Valley Radio Association, Inc., Box 7024, Trenton, N. J. 08628

Member Highlight

- Frank Wildman, K3CPF
 - NTS Brass Pounder
 - Handled 1,000s of messages during Mexico City Earthquake

SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS IT IN FOR US – THE 1990'S


- 1991 Gulf War means armory no longer feasible.
- OEM moves from Scotch Road
- Club temporarily meets at Agricultural Office
- N2HX arranges for more convenient meeting place at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
- Hamfest attempts to continue at Tall Cedars Picnic Grove.
- Field Day becomes dominated by testers and stops.



SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS IT IN FOR US

Club Station

- Located at Mercer County Airport



50 Years of Amateur Radio

W2ZQ

REPEATERS
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RACES ARES

CONFIRMING QSO

RADIO	DATE	UTC	MHz.	MODE	RST	W2ZQ Operator

Delaware Valley Radio Association, Inc., Box 7024, Trenton, N. J. 08628

Member Highlight

- Don Wright, AA2F
 - Entomologist at American Cyanamid
 - Scout Leader
 - Training and VE Director
 - ARRL Instructor of the Year



RETRENCHMENT – THE 2000'S

- Loss of funding means dues increase
- Dues increase means loss of members.
- Cell phones reduce cachet of mobile radio.
- Some bright spots are:
 - HF & VHF Contesting at shack by K2QM and W2SNJ
 - Field Day revived post 9/11 at Mercer County Park as more of an emergency exercise and fun event.
 - Radio Merit Badge Day started in 2005.
- 2011 windstorm results in repeater tower damage.
- Club has to spend money in 2012 to remove damaged repeater tower.



RETRENCHMENT

Club Station

- Located at Mercer County Airport



Member Highlight

- Bob Schroeder, N2HX
 - NJ OEM Radio Officer
 - FEMA EMP Expert
 - ARRL Cover Plaque Winner
 - Club President



DIGITAL REBIRTH – 2010'S

- Longtime President Bob Schroeder N2HX passes away.
- Club Trustee Ed Vickner K2SNK also passes away.
- Yaesu announces System Fusion.
- New President Mark Juza KC2TGM interested in it
- He and Gary Wilson K2GW donate new System Fusion repeaters to the club.
- New digital repeaters attract new members.



DIGITAL REBIRTH

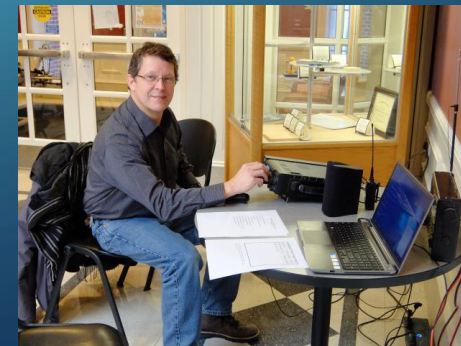
Club Station

- Located at Mercer County Airport



Member Highlight

- Mark Juza, KC2TGM
 - System Fusion Advocate
 - Sailor and Pilot
 - Initiated Repeater Upgrade
 - Initiated Shack Upgrade



DREAM SHACK

- New members brought in by repeaters discover the old shack.
- Club repairs HF tower rotator in June 2016
- This inspires gutting and refurbishment of shack in time for 2016 NJ QSO Party led by Mark, Dom, and Rory. “Painter Bob”, Hy & Gary, and “Motorcycle Mike” handle subprojects.
- South tower VHF/UHF array replaced with HF beam from Ed Vickner’s estate in October.
- Regular shack hours established to encourage visitation and use.



REACHING A HIGHER LEVEL

- Refurbished shack revives interest.
- New Tractor Shed donated by Hy Gold, AB2VG – 2016
- New 2 Meter Repeater Tower Installation led by Rory Shaffer, NJ3U and Frank Palecek, KC2TKD -2017
- Gary Wilson, K2GW & Bruce Wortmann, N3IA move 440 Repeater to Channel 52 TV Tower - 2017



BRANCHING OUT – 2020'S

- New Shack gets even more members.
- Larger membership means club is self-financing
- Larger membership expands breadth of activities – It's All Ham Radio!
 - More Contests
 - Battle of Trenton and Battle of Princeton Special Events - 2018
 - Foxhunts 2019
 - Kit building 2020
 - JOTA and TCNJ Youth Activities
 - EME 2020
 - Digital Modes 2021
 - Just hanging out at the shack!



KEY LESSONS

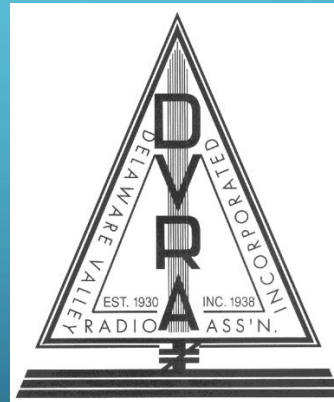
- Adapt, Improvise, Overcome
- Make everyone feel welcome and needed.
- Embrace new topics. It's all Ham Radio!
- A broad range of interests ensures a large membership.
- A large membership means more activity leaders and stable financing.



“

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC. SHALL BE WHOLLY EDUCATIONAL, LITERARY, AND SCIENTIFIC; TO PROMOTE GOOD WILL BETWEEN ASSOCIATED PERSONS OF THE RADIO ART AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC; AND BY LOCAL ACTION TO FURTHER THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE.

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Fun, Fellowship, and Service for Amateur Radio Operators