



THE WIRELESS HILL BEACON

The monthly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Radio Association
P.O. Box 7024
West Trenton, NJ, 08628-0024



June 2008

OFFICERS

President
M. Bospalko, N2KIV
Vice President
D. Wright, AA2F
Secretary
S. Antane, N8MQU
Treasurer
S. Huston, KC2NYS

DIRECTORS

Membership
S. Huston, KC2NYS
Radio Station
D. Marlow, K2QM
Repeater Operations
R. Schroeder, N2HX
Physical Plant
H. Gold, AB2VG
Public Information
T. Bagdas, NU2I
Training & Examinations
D. Wright, AA2F

Web Service
S. Huston, W2SRH

Hamfests
Unassigned

Publications
M. Bospalko, N2KIV

Programs
G. Wilson, K2GW

Immediate Past President
D. Wilmore, W0YMV

DVRA's Next Meeting...

The regular monthly meeting will be held at **7:30 PM** on **Wednesday, June 11th**, 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.

All are welcome!

This Month's Program:

The DVRA meeting on will feature our own Dan Marlow, K2QM, giving a history of Field Day and explaining the DVRA's plan for the nation's largest annual Amateur Radio event at the end of June. Field Day is an interesting blend of emergency exercise, contest, picnic and camp-out, but it all adds up to a lot fun!

What's in this Issue:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Meeting Announcement | Page 1 | June 2008 Activities & Events | Page 6 |
| Association Calendar | Page 2 | Balanced Lines | Page 8 |
| General Meeting Minutes | Page 3 | What's Happening at N2ARC? | Page 9 |
| Director's Meeting Minutes | Page 4 | Supporting Sponsors | Page 10 |
| Director's Reports | Page 4 | | |

Association Calendar

2008 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| January 9 | April 9 | July 9 | October 8 |
| February 13 | May 14 | August 13 | November 12 |
| March 12 | June 11 | September 10 | December 10 |

The Directors Meetings are on the same date as the General Meetings above. However, the Directors Meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the club shack. Talk-in available on the 146.67 (PL 131.8) repeater.

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASSES

Don Wright, AA2F, periodically holds Technician classes. Classes are held at various locations. Call Don at 609-737-1723 to register.

VE TESTING SCHEDULE

2008 VE Testing Schedule:

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| January 12 | July 19 |
| March 15 | September 13 |
| May 17 | November 15 |

All exams start at 12:15 PM sharp!
Testing is at the Hopewell Township Branch of the Mercer County Library, 245 Pennington-Titusville Road, Pennington, except for the November 15th exams, which will be at a place to be announced.
Contact Don Wright, AA2F, 609-737-1723 or aa2f@arrl.net for exam information.

2-METER & 70-CM NETS

2-Meter Nets: All of the following are conducted on the club's 146.67 repeater.

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| The Pepper Net, | 10:00 PM Daily, | |
| Mercer Co. Emergency Net, | 7:30 PM Tuesdays, | KB2EGI, coordinator. |
| SKYWARN Operation | As Required | |

70-cm Nets: All of the following are conducted on the club's 442.65 repeater.

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| The Pepper Net, | 9:00 PM Daily, |
|-----------------|----------------|

2008 FUND RAISERS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| DVRA Hamfest | Sunday, April 20th, rain or shine at the Mercer County Ice Rink |
| DVRA Craft Show | TBD |

The Wireless Hill Beacon is the monthly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Radio Association. P.O. Box 7024, West Trenton, New Jersey 08628-0024.

Internet: <http://www.w2zq.com>

The editor is T. Mark Bepalko, N2KIV (ymbepalko@aol.com). Submissions are welcome from members and others, preferably by e-mail as a text or Word file. The deadline is midnight on the 20th of each month for the next month's issue; publication of items submitted after that date is not guaranteed.

May Minutes of the General Membership Meeting May 14, 2008

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church,
W. Trenton, NJ

This general meeting of the Delaware Valley Radio Association (DVRA) was called to order by President T. Mark Bepalko, N2KIV at 1930.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESIDENT

T. Mark Bepalko, N2KIV opened the floor for discussion of membership dues increase. **The current proposal is to increase new membership application to \$50, \$45 for annual membership renewal and \$35 for student/senior citizen renewals. These proposed increases would be voted on at the July 9th meeting so mark your calendars.**

Mark also announced there is still a portion of the grounds surrounding the DVRA shack that could be cleared. Tom Bagdas, NU2I, director of Public Information has identified someone to remove the dilapidated white storage container (and associated junk) from the property. Bob Schroeder, N2HX mentioned the gas tank could use some improvement as well.

Mark noted the association membership is not attracting as many new hams to DVRA functions. He stressed how traditional fundraisings such as the HAMFEST have lost some ground to sales on eBay. So the DVRA will be looking at new ways to expand our 'outreach activities' in the future. Send your suggestions for fundraisers to the appropriate DVRA director or officer.

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

Stephanie Huston, KC2NSY reported there are 80 active hams in the DVRA (62 of which currently pay dues). Email reminders went out to those who have yet to pay. One application for membership was received from **Mark Juza, KC2TGM** will be voted on at our next meeting.

TREASURER

Stephanie Huston, KC2NSY reviewed the budget for the remainder of 2008. Proceeds from the Hamfest and purchase of a new Coffee pot and refreshments have left us with \$ 4,768.17. Pending payments to utilities, electrical repair, holiday party, shack renovations and field day expenses

will bring the balance down to \$348.61. Stephanie will look into the possibility of using PayPal account with the W2ZQ website to enable online payment of DVRA dues and fund donations. A fundraiser Craft Show is scheduled for November 15th so please mark your calendars now. In addition, there is advertising space available in the newsletter. The treasurer's report was voted on and accepted.

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Gary Wilson, K2GW mentioned the demonstration to be given at the Haldeman Ford dealership on Route 33 in Hamilton on Saturday May 17th from 10AM to 2PM. The Nottingham Ambulance Squad and other EMS personnel will be there with the Red Cross blood drive. Gary and Mark (N2KIV) reiterated upcoming events starting with the American Diabetes Association bike tour on Saturday, June 14th, which is a full day operation. More than a dozen hams volunteered last year. We would like to have more this year for the SAG wagon and a 'shadow.' In addition as a reminder the forth weekend in June is our own **DVRA sponsored Field Day in June, which runs the weekend of the 27-28-29.**

DIRECTOR OF TESTING & EXAMINATIONS

Don Wright, AA2F stated the next scheduled examinations are June 20th. Looking far ahead the scheduled location for November 15th examinations may be moved from the library, which is hosting a book sale to perhaps the Craft show in Montgomery.

POST MEETING PRESENTATION

Tim Reeg, K1TFR showed the skillful way to tie a number of different knots with ropes. These techniques will be put to good use during Field Day and of course is of practical use in other non-amateur activities as well.

Submitted,
Schuyler Antane, N8MQU
Secretary, DVRA

May Minutes of the Director's Meeting May 14, 2008

The directors meeting of the Delaware Valley Radio Association (DVRA) was called to order by President T. Mark Bepalko, N2KIV at 1850.

President T. Mark Bepalko, N2KIV expressed concern over the budget and association membership and fundraising ideas.

Treasurer Stephanie Huston, KC2NSY explained the remaining budget for 2008. The hamfest raised \$746 to bring the balance to roughly \$4,914. Current invoices from lightening rod work, utilities and electrical work on shack bring the balance down to \$2,249. Estimated expenditures for the remainder of the year will deplete the budget to roughly \$349. This estimate does not include estimated profit/loss from the craft show this year.

Stephanie detailed current fundraising drives, which included advertising in the association newsletter "the Beacon," (\$75/2 years), Hamfest, Craft show, and coffee fund. In addition the idea

of a 'super 50/50' was floated. Bob Schroeder, N2HX mentioned the state license process required. Stephanie indicated we could get around some of that via a Trenton Thunder fundraiser,

Director of Membership Stephanie Huston, KC2NSY summarized the association's membership roster. It totals 80 active hams, of which 62 are paying dues. It had been as high as 120 members. Those whose membership lapsed have been e-mailed and will receive a post card reminder. Director of Programs, Gary Wilson, K2GW mentioned using the ARRL database to round up other area hams for upcoming meetings. An additional suggestion to enable membership dues payment or fund donations via the Internet through the W2ZQ website was made. Director OF Physical Plant, Hy Gold, AB2VG indicated he had a Pay Pal account but would not open another one.

Treasurer Stephanie Huston, KC2NSY talked about craft show on November 15th at Montgomery school. She will look into additional classroom availability for use in ham license examinations.

Submitted,
Schuyler Antane, N8MQU
Secretary, DVRA

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Membership, S. Huston, KC2NYS

Just a reminder that dues is due. Dues for 2008 is \$35, seniors & student may take a \$10 discount if they choose.

Radio Station, D. Marlow, K2QM

There is nothing new to report on the radio station this month.

Repeater Operations, R. Schroeder, N2HX

The only thing to report on the repeaters is that they work. No word on when we can get a work party together to put the old CAT onto the Icom 440 repeater, nor is there any word when Steve is going to hook up the DVR to the .67 repeater. Hy purchased a new 12 v battery for the repeaters. They have been installed..

Continued on Page 5

Director's Reports, Continued from Page 4

Physical Plant, H. Gold, AB2VG

Second Saturday: May 10 was a Second Saturday work program. Most of the work involved mowing the lawn (or fields, if you will!) where grass and brush had grown to six feet or more. Tom Distelkamp, KC2GYC donated a Craftsman Lawn Tractor along with the loan of a heavy duty gas-driven brush cutter, without which we really couldn't have accomplished much. As it is, with three hours of continuous mowing with the tractor, we cleared only about 75% of the North Field (the guyed tower) and maybe 50% of the South Field (crank up tower). Follow-up: The brush cutter was originally a loan; since then, Tom has decided to contribute it. So now we have everything we need to keep our pasture mowed. Also, Gerry N2GJ has kindly donated his father's old mower, which we can use to trim the lawn around the shack.

Subsequently, Tom NU2I and I came back to finish clearing the grass and brush from all of the North field and as much of the South field as we need to keep clear. We also observed that the grass grows briskly and we're going to need to cut it every 2 weeks or it will quickly get out of control.

Mark KC2SMS and Dave K2DRN did further mowing on Friday May 30, during which time the drive belt broke. I called KC2GYC to ask his advice and he said he would come over in a couple of days and install a replacement belt. I don't know what we would do without him.

It's going to take at least 30 man hours per summer to keep the grass mowed. Anyone who could help out with this on a regular basis would be tremendously helpful. Contact me at hygold@comcast.net or 609-392-6748 Tom NU2I will tell you that driving the tractor is a gas!

Shack Lighting: Dan K2QM and I installed a new pair of fluorescent fixtures over the operating positions. Center pair were replaced 2 years ago; third pair are old but seem to be OK.

When you enter the shack, the RIGHTMOST switch activates the contactor (which supplies power to the breaker panel in the far corner). It MUST be on. Then the second switch from the left will turn on the lights. I learned this the hard way.

The property is full of poison ivy; BE CAREFUL. I will be spraying as much of the fence as I can.

The next Second Saturday for shack maintenance is July 12 at 9AM. Please try to turn out. We will complete the outdoor work (shouldn't be too much to do by now). It's critically important that we MOUSE-PROOF the shack, which is our new #1 priority.

Training & Examinations, D. Wright, AA2F

I will be starting a Technician Class course on Friday June 20th in Pennington. The next exams are July 19th. Reminder: the Extra Class questions will be changed as of July 1st.

Web Service, S. Huston, W2SRH

Nothing to report this month.

Continued on Page 7

JUNE 2008 Activities & Events

June

| Date | Day | Time | Event | Location | Town | Contact |
|------|-----|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------|
| 9 | Mon | 7:00 PM | SkyWarn Training | Dempster Fire School | Lawrenceville | N0TAZ |
| 11 | Wed | 7:30 PM | DVRA Meeting | Our Lady of Good Counsel | West Trenton | N2KIV |
| 14 | Sat | 8:00 AM | ADA Tour de Cure | Educational Testing Service | Hopewell | N2KIV |
| 17 | Tue | 7:30 PM | DSRC Meeting | Sarnoff Corp | Princeton | KC2IMI |
| 27 | Fri | 2:00 PM | Field Day Set Up | Mercer County Park | West Windsor | K2QM |
| 28 | Sat | 9:00 AM | Field Day | Mercer County Park | West Windsor | K2QM |
| 29 | Sun | 12:00 AM | Field Day | Mercer County Park | West Windsor | K2QM |
| 30 | Mon | 7:15 PM | Red Cross Net | CNJ Red Cross Chapter | Princeton Jct | N2GJ |
| 30 | Mon | 7:30 PM | RACES Net | Dempster Fire School | Lawrenceville | KB2EGI |

2008 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

Although some of these activities are still months out, put them on your calendar and plan on getting involved:



Tour de Cure

Saturday, June 16th
ETS Campus, Princeton, NJ
Mark, N2KIV & Darryl, N2JVP Event Coordinators



Memory Walk

Typically last Sunday in September



1 DAY 1 CAUSE 1 GOAL

Step Out to Fight Diabetes

Typically first Sunday in October.

2008 CONTESTS COMING UP:



Make sure that your calendar has time set aside for the last weekend of June for Field Day.

Director's Reports, Continued from Page 5

Hamfests, M. Bepalko, N2KIV—Temporary Director

HAMFEST DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

ARRL Repeater Directory: Christopher Esser, KC2RGW

ARRL Operating Manual (9th ED): Gary Wilson, K2GW

ARRL Antenna Book (20th ED): Daniel Marlow, K2QM

XL Polo with SKYWARN logo: Peter Grassel, KB3OIC

Water Resistant Jacket with SKYWARN logo: Randy Martino, KC2COB

ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications 2006 (83rd ED): Charles Davison, K2DPS

ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications 2006 (83rd ED): Robert Van Ness, N2AF

ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications 2007 (84th ED): Martin Harriss, KB2JYZ

XL Polo with ARRL logo: Dharma Prasad Agrahar, AB3EH

Publications, M. Bepalko, N2KIV

Nothing to report.

Public Information, T. Bagdas, N2UI

DVRA was represented By Mark Smith and myself at May 17,2008 Nottingham Rescue Squad Day at Haldeman Ford Route 33 in Hamilton. It pays to show up I won an iPod in raffle. July 27,2008 is the NJ Triathlon at Mercer County Park. They are offering \$\$\$ for volunteers, could be good fundraiser for club.

Programs, G. Wilson, K2GW

The Second Saturday Series continued on May 10th with a shack work party. The new riding tractor and brush cutter got a good work out and the generator was tested for field day. The junk previously cleaned out of the shack was removed from the property. Our May meeting on May 14th featured Tim Reeg, K1TFR, as explaining "Ropes and Knots for the Radio Amateur",

We have lots of opportunity for fun in June:

Skywarn training will be held at the Dempster Fire School at 7 PM on Monday June 9. N0TAZ is coordinating it

Our regular club meeting on June 11 will feature Dan Marlow, K2QM describing the history of Field Day and DVRA's plans for this years event.

The June Second Saturday event is communications support for the ADA Tour de Cure Bikeathon led by Mark, N2KIV. Interested and hams should contact him and report to the ETS Headquarters in Lawrenceville at 7 AM on June 14

Field Day will be held from 9 AM on Saturday June 28 until 4 PM Sunday June 29 at the Skating Rink in Mercer County Park. There will also be an antenna setup party there on Friday afternoon June 27. Dan, K2QM will lead it.

Balanced Lines June 2008

Bob Schroeder, N2HX ©2008

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

Everyone knows that water turns to steam at or about 212 degrees Fahrenheit. On May 14 of last month, a College of New Jersey coed tried to test that theory. Said student accidentally spilled water onto the keyboard of her laptop computer. In an effort to dry out the inside of her computer, she reasoned that she could heat the water past its boiling point and make the computer operational again by evaporating the water. To accomplish this, she decided to put the laptop on top of the stove, light the burner, and boil the water away. While her logic was sound, her method was flawed. Upon heating, the case of the computer and its contents began to melt creating plumes of smoke- smoke which no doubt contained a variety of toxic substances. The house thus filled with smoke, the hysterical student called 911 which resulted in a district-wide fire response (a.k.a. an "all call"). When the fire apparatus arrived, they saw one of our police officers emerge from the dwelling carrying the smoldering remains of the laptop.

A far less incendiary way to boil off the water would have been to put the computer in a vacuum. The water would have evaporated without the application of heat.

TO BE OF USE

Recently, I found this poem by Marge Piercy. I thought it was apropos of Amateur Radio in general, and of our club in particular. The title of this poem is To Be of Use.

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a
heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move
things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

All for now.
Comments invited.

Bob Schroeder, N2HX
Past President, DVRA

WHAT'S GOING ON AT N2ARC?

Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ

◆ News From ARRL HQ

American Red Cross Responds to ARRL Concerns Regarding Background Checks

In November 2007, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote to the American Red Cross (ARC) regarding concerns voiced by ARRL volunteers. In 2006, the Red Cross stated it would implement background checks that included, among other things, a credit check and a "mode of living" check for its staff and volunteers, including ARES volunteers providing services to the Red Cross during disasters. ARRL saw these portions of the background check as unneeded and inappropriate for ARES service.

In a letter dated May 8 of this year, Armond T. Mascelli, ARC Vice President for Disaster Response Services replied to President Harrison: "I can now report back to you that [these] actions have been completed and changes have been instituted which I trust resolves the concerns detailed in your letter. This effort took considerably more time and attention than originally envisioned, but I believe the results will now benefit our respective organizations.

"A new background consent form now [is] to be used by all Red Cross chapters for ARRL members and other partner organizations. The form and related process is limited to the name and social security number verification of the individual, and a criminal background check. References and suggestions to other related investigative possibilities have been stricken."

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, announced the resolution at the ARRL ARES forum at the Dayton Hamvention® and received hearty applause.

"We are very pleased that the American Red Cross has addressed some of the issues that we raised regarding their background investigations and that we can move forward in a relationship that has existed for a long, long time," Harrison said. "The American Red Cross and the ARRL have shared a productive relationship for many years which has been of benefit to both the organizations and to the public. We are glad that throughout the past months we have been able to negotiate the issues that we had and have finally come to a resolution."

What's Next?

With the background check issue apparently resolved, the ARRL will be working with the ARC in the negotiation and creation of a draft for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or similar document to replace the one which expired last year; Dura and Keith Roberatory of the ARC will be leading the effort. When complete, the draft of the MOU will be presented to the leadership of both organizations for approval.

"The ARRL is very pleased that the American Red Cross has responded appropriately to our concerns about the background check issue," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We believe it now will be possible to go forward to negotiate a statement of understanding between the two organizations. We look forward to renewing and expanding the relationship with the Red Cross."

ASSOCIATION SUPPORT NEEDED

The DVRA needs a storage shack for the lawn mower. If you know a manager in a large home / repair / construction retail outlet (like Home Depot, Ricket's and the like) please contact the president about approaching them for a donation. The DVRA is a valid non-profit organization, so they do get the tax benefits for helping us.



Supporting Sponsors



**TOM'S
MOWER REPAIR**

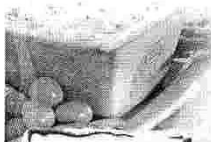
REPAIR TUNE-UPS SHARPENING

ALL MAKES AND MODELS REPAIRS DONE ON SITE

**SNOW BLOWERS • LAWN MOWERS
CHAINSaws • EDGERS**

609.306.0441

EAT. PARTY. SHOP. What's not to love?



Tastefully Simple offers over 30 easy-to-prepare gourmet foods you and your friends can taste before you buy. Contact me for more information.

STEPHANIE HUSTON #43713
Tastefully Simple Independent Consultant
215-736-0934 ~ tastefully_yours@hotmail.com
www.tastefullysimple.com/web/shuston

**TASTEFULLY
SIMPLE**

The food you love, by some yardsticks™

Phone: (609) 888-3400
Fax: (609) 888-1878

MARY E. MOON, V.M.D.
HAMILTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

18 EAST PARK AVENUE
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY 08610