



THE WIRELESS HILL BEACON

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



November 2009

OFFICERS

President

M. Bepalko, N2KIV

Vice President

D. Norcross, K2DRN

Secretary

J. Sundra, W3ZLP

Treasurer

R. Kubinski, KC2PQC

DIRECTORS

Membership

T. Reeg, K2TFR

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. Bepalko, 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, November 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:

GDMSS – Maritime Radio Communications for the 21st Century

The presentation speaker will be our own Gary Wilson, K2GW.

The **Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS)** is an internationally agreed-upon set of safety procedures, types of equipment, and communication protocols used to increase safety and make it easier to rescue distressed ships, boats and aircraft.

What's in this Issue:

Meeting Announcement	Page 1	Supporting Sponsors	Page 9
Association Calendar	Page 2		
Director's Monthly Reports	Page 3		
Nominations Due	Page 4		
Saturday's Work Party	Page 4		
General Meeting Minutes	Page 5		
Director's Meeting Minutes	Page 5		
Balanced Lines	Page 6		
Scenes from the Tower Drop	Page 8		

Association Calendar

2009 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

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

2009 VE Testing Schedule:

January 17	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.
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.

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

The Pepper Net, 9:00 PM Daily,

2009 FUND RAISER

DVRA Hamfest Sunday, April **TBD**, rain or shine at the Mercer County Ice Rink

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 (tmbespalko@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.

OFFICER'S & DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS

Treasurer, R. Kubinski, KC2PQC

The club currently has \$1957 in the account. Also, does anyone know what our sponsors with advertisements in the newsletter have contributed in the past?

Membership, T. Reeg, K2TFR

It's that time of year again! Please clearly mark any envelopes on the outside with "Dues" so they can be set aside for me. I am recommending to the Directors that the key lock on the shack be changed after January, once dues are paid and I have complete member roster.

Radio Station, D. Marlow, K2QM

No report received, per se, but actively involved in the repeater tower issues.

Repeater Operations, R. Schroeder, N2HX

The 2m machine is temporarily operating on the old dual-band repeater control receiver antenna on the orange and white tower. If WB2HHH doesn't find his diplexer soon (so we can run both repeaters on the dual band antenna mentioned above), I'll try to re-install our 440 Stationmaster on the stub of the old repeater tower. I could move the 440 repeater here to my office, but keeping it at the shack would be easier.

At the RACES symposium yesterday I learned that my friend Bill Powell, WB1GOT, from Hunterdon Co. OEM is the repeater coordinator for this area. He is going to send me forms so that the DVRA can update its repeater information. The ARRL Repeater Directory has some incorrect data in it because the previous coordinator never gave our info to the book's editor.

The conversion of 442.650 to D-Star is still on the table, pending the access to my grant money. As for accepting N3IA's offer to move the 442.65 repeater to one of the block houses at the channel 52 tower, a couple of things have to happen. First, I have to sweep the donor antenna (formerly used by WOR) to see if it works. Then the club would have to file to re-coordinate with WB1GOT. That's a project for the distant future.

Physical Plant, H. Gold, AB2VG

The 100' repeater tower, which had been damaged in the windstorm of August 1, was successfully lifted by crane and dropped to the ground on Thursday, October 30. The project went smoothly and took about 2 hours. Many thanks to the dozen members who turned out to participate.

The two meter repeater is now operating on the antenna mounted on the medium height tower located at the rear of the shack. The 440 repeater is temporarily out of service.

The next Second Saturday work party will be on November 14, 9AM, at the shack. We'll probably have a lot to do getting ready for winter. I'll prepare a list in about a week; please let me know of items which you'd like to have included.

Public Information, T. Bagdas, N2UI

Nothing to report this month.

Training & Examination, D. Wright, AA2F

I have a one-person Technician Class course in progress. Exams will be given November 14th at the Pennington Presbyterian Church.

Web Service, S. Huston, W2SRH

Nothing to report this month.

Programs, G. Wilson, K2GW

I was trying to get the SM to speak but haven't got confirmation. So list the November meeting program as a presentation by me on "GDMSS – Maritime Radio Communications for the 21st Century".

There's a work party at the shack this Saturday. December is the Membership Director's Christmas party so no program.

Nominations for Officers Due November 11th

If you are interested in becoming an Officer of the DVRA, you need to be nominated by the end of the General Meeting on November 11th. This is a requirement to insure that the correct nominations list is published in the December newsletter. Norberto, NY8N is the chairman of this years' nomination committee, and you can let him know before the meeting. However, you can also self nominate during the meeting. But, once the meeting is closed, so are the nominations.

Of specific interest, as this is his second term, the President is prohibited in seeking another term by the DVRA's Bylaws. If you believe that you can offer a new and exciting direction for the DVRA through service by being elected President, then, please run for the position.

And, we don't have enough time to change the bylaws before the elections... nice try!

Upcoming Second Saturday Work Party, November 14th

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is next Wednesday, November 11, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Ewing. Three days later we have a Work Party at the Shack. Weather forecast looks outstanding.

The principal task on Saturday will be to clean up the remains of the 100' tower which was taken down two weeks ago. It's possible that much of it may have already been disassembled; if not, we'll need to complete the job.

There are a few other things I would like to do, weather, time, and manpower permitting:

Outside:

- Finish painting the soffit
- Antenna work – raise the 80m dipole (K2QM is unfortunately not available)
- Identify the individual antennas which are mounted on our remaining 4 towers
- Investigate whether coax can be shortened in order to reduce line losses

Inside:

- Paint the cover panel for the large air conditioner
- Install burglar proofing for the small air conditioner
- Finish winterizing air conditioner openings
- Install the connection cable for the Homelite generator
- Turn off AC power to test the operation of the repeaters' battery backup

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting October 14, 2009

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

The October meeting was held at the American Red Cross facility on Alexander Road.

The meeting was opened at 1930 hrs by President Mark N2KIV. There was an introduction of members. September meeting minutes were approved as appeared in the news letter. The treasurer reported club in the black with \$3200.

Mark reported that the damaged tower will be dismantled. Hy described the take down procedure in detail. The time frame for this project is 27 - 30-October. To keep informed of the changing details concerning the towers, check emails. Six to ten people will be needed for this operation. Bob, N2HX, stated that replacing repeater antenna to back up tower will not be a major project.

On 17 Oct, JotA and the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold a joint operation at the club shack. Volunteers are welcome to participate on 24 OCT. Boy Scouts will hold a rescue exercise at Lawrenceville Station Park. Once again volunteers are welcome.

The chairman of the election committee will be Norberto NY8N and Marty AB2MY. Roberto and Marty will appreciate your assistance and suggestions. Don, AA2F, will have a class for the technician class license. The next exam will be 14 Nov at the Pennington Presbyterian Church.

Walk a thons have been completed for the year 2009.

The next Trenton Computer -ham Fest will b 24-25 Aptil. This event will be combined with the ARRL NJ state convention. Mark N2KIV gave the membership information concerning the combined event. Mark will be the liaison for the club. The DVRA will probably not have an operating hf station at the event.

The regular meeting was adjrnd at 2005 hrs. After the regular meeting DVRA members were given a tour of the Red Cross facility. We would like to thank Mark, KC2SMS, for his efforts in organizing the tour. Anyone who desires to participate in Red Cross communication activities contact Mark. Your participation will be deeply appreciated

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Sundra, W3ZLP
Secretary

Minutes of the Director's Meeting October 14, 2009

DVRA Shack, W. Trenton, NJ

The meeting was opened at 1835.

This month's meeting was held at the American Red Cross facility on Alexander road. The meeting was opened by President Mark, N2KIV.

Tower: best deal will be based on the tower climber's information determine if the crane operator can take it down. Some discussion followed. Mark needs a check list regarding tower take down. Mark inquired about formation of nominating committee. Name tags were discussed. Mark, N2KIV, will notify necessary airport officials concerning tower project. Gary, N2GW, provided

some insightful information concerning tower and past arrangements etc. John Croelli will make determination as to whether tower is safe to climb and partially dismantle.

Treasurer Ron, KC2PPC, states club is in the black. Gary, N2GW, mentioned needing space for merit badge project.

November meeting activities mentioned.

The meeting was adjourned at 1912 hrs

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Sundra, W3ZLP
Secretary

Balanced Lines November 2009

Bob Schroeder, N2HX ©2009

CHANGES TO THE CLUB REPEATERS

If you haven't read it elsewhere, there have been some changes to the DVRA repeater antennas. The guyed 100 foot repeater tower which was originally erected in 1981 was taken down on October 30. It was irreparably damaged in an early morning storm on August 2. What you may not know about is the history of the repeater antennas that used to be on it.

Topping the tower was the antenna for the 2 meter repeater. The DVRA machine was surrounded on three sides by other 146.670 repeaters: Hazleton, Baltimore, and Manhattan. In order to be a "good neighbor" with our co-channel repeaters, a directional antenna was chosen for the DVRA repeater. It was a Sinclair model SRL 210C-4 four-bay exposed dipole antenna which was oriented to 90 degrees. The pattern was aimed dead east so as not to cause undue interference with the other three repeaters. In addition, we have several club members who either live or work in the Monmouth County area, so the pattern also favored their commute on I-195. The Sinclair has 8.5 dB gain in an offset direction. I chose the Sinclair antenna because it has no exposed cabling. I spec'd the same model antenna for the 146.835 repeater in Manahawkin which is on the WJRZ tower. The Sinclair's design made it ideal for a shore environment. Its performance does not degrade even when it is covered by several inches of radial ice—something that is not uncommon in this part of the country.

The antenna for the 442.650 repeater was a Cel-wave Superstationmaster with 10 dB of gain, mounted at the 80 foot level on the west side of the tower. Its coverage was roughly omnidirectional but somewhat favoring Bucks County, PA.

At the present time the 2 meter repeater is on a Comet dual-band ground plane at 50 feet. The 442.65 repeater is off the air temporarily. We have been offered tower space at a location off the airport property and as of this writing the decision to move it has not yet been made.

All repeater systems evolve. Stay tuned for further developments and improvements to the DVRA repeaters. If you want to expand your FM hori-

zons, try out the NJOEM 220 repeater on 224.320. You'll need a CTCSS tone of 67 Hz..

FALL RACES SYMPOSIUM

By the time you read this, the fall RACES symposium will have been held at the NJOEM State EOC in West Trenton on November 8. The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service is described in Subpart E of the FCC Rules and Regulations Part 97. (You do have a current copy of this in your shack, right?) Emergency communication was considered to be very important post World War II and even more so during the Cold War. It is no less important in the 21st century. In support of emergency communication, the ARRL has established the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES- pronounced *air-eez*) which is a branch of the hobby that is offered to civic minded hams who want to assist during an emergency. Gary Wilson, K2GW, is the ARES coordinator for this part of the state and Kip Burnett, KB2EGI, is the ARES coordinator for Mercer County OEM.

As the communications and warning officer for NJOEM, I have the pleasure to host two RACES symposiums each year at the State EOC in West Trenton. The participants include the communications officers for each of the 21 county OEMs, along with the representatives from the liaison agencies who support the state OEM during an emergency. They are: army, navy, and air force MARS, Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and Civil Air Patrol. We meet twice a year under one roof to discuss communications issues of common interest such as plans and procedures, interoperability, training, and new technologies. Of particular importance is NIMS/ICS compliance. The Incident Command System was created nearly 30 years ago to manage and certify emergency responders to assure that everyone's training and understanding is uniform across the country. You can learn more at www.fema.gov/emergency/nims. Now that Amateur Radio operators are considered first responders (we've moved up in the world!), hams who opt to become emergency communicators must take some basic NIMS courses. As the old football adage goes, "You train like you play."

Such is the nature of the Radio Amateur Civil

Emergency Service. Hams have proven their mettle on many occasions for many emergencies. People often say that Amateur Radio is crucial "when all else fails". This is certainly true; however it is misleading. Amateur Radio belongs on the front lines even before the emergency occurs.

WIPE THAT SMILE OFF/ON YOUR FACE

You probably heard the rumor or know firsthand that you're not allowed to smile when you apply for a government-issued photo ID card. I don't know many people who smile when they deal with the state or federal government anyway, but that's beside the point. When you get your picture taken you must put on a deadpan expression. No smiling allowed. When a picture ID was just a picture ID, the person's expression didn't really matter. As it turns out, the biometric technology currently used in facial recognition gets confused when the subject's face is smiling. Hence, the photo used on ID cards must show the person with a neutral expression. At present, 37 states employ facial recognition technology on their DMV driver licenses.

If you haven't heard or read about it, "Big Brother" has been secretly scanning millions of faces, usu-

ally in public places, to try to catch "persons of interest". Such covert operations were conducted at the entrances to the Super Bowl several years ago. If this sort of Orwellian surveillance bothers you, there's a simple way to thwart this intrusion. Just walk around wearing a smile.

Ironically, the consumer digital camera market has taken the opposite approach. At the 2009 Photo Expo in New York City last month, I saw some high quality pocket cameras that can automatically turn your frown upside down. Cameras such as the Sony, have the option to digitally put a smile on your face as the image is captured, or it will wait until the subject smiles and then automatically snap the picture. Of course if you want to capture the subject's expression as-is, you can turn that option off. Pretty slick, if I do say so.

All this technology, mostly driven by government homeland security agendas, makes one wonder what Kafka or Descartes would think if they were alive today. Indeed, what is reality?

All for now.
Comments invited.

Bob Schroeder, N2HX
Past President, DVRA

SCENES FROM DROPPING THE TOWER ON OCTOBER 31st

1. The day started off with a safety briefing from County Airport personnel at 8AM.



2. Next, the crane sling had to be connected to the top of the tower, but, not on the 2m antenna.



3. The guy wires were then cut with bolt cutters when directed.



4. The tower was cut with a saws-all.



5. The tower free and moved by the crane.



6. Moving the tower off the road at 10AM.



Supporting Sponsors

H. Robert Schroeder



adro!^t consulting
Innovation and then some.

PO Box 7361
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0361
rschroeder@ieee.org
609575 0445



**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

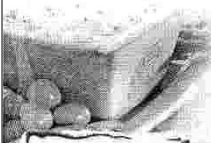


NATIONAL NOTARY ASSOCIATION
NOTARY SIGNING AGENT
CERTIFIED AND BACKGROUND SCREENED

Tomas M Bagdas

11 CAPTIVA COURT
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY 08691-3747
(609) 585-2001 CELL (609) 847-6899

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.

**TASTEFULLY
SIMPLE**
SINCE 1993

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

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