

DELARA NEWS

Delaware Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Vol. 26 No. 1

January 2007

DELARA meetings are always held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Tri-Twp. Fire Dept. meeting room, beginning at 7:30 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

ALL DELARA members are encouraged to check into the Monday evening Delaware County Net which meets every Monday at 8:00 P.M. on the W8SMK 145.17 repeater. Please join us! NCS call: K8ES

2007 DELARA Officers:

President: Vern Kollas, KC8YOH, 22 Weltergon Dr., Delaware, OH 43015

Vice President: Tim Trombley, K8TAT, 5900 US 42 South, Ostrander, OH 43061

Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bird, W8SMK, 244 N. Parkway Dr., Delaware, OH 43015

Newsletter submissions to: Vern Kollas, KC8YOH, kc8yoh@arrl.net

DELARA web site: www.k8es.org

THE PREZ SEZ: by Vern Kollas, KC8YOH

Good evening and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and was able to spend time with family and loved ones.

This month I would like to start out with a special thanks to Jim, W8CQT and Carol Anne, N8MRU for hosting the DELARA Christmas Party for another year!! It was a wonderful time as always and it was nice to see everyone who was able to attend.

Another thing worth mentioning again is that we have free email accounts with our web site. There are only a couple of members that are using this service though. What I have done is set up an account for you to email me at if you would like me to set up an account for you. All I need from you in this message is your name, call, and current email address if you would just like to have this account forward any messages to another email address. This forwarding is similar to the "arrl.net" accounts that many of us already have. It can also be used as a totally separate account like any other email account you may have. It can be accessed via a website, or you can set up another account in your email software on your computer, the choice is yours. If you are interested in having a club address, please just send me an email to emailinfo@k8es.org. Please do not send

these messages to my "normal" address so I can keep the requests organized.

I will also do my best to get the newsletters put together and mailed out with the same speed that Ken has done in years past. Please be patient with me as I get a routine established and get the hang of it all.

And one final note, please don't forget that it is that time of year again. That's right, membership fees are due!! Please get your dues to Ken in a timely fashion. Also, please let Ken know if you have any information such as phone number, email address, etc, that may need changed for the roster. This would also be a good time to indicate if you would rather receive the newsletter via email rather than in the mail. As I am sure you are aware, postage is one of the biggest expenses the club has. Please just let us know if you would like to change to the email edition of the newsletter.

73!

E.C. News: by Don Miller, KB8SIA

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all. May this year be the best ever. May it be prosperous.

There has been a change in the A.R.E.S. meeting schedule this year. Beginning on February 13, 2007 we will meet every second(2nd) Tuesday, as in the past, but on every month of the year except July and August. We will have some training programs to bring you up to date on current procedures along with the Homeland Security changes affecting Amateur Radio Emergency Service (A.R.E.S.) Presently and in the future.

We will attempt to have, in some meetings, persons that are knowledgeable in different areas of how a particular emergency was handled and what experience was gained. With that said, A.R.E.S. welcomes any input from its members on what they have to offer in the way of presentations. We also are open to accepting new memberships. At present we have thirty four (34) members. You need not belong to a radio club to become an A.R.E.S. member. Only a desire to contribute to the welfare of a community if a disaster should arise.

For those of you that are not ARRL members the following item in part is from this week's ARRL letter.

THE DAY THE SNOWS CAME: COLORADO ARES TEAMS STAY BUSY OVER HOLIDAYS

A major Colorado snowstorm just after Christmas prompted Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams to activate for the second time in less than 10 days along Colorado's Front Range -- the state's most populous region.

The December 28 storm dumped upward of three feet of snow on and around Denver, stranding both air and highway travelers. The area was just starting to recover from a pre-Christmas blizzard that stranded holiday travelers and brought the Denver area to a near-standstill when the second snow storm struck. Colorado Section Emergency Coordinator Ben Baker, KB0UBZ, reports that all Colorado ARES teams had stood down as of Monday, January 1. The last to terminate operations were the volunteers at the Colorado State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), who held down the fort until 3 PM on New Year's Day.

"The worst of the second storm affected the southeast corner of Colorado the most, although all areas of eastern Colorado were also affected, from Ft Collins to the New Mexico border," Baker said. "Because of the snow coming in waves along the Front Range, travel was difficult but not as impossible as with the first storm." He told ARRL Headquarters that teams from several ARES districts deployed to report snowfall totals and remained available to support communication for shelters, although that turned out to be unnecessary. Bill James, KC0FGJ, the ARES EC for Baca, Bent, Kiowa and Prowers counties, coordinated communications

between the State EOC and ARES teams in southeastern Colorado counties. James reported that travel was impossible due to snowfall of up to three feet and drifts of more than 10 feet in some spots. Erik Dyce, W0ERX, the EC for the Colorado State Emergency Operation Center, reported that UHF, HF and IRLP were the primary communications modes used at the EOC to maintain communication throughout southeastern Colorado. Baker said primary roadways into and out of the region began re-opening on January 2. The Colorado National Guard this week has been air-dropping bales of hay from helicopters to stranded livestock, and the Civil Air Patrol deployed aircraft seeking stranded motorists and livestock.

The storms that struck Colorado moved east into the Midwest causing similar problems in Kansas and elsewhere.

So we can see from the above information that a lot of people were involved in the snow storm that blanketed Colorado. Better they than us here in Ohio but our hearts go out to those that suffered the hardships. .

A reminder that:

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration remains open through Sunday, January 21. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.htm> or contact the CCE Department cce@arrl.org.

Hey guys and gals. I monitor the UHF frequencies around the area and find we do a pretty good job of identifying our transmissions but get a load of the following, again from the ARRL letter:

* FCC cites Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to ID: The FCC's Philadelphia Field Office has issued a formal Notice of Violation (NoV) to a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to identify in a timely manner. The Commission released the NoV to Andrew Ban, KB3GRK, of Feasterville, on December 20. The notice says that on September 12 and 13, 2006, an agent of the FCC's Philadelphia office monitored KB3GRK's transmissions on 439.850MHz and observed that the operator failed to identify for nearly one hour in one instance and for more than 20 minutes in the second. §97.119(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication." The FCC has advised Ban that he must submit within 20 days a written statement addressing the alleged violations and action taken to preclude recurrence. The issuance of an NoV appears to be a departure from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's typical practice of addressing such alleged infractions with an advisory letter.

My suggestion is to use the repeater ID as a way to determine the time for IDing your station. If not on a repeater watch the clock or build yourself a ten (10) minute timer that gives an audible tone every time it times out at your adjustable selected time. Say eight (8) minutes. Eventually all on the group will begin to ID one after another. This way none of our fine Delaware operators will receive the dreaded note from the FCC.

Okay, 'nuf of the column this month. Talk at you next Month. Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

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Joe's Place: by Joe Papworth, K8MP

True Confessions

My name is Joe and this is my story:

I don't know how it happened. I don't even know when it happened. It just happened.

We've all been there. One day you realize something is different. You may not know *what* is different, it just is. As time goes by, it becomes clear what it is, and you resolve yourself to live with it.

You see, I am a contester.

I am not a recovering contester. Not yet anyway, because I do not want to recover. Perhaps I am addicted to it. Psychologists say you cannot help someone out of an addiction until they're ready to admit they have a problem. I am not ready to admit that, because I enjoy it too much. If I was to admit that I have a problem, someone might actually rescue me from it. Please do not try.

I would rather you allow me to enjoy the QRN, QRM, sleep-loss, equipment problems, and all the other joys of contesting.

I have heard it said that sometimes a person must hit rock-bottom before they can be helped. It hasn't worked in my case. I *am* at rock-bottom (of the sun spot cycle that is), and yet the craving is still there. I still check the weekly contest schedule, hoping to get in on some action. I have even stooped to checking the 10-meter beacon frequencies during contests, hoping against hope that an unexpected E-Skip opening might pop up.

How low can a person get?

Please don't try to counsel or help me in any way. I *will* get through this.

I get comfort knowing that there are others out there just like me. I even hear their voices in my head. (My head-phones, that is)

They call out to me in the night:

"K8MP de KV8Q"

"KV8Q de K8MP, Hey Tom, good to hear you. You're 5NN, Zone 04"

"TU Ur 5NN, also 04. How many Q's you got so far, and by the way, I need 04 on 20 meters"

"I'm up to 618, with about 130 mults. How 'bout 14040?"

"Works for me. CU on 20."

And so goes my life.

There are others too. They know who they are...N4BP, K4LTA, AA3B, etc, etc.

So now you know. It's out in the open.

Please don't feel sorry for me or act any different towards me. I'll do my best to "maintain" an even keel in public. If you should notice that I seem distracted at times, please bear with me, especially if it is around certain weekends during the winter months.

See you all next month, at Joe's Place

NØ Tenna Wizard: by Terry Webb, NØTW

How Antennas Work

Technology *allows* us to use many devices that fortunately do not require us to know their inner secrets as to how they actually work. Antennas are such a device. But being true hams, sometimes we have to dive into the secrets of how things work. It's in our blood!

I have thought about writing an article for quite a while on how antennas actually work. It is a complex process but thankfully is one that does not require a Physics degree to gain some basic understanding.

Most hams understand the concept of frequency, the number of cycles that a signal executes in 1 second. For example, 120-volt AC power oscillates at 60 Hz, or 60 cycles every second. This means the period of one cycle is 1/60 of a second or 0.016 seconds (16 milliseconds). Now let's increase the frequency to one of

the commonly used HF frequencies, 14.0 MHz (20 meter band). The signal is now oscillating at 14 Million times each second and one cycle is just .07 Microseconds long.

Somehow, the motion of electrons moving in the antenna wire must be transferred into a signal that escapes into space? Using Physics, it is possible to show that an electron moves about 1 hundredth-million of an inch during each cycle when the operating frequency is 14 MHz. But even this small movement of the electron in a wire antenna produces a magnetic field that surrounds the antenna wire. Maybe we are on to something here? Maybe it is the magnetic field that is the answer to how the antenna radiates?

Every time the signal reverses direction, the magnetic field reverses its direction around the wire.

Now for the tricky part. An antenna contains two kinds of resistance: *ohmic* resistance that you can measure with an ohmmeter and *radiation* resistance, which the signal encounters as it flows on the *outside surface* of the wire antenna. Current flowing through an ohmic resistance produces heat (think in terms of a light bulb or electric heater). Current flowing through radiation resistance produces radiant energy. Ah-ha! This is the mechanism that allows the signal to escape the wire and travel to that rare DX location!

A 14 MHz dipole, for example, has about 3.7 ohms per foot of radiation resistance. This is almost 80 times higher than the DC ohmic resistance you would measure if you used an ohmmeter.

If you think the 14 million cycles per second is fast, consider this – the signal leaving the antenna takes off at 300 Million Meters per second (186,000 miles per second). The mechanism that transfers our signal into the air has accelerated the signal to a speed allowing it to travel all the way around the earth in about 1/7 of a second!

So, even though there some hidden activities that occur when you feed RF into your antenna, perhaps now you have a basic understanding of the mechanism that moves the signal from the antenna and into the ionosphere?

Till next month, Make some QSOs!

73 Terry, N0TW

Articles Wanted:

So, you get your latest edition of the DELARA news and you see this blank spot at the end. You ask yourself, "I wonder what could go here every month??" The answer is simple, you can submit an article. All it takes is a few minutes to write up a short article that is about ¾ of a page or so in length about a ham radio related item that others in the club would find interesting. Maybe it is a quick guide to remind folks how to access the IRLP node (sorry Gary), or about a new mode you have be playing with. Heck, you don't even have to submit something every month if you don't want to. Please give it some thought, as it is a neat way to contribute your knowledge back to fellow club members. So remember, your article could be HERE next month.

Misc News:

Just in case you have missed it, below are a couple snips from the ARRL website. Just go to the URL listed for the complete articles. Of course all info below is taken directly from the ARRL's website and should be noted as such.

"FCC to Drop Morse Testing for *All* Amateur License Classes

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 -- In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for *all* Amateur Radio license classes."

Complete articles can be read at:

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>

"Hello" Amateur Radio Special Event Puts Brant Rock Back on the Air (Jan 5, 2007) -- In 1906, Canadian experimenter Reginald Fessenden transmitted a program of voice and music -- in essence the world's first radio broadcast -- from Brant Rock, Massachusetts. In 2006, Amateur Radio special event W100BO/W1F helped to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fessenden's accomplishment as part of the ARRL "Hello" campaign finale December 29-30. Among those on hand for the occasion was the grandson of Fessenden's assistant George Stein -- George A. Stein, NJ3H. Steve Barreres, K2CX, headed the Peconic Amateur Radio Club (PARC) W100BO/W1F team.

Complete article can be read at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/01/05/101/?nc=1>