



DELARA



Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter

April 2010

Volume 29, Number 4

DELARA Meetings

- 3rd Wednesday of every month
- Tri-Twp. Fire Dept.
- 7:30 PM

DELARA On the Air

- Monday evening net
- 145.17 repeater
- 8 PM Call K8ES
- Volunteer for Net Control!

DELARA Officers

- President:
Tim Trombley K8TAT
- Vice President:
Joe Papworth K8MP
- Sec/Treas:
Ken Bird W8SMK

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- Contesting in the Snow! -page 7

The Calendar

- Apr 8 ARES Mtng.
- Apr 21 Delara Mtng.
- May 13 ARES Mtng.

This Month's Meeting - Field Day Begins!



It's time! Field Day 2010 for DELARA officially kicks off with our planning meeting April 21. Larry, N9AUG, will launch the efforts for this year's successful run. We have a tradition of excellence in Field Day activities and scoring, so plan to be a part this year!

[See more on page 5!](#)



The Prez Sez:

Tim K8TAT



Well, April is about here, and I sure looking forward to the warmer temperatures they have predicted, and with that may we get some April showers to bring all your May flowers and vegetables.

Well last month I took the leap for the DELARA name and volunteered to teach the BSA radio merit badge for the local district of Boy Scouts here in Delaware County.

I was a bit hesitant at first but found a great deal of information on the internet to help me through the requirements including a power point presentation assembled by another ham radio club just to help teach this badge.

Now I taught the first class on Saturday March 13 with 11 scouts in attendance with technical help from my son, Nathan, who is also a boy scout working towards his Eagle. He operated the computer and projector. I started out with a general introduction of the hobby, followed by a DVD clip of "Amateur Radio Today", and then into the technical requirement stuff with some hands on and questions by the boy scouts. To help wrap up the class and keep the boys interested, I turned on my HT and made contact with W8ERD on the 440 repeater. He talked to all the scouts that day to be their first ham contact.

I don't know how many will see it as an interesting and fun hobby that we have, but at least it's a start in getting them introduced to its usefulness in the world of modern technology.

So that's it for now, so I look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting Hopefully the weather will cooperate and be warm and sunny.

73, K8TAT



Howdy from Joe's Place...

This month's topic is my ol' nemesis:
Power line noise.

After submitting many requests to AEP to have it fixed, I finally got tired of dealing with them directly and got the ARRL involved. I fired off an email to them and received a reply from Mike Gruber, W1MG. Mike handles the line noise cases for the ARRL. After we exchanged a couple of emails, he filed a complaint with the President and CEO of AEP on my behalf.

After three weeks, I received a call from AEP saying they would look into the problem during the first week in April. "Been there, done that", I thought. But maybe this time things will be different. We shall see.

One thing that helped my case with the ARRL (and hopefully AEP and the FCC) was a record of my interaction with AEP. It showed that I had been dealing with the problem for some time and also showed their responsiveness (or lack thereof).

Here is the log I kept:

I called in for line noise on 6-11-08. They said there was already an open service order for this, from the last time I had called. (order # 100760144)

Called again on 9-26-08. Bad line noise on most/all HF bands after the winds from Ike came through.

Called again on 10-23-08. Spoke with Karen. (# 106693047)

Called again on Dec 31 and spoke with Sheila. She gave me David Miller's # to try (614-883-6968)

12-31-08: Left vm for David

1-5-09: Got David's VM again. Didn't leave message.

1-15-09: Called David again. Got his voice mail again. Didn't leave a message. Then called the AEP 800 number and spoke with Ray. He is going to file a "complaint" on my behalf.

1-16-09 to 1-19-09: David called several times to see if the repair guys had contacted me. (They have not) He said to contact him if I don't hear anything by 1-21. (He gave me his cell # and email address)

On or around 1-21: Bill called to say he had located a noise source or sources nearby. I mentioned to him that after he corrects those that he would need to expand his search area to at least Perry Rd and US 23. His response was that he wanted to fix the nearby ones and go from there.

2-12-09: Emailed David to say the nearby ones seem gone and asked for an update on US 23 and Perry Rd noise sources. No response.

2-14-09: Emailed David again. No response

2-23-09: Called the 800 number to ask for an update on order 106693047. There were no new updates added to the order. The person said she would give the information to a customer svc specialist (no name given) for our area.

3-2-09: No word yet from Customer Svc Specialist.

3-2-09: Emailed Selwyn (W8MHZ) about the problem (Provided history, etc) He replied back that he will look into it thru AEP engineering. I also received a call from Steve Greene within a day or two of contacting Selwyn.

3-17-09: David Blackmore stopped by to ask questions. He and Steve Greene are in the area looking for problems. He listened to the noise(s) on 80 meters, etc. He is also going to update the notes in the service call as progress is made.

**hzzzzzzzz...continued after the line noise quiets on page 4...zzzzzzzzzzZZZZZZZZZZ
*poof***

Operating events

- QCWA Spring QSO Party
1800z 4/10 – 1800z 4/11
- Michigan QSO Party
1600z 4/17 – 0400z 4/18
- Indiana QSO Party
1600 5/1 – 0400z 5/2
- CQ-M Int'l DX
1200z 5/8 – 1159z 5/9
- CQWW WPX CW
0000z 5/29 – 2359z 5/30

Contribute!

We need your articles, comments and ads!
newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org
http://www.k8es.org



ARES Happenings

Don KB8SIA

Mark your Calendars and volunteer:

May 25 "Kids Safety Scene" May 30 "Memorial Day Parade"

June 5 "Tour de Cure" June 13 "Wendy's Triathlon"

Nothing heard yet on the Sunbury July 4th Parade. Nothing in this column today (April 1) will have a foolish remark. Couldn't possibly fool any of you anyway.

Well I guess summer has arrived this week as the temperatures will soar to the 70's. What a welcome feeling that will be after the near record winter we had.

Remember the controversy and the delay of the MOU between the ARRL and the American Red Cross? It was learned that the newly approved MOU has been signed and sent out to the organizations to implement. Watch for it in future ARRL news reports. It is quite a change and up to speed with anticipated results.

Our participation in the EOC exercise on March 18 in the new Incident Command System Format went well. Vicki, W8VES and I opened the communications to the State EOC that used the W8SGT call sign. We acknowledged the connection and began our vigil of listening to other traffic being passed. We passed a few items to them as a means of doing our share of the home exercise and kept our Incident Command personnel aware that we had established communications on 2 meters with the State and were ready to handle any traffic needed to be passed to the State EOC. The main exercise of having a good shift change with personnel and good transfer of information went really well. I highly recommend that we stay involved in these type operations to be ready when needed at a moments notice. Much was learned by all participants in the exercise. Mr. Galligher, our EMA director, really pushed the group to the higher level of efficiency that he wanted. Our hat's off to him for having such a good program.

Our ARES meeting is this coming Thursday, April 8th at the American Red Cross Facility Our guest speaker will be Mr. Greenlaw, KE7YEP our new Delaware Co. 911 director. He will fill us in on his plans and changes that may take place in the 911 area. Yes, he is a "ham" who migrated East from the State of Idaho. We welcome him aboard.

That is it from this Keyboard this month. Talk at you next month. See you on two meters.

Zzzz ~!POP!~ Joe's Place, Continued from page 2

4-2-09: Called the 800 number for an update. No updates since 2-24. David Blackmore's #: 614-883-6853

9-2-09: The line noise has increased over the summer. I called the 800 number and spoke with Tasha. I asked for an update on svc order #106693047. She had no new info and sent a message to the technician. (no name given). She also suggested that I call David Miller. (614-883-6968) I called David Miller and left a message. I also emailed David and copied Selwyn.

9-23-09: I emailed David Miller for an update and received an Out-of-the-office reply. It said he'd return and reply on 10-5-09.

10-1-09: Emailed David. No out-of-office reply this time. Now waiting for him to reply.

10-7-09: Received an email from David. He is going to contact the quality of service group and get back with me.

10-15-09: No word from David yet. I am going to submit an on-line complaint via aep.com

10-21-09: Received a call from AEP. They were checking the area again and had found some noise sources. I asked the caller (it was Bill or Steve) to please call me with an update after things were corrected.

12-4-09: No update received. The interference persists. I checked the nearby utility poles with a portable radio (Set to an unoccupied channel in the AM broadcast band) While holding the radio near the ground wires of the poles, I detected a very strong 60 HZ buzz. I then proceeded to call the cell number Bill and Steve had given me. (614-893-7937) I got voice mail but didn't leave a message. Later, I received a call back from the same number from a man saying he was replying to a "missed call" and that his name was Dimitrius. (A false name???) I told him I was calling the number Bill and Steve of AEP had given me. He said I had called a wrong number. I apologized but added "Your voice sure sounds like the AEP rep", which it did.

12-11-09: We had very high winds over the last 2 days. The interference is now much worse.

12-15-09: David Miller called back. He is going to contact Mr. Coil or Steve Green. I also emailed David the article from ARRL: ("Power Line Noise: A Smarter Approach")

1-21-10: No update on progress. I emailed David Miller and asked him to call me.

2-18-10: No reply to my email (after nearly a month)

2-27-10: Emailed ARRL

3-5-10: Received a reply from Mike Gruber (W1MG) at ARRL

3-12-10: Mike filed a written complaint with CEO of AEP

4-1-10: Steve from AEP called to say he would check things out next week. (probably Monday, April 5th)

Hopefully, AEP will utilize better resources this time. Until now, I think they have only "listened" at VHF frequencies. If you check out an article from *Transmission & Distribution World* magazine called *A Smarter Approach to Resolving Power-Line Noise*, you will see there are better techniques available now. A copy of that article was sent to AEP.

Well, I suppose that's enough for this month.

I hope to see you all in May, at Joe's Place.

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

April, 1990: Paul Forgrave, K8ES, presented in both newsletter and meeting form, the latest in AMTOR communications.

April, 2000: Bob (then W8BOB) issued a report on his new Ten Tec Pegasus. Talk was centered around license class restructuring, and of course, Field Day planning.



**FIELD DAY 2010
FIELD MARSHALL:
N9AUG, LARRY**



AH, the smell of newly mowed grass is just around the corner so the planning for the Delaware Amateur Radio Association "4Alpha" Field Day begins. The ARRL rules are essentially the same as last year and can be downloaded from <http://arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf>.



The following captains will be needed to assist with the field day activities:

- * 2 - **CW Station Captains** – responsibilities include providing a HF radio and all the necessary equipment and setup of same. Keep operators schedule. Make lots of contacts.
- * 2 – **SSB Station Captains** (Same as CW Captain)
- * **GOTA Station Captain** – Provide and operated Station. Provide assistance to non-hams or new hams who want to get on the radio and make contacts.
- * **Public Information Table Captain** – Acquire the hand outs, greet the visitors and

explain the fun of Ham Radio. Keep the sign in roster.

* **Media Captain** - Provide information to the various media organizations – newspapers, radio and television informing them of Field Day and cajoling them into publishing and airing our activities.

* **Picnic Coordinator.**



We get bonus points for contacts by satellite. Does anyone have the experience or capability to do this? Every point will help us regain first place in 4A.

We also get bonus points for educational activities. I have been considering PSK or something on D-Star as radios are being purchased for Emergency Management. That would be a good way to learn how D-Star works if the radios are available by then. I am always open for other suggestions.

We have a great group of hams in Delaware County who in the past have worked extremely well together to produce an efficient and effective field day operation. (and we had a lot of fun!

If you would like to help in any way for field day, let me know at n9aug@arrl.net



CQ TEST...

KV8Q



April 1st, 2010

So, a few weeks ago, I wanted to see if I could run as a mobile station across the northern coast of Wisconsin in the Wisconsin QSO Party this year. After checking the weather maps for that area, I found that a mobile operation wouldn't be very practical without a four-wheel drive vehicle. I definitely had to scratch the bicycle idea - that was for sure. But, then, an idea came to me! Why not try this on skis???

Since the ground was completely snow-covered, it only made sense. How would I operate on skis? Where could I put an antenna? What about the rig? I had lots of questions and very little time.

I arrived in eastern end of Douglas County a few hours before the contest began. I planned on using two radios - my Jupiter on 40 CW and the TS-930Su on 80 CW. I wanted to focus on 80 and 40 CW for the contest so I used some #10 gauge wire and wrapped the correct amount around my legs and created top-loaded helically-wound verticals for each band. After using an antenna analyzer to get both antennas to properly tune on their respective bands, I put the radios in a backpack and connected the antennas.

For the best propagation, I had the 40 meter antenna on my right leg which would be on my south side the majority of the time as I headed east during the contest period. I also mounted my SO2R switch in the backpack which didn't add very much weight at all. The battery pack was a little different matter in the weight department; but, I've always been blessed with a strong back. A small solar panel would keep the batteries charged if the sun came out. I mounted a switch on the top of the ski pole so I could key the radio at the appropriate time. I ran N1MM software on my laptop and that took care of the logging, auto-generated CW when necessary, rig control, etc. The laptop didn't add much weight to the backpack either. When doing some testing prior to the beginning of the

contest, I found that I needed some radials for these antennas. I merely rolled out the appropriate length of wire, made the proper connections, and dragged these radials from the back of the skis. I was rather surprised that these ground-mounted radials didn't get tangled

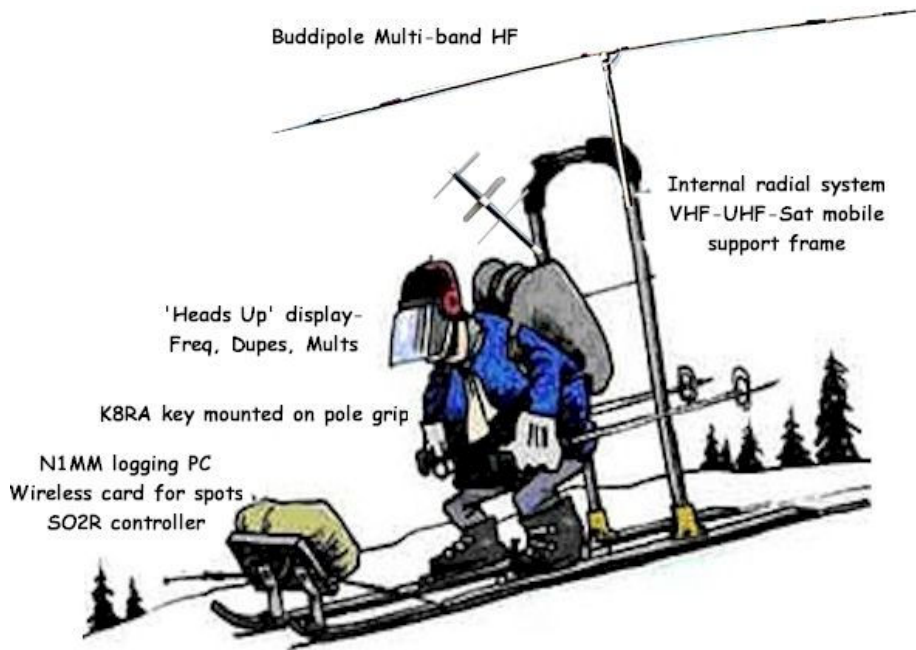


as I skied to the east.

The contest started and I was off and running. My headphones fit rather nicely under my hat. The hat not only kept me warm, it also provided a nice noise cancellation eliminating all of the noise of the car horns as I traveled east. When I entered Bayfield County, I already had over 400 Q's in the log. I just kept skiing along, pushing my right thumb to send Morse code. I keyed callsigns in with my left hand on a keyboard mounted on my chest, and kept making QSO's. Through Bayfield, Ahsland, Iron, and Vilas County with no issues. Thank goodness for Depends! That really saved me a lot of time. Prior to leaving, I ate two footlong Subway subs (\$5.00 each) so eating would not be an issue. I just got into Forest County, 1,400 QSO's now in the log, and a bunch of deer jumped out in front of me. I used my ski poles to fend them off and that idea was very successful. However, I dropped my ski pole in my right hand in the process. With the antennas on my legs and the 250 pound backpack, I just couldn't quite bend over to pick it up. A bit disappointed, I would now have to rely entirely on the laptop and the software to do all of my sending in the last two counties. Not a major problem; but the next time I'll take an extra set of ski poles to eliminate that issue.

I'm sure I could mount them somewhere on the backpack without adding too much weight. The rest of the contest was uneventful, finishing up in Florence County, Wisconsin with over 2,000 QSO's in ten hours. I was rather surprised to find out that no one else in the contest had more than 1,500 QSO's. A simple, 500 mile cab ride back to Douglas County completed my journey.

I think that I will win my category - CSOOS (crazy single op on skis). I already have plans for improvement next year:



Just imagine how I would have operated if this contest actually took place on **the first day of April?** Until next time, look for me on the low end of the CW bands.



Bob's Traveling Treasure Trove

Bob W8ERD

Another box of goodies is already packed and ready to come to our next meeting!

At the last meeting, these people went home happy:

Electronic Keyer - N9AUG
2 small portable receivers - W8CR's son
Antenna noise bridge - W8CR
Elec Wire insul remover - W8CR's son
Frequency Spec chart - K8TAT
Multiband portable receiver - W8KTQ
W6SAI Radio Engineering book - KC8KYR

Be there and be ready to take home your dream treasure, FREE!

Note that we also have 2 free tickets to the Jackson County Hamfest, on April 10.

I just want to say "Thank You" to those who took joy in rubbing in my old age at my 50th birthday party in February at Tavern 42. I was truly surprised! The Home Depot card was wonderful and was put to good use for supplies for the new barn/boyz club. The birthday cake has a very good reproduction of Jerry's, K8RA, paddle as the ornament. Highly detailed, duplicating the springs, posts and wiring - very cool. No, I haven't eaten it. It's in the freezer.

73,
Craig Miller, W8CR



MASSILON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - NORTH BASS ISLAND

N8B Lat: 41.716715 Long: 82.816576 Grid: EN81

US Freshwater ISLAND ON THE AIR

On July 23, 2010 the Massillon Amateur Radio Club will depart on their first expedition that will take them to North Bass Island. MARC will setup world wide radio communications and attempt to qualify this island for U.S. Islands Award Program. This expedition will coincide with I.O.T.A (Saltwater Islands). North Bass Island will be the home for some 15 amateur operators who will on July 24, 2010 begin on-the-air operations commencing at 1200 UTC until July 25, 2010 1600 UTC. During this period they will attempt to make as many world wide contacts on many frequencies and modes. North Bass Island is located on Lake Erie, north of Port Clinton, OH and 8 nautical miles from the Canadian border. Without the generosity and hospitality of the islanders this event would not be possible.



If you would like to make a donation to help defray costs, please make checks payable to 'M.A.R.C.' or Massillon Amateur Radio Club. Mail to: WD8MBE (Tom) 235 Leonard Ave NW, Massillon, Ohio 44646. Thank You