



DELARA



Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter

February 2010

Volume 29, Number 2

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

In This Issue

- Mansfield's here
- ARES meeting's due

The Calendar

- Feb 11 ARES Mtng.
- Feb 14 Mansfield
- Feb17 Delara Mtng.

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Act quickly! It's here!

DELARA Table at Mansfield Hamfest, Feb 14

Gary Mackey K8EHB, Tim Trombley K8TAT & Nate future K8***, Steve Coe KC8KYR, Bob Brown N8OB, and perhaps other interested club members will man the club table to sell/peddle/swap ham gear all day Sunday, Feb. 14.

The club is providing the table while the members at the table are providing their own tickets. We plan to bring along items to sell, along with DELARA literature to hand out.

Steve Coe KC8KYR's QTH is 3521 Burnt Pond Road, Ostrander, telephone (740) 666-7303- home, (614) 644-9971 - office. If you have some ham stuff to sell, please call. If you are having problems getting around, "have wheels -will travel" (KC8KYR) will help out, of course.

This Month's Meeting

Gerry, KC8ZUL, is going to do a follow-up talk about our field trip to see his Big Rigs. This will be an interesting presentation whether or not you made it to Gerry's last month. We hope to see you all at the meeting!



The Prez Sez:

Tim K8TAT



As I'm sitting here typing this, there is sunshine outside, melting the snow we have received over the past month or so, but I have to remind myself that this is winter, and not over yet.

Just a reminder to all, but the month of February brings us the local Mansfield Hamfest on Sunday Feb. 14 to the north of us, just a small drive away. This, I will say, is a marvelous little hamfest to spend some time, meeting old friends or new, picking up those little items you have been putting off buying, or just walking around seeing the wares that other people are selling.

So I hope this edition of the DELARA news finds every one safe and warm, and see all at the next monthly DELARA meeting.

73, K8TAT



Howdy from Joe's Place...

Hmmm...What do I write about this month?

I haven't been able to spend much Ham radio time for the last 6 or 7 weeks, so I'm a tad short on writing material. Unbeknownst to most of the employees, the company I work for was put on the sales block some time ago and the deal finally went through just before the Holidays. It was a lousy time to have to start such a big transition.

After the initial adjustment to new policies and procedures ends, I think things will get better, but so far, it has been crazy. The good news is that day-to-day nuts-and-bolts part of the job will pretty much remain the same. I work on the same machines at the same customer locations as before, so at least that part hasn't changed, yet.

For now, the big scramble has been to get us all up to speed on the way the new company does things. Time and expense reporting, opening and closing service calls, and just about every admin task is now done differently. A lot differently.

Hey, as some folks would say: "At least you have a job." They are correct and for that I am thankful. OK, enough on the job changes.

I did get to spend some time on the radio since our last visit. The CQ World Wide 160 meter contest was held recently. I was able to put in 6 or 7 hours and made over 400 QSO's in that time. 160 meter contests are always fun. That band is usually not too active, but when it's contest time, it really comes alive. As some would say: "They seem to come out of the woodwork."

Well, I guess that's it for February. Just think, by the time you receive next month's Joe's Place, spring could be just around the corner. Hey, that's probably the best thing I wrote in this month's edition.

I hope to see you all at the meeting. Gerry, KC8ZUL, is going to talk about the "Basement Bunch of Big Boat Anchors" that some of us got to see in action at the January meeting. See you all soon...At Joe's place.

Catch you next month...At Joe's Place

For Sale or Wanted

Have something that needs to move to a new home? Looking for that specific widget or radio that you just have to buy? Here's a place for your listings! Send Email to newsletter@k8es.org before the second weekend of the month, and we'll put it here for all to see!

I have a DISH Network older style dish (non-HD) that is free for the taking. I also have a friend who has a couple more. – Dale Bauer W8KTQ

We understand that after a recent expedition to the transmitter site, Sandy, N8YS, may be looking for some ice-fishing gear for Gary, K8EHB. ☺ -ed

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

February, 1990: Vic, K1LT brought his "Packet Radio" show. You could snap up a Commodore C-64 ~with~ disk drive and monitor for only \$200!

February, 2000: Conversation was directed toward the start up of field day. "It can't possibly storm again like it did last time?" Hmm- where have we heard that recently?

Operating events

- **CQ WW RTTY WPX**
0000z 2/13 – 2400z 2/14
- **ARRL DX Contest CW**
0000z 2/20 – 2400z 2/21
- **CQ 160 Contest**
2200z 2/26 – 2200z 2/28
- **N. A. QSO Party RTTY**
1800z 2/27 – 0600z 2/28
- **ARRL DX Contest SSB**
0000z 3/6 – 2400z 3/7
- **CQ WW WPX SSB**
0000z 3/27 – 2359z 3/28

Contribute!

We need your articles,
comments and ads!

newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org

<http://www.k8es.org>



Bob's Traveling Treasure Trove

Bob W8ERD

The trove has been busy giving things away to needy recipients:

At the Holiday Party

SWR meter - N2OPW

Kraus Antennas book - W8CQT

Bearcat scanner - AB8KA

Ham Radio world map - AB8KA

ARRL Satellite book - W8CQT

At the January meeting

MFJ Digital Radio interface - N2OPW

56K Fax Modem - N8DRZ

Radio Engineering book - W8CQT

Wilson hand-held radio - Craig Miller (son of W8CR)

Ham Radio world map - K8TAT

Noise canceling mic - WB2CWJ

SWR meter - K8MP

Noise canceling mic - W8CR

The trove is limited by what I can carry. A monster 100 amp 12V power supply was struggled away by K8EHB from my house. The weight is only slightly less than one pound per amp. I have another monster 12V supply. About 25 amps. You carry it.

A box full of goodies has already been assembled for the February meeting. See you then!

"It's Chaos, I'm Telling You -- It's Real Chaos"

All else DID fail...what do we do now?

It started with the television news coverage. Then, on the Ham Radio circuits, news started to trickle in....a phone patch from Fr. Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR in the stricken area. ARRL, IARU and Radio Club Dominicano all put out the frequencies and much of the ham world listened as almost nothing came out. Some of our friends may be there now, as a part of the relief effort. The end to that effort won't come any time soon.

The keynote of Ham Radio's capability to communicate during disasters is that we can get a signal out after the rest of the communications structure collapses. The earthquake, Katrina, and other major events have been larger than expected, bigger than the plans to handle them. Are they too big for our abilities? What do you have on hand for emergencies? Now's the time!

What can we do now for Haiti and for the next "Big One?" Ham Aid, formed in 2005, accepted contributions in support of the "Big One" in that year- Katrina. Contributions from clubs and individuals will go directly to supporting Amateur Radio's response efforts in Haiti, and in preparation for the next event. Check out ARRL's secure website for info.





ARES Happenings

Don KB8SIA

Mark your Calendars and volunteer:

May 25
June 5

"Kids Safety Scene"
"Tour de Cure"

The sign up roster has a few volunteers on it already but more are still needed. I expect requests from the VFW to come forth and maybe a random group pop up asking for help.

With the crisis going on in Haiti the large Amateur Radio manufacturers Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood are sending transceiver packages equipped with magmount Larson and Comet antennas along with coax and connectors to set up communications. I understand that there were 143 licensed "hams" in Haiti at the time the quake took place. Of those there were only 2 operating ham stations on the air after the quake. I believe Stan, N8BHL, has some information he will inject into this newsletter so I won't dwell on the subject. I guess we as hams can be proud of the fact that the above mentioned organizations are contributing to the cause.

Also after much delay there is finally a MOU between the American Red Cross and the ARRL. More information will follow later. It is quite involved and will not be shown here in this column. If interested do a search on American Red Cross / ARRL MOU. Full details should be available on the multiple links displayed.

If this newsletter article gets to you before February 11, 2010 a reminder that **ARES has a meeting at the American Red Cross facility, 380 Hills Miller Rd at 7:30 PM. on the 11th.** A decision will have to be made on what date we will hold our June meeting. Our presented date of June 10th is out because of ARC use of the conference room. We have a choice of the 9th or the 11th.

We will continue taking photos for the new issue of ARES ID cards (and handing out a few) at this meeting and also the Delara meeting on

February 17, 2010. I would like to wrap up the photo session ASAP to get the cards in your hands.

Our ARES 2009 E.C. report was gathered and sent off to ARRL headquarters in Newington, CT on January 26, 2010. The report is a history of our growth in the division. There is no scoring but just a "form-c" filled out with data tabulated over the year 2009. This report helps ARRL in their effort to keep our frequencies our frequencies and not be given or sold to the waiting vultures for additional bands. Ohio sends in 88 of these completed forms every year as does every State. So you can see just how important the information supplied is. And again from the ARRL letter there is always the reminder of the on line courses available. Registration remains open through Sunday, February 21, 2010, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March 5, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the [CEP Course Listing page](#) or contact the [Continuing Education Program Coordinator](#).

With spring just around the corner time to get stuff ready for the summer. This includes items of a radio nature...Antennas, mobile installations, new radio procedures of operation, putting together a pick up and run kit when dispatched to a location. Anyway...do have a great summer.

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

DUES ARE...still DUE!

DELARA relies on your participation, and on your support! Don't forget to mail your check to Ken Bird, W8SMK, 244 N. Parkway Dr. Delaware, OH 43015. Questions: 740-972-3723.

CQ TEST...
KV8Q



You haven't heard from me for awhile. I have been recovering from ankle surgery. Things are progressing fine and I should be walking around better than ever with my two bionic ankles. The recovery process has not allowed me to get down to the shack which is in the basement until the past week or so. And, I still could not sit there and put in any amount of time in a contest.

So, what have I been doing in the world of ham radio? I've been planning on how I am going to get my station setup for single-op, 2 radio (SO2R) operation. Currently, my station consists of a Ten-Tec Jupiter which is connected to a Dell PC with three monitors running N1MM software for contest operations. My antenna 'farm' consists of a 102' G5RV @ 45', a Gap Eagle DX vertical @ 15', and a ground-mounted 160 meter vertical which is 27' high with 255' of helically wound-wire with just 2 radials.

My plan is to connect a DX Doubler to the Dell PC and connect that to the Jupiter and a Kenwood TS-930 that has been my spare radio for the past few years. Each radio will have a ICE-419B bandpass filter connected to it to help prevent interference between the two radios. I will have the G5RV and the 160 meter vertical connected to the Jupiter. The GAP will be connected to the TS-930 along with a multi-band dipole that will eventually get installed in the attic. The 419B's will automatically follow the band selection via band decoders so I don't blow them up inadvertently when I change bands at 4:00am. My ultimate goal is to have any of the four antennas available to either radio but that's part of Revision 1-A to come at a later date.

So, what will this do for me in a contest? I can have the computer calling CQ for me on radio-A. While that is happening, my headphones will be connected to radio-B where I can be tuning around on a different band for new QSO's and/or multipliers. Once my CQ is finished on

radio-A, my headphones will flip back to radio-A so I can listen for any replies. If I get one, great - work it and continue. If I hear a new station on radio-B, work it and then call CQ on radio-A once again and repeat the process.

My goal is to increase my QSO total by around 10% with the two radio operation. If that's true, I should be able to go from third place in Ohio in Sweepstakes to first place - providing none of you tell those other guys what I'm doing. I'll keep you posted on my progress with this project. And, you'll know when my ankle is healed completely because, then, you'll hear me on the low end of the CW bands once again.

NCVEC Releases Second Technician Question Pool - *from the ARRL website*

In January, the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the 2010 Technician (Element 2) Question Pool.

Upon further review of the pool, members of the QPC found and corrected more than 50 minor typographical errors and clarified the questions and answers, making them easier to understand. These adopted changes are now incorporated in a revised question pool. The errata



list, as well as the revised Technician question pool, is available on the NCVEC Web site. The previously released pool dated January 4, 2010 is invalid for use. The newly revised Technician question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element. The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

It's MY Turn

I hope to encourage all our members to write about your favorite part of the radio sport- whether it's chasing six-meter dx, a radio that you love, emergency operations in which you've participated, or some other aspect of the hobby. If it's of interest to you, it surely will be of interest to us! If you know the special interest of another club member- drop the dime on them by suggesting an article! Email newsletter@k8es.org, and we'll do the rest! You don't have to be a literary genius- you write it (about ¾ to 1 typed page), we'll make it pretty. - N8BHL ed

My favorite Radio: Yaesu FT-102

Stan, N8BHL



As for my own favorite subject, it happens to be a venerable old HF rig made by Yaesu, the FT-102. I bought mine used in 1982 for around \$600. The radio was

introduced in 1982 but was being phased out by 1984 to make room for the 'new stuff' like the transistorized FT-757. One remarkable feature is the three 6146 final section which puts out 180-200 watts. It had optional FM and AM boards- and actually became well known for its AM operation. I admit while I have the AM board, I've never been brave enough to try.

After a couple moves and life changes, my ham radio hf gear got put back in the boxes and stayed on the shelf for nearly 20 years. When my interest re-kindled, I got the FT-102 out of the box and did some research on whether it could live again. One fault that affected the radio was the relay system- the relays went bad. Period. Always. I found to my delight that the 102 had developed almost a cult following. And, I found someone who could not only fix the relays, but who specialized in putting the FT-102 back to its original condition or better. That person is a retired cardiac surgeon named Malcolm Eisman, NC4L. You will see FT-102's advertised as being "Malcolmized" and selling for lots of money these days. Mal takes the radios apart, and systematically rebuilds them, going over every solder joint and every board. Why? Because he loves this one particular radio. Here is his report on the radio:

The FT 102 was designed by the same fellow who later designed the receiver for the 1000D. The receivers are basically identical until the last IF where the 1000D incorporates the DSP functions. In fact the 8 MHz IF frequencies are identical and both radios incorporate

variable IF Shift, Width and Notch filters in the same way. All three of those controls are only found in the flagship radio of each manufacturer since they are costly to install in the IF chain.

IF filtering is superior to DSP filtering since IF filtering affects the AGC loop and DSP filtering is usually only in the (post detection) audio loop. This means that notching a carrier in the SSB mode by a DSP mechanism still leaves the effects of that carrier in the IF circuitry and consequently that signal's interfering effect on AGC functioning. With IF filtering the signal is removed from the IF stage and therefore its effects on the characteristics of the IF and AGC circuitry are also eliminated.

The third order intercept in the 102 as measured by QST labs in 1984 was +19.5 dBm. That is noteworthy because no other radio has equaled or exceeded that figure as of December 2003.

Although I've added "modern" rigs to the shack, including a 756 ProII, I keep the 102 and its external VFO, along with my home-brew sweep tube



amp, in a prominent position in my shack. One of my first projects was to 'wire in' PSK-31 and digital devices to the 102. That wasn't a problem- in fact, back in the 1980's I ran a Vic-20 and AEA "Micropatch" with the rig, operating RTTY and split-screen cw successfully. So connecting a modern-day RIGblaster was easy with the many ports on the back of the rig. PSK-31 and the rest of today's modes were no problem. The only sacrifice is the lack of "computerized rig control." But then, I'd rather twiddle the knobs anyway. I've tried some contesting, and must report that the FT-102's cw operation was more pleasing than with the newer rigs. The transmitted audio on SSB always gets me compliments. It's a pleasure to operate, and it's a rig that stands up to the competition today!