



Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter

April 2011

Volume 30, 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:
Dave Le May WB2CWJ
- Sec/Treas:
Ken Bird W8SMK

In This Issue

- DELARA wins OH QSO Party! -pg 3
- Field Day! -pg 8
- Weather Training -pg 7

The Calendar

- Apr 7 ARES Net 145.19
- Apr 14 ARES Mtng
- Apr 20 DELARA
- Apr 21 Contest net 145.17

Our April Meeting: CORC - Expansion plans *Better weather reporting*



Our April meeting will feature DELARA member John Perone, W8RXX, who keeps the CORC repeater systems on the air including the home of the Central Ohio Severe Weather Net, the 146.76 repeater. There is some major expansion coming for the system, and we will be interested to hear how it's growing! This is a picture of the current 76 repeater system at John and Laura's home - quite a bit different from the early days of half-dozen equipment racks wrapped up in patch cords and mechanical accessories as it lived in the basement of founder John Hull, W8RRJ.



The Prez Sez:

Tim K8TAT



Well I thought that warmer weather was here, but we have had some snow, rain, some warm weather and some sun so lets hope April will bring some of the 3 letter stuff, and none of the 4 letter stuff again. We need the sun to help repair our antennas from this past winter's ice storm. I know I sure do - I need to get some new ropes for two of my loops antenna supports.

Warmer weather will start us thinking about spring projects, Field Day and other things that we get involved in like maybe a vacation or two. It won't be too long until it is Dayton Hamvention time and we start thinking about all the "goodies" that we can't live without. For those of you who haven't been to Dayton, you need to go at least once. It is the Hamfest to end all Hamfests. It is large, the bargains are everywhere and if you can't find it there, it probably doesn't exist. Of course, there are always people that have the same "goodies" year after year. Try it, just one time.

Be sure and attend the meeting to find out what things we are planning. So that's it for now. I look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting and hopefully the weather will cooperate and be warm and sunny.

73,
Tim - K8TAT

Want to help out? Join our DELARA "Elmers" and be available to answer questions from new or existing hams! Send an Email to elmer@k8es.org and let us know what areas you're interested in advising! We'd be glad to have you on the list.



ARES Happenings

Stan, N8BHL



I hope you had a chance to catch the severe weather training at Scioto Twp! It's always good to refresh and get the newest storm criteria.

We will have plenty of opportunities to sharpen our net skills this year! Thanks to Vicki, W8VES, and Joe, N8ZGL, for minding the parking at the new Red Cross event supporting Military Families. We hope this new event grows in support and attendance next year.

Don, KB8SIA, is spearheading the Kid's Safety Scene this year at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. If you have time free on May 18, get with Don for a fun day.



June 11 is the Tour De Cure- a favorite event for many.

Wendy's Triathlon 1 is set for June 12. Wendy's Triathlon 2 is set for the same Saturday as Field Day, June 26, so we'll need a half dozen to help for that.



Then we have a major event that's going to require a lot of us - the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure! The GOBA tour comes from Marion Monday June 20. On Tuesday June 21 they do a tour from Delaware to Galena/Sunbury and back to the fairgrounds.



Tuesday's tour will probably require a lot of operators, so check your calendars! Wednesday, they leave for London, OH. This is a very professionally organized event.



We have two more triathlon type events sponsored by Greenswell. They are July 16/17 and August 6/7.

That'll keep us charging our batteries! Thank you in advance for all your help! I will be asking for event coordinators for some of these events so put on your organizer hats! Your participation in ARES is an important service to the public, and a big part of Amateur Radio!

Our April meeting is set with R.A.C.E. - a Delaware based search and rescue group which has been called into several high profile activities this past year. We meet the second Thursday of the month, usually at the county EOC, 7:30 PM.

A Battery Tip - Don, KB8SIA

As with modern home remote controlled devices your HT has a similar circuit that has a very small voltage that is always at the ready to turn on the device at the push of a button. This circuit will lower the battery voltage if not charged frequently thus making your HT inoperative. "Surprise, surprise!" An easy way to defeat this surprise is to remove the battery from your HT when not being used. Just keep the battery terminals from "shorting" out while off the radio. This tip is not needed if your HT has a "off" and "on" switch. The battery voltage (shelf life) will lower eventually but not at the above mentioned rate.

DELARA Ham Exams

Colvet will be administering FCC Ham Radio license exams in Delaware Saturday, May 28. The exams will begin at 10 AM at the Tri-Twp Fire Department meeting room (location of DELARA meetings). The Fire Dept. is located at 495 Sunbury Rd, Delaware, OH 43015.

Operating events

- **Montana, New Mex, Georgia QSO Parties**
4/9 - 4/10
- **144 MHz spring Sprint**
1900 local - 2300 loc 4/11
- **Michigan, Ontario QSO Parties**
4/16 - 4/17
- **ARRL Rookie Roundup**
1800z - 2359z 4/17

Contribute!

We need your articles, comments and ads!

Newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org

elmer@k8es.org

<http://www.k8es.org>

What is Washington up to?



It's not my intention on using the opportunity to contribute to the DELARA newsletter to rant on about politics - that's the realm of 75 meters on Saturday nights (and the rest of the week for that matter). But, I feel I'm compelled to bring to light what our honored representatives are doing in that malfunctioning berg known as Washington DC. I'll apologize in advance if this article offends the reader but it does pertain to the state of Amateur Radio, its survival and the all mighty dollar.

About a month ago, I received a notice that my call sign, W8CR, was being relinquished and I will be reassigned a new call in several weeks. I couldn't believe what I was reading. The letter referenced new legislation that was passed (I later determined) during the Christmas Eve flurry of bills, amendments and riders that our beloved Congress sneaks through unbeknownst to those affected and without outside review. The FCC Rules and Regulations Part 97.19 (j) (3) describes a new licensing procedure "...whereas any Federal or State office holder or employee who wishes to obtain, or presently holds an amateur radio operators permit, not under suspension, may request and will be granted any call sign whether active or inactive".

Well, it appears, someone wants my callsign that I've had for about 15 years now and there is not a darned (I so wish I could use much stronger language) thing I can do about it. Or so I thought...

I immediately got on the internet and Googled everything I could find regarding this. I just can't believe what was happening here. Where was the ARRL during all of this? I've never heard nor read anywhere this type of legislation was pending.

Well it turns out the ARRL was knee deep behind this. They knew about it but failed to notify their membership. The dirty little secret is they proposed an amendment that allows a current license holder, whose call was to be "confiscated" (my term) would be able to retain it by paying a "retention fee" (their term) of \$200. \$100 of which goes directly to the coffers of the ARRL.

They sold us out!

On a side-bar, in the same legislation, with the advent of digital communications and the demise of A1 (CW/Morse Code) mode, "non-alphabetic characters are now permitted to be part of future callsigns as long as they are within the ASCII character set. I'm not quite sure what that means.

Well, I honestly didn't have time to track this down any further. I have been traveling an awful lot lately and just didn't have an opportunity to see what I had to do to retain my call. I did send an email to both Sherrod Brown's and Rob Portman's offices complaining. I got back form letters from both offices thanking me for contacting them ... blah, blah, blah

I'm back home now, and sifting through weeks of mail I found a letter from the FCC. Upon opening, I have received my new license which will expire on 04/01/2021. QRZ.COM shows my old call, W8CR, now is owned by Charles Riley, who works for ODOT in SE Ohio. Hope he enjoys it.

Thanks for letting me vent.

Craig Miller, **KG8*%&**

Ex WN8TLC, WB8TLC, W8CR



Howdy from Joe's Place

Nice goin' Delara !!!

You probably heard this already (or may read about it elsewhere in this issue) but it bears repeating:

The 2010 Ohio QSO Party results are in and Delara was the cream of the crop in the club competition and Tom, KV8Q, won top honors in the Single-op CW category. In winning the club competition, Delara creamed the old record in that category by a whopping margin of over 250K points.

Delara has now won the club competition three years in a row and has established itself as one of the better contest groups in the state. We don't have any real big guns but we do have a bunch of persistent folks who make the most of their stations.

Here are some excerpts from the results posted on the OQP web site:

"Tom Hain, KV8Q, spent the whole time operating CW from his Columbus QTH, and was rewarded by winning the plaque for the top single operator CW score."

"In the Ohio Club competition, the Delaware Amateur Radio Association easily won the category, in the process smashing the existing club record."

You can get the full story at: <http://www.ohqp.org/images/2010%20OhQP%20Results.pdf>

If you go to the web site you will see that Delara is sponsoring a plaque this year. (The one for Ohio Rover category) It's not cheap but is very appropriate since Delara members have taken home a lot of OQP "hardware" over the last several years.

Speaking of plaques, I propose we give the club plaque to Tom because of his hard work, not only during contests, but in getting our DELARA Contest Team organized.

Well, I guess that's it for the April issue. By next month, the weather should be looking better and we can all start getting some of those outdoor chores completed (Like fixing antennas, etc HI)

I hope to see you all at the April meeting, but if not, then see you all in May, at Joe's Place.

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

April, 1991- The 1991 class was complete, with six new hams and three upgrades, with many more elements passed. KV8Q, the new EC, had a presentation at the meeting.

April, 2001- President Bob announced he'd sold his gear, purchased a computerized sewing machine and was on his way to riches as an independent embroiderer. He then asked if his April Fool joke had got us.

Anybody want to Contest at Dayton?

Dale, Paul and I are going to Contest University the Thursday before the Dayton Hamvention. We have reserved 2 rooms for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights. We have room for one more person in the room. Let me know if you would be interested.

- Larry N9AUG

CQ Special Event de K8H



DELARA will be operating a Special Event Station again this year in recognition of the 26th All-Horse Parade from 00:00z on September 10, 2011, through 23:59z on September 18, 2011.

We will be operating on most HF and VHF bands using popular modes. I have been in contact with The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club who allowed us the use of their wonderful web based Special Event software for logging and instant certificate retrieval and they've agreed to have us back for 2011.

This years event will last 7 days compared to 2 days last year, and we'll be listed in the September QST. I would not be surprised if this years QSO's exceed 1,000.

As it gets closer I will be looking for operators, and providing additional information so stay tuned.

...Gary, K8EHB

Beginner's Corner

W
A
8
U
E
G

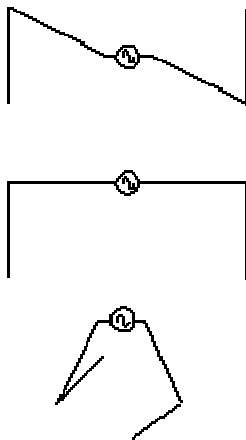
Steve Fetter



A half wave dipole is to long for my lot!

A lot of new hams are using G5RV's and other shortened antennas because a half wave dipole simply will not fit the space they have available. I have always found that a half wave dipole will out perform any trap or shortened antenna design at the same height even if it is bent to fit in a restricted space. A bent dipole does not require a tuner to achieve resonance and can be fed with 50 ohm coax. A 1:1 balun is a good idea but not necessary.

The Bent Dipole:



The number of ways a dipole can be bent to fit into a space is infinite but energy fed to any bent antenna will radiate as long as it's not lost through resistance. When making a bent dipole add 10% to the standard $468/\text{freq}$ in MHz formula as the bends will affect the length needed for a 50 ohm match. The electrical current on a dipole is highest in the center and lowest at the ends so the best performance will be achieved if you have enough room to keep about half of each leg relatively straight as that is where most of the signal is generated from and of course you want to keep the center as high as possible. For a 40 meter antenna that is only about 15 feet per side or 30 ft total required. Less for a bent inverted V.

Below is the radiation pattern in a perfect world with a perfect dipole.



Of course a bent dipole will have all kinds of strange lobes and patterns and not be at all like the pattern

above however dipoles are very forgiving antennas; you can bend the wires without affecting the performance too much. In general bending the legs will decrease the impedance slowly so trimming to match shouldn't cause any problems. Of course keep the wires as far away from metal objects as possible. Not happy with your current antenna on a certain band and cramped for space? Try a bent dipole.

Ham News & Calendar

- 4/9/2011 - 57th Annual Hamfest, Cuyahoga Falls
- 4/16/2011 - Mansfield Ham Exam
- 4/21/2011 - Tiffin Ham Exam
- 4/23/2011 - Jackson County Hamfest, Jackson
- 4/25/2011 - Columbus Whetstone Library Exam
- 5/1/2011 - Marion TV 39 Ham Exam
- 5/1/2011 - Athens Hamfest, Athens
- 5/20/2011 - Dayton
- 5/28/2-11 - Delaware DELARA Ham Exam

Ohio ASM Digital Manager Named

Jeff Evans, KB8ZUN, has been named the new Assistant Section Manager overseeing digital communications for Ohio. Jeff will report directly to Section Manager Frank Piper, KI8GW, and work with SEC Jack Sovik, KB8WPZ and the Section Traffic Manager Dave Maynard, WA3EZN. Jeff is currently the EC (Emergency Coordinator) for Lorain County and is involved in the Northern Ohio Digital Interconnect Group.

For Sale / Wanted

Ameritron 811H Amp

600 watts CW, 800 SSB.

\$450

Larry N9AUG

WORK THE WORLD..

Would you like to work the world? Do you have an HF radio and a computer? You don't need a big antenna or a KW Amp. I have discovered a Digital program called JT65-HF. (FREE) It sounds like musical tones and uses low power. Signals that are hardly heard in your receiver are perfectly workable. I have made contact with stations all over the world with 25 watts and a dipole antenna.

The program was written by K1JT, Joe Taylor, also the author of WSJT, WSPR, and several other weak signal Digital programs. Download it from the Internet and give it a try.

Bob - N8OB

Ohio QSO Party - DELARA Contest Team #1

The DELARA Contest Team made a big showing during the 2010 Ohio QSO Party – smashing our previous score and claiming first place in club competition. I couldn't do a better job summarizing than did the Mad River Radio Club, contest sponsor, on their website:

Number of entries: 294
 Total QSOs reported: 40,548
 Active stations: 3,064
 REPORTED QSOs PER BAND AND MODE

	80	40	20	15	10	Total
CW:	7962	6798	3565	5	3	18,333
SSB:	12925	6970	2261	28	31	22,215

By comparison, in 2009 there were 219 entries and 33,502 QSOs reported. The 2010 QSO total was nearly double that of 2007, a year marked by poor propagation and heavy QRN. Much of the increase was in 75 meter SSB activity, as Ohio stations figured out if you can't beat 40 meters, go somewhere else. While this year there were some short periods of 40 meter propagation within Ohio, now that solar activity is on the increase hopefully that will be more common in 2011 and future years.

Bob Liddy, K8BL, took the top honors in the Single Operator Low Power category from Lake county.

Tom Hain, KV8Q, spent the whole time operating CW from his Columbus QTH, and was rewarded by winning the plaque for the top single operator CW score.

In the Ohio Club competition, the Delaware Amateur Radio Association easily won the category, in the process smashing the existing club record.

Many thanks to the Mad River Radio Club for their expertise in taking on this major project – they always do a great job!

Our DELARA Contest Team showed that a group effort, with many participants can make a huge difference in our score! Well done to all! The battle lines have been drawn for this year: the Ohio QSO Party is August 27th Noon EDT to Midnight!

For more DELARA Contest Team scores and information, click "Contest Team" on the DELARA website: <http://www.k8es.org> Interested? Email contest@k8es.org and you're in! It's that easy.

Severe Weather Readiness - Time to prepare!



Mary Jo Parker, warning meteorologist at the Wilmington, OH, weather office reminded Ham Radio spotters and emergency workers that we see many types of severe weather in the Ohio River Valley, from flash floods to tornados. All of us have to be ready! She trained spotters at the Scioto Twp. Hall this month.



N8YS photos – Delaware County EMA

In the past few years, the N.W.S. has revised its criteria for severe storms, bringing wind gust up to 58 MPH and hail size to 1", although they still want us to report hail from 1/2" size. They do not want reports of lightning, and they pretty much know where the rain is located. They do NOT have a conclusive view of what's actually going on at ground level- and that's where we trained spotters come in!



First and most important- have a working weather alert radio! Pay attention to the weather forecasts. Check the Storm Prediction Center's website and Wilmington's pages. That will help you be ready. When the watches begin, listen to the Central Ohio Severe Weather Net on 146.76. GET SOMEWHERE WHERE YOU HAVE GOOD VISIBILITY, and be ready to report severe events near you. We need everyone participating! If you have a question...listen. Then listen. Then, listen. Keep the net clear for reports! Our Delaware ARES will have an operator standing by at the EOC – checked into the net and the 911 center. Should an event take place, we'll be in a position to immediately call up the local ARES net (We'll get word through on 76, don't worry) and begin our post-storm operation. That will most likely be on N8DCA, 145.19.

Tornados and severe storms can hit at any time of the year- so we need to be ready!



DELARA Field Day 2011 Update

Sandy Mackey, N8YS, Field Marshall

Station Captains

80/20 CW: Larry, N9AUG & Joe, K8MP in the County ECOMM Van

10/15/40 CW: Dale, W8KTQ & Tom, KV8Q in the County ECOMM Van

80/20 phone: Craig, W8CR in his fabulously tricked out Camo Camper.

10/15/40 Phone: Stan, N8BHL & Gary, K8EHB using Stan's Canned Ham.

GOTA : Bob, W8ERD & Tim, K8TAT near the pavilion in Tim's Camper

VHF station: Paul, N2OPW in Tim's Camper along with the GOTA.

Generators

Dale, W8KTQ for the Picnic/GOTA

Craig, W8CR for the Camo Ham

Gary, K8EHB for the Canned Ham

Bob, W8ERD for the ECOMM Van

We will be looking for donations of gasoline for the generators. Make sure to write your name/callsign on the gas can so we can be sure to get it back to you. Gasoline donations will be used strictly for the generators and whatever is left in your can will be returned to you.

Bonus points

Remember to bring your kids & grandkids 18 & under to help with the FD Youth Participation bonus point's category.

Picnic

One morning a couple of weeks ago, I woke up with an idea (this is what happens to me during pre-Field Day, I dream about it! Sad, I know). To show our appreciation for all they do, we will invite the Public Safety Workers of Delaware County (*i.e. Firefighters, Law Enforcement, and Dispatchers*) to join us for our picnic June 25, 2011. Start time will probably be 5-5:30pm. We are hoping that you will contribute food to the Delaware County Public Safety Workers Picnic and we hope you support the club by being at the picnic. We will have a delicious menu, courtesy of Barb, N8BSS, and Linda, N8FES, our Picnic Coordinators. They will have meals for the station operators on Saturday & Sunday along with the picnic. Barb will have a sign up sheet at the next few meetings; Please consider signing up on Barb's

sheet. She has a great menu planned and with your help we can make this event a memorable one. I would also like to thank Larry, N9AUG for his generous monetary donation towards the picnic.

Special thanks to everyone who is willing to volunteer their time, effort, gasoline and equipment to help us do well in Field Day this year. On Friday, June 24 (Set up day) I will be gathering everyone for a group picture, so please be sure to be there. Maybe a club picture would be nice. We can set a time at the next meeting. We had a bunch of good ideas tossed around, and I expect this will be another great DELARA Field Day.

But WaitThere's More!!!

I have already sent out several Field Day emails. If you would like to be on the FD distribution list send me (Sandy, N8YS) an email at: delawarefieldday@gmail.com and put 'ADD ME' in the subject line, as updates go out, you will be notified.

Remember to check out the Field Day Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/delawarefieldday1/> for Field Day information, photos of past Field Days and the map to the site. Our Next Field Day meeting will be June 15, 2011. Thanks to all who attended or gave input via telephone, email or in person before the meeting.

This just in -

I just read the Ohio Section News (thanks to Joe, K8MP for the heads up) and do you know what they are saying about us? It's pretty darned good! **'Delaware, DELARA, Is already in full FD mode. These folks take Field Day serious. As evidence just look at their scores! Any challenges out there from other clubs? Come on Cuyahoga, Canton, Northern OH, Findlay, Lake County can you catch them! Delaware's Skywarn training was March 30, they added a new repeaters system on 145.19 (-) full carrier mode.'** That should give us a little extra incentive to do our very best during Field Day. It's nice to be noticed!

73,
Sandy, N8YS