



DELARA



Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter

February 2011

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

In This Issue

- Winter Storm 2011
- Antenna new or used?
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The Calendar

- Feb 10 ARES Mtng
- Feb 16 DELARA
- Feb 17 Contest Net
- Mar 3 ARES Net
- Mar 30 SPOTTER TRAINING



ARES
Happenings

Stan, N8BHL



A week or two back I finished our training topic for the February 10 ARES meeting: 6 pages of tabletop exercise based on a massive winter storm. It started with warm temperatures, rain and the promise that things would get much worse. At night, the temperature dropped significantly creating a covering of thick, solid ice. Wind, snow and chaos followed.

By Tuesday morning, February 1, we were living it.

On Monday, Emergency Management Director Brian Galligher, KD8OAD, had been in touch with the National Weather Service to get their best forecast. I was in touch with Brian and Stewart Gray, the Red Cross Emergency Management Director in Delaware, to establish phone and email contacts 'just in case.' Tuesday morning, Gary, K8EHB, and Sandy Mackey, N8YS, arrived at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to quickly program the remainder of the new Icom mobile radios we'd received so they could be deployed if needed. By 1:30PM that afternoon, the EOC was full of representatives from safety, service and other governmental organizations to hear the latest briefing on the weather. It wasn't good. At 4PM another briefing was held to determine the course of the next couple of days. Power was already dropping to some areas. We used the ARES calling tree to alert members to a formal activation. At 7PM, the ARES net was called and the results of the briefing relayed to members. We determined who was available and in what timeframes, should we be deployed to shelters or other sites. This was the time to actually get those 'go kits' together and charge the batteries. I was pleased that nearly all of the 16 checkins reported they had generators at the ready!



Brian, KD8OAD, in the EOC

Tuesday morning, we were in the thick of it! I was notified first thing that the EOC was now in full activation, and a 9AM briefing would be held. Driving in four-wheel-drive to get there wasn't a big challenge - it was more eerie to be relatively alone on the roadways, with no power, no traffic lights and large tree damage seen everywhere. The vacant downtown buildings echoed the drone of the large generator powering the County Building. Inside, the room was abuzz with lots decisions, conversations, and discussion. Brian called the group together to discuss the situation.

(Continued page 2)

STORM OF 2011

We were all waking up (some in the cold) to find out what the extra weight of ice had done to our antennas. I lost a support mast for my 160-meter delta loop. Larry, N9AUG, lost a guy ring and pulley at the top of a mast, bringing wire antennas to the ground. Joe, K8MP, lost his 40-meter vertical. (See Joe's Place)

Perhaps the biggest loss so far reported came from Bob, W8ERD. Bob faced the worst of it; his ice-covered sloping drive kept him hostage inside the home. As he looked out the window, he saw that a top support strut had snapped, allowing half the boom to fold downward trashing the mighty log-periodic that had just recently performed so well in the ten meter contest. (See picture page 9) Bob reports he will need some help to remove the beam because it blocks use of the other antennas on that tower. President Tim, K8TAT had damage (reported in his column.) I'm sure these are not the only antennas that are on the ground after the storm.



N8YS photo

Those weren't the only challenges to communication. As luck would have it the veteran .17 repeater chose Tuesday evening to give up, sacrificing the transmitter to the ice gods. As the 7PM net took place we switched to the .29 repeater and were getting started on it when the power dumped to most of the city taking it down. We switched to simplex, where I found out what a load of ice does to one's beam- it was like somebody shut off the antenna. Good to Bob and Gary who picked up the net briefly until the .29 returned to the air. Because power on the north side of 36 was off, we lost .17 and the 440 machine. Although there is a battery backup for .29, the power stayed on at the water tower and the .29 machine became the anchor for two meter activity.

I guess you're never as ready as you'd like to be, but I thought we did well. With Gary and Sandy's work we had radio kits that could supply communications to shelters or hospital if needed. Joe, K8MP, earlier donated a couple nice carry kits for this purpose...even though they are not configured or

built yet, they would have at least carried the radios. I didn't know how many still had Internet service, but I was able to use the cellphone to send out email updates following the briefings, as well as broadcast them on our nets using .29. I'm not very good at that tiny touch-screen keyboard but it was an effective way to get information out to ARES members.

We were very close to being dispatched to cover shelters. Stew Gray was under tremendous pressure with the decision to open, and where to open, warming shelters. When it was decided to use Delaware Bible Church, they reported very stable power and dependable communication by phone and cellphone. Stew was very open to ham communication as a backup but both he and I questioned whether there would be anything for us to actually do once there- and putting more people out on the ice was not desirable. So we opted to keep our folks home, warm and dry. Since we knew where our ARES members were and that all were ready to go quickly, it would have been easy to fill in had communication failed there.



N8YS photo

What did we learn? On a personal basis, we all got a refresher on having backup power and heat! We learned to change the net frequency in an orderly fashion. Another important lesson was the challenge caused by not having generator power at the 17 and 443.550 repeater site. And we learned we need to sharpen up our NCS coverage a bit- when the NCS station dies, there should be a "Number 2" ready to step in. Most important - we learned it CAN happen here!

A HUGE "Well Done" to ALL who were ready!

Join ARES! Membership form on the K8ES website.
-Stan, N8BHL

Operating events

- **CQ WW RTTY**
0000z 2/12 – 2400z 2/13
- **ARRL School Club Rndup**
1300z 2/13 – 2400z 2/18
- **ARRL Int'l DX CW**
0000z 2/19 – 2400z 2/20
- **CQ 160-Meter SSB**
2200z 2/25 – 2159z 2/27
- **ARRL Int'l DX SSB**
0000z 3/5 – 2400z 3/6

Contribute!

We need your articles,
comments and ads!

Newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org

elmer@k8es.org

<http://www.k8es.org>

WHAT A N-ICE TIME!



Radio Hams are, more than most, willing to help their neighbors! Here Craig Miller, W8CR, shares a lesson on our responsibility to care for our neighbors...and the guilt therein! -ed

I've been witness to many a calamity in my half century on this orb. Having grown up out in the open tundra of NW Ohio it was not simply a Boy Scout motto but a necessity to "Be Prepared". We survived the Great Blizzard of '78, the historic Basement Flood of 1970 and who could ever forget that awful summer day in '72 when the riding lawn mower broke and I had to mow the whole acre with a Montgomery-Wards 21" pusher (with the bagging accessory). Oh the horror!

Having responsibility for a home and family on 5 acres in the country, being prepared for that surreal ice storm and subsequent power outage was an opportunity to put a life's worth of mayhem experience to the test.

Night before the big freezing drizzle I ran out and topped off the tank of the rig and poured another 15 gallons in DOT/ EPA/CIA certified fuel containers -- a regular rolling fuel bomb! The 87 octane in the red jugs gave the truck the pleasant gasoline odor we all enjoy. After unloading, I opened all the windows and sun roof to air out for a few minutes. About an hour later, I went back out and rolled up the windows and absentmindedly slid the sun roof's shade shut (please note, I closed the "sun shade" not the "sun roof")! We're ready, bring it on...

The ice cometh I didn't realize I left the roof open for about 24 hours. It had a nice solid 3/8" of crust. The hatch wouldn't slide shut because now the tracks were full of ice. GGGGGRRRRRRRR! In the garage it goes, fire up the heater, thaw things out and chip away. About 2 hours later, I was able to close the sun roof and move the wife's car back into the garage. This wasn't part of my disaster training. Power goes out Tuesday night. It was late enough, let's just go to bed, I'll fire the 5kw up in the morning, which I did. We were living large – water, heat, plenty of firewood. Time to relax and enjoy being ice bound. Preparedness paid off.

Hmmmm. I wonder how the elderly couple next door are doing? I should walk/slip-slide next door and check in on them. The man was in a wheel chair recovering from a recent surgery following a bad fall. Cuddling around the fireplace, absorbing what little heat it radiated, they were happy to see me. The dog was too cold to growl at me, which she usually does. I asked if they had a generator I could start for them. "No". A propane or kerosene heater? "No". "Why don't you come over to our place? We have heat and power." We all knew attempting to move him in this ice would be a recipe for disaster.

"Tell you what, I have a spare generator and a little propane space heater. Let me bring those over and get you set up, this outage may be several days – it's pretty nasty." "That would be great! Thank you."

First thing was to get the propane heater over with an extra tank. It's one of those radiant ones from TSC. Simple, burns clean and works. They loved it. It started warming the room right away.

The spare generator had a leaky fuel line which I was procrastinating to fix. Now's the time to fix it. Luckily I had some extra hose and soon had it next door perking along. Now their food wasn't spoiling and they made a fresh pot of coffee right away. I checked on them regularly, filled the genny, check the heater. Then it dawned on me to ask if they needed any water. For you City Slickers, when us Country Folk lose power, the well pump stops pumping.

(Continued pg 4)

You only have enough water available in the pressure tank for a flush or two and a pot of coffee. So, now I'm shuttling gallon jugs of potable water we keep on hand in case our well fails. And then 5 gallon jugs to flush the toilets, which were used right away, as you may imagine.

Thursday morning I went out to our barn to restart the generator (having left it off for the night). With a mighty tug, pull cord handle and about six inches of cord went flying across the barn and the remaining cord spun back into its housing - "NUTS!" (I'm pretty sure that's what I exclaimed). Got right to work repairing the pull start mechanism, grumbling the entire time. 10 degrees Fahrenheit, numb fingers, ice cold wrenches. I'm getting rather annoyed. Luckily there was enough rope to restrung the recoil starter. A shot of ether and it fired up. Off to the neighbor's.

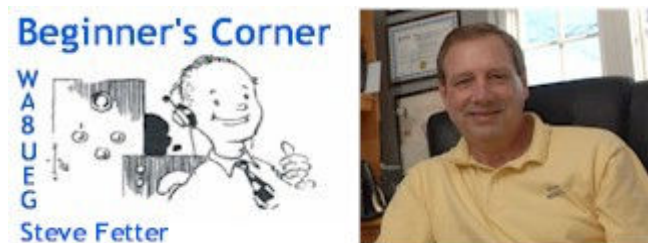
The spare generator was silent - out of fuel. Got that restarted and knocked on the door. No answer. Knocked again, no answer, the dog didn't even bark. OH-OH! You always hear about carbon monoxide poisoning with space heaters. *I killed my neighbors, and their dog!!* Knocked harder, this time I saw movement. "Thank GOD!". They were still in bed. The heater had been turned off the night before just to be safe. What a relief.

I'm going to buy a CO detector and keep it with that heater - that really spooked me.

Couple hours later, the fine crew of Consolidated Edison flipped the switch and brought us back into the 21st century. We were off about 36 hours.

Nothing major, but it became a fulltime job keeping two homes running. That really wore me out, hauling wood, gas, water, propane tanks, etc. What a work out. Slept well that night.

The broken limbs will wait until spring, I think.



Steve has been licensed since the '60's, has served with the Central Ohio Severe Weather Net. He now lives on top of a mountain in the Pocono's, and has confirmed DX #300

Antenna... New or Used?

The technological advances that have taken place since I received my Novice in 1964 are mind boggling. By the time I passed my General 2 years later I had managed to put together a state of the art station consisting of a Heathkit Mohawk with the 6 & 2 meter converters, Apache & SB10, Seneca for 6 & 2 and a Warrior amplifier. At the time I felt it was the last station I would ever need but in the 70's R.L. Drake came along with the 4B line that was superior in every way so I replaced a room full of equipment with the new state of the art Drake line. Today my FT1000MP has the selectivity, sensitivity and features that I could not even dream of back then.

Here is the irony. If you read my last column you know that I am a true believer in "antennas are king" yet up until two or so years ago my FT1000MP was connected to the same antenna as I used with the Heathkit station in 1966 - a TA33SR. I recently upgraded to a Hy Gain Hy-Quad - the same antenna I had connected to the Drake line in the 70's!!

While the technology for rigs has changed dramatically over the years antennas have changed little, if any, since the 50's. Our choice in antenna's today remains the same as decades ago: mono band beams, multi band beams, quads, verticals, dipoles, trap dipoles, G5RV (designed and first used in 1946). But wait you say, what about the

SteppIR now that's new technology! Not really - just an old concept with new technology. Back in the 50's NewTronics (Hustler) manufactured an antenna called the cliff dweller; it was a 80/40 meter ratable dipole the idea being the same as the SteppIR - a multi band antenna with mono band performance. The way it worked was like this: there was a control box located in the shack that had a band switch for 80 & 40 meters, another switch on the control box was connected to a motor at the antenna end that would extend or retract the elements. You could switch from 40 CW to 80 SSB then extend the element until a 1:1 SWR was achieved. Sound familiar??

Today a new 3 element tri band beam can begin around \$600.00 and go multiples of that. A new trap vertical starts around \$400.00 and that's before taxes and shipping. In the classifieds on Eham, QRZ & Ebay over the past few weeks beams and verticals can be found used for a fraction of the price. Heck I found TH6DXX (6 element tribander) KLM's, M2's, TA34's, Force 12's all for less then half the cost of a new 3 element tri band beam. Same was true with verticals. With a little TLC a used beam or vertical can be made to last and perform as well or better then a new one.

The bad news is that if the antenna is 20 or so years old the insulators, element stand offs and other plastic or molded parts may be in need of repair or replacement along with the hardware. The good news is that most, if not all, of the parts are still available or are easy to repair or homebrew a replacement. It's a very simple process to refurbish an old antenna and save a lot of money. First inspect the inside of the traps and clean if necessary, next repair or replace any parts that are showing signs of fatigue or aging and finally use some medium steel wool on the boom and elements to make them look like new again. When putting the beam back together replace all the hardware with stainless steel and use Penetrox or equivalent when assembling the elements, the same process is used for a vertical. My TA33 was bought in the early 60's and I did replace some of the molded parts as well as the hardware with stainless steel and it looked and performed better then new 50 years later when I sold it. The Hy-Quad I now use was acquired by getting pieces and parts from WTB ads placed on QRZ and from finding parts in barns (N8BHL's to be exact) and it's way better then when it was new, I figure a savings of at least \$900 compared to a new quad of equal performance and durability.



Refurbishing an antenna is a simple project that can be successfully accomplished by even the newest ham. It can give you a great deal of satisfaction as well as save a pot full of money while not comprising performance one bit. Of course as with buying anything used take your time choosing and carefully inspect or have a great deal of confidence in the seller before handing over your money.

73 & Good DX

Links:

From Karl Knisley, KB8GUM: "Digital Mode Sample Page"
http://www.k3dcw.net/index.php?p=1_4_Digital-Mode-Samples

From Paul Meyers, N2OPW: Check k8es.org Links page for Fred Fish Memorial Most Wanted Grid Map

From John Beal, W8SJV: http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2009/12/radio_hams_in_old_cinema.html

And a most special link!! Best wishes to Ty, NR9Q, and Michelle, KD8JLC who are now married!

See you at the meeting February 16!

Remember to renew your membership!

Old Ham Memories

Bob- N8OB



It was in the summer of 1970 that I returned to Ohio. I was lucky enough to find a house to rent and they didn't care if I put up a tower and antennas. So up went 40 feet of tower with stacked 4 element beams for 6 Meters (my favorite band then and also now). Things were looking good, but got even better when the Findlay Hamfest came up in September. For those of you who don't remember, it was held in a Park in Findlay located near the river. I bought my ticket and was lucky enough to win second Prize, a Swan 260 transceiver for HF. The Ham Radio world was looking good for me. A dipole went up and off I went on HF.

Things were fairly quiet for the next couple of years, Radio-wise. During that time, I moved a couple of times but didn't have the luxury of antenna room so was stuck on 2 meter FM mobile with a tremendous 3 watt output radio. It's sure not the same as the radios we have now. I forgot to mention, it had 5 fixed (crystal) frequencies.

I sold the Swan 260 and traded the Swan 250C 6M radio for a Yaesu FT-101EE. I spent the next 6 months without 6M capabilities and it was like I had lost a good friend. I started looking around (NO Internet back then) and found a 6M transverter that matched the Yaesu. It transmitted low power on 20M, converted it to 6M and vice-versa on receive. It ran about 50 watts if I remember correctly but it got me going again. The antenna was a cut-down 3 element CB beam adjusted for 6M. It worked fairly well.

Very soon after this, a Ham friend that I used to work with in a factory, WB8LGA, asked me if I wanted a job where he was working. It was North Electric in Galion, Ohio and they were looking for someone to work in the Calibration Lab. I interviewed, got the position, and moved to the country in Morrow County. Perfect place: an acre of land, plenty of trees, no real close neighbors. How could it get any better? I moved in November and the Blizzard hit in February. No tower, no antennas..so I stuck a 10 foot piece of mast pipe in a snow drift with a 2 meter antenna on it and operated 2M FM. We were lucky, we kept power, had heat and food. In the warmer weather, I decided to put up a tower and antennas. I opted for a tilt-over tower so I started digging the hole to set the base. When the hole was ready and all the metal to hold the tower was in place I called the concrete people and ordered about 3 cubic yards of concrete. They arrived and it was just a matter of time waiting for the concrete to cure. I also ran all the cables through plastic pipe in the ground to go to the house. A

heavy duty boat winch and heavy cable helped to pull the tower into place. The tower went together as did the tri-band beam, 6 element 6M beam and 17 element 2M beam and of course a 2M vertical for the top. Then the cranking started as I put the tower up. It went rather smoothly, to my surprise. A crank-up tower is a sure way to go if you need to make adjustments or change antennas. I also added an 80M dipole between the trees on the property. I was set to go.

After starting to work in the Cal Lab, WB8LGA and myself, started listening to CW broadcasts on the Commercial Ships frequency. They transmitted at 18 wpm to the ships at sea and we proceeded to start copying to build up our code speed. After a few weeks of this, we listened to another Ship's frequency that transmitted at 22 wpm. More practice, studying the Extra Class manual and I figured that I was ready to upgrade. I went and took the test, passed the code but didn't make the written. I waited another 30 days (required time back then) and went to Detroit to the FCC Office. This was the day after Thanksgiving in 1979. I passed and asked if I could change my Callsign. They replied "Sure". Here we go, another period of waiting to get the upgrade. About 4 weeks later, it arrived in the mail. I was now KB8X. Of course I was excited and proceeded to get on the air with my new Call. People were not used to the 2X1 calls and were always looking for more letters in the call. Things got easier over time.

Since that time, people that know me have heard me use a couple of different Callsigns. W8BOB, nice but too long on CW and now N8OB, a lot better on CW and if I use the correct font, it looks like NBOB.

These days, I am living in Marion, OH with a 30 ft tower, antennas for 6M, 2M and 70CM. I also have a vertical for 80 thru 10M and a G5RV for 80 thru 10M. (Thanks to a lot of help from DELARA Club members). I'm retired now, chase some DX, play with the computer and try to make my Frequency Measuring Tests more accurate. Some of it seems to be a lost cause.

There are several "OLDER" Hams in the Club who can relate to some of this, so ask them about their experiences.

This is the world's greatest hobby and you meet some of the nicest people (a few jerks), so enjoy it as long as possible. There is always something to learn.

Thanks for reading.

Bob - N8OB



Howdy from Joe's Place...
"The Ice Man Cometh"

I've heard of prop wash, antenna oil, and even a left-handed monkey wrench but I don't think there's such a thing as "Antenna Viagra." That's what my 40-meter ground plane needs after the big ice storm. It is still vertically polarized, but unfortunately, what used to be the tippy-top is now at the bottom of the barrel.

That antenna has survived some bad weather, including Ike's winds of a few years ago, but it couldn't handle all that ice.

I haven't examined it up close and personally yet but it appears to have broken where the bottom two sections thread together. I have already contacted Shakespeare's Military Antenna Division to get a price quote that I can submit to my insurance company.

Here's a tip for those of you that suffered damage: Some years ago, I took a lightning hit and Allstate was very good to me. Most of the damage was to my antennas and feed lines. They not only paid to have everything replaced, they even paid me ten bucks per hour to do my own labor. What a deal !!!



K8MP's 40 meter vertical before & after

Well, that's about it for this month. Maybe by your next visit the weather will have begun to warm up a little. I sure hope so anyway.

See you in March, at Joe's Place.

DELARA is on FACEBOOK! Search "Delaware" and click the "Like" button! Check our website often for news and updates: <http://www.k8es.org>



Good morning, afternoon or evening to all. As I'm sitting here typing this, there is very little ice melting from the storms we had over the past few days. I have to remind myself that there are still 6 more weeks of winter left according to what Buckeye Chuck has forecast.

Like you, I did survey the damage the storms have done to the property, the trees and especially the ham radio antennas. I thought at first I had just lost a single rope support from my 160 meter loop, but I actually lost 3 of the 5 supports for this loop. Most of the wire loop antenna is on the ground, making this antenna useless until warmer weather lets me put the supports back up where they belong. I will say with all the adverse weather we have had here in Central Ohio these past years, this has been the first time in 5 years that I have lost more than one support. I guess I'm doing pretty well because the one antenna I put up in the cold last year is still hanging strong.

Just a reminder to all the month of February brings us the local Mansfield Hamfest on Sunday Feb. 13. It is just a small drive away. I will say this is a marvelous little hamfest for spending some time, meeting old friends or new, picking up those little items you have been putting off buying, or just walking around inspecting the wares that other people are selling.

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

73
K8TAT

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

January, 1991- Our meeting featured Col. Dick Lockhart, KA8VYS, on Admiral Byrd's last expedition to Antarctica in 1946. Paul Forgrave, K8ES, began a series of articles designed to get members interested in contesting. *Hm- sound familiar? Check out our "Contest Team" -ed*

January, 2001- President Bob Brown, wrote about amplifiers, antennas and decibels with important instructions on avoiding "Alligator Mouth"—when your transmitted signal is loud, but you can't hear.

CQ TEST...
KV8Q



With all of the contests out there to operate, how does one decide which ones to operate? One could operate a contest every weekend. That might make you very happy; but, there are other members of the family to consider. Where to start? I started by looking at WA7BNM's Perpetual Contest Calendar - <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php>. That site lists the dates and times of every ham contest for the upcoming year. I go through that list and extrapolate the contest that I

want to operate for whatever reason. I first go through the list and pull out my favorite contests, the ones that I really enjoy such as Sweepstakes, the IARU, CQ WW DX and WPX, ARRL DX, etc. I move these events to a spreadsheet that includes the dates and times. I also convert the UTC times to local times so other folks can understand things. Once I have those moved to a spreadsheet, I color them **GREEN** so they stand out. These are the contest that I **really** want to operate.

Step two is to go back through the Perpetual Contest Calendar and list the contests that I would like to operate. These might include state QSO parties in a state that I need some counties in for my county award. I highlight these contest in **YELLOW**. I end up with something like this:

Contest Name	Start (Local)		End (Local)		Start (UTC)		End (UTC)	
	Date	Local	Date	Local	Date	UTC	Date	UTC
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	Jan-28	5:00 PM	Jan-30	4:59 PM	Jan-28	2200	Jan-30	2159
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb-5	9:00 AM	Feb-5	7:00 PM	Feb-5	1400	Feb-5	2400
North American Sprint, CW	Feb-5	7:00 PM	Feb-5	11:00 PM	Feb-6	0000	Feb-6	0400
ARRL Int'l DX Contest, CW	Feb-18	7:00 PM	Feb-20	7:00 PM	Feb-19	0000	Feb-20	2400
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar-13	2:00 PM	Mar-13	9:00 PM	Mar-13	1800	Mar-14	0100

I give this printout to the family. By looking at this printout, they know that the weekend of January 28th is in YELLOW so I could be talked into heading to a cabin for the weekend to do some cross-country skiing. However, since the weekend of February 18th is in GREEN, kids cannot get married that weekend or anything else that would involve me. The wife and kids can go shopping that weekend (that's not a requirement though). And, I expect lots of sunspots, no solar flares, no lightning storms, etc. on any weekend marked in GREEN. All family members should do their best to help make sure all of those things become a reality!!!

Well, there you have it. **Did you notice my tongue in my cheek?** Did you notice there were no SSB contests on my spreadsheet? Keep having fun and look for me on the low end of the CW bands.

Trailer Trash *(ok sorry, I couldn't resist the pun -ed)*

Dale Bauer, W8KTQ

I mentioned at the last radio club meeting that I thought it would a good idea for people to email or call me with thoughts as to the best ways we could utilize the 100' crank-up tower. The two obvious items that have to be done are 1) the generator needs to be permanently mounted on the trailer and 2) the switch for standing the tower in the upright position needs to be replaced. Another improvement is to swap out the 1/2 hp electric, reversible motor for a 3/4 hp. If anyone has a suitable 3/4 hp motor, let me know. The 1/2 hp on it is brand new and works great. Another idea was to change the gear ratio which might also be doable. The last option is to purchase a larger motor. We won't consider that unless the other ideas don't pan out. There's also some sand blasting and painting that needs to be done so I'll be scheduling a work day in the spring. We'll come up with a punch list of items so everybody will know what they're in for! With a lot of help, it shouldn't be bad at all. Email your thoughts and ideas to daleb365@gmail.com. Thanks and 73!



Bob's Traveling Treasure Trove

Bob WBLRD

Now it's a half log periodic. Maybe a log occasional?

Much sympathy to Bob and all who lost property, especially antennas, in the storm! Antenna is free if you want the tubing.



Bob reports he's looking into a SteppIR as a possible replacement.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP MANKIND, PROVIDE TRUE EVIDENCE THERE IS INTELLIGENT LIFE ON THE PLANET, AND PROVE TO ALL YOU CAN COMMAND AND CONQUER? DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES??

[SFX: Patriotic theme music up and under large-voiced announcer]



Have you been lurking in the background, hiding your skill at project management, coordination, motivation and direction? Are you competitive enough? Then THIS job opportunity is for YOU!

We need for you to consider taking the helm of this year's DELARA FIELD DAY as our Field Day Commandant...or whatever the title is. Field Day is an important part of our club's entire year! It takes time, patience, and offers in return a great reward for a job well done!

If this is YOU - contact President Tim! Come out of hiding and SHOW US YOUR STUFF!

February 2011

On Capitol Hill and here too

On January 26, Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), along with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), introduced Senate Bill 191, *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2011*. Similar to HR 81, introduced in the US House by Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18) on January 5, the bill, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 191 has been referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Lieberman is the Chairman of the committee, while Collins is the Ranking Member. *-ARRL Letter*

At the Ohio Statehouse, the end of the 2010 legislative session meant that progress made on Ohio's antenna legislation stopped, since the bills never got Senate vote. State Government Liaison Nick Pittner, K8NAP, is working with Ohio Representative Gerald Stebelton (R- Lancaster) to re-introduce a similar bill in the House. It requires Ohio to adopt PRB-1 allowing Amateur Radio operators to erect reasonable antennas on their properties. The good news was that last year's bill was met with encouraging support. *-arrl-ohio.org*

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

Don't forget to mark your calendar for National Weather Service SPOTTER TRAINING class! This year, the class is set for **Wednesday, March 30**, and will be held at the Scioto Twp. Fire Department, 3737 Ostrander Rd, just south of St. Rt. 36.



This Just In...

ARES Meeting this Thursday (Feb 10): Brian Galligher will play back the winter storm from the county-wide emergency perspective. It should be interesting to hear the developments, concerns, and plans as they played out. 7:30PM at the EOC.

We just received notice that this year's Kids Safety Scenes is set for May 18th. We'll need ARES members to serve- come ready to sign up!

