



Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter

January 2011

Volume 30, Number 1

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

- Christmas Vacation pg 3
- 1 op, 2 stations, ultimate multi-task

The Calendar

- Jan 13 ARES
- Jan 19 DELARA

This Month's Meeting: COLVET - get your ham'zam on!



You know you've been saying it. Now, it's time to DO it! Break out the answer pool and go for that Amateur Radio license upgrade! Our speaker for January is Bill Neill, NE1LL (cool call!), who represents COLVET- volunteer examiners associated with the Laurel V E C. Bill's appearance is a timely reminder, because their next scheduled exam is right here in Delaware County. If your relatives, co-workers, or friends have talked about getting a license it's time you put on your "Elmer" badge and help them earn their way into our fascinating hobby!



The Prez Sez:

Tim K8TAT



Happy New Years to all! As we begin a new year in DELARA let us remember those friends we have lost this past year.

Although it might be hard to beat what we have accomplished together in the past few years we will try to accomplish even more. The monthly programs have been interesting and will continue in 2011 with the new Vice President and Program Chair, Dave, WB2CWJ. If you have ideas for programs, please let Dave know.

As the President elect, I will tell you a little about myself. My name is Tim, K8TAT, first licensed into one of the greatest hobbies around back in 2001 as KC8QVJ. I have the capabilities to operate on all bands from 160 meters with a large loop antenna, like the ones used on Field Day, thru 70 Cm on a simple vertical antenna mounted on my 30' tower. I operate on SSB and FM, and dabble in the digital mode of PSK. I really don't have a favorite band or mode, but if time permits a good ragchew would be great. I'm married to Jane, a wonderful (XYL) of almost 22 years now and I have 2 grown kids, Krysten and Nathan. One is a sophomore in college now and Nathan attends BVHS (Buckeye Valley HS) & Delaware Area Career Center in the Power Sports and Diesel mechanics program. Most of you know Nathan from various DELARA activities and Field Days, either helping with the set up and tear down of antennas, cooking the farm raised chickens, or even operating of the GOTA (Get On The Air) station.

I'm looking forward to being your President of DELARA in 2011 and welcome any and all comments on how we can make DELARA a better club for one and all.

73, Tim - K8TAT



Howdy from Joe's Place...

One of the FCC's requirements of us Hams is that we become part of a trained pool of radio operators. In an effort to further that cause, I have provided this short list of operating aids:

Common Q-signals for the Common Man

- QRA? "Who dat?"
- QRG? "What channel we on good buddy?"
- QRK? "Breaker one-nine for a radio check."
- QRL? "Breaker, Breaker, Anybody here?"
- QRM "Somebody walked on ya."
- QRN "What in tarnation was that?"
- QRO "I got my shoes on."
- QRP? "Should I take my shoes off?"
- QRS "Slow down, yer talkin' too fast."
- QRQ? "Is this still too fast?"
- QRT "3's & 8's at ya. Catch ya on the flip-flop. We gawn."
- QRX "Hold on good buddy."
- QRZ? "Who dat say 'Who dat' when I say 'Who dat'?"
- QSL "Roger that good buddy."
- QSP "Let Festus know I'm goin' fishin'."
- QSY "Let's go to channel 18, good buddy."
- QTH? "What's yer 20?"

See you next month... at Joe's Place!

For Sale / Trade

FOR SALE or Trade, Slightly used but **warmly** loved, Dell Inspiron 8100 Laptop. NO offers refused! - Ken, W8SMK



Newsflash! Substitute Laptop Power System Unveiled!

Don, KB8SIA, reports on this new system of portable power for laptops, emphasizing safety from overheated batteries that have been reported to start fires.



Operating events

- **N. Am. QSO Party SSB**
1800z 1/15 - 0600z 1/16
- **ARRL VHF Sweepstakes**
1900z 1/22 - 0359z 1/24
- **CQ 160 Meter CW**
2200z 1/28 - 2200z 1/30
- **CQWW RTTY WPX**
0000z 2/12 - 2400z 2/13
- **ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW**
0000z 2/19 - 2400z 2/20

Contribute!

We need your articles, comments and ads!

Newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org

elmer@k8es.org

<http://www.k8es.org>

How I spent my Christmas Vacation

Or

"OK Sweetie, you're dragging me to an aquarium. I'm dragging you to an obscure Civil War battlefield"



GRITS. A slimy bowl of boiled corn goo that requires a pound of cheese, butter or salt (or all three) to make it palatable or an acronym (look it up) for "Girls Raised In The South". In my case, this Christmas involved both. My child-bride, Julie, was raised in Birmingham, Alabama (though a Hoosier by birth, but don't bring that up), so every other year, we pack up the rig for the 10 hour trek down to Dixie to hang with the kinfolk for the big day. Her family is great, a little nuts, and they tolerate me well enough.

Good times had by all.

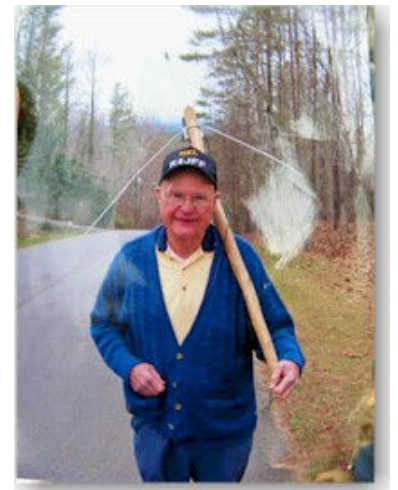
I usually string up a wire or two in a couple of the very tall Georgia Pines in their yard so I can play radio while sugar plums dance in everyone's heads while they slumber (I'm an early riser). This year I opted to just operate from the front seat of the ride for my morning CW fix. Of course I picked the year when Birmingham morning temps were in the teens. Burned many a gallon of petrol just to keep my fingers from going numb. The Kenwood TS-480 and High Sierra screwdriver antenna worked wonderfully. I needed a 12V hot plate or something to keep my lips from freezing on the rim of my frosty cup of coffee.

Soon after Christmas Day, we headed east on I-20 bound for Atlanta. Julie lived there for several years and had friends she wanted to visit since we were in the neighborhood (a 120 mile drive apparently qualifies as being in the "hood"). While rolling along the superslab, somewhere between Talladega and Hotlanta, I heard a faint voice: "CQ CQ CQ from K4JFF on 146.51 simplex" coming out of the remote speaker of the Kenwood TM-D700 dualbander. The volume was down low, barely overcoming the road noise, did he say "146.51"? Weird. The National Calling Frequency is 146.52.

Springing at the opportunity to chat with someone to pass the time I reach for the microphone. Damn, wrong mic, that's for the TS-480. "Where's that stupid D700 mic?" I found the spiral cable and slowly follow it, blindly, with my free right hand while keeping my eyes on the road, trying to avoid sideswiping that Peterbuilt next to us. My hand continued following the cable over the console, tugging gently, hoping it'll spring loose from whatever evil entity is preventing its freedom. My hand then hit an immovable object under which the cable disappears. A certain someone in the passenger seat was sitting on it, fast asleep. CRAP!

Decision, decisions... Well maybe I'll have to pass on this one. Then he calls again "CQ CQ..." I can't control myself, so...YANK. It comes free, she wakes up, I give K4JFF a call. His name is Mel. Nice guy. Says he's up by Kennesaw Mountain, north of Atlanta. We chit chat for a while when I notice he seems to be breathing rather heavily. By this time, Julie and our son Aaron in back are awake listening to the conversation. He admits he's out taking a walk and climbing a hill using a handheld cross-banding with his TS-2000 back at the house. That's cool. Good audio - wouldn't have guessed it.

Mel goes on to say he lives on Pine Mountain, the location of one of a little known incidents of the Civil War. Lt. General Polk, of the Confederate Army, was killed during a skirmish with the Sherman's Union



Army. He went on to invite us up for a tour of the battlefield during our stay, for he was a guide.

That sounds great. He passed along his phone number and I promised to get back to him. We were heading downtown to stay and see the sites. "Hope you're not going to be near the Georgia Dome, the Saints and Falcons play tonight on Monday Night Football. The traffic will be awful. Good luck!" Well I wasn't sure where we were going, I'm just following the directions to the hotel that the chick in the GPS is screaming at me.

Sure enough, we're staying next to the Georgia Dome - sat in traffic for a long, long time...

We get to the hotel which has a parking garage. I get out and remove the antennas so we're not scraping the concrete ceiling like an electric bumper car at Cedar Point. I let Julie and Aaron out to check in while I find a spot. I hate parking garages, they always look so low that I'm sure the roof of the Expedition will peel right off at any moment. That also means I can't play radio in the morning because I can't erect my whip antennas. Up I go, around and around. Since there was a NFL game next door, the garage was basically full. Around and around I go, getting dizzy, 6th floor, 7th, 8th, 9th... might as well see if this has an open deck on top... 10th, 11th, 12... Made it! What a sight. Open sky, 12 stories above the street, that's about 120' - pretty cool - what a view. I should have fun operating from up here. There's the Dome!



The next morning, 6-ish, I grab some coffee in the lobby and head to the parking garage elevator. It was cold and clear. I fired up the V8 to heat the bus and worked both HF and VHF.

This would be a pretty cool Field Day site. Great VHF/UHF opportunities plus a hot shower!

I had my fill of radio so back to the room where I find the crew all dressed and ready to scope out Atlanta. First stop was CNN - cool tour. You actually get to watch the broadcast from a viewing window. All of the cameras were operated remotely from the control room. They just moved along the studio floor like R2D2 from Star Wars. Neat.

Next was the Georgia Aquarium after hooking up with Julie's friends (no, not THAT type of "hooking up"). I'm not real big on fish unless they're breaded and between a bun with tartar sauce. But this place was cool. Very impressive. Huge. Too bad half the

population of SE United States had the same idea to visit the aquarium that day. It was crowded, but fun, none-the-less.

Back at the hotel. I call Mel to see if the offer was still open to tour the battlefield with him the next day. We were driving back to Ohio in one shot, but we could spare an hour. He said "No problem." I had his address already punched in the GPS.

On our way up to Pine Mountain I call him on 2 meters, he answered and tipped us to a great place for breakfast: The Whistle Stop - good, fast and cheap - with grits on the side.



We drive up the road to his house which must have been the steep hill he navigates for his daily constitutional. Very steep. His house is on the very top of this 1,300' (above

sea level) mountain with a tremendous view. We see a historic marker describing the location's significance. Mel comes out and guides us down a wooded path towards a fenced monument, erected in 1902, signifying the location of General Polk's demise.

In a nutshell, the Confederate Army set up a defensive position that spanned several miles to interfere with the advancement of Sherman's superior Army of the Cumberland, 20 miles north of Atlanta during June of 1864. The Confederates maintained the high ground on several mountains: Lost, Pine and Kennesaw, which the Union Army greatly prized. Sherman's troops basically followed the Western and Atlantic Railroad while advancing towards Atlanta. That railroad was vital in supplying his 100,000+ men. The mountains were perfect observation posts and gunnery positions to keep an eye on the advancing Union forces.

Confederate Generals Johnston, Hardee and Polk were standing on top of Pine Mountain, literally across the road from Mel's home (no, he wasn't there when it happened, at least I don't think he was...), observing the Union forces.



3/4 mile away, the Union artillery battery opened fire when they spied the three generals gazing down on them. The first volley exploded near the trio. Generals Johnston and Hardee fled for cover while Polk remained on top of the hill for one last glance where a second volley made a one in a million shot hitting General Polk in the upper torso, killing him instantly. The monument marks the precise location.



The site is now on private land and also shows the remains of some of the best preserved earthworks from the Civil War. Artillery protecting fortifications and riflemen trenches are easily recognizable.

Mel was a wealth of information and really brought to life the scene and really helped us visualize the encounter. His home also had a beautiful 3 story deck that provided a tremendous view of Atlanta and the surrounding mountains and valleys.

Mel extends an invitation to all hams that find themselves in the Atlanta area to please contact him for your own private tour. His email is K4JFF@AOL.COM. He is retired and is also looking for other hams interested in Civil War history to meet on the air.

I'm sure glad I gave that microphone cord the extra tug...

[E. Craig Miller, W8CR](mailto:E.Craig.Miller@W8CR). First licensed in 1974 as WN8TLC/WB8TLC

Old Ham Memories

Bob- N8OB

I have been licensed since 1967 and there have certainly been a lot of changes since that time.



My first license class was Novice. It was good for one year and required 5 WPM in Morse code and a written test, given by 2 volunteer Hams. After taking the test, the answer sheet was put in an envelope and returned to the FCC. Then came the long (seemed like forever) wait for a license to appear in the mail provided, of course, you passed. It took about 6 weeks but it finally got here. I was a Novice

and could operate on 80, 40 and 15 meters in a very limited portion of the bands, CW only, 75 watts DC input power and crystal controlled. Crystal controlled means you called CQ on a fixed frequency and then tuned up and down the band hoping someone heard you and would answer. Not many people had the same crystal frequency. Now I had a year to upgrade. Of course I lived in an apartment at the time and couldn't put up an antenna. Luckily, the place I worked had an amateur radio club. They had radios, antennas and a place to operate. Unfortunately, the station was moved during that time and I was again without an operating place.

I decided that if I wanted to keep on as a Ham, I had better do something about operating. I decided to try for the Technician Class license and again found 2 volunteers to administer the test. Another 6 week wait to see if I passed.

It finally arrived and off I went again. My first radio was a Clegg Thor rated at 60 watts AM. I was no longer crystal controlled. That was a powerhouse on 6 meters. I certainly spent a lot of time on 6 meters having a good time. I had a house by then - my own place to put up antennas. After the first year I saw the advantages to SSB and swapped radios. This time I bought a Swan 250C 6 meter radio. This one had 240 Watts input power. I was ready to work anything I could hear.

After a couple of years, I decided it was time to upgrade. The General Class was next but required a visit to the FCC office, which for me was in Washington DC. When I felt I was ready, I made the trip to 1919 M St in DC and took the exam. I didn't mention, it required 13 WPM in code plus a harder technical exam. The bad news for me was, I failed the code test by one letter. It required 65 characters straight with one minute of perfect copy. The examiner said that while I was there I could take the written exam and get my Technician Class license before the FCC. At that time, there was a Conditional license which means volunteers administered the test and/or you were more than 75 miles from an FCC Office. I passed it and the wait started again. This time, only 4 weeks. The FCC required a 30 day wait before you could take the exam again, so as soon as I received my new license, off I went to the FCC Office. At that time, the Technician and the General written exam were the same so all I had to do was pass the code test. The FCC charged to take the exam so I decided if I had to pay, I would try for the Advanced Class license. Hooray! I passed, so another wait for it to arrive. In order to go for the Extra Class, it required 2 years as a General or higher class license. That seemed like forever so I was in no hurry. Just after that, I moved back to Ohio and that required a change in call sign (FCC requirement).

To be continued...

CQ TEST... KV8Q



It's been almost a year; but, I have finally got my SO2R (Single Operator Two Radio) system up and running. On a slow Sunday afternoon during Sweepstakes, I can now be calling CQ SS on 20 meters and be checking on 15 meters for needed multipliers at the same time. The next step is to get the band-pass filters selected automatically and then select the antennas automatically. I've got the band-pass filter issue sketched out and ready to go. It's just a matter of getting the cables built and installed. The automatic antenna selector might be a bit more complex; but, it should be very doable with the N1MM contest software and implemented with spare parts around the shack.

Let me take a trip back through the year at my contest activity this past year. Recovering from ankle surgery only allowed me an hour in the MN QSO Party but I was able to pick up the last three counties I needed in that state. Then came the WI QSO Party. With 199 QSO's, I ended up in 2nd place. Larry, N9AUG, was right behind me in 3rd place.

Next came the CQ WPX contest in May, one of my favorites. The results aren't official yet; but, it looks like my 1,038 QSO's will be #10 in the country and #1 in Ohio for that event. I took off from Field Day this year and was looking forward to the IARU contest in July. A couple of days prior to that contest, my well went bad. Two wells and almost four months later, the Health Department finally said we were back in business with good water once again.

August brought the NA QSO Party where I found 596 QSO's. No 'official' results yet but it looks like three DELARA members will all be in the Top Ten in Ohio (N9AUG, K8MP, and me). Ohio QSO party was next and I found 76 of the 88 counties with my 461 QSO's. No official results from that event yet but I should be right near the top.

The NA Sprint, a simple little four hour event where you QSY after each QSO, took place in September. Yes, it is very tiring. No official results yet but I should do okay. Then came the Texas QSO Party where I was able to find 214 of the 254 counties during the event. My 438 QSO's wins me a plaque for the top CW score outside of Texas. The Illinois QSO Party took place in October where I found 79 of their 102 counties with my 185 QSO's. No official results yet for this event.

November is a big contesting month for me. It starts with the ARRL Sweepstakes. This year I actually got a sweep – all 80 multipliers with my 906 QSO's. Then came the CQ WW DX contest where I dug out 856 QSO's. Nothing official for either of these but it looks like I will be 22nd in the country and 2nd in Ohio in the CQ WW event. Recently, earlier in December, I had 182 QSO's in the ARRL Ten Meter Contest.

That's over 4,000 QSO's with 100 Watts, wire antennas, all CW, at least one plaque, lots of wallpaper, and a ton of fun. If you want to get in on some of that fun, give a call. One day, I just might find that mike. Until then, look for me on the low end of the CW bands and have a wonderful New Year.

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

January, 1991- Our meeting featured Col. Dick Lockhart, KA8VYS, discussing Admiral Byrd's last expedition to Antarctica in 1946. Staff, NJ8F, continued an interesting article about WWII radio spies. 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, then W8BOB, wrote a feature article of both technical and hygienic purpose- talking about amplifiers, antennas and decibels. He also had important instructions on avoiding "Alligator Mouth"—when your transmitted signal is loud, but you can't hear. Don, KB8SIA, filled us in on the new cell tower being planted at Smith Park.

Welcome to the newest General Class licensee in DELARA, Alex Ryan KC8CKV of Sunbury. Want to upgrade? Won't get any more convenient than this:

COLVET HAM EXAMS January 23, 3PM at the Genoa Twp Hall, Big Walnut & Old 3C Highway.

You're welcome to stay for the CORC meeting that follows. No charge for Colvet exams. Last test starts at 4PM. - ne1ll@gmail.com

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
Membership form being mailed under separate cover

DELARA is on FACEBOOK! Search "Delaware" and click the "Like" button! While you're Facebooking, "like" the Delaware County EMA page as well!

*Check our website often for news and updates:
<http://www.k8es.org>*



ARES Happenings

Stan, N8BHL



EC Duties change hands

At the ARES meeting in December, members celebrated the years of service given by Don, KB8SIA to the community.



Don has served in this position to win praise and gratitude over the years from organizations and the public service agencies he serves.

He offered his resignation effective the end of 2010, but he will still be an active member of ARES, participating as time allows.

Newly appointed to the EC position is Stan Broadway, N8BHL. I want to emphasize training and readiness, with nets that Craig, W8CR, has launched. We should be able to get through much of the EMCOMM material in this fashion. **Please feel welcome to check in on the first Thursday of the month, 8PM.**

I have asked the assistant EC's to continue their roles. Unfortunately, I was not able to raise their salaries, hi. Here's the list of the people who really make it work:

- Technical Assistant EC: John, W8SJV
- Technical Assistant EC, digital: Gary, K8EHB
- NTS Liaison Assistant EC: Larry, N9AUG
- PIO Assistant EC: Sandy, N8YS
- Tactical Operations Assistant EC: Joe, K8MP
- Tactical Operations Assistant EC: Craig, W8CR

One project we have underway is the setup of new radios provided by EMA grants. We have four new Icom D-star capable mobile rigs, and 3 new Wouxun dual-band handhelds. We also have the fun of pawing through over 100 VHF handhelds transferred into the EMA for backup emergency communications. These will be used by county agencies and others during emergencies.

Our 'organizational' meeting will be the second Thursday, January 13 at the Delaware County EOC downtown. Hope to see you there!

Beginner's Corner



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

I'm setting up my first HF station what rig should I buy?

I see this question on the forums every day with all types of great suggestions, all (in my opinion) wrong. I like to compare a amateur radio station to the human body with the antenna being the heart, the feed line as the arteries leading to the heart, connectors as the heart valves and the rig as the body.

You can have the best physique in town but if your heart is diseased or your arteries are blocked it really doesn't make much difference, your just not going to function properly. The same holds true for a station. First consideration should be the antenna (heart), the highest gain and best F/B ratio antenna you can find/afford and as high as you can get it for 20 through 10. For 160/80/40/30 don't waste your money on store bought multi band antennas. Buy a spool of 14AWG from Home Depot and put up 1/2 wave dipoles as high as you can get them using a fan dipole configuration or a MFJ type coax switch. It's better to have a single 80 or 40 meter 1/2 wave dipole with a great signal then a multi band antenna with a so-so signal.

Next is the feed line (arteries), LMR400 or 9913, high quality RG8 will also work. If you're thinking RG8 peel back a bit of the outer jacket and if you can see any insulation through the braid, keep looking. This is not where you want to try and save money. If you're using 9913 make sure the ends exposed to weather are well sealed as it tends to pick up moisture if not properly sealed.

Now that your "heart & veins" are good spend a couple of extra bucks and purchase high quality PL259 connectors (the heart valves). Last but not least use some CoaxWrap. CoaxWrap is a NON ADHESIVE silicone sealing tape. A great way to seal everything is to get some finger nail polish that the XYL no longer uses (or buy a bottle at the dollar store) and put it on the connections followed by the CoaxWrap and then a couple of layers of high quality vinyl electrical tape. (not the dollar store stuff.)

Now it's time to think about the rig. We would all like to have a FT9000 hooked up to a MonstIR up 200 feet but we will have to do with what we can afford. I'll take a old GT550, Swan 350, TR4, TS520 (non digital) or even a NCX 3 hooked to a TA33 at 40' fed with 9913 over a FT9000 hooked to a G5RV or vertical any day of the week. Why? Simple, I'll work a lot more stations and have a lot more fun and when Santa brings a bigger rig it will be a plug 'n play upgrade.



Bob's Traveling Treasure Trove

Bob W8ERD

(I am always impressed at the expertise and activities of our DELARA members. You just never know where one will turn up. For instance- our own Bob, W8ERD, made the Madison, WI, newspapers during the holidays. N8BHL, -ed)

Go West, young man.

Badgers fans are heeding the call, made by newspaper editor Horace Greeley, in hordes.

I'm at the Dane County Regional Airport, one of roughly 10,000 people heading to Los Angeles today for the Rose Bowl. There are 26 charters of Badger fans leaving from here.



Deborah Ziff/Wisconsin State Journal

The airport is festive for the occasion. Vendors are selling red and white T-shirts, hats and gloves. Nearly everyone is wearing their Badger best. Stands are set up with bloody Maries, brats and beer. At 8 a.m., more people are buying coffee than beer, but there are a few takers.

"Oh yeah, I've sold them," said the bartender. "6:20 this morning, they

wanted brats."

Bob Dixon, 71, last went to the Rose Bowl in 1959-60 as a member of the Wisconsin Band.

"We took a train at that time," he said, wearing a fleece adorned with a "1960 Wisconsin Band" insignia and a hat with a furry Badger on it. "It took about three days."

Fifty-one years later, he was about to depart by plane for a trip that will take considerably less time, about five hours.

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He's in there...somewhere!

After the above story ran in the paper and on the Internet, Bob supplied me with the follow-up - a very COLD follow-up! Seems California isn't always the warm, comfy place we'd imagine. Here is the Badger fan huddled up for the game! I must say there's some poetic justice.

REMINDER- It's Time to DO the DUE

The DELARA annual dues are due again! Please look for the membership page coming in your mail, put it into your "gotta pay it" pile, and mail it with your annual dues to Treasurer Ken, W8SMK. They're not that high, and we try not to put too much pressure on. But consider this the first polite tap on your shoulder to continue your support for our great organization! Don't make me stand you in the corner to think about what you did!!

When you file your renewal, check to receive your DELARA News by Email! I would like very much to go all electronic. It would eliminate the 'space crunch' because we would no longer be limited by how much we can mail. The great majority already receive their DELARA News electronically. Emailed newsletters can be longer, more detailed and can still be printed on your own local printer. Let me know what you think, please! -N8BHL, ed

And just from me as a personal note, it might be a good time to slide some extra \$ to your repeater operators. None receive financial support from the club, yet operating a repeater that we depend on doesn't come cheap. It involves time and funding. Remember Ken, Laura, and John and show them your appreciation! -ed

HOLIDAY PARTY 2010!

Our thanks to Jim and Carol for their excellent hospitality – as usual, we had a great time and a gathering of friends!

