



DELARA



Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter

March 2011

Volume 30, Number 3

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

- Field Day Planner Pg2
- 440 Threatened Pg3

The Calendar

- NO March ARES Mtng
- Mar 16 DELARA
- Mar 17 Contest Net
- Mar 30 Weather Trng
- Apr 7 ARES Net

Our March Meeting:

It's one of our club's favorite activities – and it's time again! Our Field Day Commandantress (is that correct??) Sandy Mackey, N8YS, will begin the all important planning stages for this year's assault on the ARRL championship! So check up on your Scioto Township camouflage and bring your ideas to the meeting! See you there!

[\(More on page 2\)](#)



The Prez Sez:

Tim K8TAT



Well, March is here now, and I'm sure ready for the warmer weather and to get rid of the cold weather that we've had for the last month. The sun I'm seeing today sure makes you wish for those days when you could be outside soaking it in, but its only the first of March and still cold out yet. But it will be warming up everyday.

Now along with the warmer weather we here in this house can start watching the Sunday Nascar races we all enjoy. And with the month of March comes our annual trip down to Bristol, TN, to catch an actual live Nascar race or two at Bristol Motor Speedway, one of the fast oval tracks around. Sure it's a lot of fun to watch in person and enjoy the racing live, but its also enjoyable to watch the many spectators that are there and have 'over enjoyed' it.

So you if you are a Nascar fan, you know what I'm talking about. If you aren't you might not understand the feeling, but it's sure grand this time of year.

So back to planning the trip, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting! Hopefully the weather will cooperate and be warm for us all.

73,

Tim – K8TAT



2011 DELARA FIELD DAY

...a note from the Coordinator



I know I don't need to tell you to mark this date on your calendars, because I know you're as excited about Field Day as I am.....right?? Of course you are. For those of you who don't know me, I am Sandy, N8YS. I am the 2011 Field Day Coordinator for DELARA. I was the Field Day coordinator from 2006-2008 and enjoyed *almost* every minute of it.

Our next DELARA meeting will be the Field Day planning meeting and it will be March 16, 2011. I am hoping to see all your smiling faces there. I would like to get as much done as possible in the time allowed us. I would like to get the station captains named, get our bonus points all set, and talk antennas, radios, baluns, generators, shelters and many other fun things like that! Our club picnic will be held during Field Day as it has been since 2006. It has become a tradition of sorts - everyone brings a dish to pass and we supply the meat, utensils, plates, and beverages. I would like to thank Barb, N8BSS and Linda, N8FES for taking on the picnic duties. I asked them nicely, and they did it without any arm twisting, that's why we love them! I would also like to thank Bob, W8ERD for signing on as the GOTA/Information booth Captain. This is why our group is such a great Field Day team!

I'd like to see everyone participate on whatever level you are comfortable with. We have the GOTA (Get On The Air) station to help beginners, folks who aren't licensed and hams who haven't operated much lately. If you would like to help set up or tear down, we can always use help with that. If you want to just stop in and operate for awhile, we can accommodate that, too. Or maybe you just want to shoot the breeze; we usually have many people sitting around the pavilion doing that very thing! Bring your questions and concerns to the meeting and I will do my best to see that you get them answered.



Check out the Field Day website: <https://sites.google.com/site/delawarefieldday1/> And if you would like to be included on the Field Day email roster, send me an email at: delawarefieldday@gmail.com and put 'ADD ME' in the subject line, as updates go out, you will be notified.

73 my friends, hope to see you at the meeting,
Sandy, N8YS

Severe Weather Spotter training Coming This Month



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.



Are your dues up to date? Submit to Ken, W8SMK. Membership form is on www.k8es.org

Operating events

- **Wisconsin QSO Party**
1800z 3/13 - 0100z 3/14
- **Russian DX Contest**
1200z 3/19 - 1200z 3/20
- **CQ WW WPX SSB**
0000z 3/26 - 2400z 3/27

Contribute!

We need your articles,
comments and ads!

Newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org

elmer@k8es.org

<http://www.k8es.org>

Ham Radio 440 Band is threatened

You may have already heard that our 440 MHz band is being attacked by a bill introduced into the US House of Representatives. In its current form, HR 607 would take away the 420-440 MHz segment that is presently allocated to Amateur Radio on a secondary basis as our 70 cm band. Along with certain other segments not allocated to Amateur Radio, the 420-440 MHz segment would become part of a spectrum "give back" involved in allocating 758-763 and 788-793 MHz for a Public Safety broadband network.

The concept of this network has merit. Everyone wants first responders to have the radio systems they need in order to protect themselves and us. However, there is absolutely no need to take our 440 MHz band in making it happen. We need to let our US Representatives know we oppose the current form of HR 607.

To let your US Representative know you oppose the present bill, go to <http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm>. Insert your call sign where indicated and follow the simple instructions. The name and address of your US Representative will automatically be put into the letter, as will your name and address. It will be ready to be printed and signed.

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to observe the following once you have printed your letter:

- Be sure to sign it. Letters without a handwritten signature are not effective.

- Signed letters can be sent by fax or postal mail. They can also be scanned into PDF format and e-mailed as a file attachment. Postal mail: John Chwat, Chwat & Co., Suite 103, 625 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail: john.chwat@chwatco.com. Fax number: (703) 684-7594.

- Do not send this letter or any letter about HR 607 to your US Senators at this time. The bill is only in the US House of Representatives. Letters sent on HR 607 to US Senators will merely waste their time and demonstrate lack of knowledge of how our system of government works.

WHY SHOULD the letter be mailed to John Chwat? There are two reasons. First, all postal mail to members of the US House (and other government bodies) is delayed 6 to 8 weeks in being searched for hazardous materials that may be included in them. Second, Mr. Chwat will increase the value of your individual letter by combining it with others and delivering the stack of letters directly to your Representative's office. This manner of delivery makes a particular impact on our Congressmen.

If you feel it necessary to mail your letter directly to your Representative, do it. However, please also send a signed copy of it to Mr. Chwat for the reasons outlined above.

For your information, the letter generating utility will be open for use by any US amateur for at least a couple of weeks.

Thanks for your help and support in this important effort. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Thanks to Rick Haltermon, KD4PYR for developing the letter generating utility. He was aided by Trey Garlough, N5KO who wrote the initial program. Rick continues to add flesh to the program.

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division

Time, Time

Another time saver from Dale, W8KTQ

I got tired of trying to figure out time conversions for contests so I put the spreadsheet below together.....makes it a lot easier, for sure!

W8KTQ GMT to EST/EDST/24-Hour Time Converter

| ZULU (GMT) | EST Local | EST 24-Hour | EDST Local | EDST 24-Hour |
|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 0000 | 7:00 PM | 1900 | 8:00 PM | 2000 |
| 0100 | 8:00 PM | 2000 | 9:00 PM | 2100 |
| 0200 | 9:00 PM | 2100 | 10:00 PM | 2200 |
| 0300 | 10:00 PM | 2200 | 11:00 PM | 2300 |
| 0400 | 11:00 PM | 2300 | 12:00 AM | 0000 |
| 0500 | 12:00 AM | 0000 | 1:00 AM | 0100 |
| 0600 | 1:00 AM | 0100 | 2:00 AM | 0200 |
| 0700 | 2:00 AM | 0200 | 3:00 AM | 0300 |
| 0800 | 3:00 AM | 0300 | 4:00 AM | 0400 |
| 0900 | 4:00 AM | 0400 | 5:00 AM | 0500 |
| 1000 | 5:00 AM | 0500 | 6:00 AM | 0600 |
| 1100 | 6:00 AM | 0600 | 7:00 AM | 0700 |
| 1200 | 7:00 AM | 0700 | 8:00 AM | 0800 |
| 1300 | 8:00 AM | 0800 | 9:00 AM | 0900 |
| 1400 | 9:00 AM | 0900 | 10:00 AM | 1000 |
| 1500 | 10:00 AM | 1000 | 11:00 AM | 1100 |
| 1600 | 11:00 AM | 1100 | 12:00 PM | 1200 |
| 1700 | 12:00 PM | 1200 | 1:00 PM | 1300 |
| 1800 | 1:00 PM | 1300 | 2:00 PM | 1400 |
| 1900 | 2:00 PM | 1400 | 3:00 PM | 1500 |
| 2000 | 3:00 PM | 1500 | 4:00 PM | 1600 |
| 2100 | 4:00 PM | 1600 | 5:00 PM | 1700 |
| 2200 | 5:00 PM | 1700 | 6:00 PM | 1800 |
| 2300 | 6:00 PM | 1800 | 7:00 PM | 1900 |

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.



Howdy from Joe's Place

Spring hasn't sprung yet but at least it appears to be on the way. I have some antenny projects I've been planning and I'm just waiting on the weather man to improve things a tad more.

The first thing I want to do is take down the ice-damaged 40-meter ground plane. Hopefully, enough of it will be salvageable that I can use it on a higher band (I'm thinking 30-meters) By the way, my insurance company already paid me to replace the antenna but I haven't decided if I want to do that.. The old antenna held up well in high winds but obviously didn't hold up under a heavy coating of ice. I'll probably see what else is on the market and go from there.

I also want to put up an Inverted-L for 80-meters. My 160-meter Inverted-L has been an excellent performer and I would expect similar results from an 80-meter version. Besides, "A ground system is a terrible thing to waste." I can use the 160-meter antenna's ground system for the for the 80-meter one.

I also plan to get my UHF/VHF discone working again. That project will require some work because it's mounted at the top of the mast on my 56-foot tower. If I remember right, I actually sat on the top plate of the tower when I put the discone up some years ago.

Well, I'm going to keep this short. Hopefully, by next month's visit to Joe's Place, we will be enjoying nice warm weather.

I hope to see you all at the March meeting. If not, then at Joe's Place in April.

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



ARES Happenings

Stan, N8BHL



This has been a busy first quarter for ARES! We started February with the big ice storm, and we started March with the potential of major flooding. Our members logged over 200 hours of activity during the big storm.

A major bicycle tour is returning to Ohio this year and it will be a three-day event for Delaware ARES. You may remember Bill Sharp, ex W8MGI now W8HI. He is an active supporter of the big 50-mile ride from Kenton through Delaware to London and back. Delaware will be involved over three days- June 20, 21 & 22. This is the Monday - Wednesday preceding Field Day. We'll need a full roster of volunteers!



A new organization and pair of events is on the calendar this year. There are two two-day triathlons taking place around Alum Creek Park, the first July 16-17, and the second August 6-7. These will require 4-6 volunteers to cover a 12 mile run.

The Tour De Cure event is scheduled this year for Saturday June 11. This starts at Westerville Central High School, and spreads out over three counties.

We have the Wendy's Triathlon June 12, and the Olympic Distance triathlon June 26. (Ouch! Field Day.) More information is coming on these.

By now I hope you've heard that Delaware ARES has its own call sign: N8DCA. We'll use that for net control, and to program the D-star radios.

Finally, another reminder that there is **NO ARES MEETING for March**. We want you to budget your time to take in the Severe Weather Training session on March 30 at Scioto Twp hall. See you there! In our April meeting we'll get to know a search-and-rescue team called RACE which has been very active this year.



Ham News

Boy Scouts & Ham Radio

The Boy Scouts and ARRL have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Through this MOU, the two organizations agree to cooperate in activities of mutual interest. The Boy Scout Jamboree On-the-Air and the Radio merit badge are among these activities.

Hamvention Amateur of the Year

Shirley Roberts, N8LX, of Dayton has been selected the Hamvention "Amateur of the Year."

Great Lakes Convention Sept. 11

The 2011 Great Lakes Division Convention will be held as a part of the Findley Hamfest. The Convention will be held on Hamfest grounds as a coordinated part of the event. Allan Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media & Public Relations Manager will be the principal speaker. Attendance is free with purchase of a Hamfest ticket. -Jim Weaver, K8JE, Great Lakes Division

Three Amateur Satellites Lost

You may have heard about the Taurus XL rocket launch from Vandenberg Air Base that recently failed and crashed. There were three Amateur Radio satellites, Explorer-1, LySat-1 and Hermes aboard that craft which were all destroyed.

Stuff Going On

- Mar 12 - Springfield Exams, Mt. Vernon Exams
MOVARC Hamfest, Gallipolis
- Mar 19 - Universal, Reynoldsburg, Exams
Marshall MI Hamfest
- Apr 2 - CRES exams, Columbus
- Apr 9 - Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest
- Apr 25 - Colvet, Columbus, Exams
- May 1 - Athens Hamfest
- May 5 - MCARC, London, Exams
- May 20-22 DAYTON HAMVENTION
- May 28 - DELARA Exams, Delaware

CQ TEST...

KV8Q



You can win a few; and, just as easily, you can lose a few. That's the name of this game we play called Radiosport. Along came the CQ WW CW 160-meter contest. I use a 27' helically wound vertical for 160 meters. To keep it from acting like a big rubber duckie for 160, I rubbed some Ol' Sol antenna wax all over the bottom eight feet of the antenna. (That's as high as I could reach). It worked!!! 689 contacts with 78 multipliers later, I had a smile on my face. Not too shabby for a low power station. I'll call that a win.

Next came the NCJ North American Sprint - CW. This is the event where you QSY after each QSO. It provides a great way to wear the knobs off of your radio in four easy hours. My hopes were high for this event. I prepared and practiced. I was looking for 240 Q's in four hours - that's one per minute which should be doable with my station. I was able to maintain that rate during the practices. But, nobody told Mother Nature that we wanted to have fun. I started on 20 meters and found it to be dead. 40 wasn't much better with lots of noise and RTTY/PSK signals. I ended up on 80 for most of the evening fighting the QRN up there. The end result was only 150 Q's with 37 multipliers. This is one of those you just lose.

The Louisiana QSO Party came next. I expected this to be basically a two band event at any point in time. It was. During the daylight hours, it was 20 and 40. During the evening hours, it was 40 and 80. I was able to move two Q's over to 15. Ended up with 135 Q's in 103 counties down there. The vast majority of my contacts were with a group of five Texans running all over the state in their cars. If it wasn't for them, this would have been a bust. My 55K points is about 20K better than anyone else out of the state. I'll call that a win.

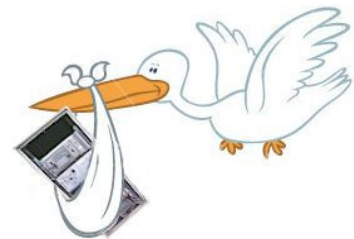
One of the events that I look forward to every year is the ARRL International DX CW Contest. It's been a couple of years since I was able to play around in this one because of my ankle surgeries. I'm glad that I only own two ankles or I might have had more surgeries and missed this again this year. I ended up with 883 QSO's with 319 Multipliers for 845K points and a smile on my face. This was definitely a win.

Seems like I am ahead of the game at the moment. I hope to be able to operate in the Wisconsin QSO

party. I was able to acquire a nice plaque for being #1 in that event in 2008. Getting up there again will put check in the win column. But, who knows. Mother Nature might be getting ready to play a trick on us again. Then, there is old Mr. Murphy who would like to pay a visit. That's what is so cool about this sport. You just never know who will answer your CQ, how your new antenna will perform in the competition, what sort of activity the sun will come up with, etc. You know you are going to lose a few along the way; but, it's sure fun when you can put them in the win column.

Until next month, put yourself in the win column and have fun. Look for me on the low end of the bands.

It's a... repeater!



Ken, W8SMK

In case you haven't heard, there's a new addition to Delaware County Repeater-dom. The new system is on 145.19- currently running in open carrier mode. This new repeater is temporarily located at the North site for final testing.

I'm sure you can recall the recent ice storm experience we had when all 3 existing Delaware Co. repeaters were off the air for various reasons. Hopefully this addition will prevent a similar experience in the future,

The other GOOD news is on 3/1/11 John, W8SJV & I paid a visit to the "Duplexer Doctor" and retuned the Duplexers for all three machines. Besides needed preventative maintenance, we discovered about 8 Db of system gain that had been hiding in the closet of the 443.55 repeater. This made a huge improvement in its performance.

Stay tuned for more good news when it happens.

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

March, 1991- Our meeting was hosted by Bob, W8ERD, and was a tour of the "Big Ear".

March, 2001- Ham Slow-scan TV was the topic for our meeting with AA8YY. Joe, K8MP, detailed his experimental use of a 160 receiving loop antenn

