



DELARA

Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter



November 2011

Volume 30, Number 11

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 Trombly K8TAT
- Vice President:
Dave Le May
WB2CWJ
- Sec/Treas:
Ken Bird W8SMK

In This Issue

- Zombies! Pg 3
- New Hams! pg

The Calendar

- Sept 21 DELARA
- Sept 22 Contest net
145.17 8:30P
- Oct 1 (9A) Tech class
1
- Oct 6 ARES Net
- Oct 8 (9A) Tech class
2
- Oct 13 ARES Meeting
- Oct 15 (12) Tech
Class 3 Test at 2PM
- Oct 19 DELARA



#3 Nationwide in 4A, #1 Overall in Ohio!

The scores are posted- and you don't have to look very far down the list to find the DELARA 2011 Field Day results: We are at the very top of the list for Ohio winning #1 overall! And, we're #3 in the nation in class 4A! Overall nationally, we placed 13th of 2,632 entries with 15,172 points.

Sandy Mackey, N8YS, was Field Day Coordinator for our 2011 effort. "Every year that I have coordinated DELARA Field Day, our members (and friends of DELARA) have always given 100% effort in everything we needed to get done. I would like to extend a great many thanks to everyone who participated (you know who you are), and super special thanks to our Station Captains who lugged their equipment from home and set it up for everyone to use. You guys rock! You will all think I am crazy, but I've already started panning for 2012, so if you are interested in being a Captain again (or not) please let me know so I can start getting the plans together.



As always, since we did so well, I will be bringing donuts (Tim bits) and coffee to the next meeting."

Here, straight from the ARRL.net website, are the results! First, the national scores for our category, 4A

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	K7UM	16,668	4A	5,363	2	KF7P	UT	32	Utah DX Assn
2	W5UR	15,482	4A	4,163	2	K5HAB	NM	19	Albuquerque DX Assn
3	K8ES	15,172	4A	4,445	2	W8JK	OH	76	Delaware ARA
4	W8ARA	14,066	4A	4,356	2	W6OTX	SCV	75	Palo Alto ARA
5	K4BFT	13,792	4A	3,990	2	N7KDT	AL	60	Huntsville ARC
6	K1BKE	10,922	4A	4,016	2	K1DFQ	NH	60	Confoocook Valley RC
7	K4JJ	10,464	4A	3,177	2	NF4GA	GA	269	North Fulton AR League
8	K8BF	10,078	4A	3,568	2	KD8VT	OH	220	Portage Co ARS
9	N2OB	9,972	4A	3,023	2	N2CW	SNJ	35	
10	K4XY	9,296	4A	2,719	2	K4HTA	VA	145	Vienna Wireless Soc
11	N2SF	9,284	4A	2,728	2	W2UL	ENY	25	Westchester Em Comm Assn
12	K8AA	9,194	4A	2,941	2		LAX	30	United Radio Amaleur Club
13	K2VN	8,792	4A	2,546	2		NLI	52	Nassau ARC
14	K3YTL	8,650	4A	2,669	2	W3MTP	EPA	30	Murgas ARC
15	W5ANR	8,170	4A	2,478	2		AR	35	Fort Smith (AR) Area ARC
16	K5NRH	7,966	4A	2,079	2	W5HAU	NTX	86	North Richland Hills ARC

K8ES placed 13th overall in national scoring. In Ohio overall, we were number 1!

(More scores, next page)

K8ES Ohio overall

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	K8ES	15,172	4A	4,445	2	W8JK	OH	76	Delaware ARA
2	KW8N	13,065	2B2B	1,341	5		OH	2	
3	N8BC	10,530	5A	3,023	2		OH	23	Lake Co ARA
4	K8BF	10,078	4A	3,568	2	K8BVT	OH	220	Portage Co ARS
5	W8AL	9,648	2A	2,522	2	AK8CC	OH	36	Canton ARC
6	W8VPV	9,198	5A	2,423	2		OH	23	Cuyahoga Falls ARC
7	W8BM	9,184	8A	2,549	2		OH	35	Cuyahoga ARC
8	W8DXA	9,128	2A	2,878	2	N8BDX	OH	25	Northern Ohio DX Assn
9	W8FY	6,420	4F	2,212	2		OH	24	
10	N8BN	5,830	1B2B	558	5		OH	2	
11	W8QLY	5,818	8A	1,832	2	WBZC	OH	15	Mahoning Valley ARA
12	W8EDU	5,520	1A	1,569	2		OH	5	Case ARC
13	W8ZPF	5,398	3A	1,546	2		OH	26	CRES ARC
14	W8HN	5,236	4A	1,364	2	W8EOC	OH	26	Medina 2 Meter Group
15	W8AV	5,170	1A	1,308	2		OH	8	Wayne ARC
16	K8CY	4,982	3A	1,445	2	K8BOSZ	OH	20	Ashtabula Co ARC
17	K8PI	4,964	3A	1,350	2	WBBLV	OH	30	Dial RC
18	K8EEN	4,892	4A	1,209	2		OH	22	Mt. Vernon ARC

It's interesting that the number 2 station, W5UR actually had 282 fewer contacts than did K8ES, so they obviously drew more points in their other scoring. They also operated with only 19 people. The number 1 station, K7UM, is fielded by the Utah DX Association and sprang from a contest club. They ran the contest with 32 operators, compared to our 76.

A resounding, "JOB WELL DONE!" to the Field Day gang!

Contact rates below One of the measures of our performance helps us see the most effective bands and modes over 24 hours.

Band	QSO	RATE/Hr	Band	QSO	RATE/Hr
80CW	222	9.25	80SSB	306	12.75
40CW	611	25.4	40SSB	476	19.8
20CW	725	30.20	20SSB	856	36.6
15CW	567	23.6	15SSB	247	10.2
10CW	45		10SSB	4	
6CW	1		6SSSB	157	6.5



The Prez Sez:

Tim K8TAT



I would like to welcome all the new hams from the most recent tech class. Thanks to all of you who either helped teach, mentor or Elmer the new hams along the way.

Most hams have either had an Elmer or mentor at some point in their amateur radio life. An

Elmer is a person to ask questions or show you the ropes of amateur radio. That's a big job because the possibilities are almost endless with this very widely diversified hobby - from digital, voice, to Morse code (CW).

When I was getting interested in amateur radio I decided I wanted to talk around the world, and the radio stuff that I had cut my teeth on back in the days of citizen band (CB) radio just wasn't going to cut it for me anymore. So I got on the internet, and looked up area amateur radio clubs. DELARA happened to be within close proximity to my QTH, and I decided to attend a meeting or two to see what this all was about. Our own (N8OB), Bob was president at the time.

I can't remember what the monthly topic was at the meetings I attended, but I was hooked and kept wanting more.

I talked to Bob and he answered my questions with very helpful answers. With tech class study guide in hand I started studying away, asking him questions as needed to help me pass my test. I did pass in the next month or so after that contact with Bob. He even helped me get my first mobile radio and antenna so I could make my first contact, which was him on 2 meters.

These days with the internet there are many study guides and practice tests out there to help you along, so don't give up! Ask questions (I sure did and still do to this day) and work to pass the final test - the extra class.

Hope to see you all at the meeting this month; it is election time again, so cast your vote for your candidates. I'm sure Dave has something good to share again with us, so see you there.

73, K8TAT, Tim

Operating events

- **Kentucky QSO Party**
0300z 11/12 – 0200z 11/13
- **CQ-WE**
1900z 11/12 – 0500z 11/14
- **ARRL EME Contest**
0000z 11/19 – 2359z 11/20
- **ARRL Sweepstakes SSB**
2100z 11/19 – 0300z 11/21
- **CQWW CW**
0000z 11/26 – 2400z 11/27
- **ARRL 160 Meter Contest**
2200z 12/2 – 1600z 12/4
- **ARRL 10-Meter Contest**
0000z 12/10 – 2359z 12/11

Contribute!

We need your articles, comments and ads!

Newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org

elmer@k8es.org

<http://www.k8es.org>

What do you do with over 200 Zombies?

Walk them under a shower and hose 'em down! That's exactly what Delaware County emergency departments did for the Homeland Security / Emergency Management Agency's "Zombie Crisis" on Halloween.



ARES
Happenings

Stan, N8BHL



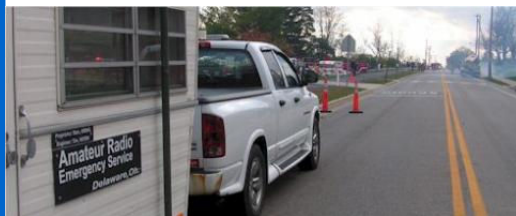
One of the hardest elements to pull off for such a test is getting enough volunteers to stretch the responders. Typically it's a good day if you can get 20 or so to dress up as victims. But that doesn't test the departments' response much. However, when you take Halloween, peoples' zest for things "Zombie" and throw in a contest or two- you draw over 225 Zombies into the mix. Now, we've got us an exercise!



Even the scoreboard got into the mood



The bride and groom, winners of the costume competition. Find Joe and Linda Penzara, N8DRZZ & N8FES, standing to your left.



look who we found lurking around the Delaware Gazette banner for that day! Nice job Linda and Joe!

11 ARES members played a big role: running the busy sign-in tables and getting the Zombies ready for the exercise. Bob, W8ERD aka Werewolf Blitzer, gave them their first interviews with "ZNN." Three 'undercover' ARES-ers (Joe and Linda along with Aaron, KD8RBL) were amongst the undead. And





Howdy from Joe's Place...

"We got Game !!!"

Ever heard a similar phrase? It's usually used in athletics to describe a skilled individual, as in "He got game."

There are lots of games out there:

Some folks go to casinos and play against the house, other guests, or even one armed bandits. People in that business even *call* it "Gaming."

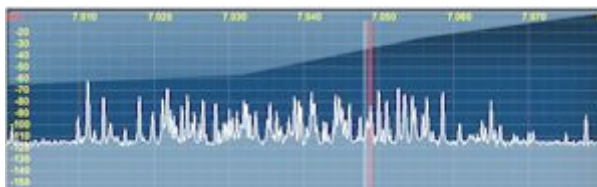
Perhaps you have been at your favorite watering hole and played trivia games against other customers. You can go against folks in the same establishment or those in other locations via the internet.

Teens (and lots of grown-ups) play games on-line using computers or the fancy new *Gaming* systems from Sony and others.

Some folks even take on the ultimate challenge and play against the computer itself.

Folks, I'm here to tell you that we Hams "Got game" too. And in some of our games, we play against the entire *world*. OK, not every person in the world, but someone from every corner of the world is in on the action.

Did you see Gary's screen-shot of the 40-meter CW band during the ARRL Sweepstakes contest?



It was loaded with signals. And that contest only involves the USA, Canada, and some possessions. I operated 40 CW that evening. Believe me, I needed a Ginsu knife to find a place to call CQ.

Let's talk about a bigger "arena."

What do you think Gary's display looked like during the recent CQ *World-Wide* SSB contest. (CW is coming up later this month. Maybe Gary will send us a screen-shot of the 10-meter CW band over that weekend)

November 2011

Yeah, We got Game:

We don't mess with no puny five-on-five games. We play against tens of thousands.

We don't alternate offense and defense. Our games are **Old-school-Iron-Man-style**.

We don't need any opening ceremonies. We just grab a frequency and go at it.

We don't play any national anthems before throwing out the first CQ. (After all, it might take a while to get through them all in a world-wide contest)

We don't have any labor disputes, lock-outs, or player strikes. We ourselves *are* the owners and players. The only thing that can stop our games is 93 million miles away.

The contest season is here: **Game On** gang.

Well, that's it for this month. I hope to see you all at the November business meeting, but if not, then in December,

at Joe's Place

Jean C. Blakeslee, WB8FIC SK

Jean C. Blakeslee, 85, of Delaware died Saturday (Nov. 5, 2011) at her home.

She was born Oct. 13, 1926 in East Rochester to Curtis and Jeanetta (Raum) Humphreys. She received her BA from OWU and her MS from OSU. A resident of Delaware since 1944, she was a retired teacher, having taught at Smith and Conger Elementary Schools. She was a retired director of the In-Service Training Program. She was a ham radio operator. She was member and trustee of the First Presbyterian Church, Delara, Buckeye Belles, Cosmopolitan Club and served on the boards of Oak Grove Cemetery, Habitat for Humanity and Council for Older Adults.

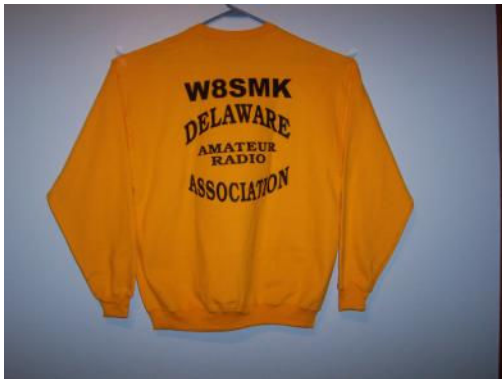
Surviving are five sons, George (Carolyn) of Guildhall, Vt., Fred (Nancy) of Westerville, James (Jan) of Blacklick, Richard (Susan) of Madison, Ala., and John (Debra) of Delaware; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Kathryn Sundquist of Seattle and Louise Humphreys of Concord, Calif. Her husband, George, died in 1999.

Jean was a founding member of DELARA. She will be missed.

Order your DELARA Clothing!

Ken, W8SMK, is going strong with our project of reviving the DELARA T-shirt and hat. He went back to the Outer Layer and requested a DELARA sweat shirt for cold Weather events. The sample was \$25 but if more folks want them, we can get a better price. "Hoodies" are also available for a little more, but the hood might cover up part of the stuff on the back if it was down.

(back)



(front)



Wanted / For Sale

Does anyone need 600' of yellow rope? \$25 a roll.
Let me know - Larry, N9AUG

I have an ICOM IC-T2A 2M Hand Held for anyone who needs a radio. Yes, it's 2M only, but works fine. The neat thing about this radio is the battery pack holds 10 individual AA nicad cells, or you can even put Alkalines in it if necessary. 4W TX out, wall charger, & rubber duck antenna. First \$50 takes it home.
- Ken, W8SMK

Looking for a mobile antenna, 5/8 or 1/2-wave
- Stan N8BHL

November 2011

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

November, 1991- Our community was saddened by the loss of Del, KC8MJ. There was a good deal of history in this issue, from Marconi to the "Empire of the Air."

November, 2001- DELARA members were pleased with their record 13,248 points and their place in the #3 position in 4A in 2001 Field Day scoring. President Bob Brown reported 3,867 contacts contributed to that score.

DELARA E-Mail Reflector



DELARA club members can now stay in touch with the whole group at the click of a mouse! You no longer have to wait until a Monday evening net or a club meeting to ask if someone has a spare gizmo, or to let people know you're finally selling that DC-Light radio that everybody wanted. Thanks to Gary, K8EHB, DELARA members' email addresses are set up in an E-Mail Reflector. If your email is on the list (that is, you're a DELARA member) you can simply address an email to **delara@mailman.qth.net** and your email will be forwarded to every DELARA member on that list! Super-rare DX station out there? Need help with an antenna? Here's a way to let everybody in on it!

Attachments are permitted, but are currently limited to 1 mg in size. If you CHANGE your email address, make sure to notify Ken, W8SMK, Stan, N8BHL, and Gary, K8EHB so we can update all the records!

Ham Calendar

11/11-13	License class, Mansfield OH
11/19-20	Indiana ARRL convention Ft Wayne

DELARA is on the Internet: <http://www.k8es.org> and you can "Like" our Facebook page!



Boy!!! It's been forever since I have written anything for this newsletter. I have a few minutes to spend with you and I am going to take advantage of it. At this QTH, my antenna farm consists of a 102' G5RV 45' off the ground, an GAP Eagle DX, and a 27' 160 meter vertical. The G5RV performs very well on 80 through 15 meters. It's too short for 160 and acts as a dummy load on 10. With the G5RV, I have good performance with the GAP vertical on DX; but, it really doesn't do very well for domestic work. Years ago, when I first moved to Ohio, I found a 40 meter loop in The ARRL Antenna Anthology from 1978. I put one up and it performed very well. It was a rectangular loop with the short ends on the sides.

I have been 'building' a similar antenna for 15 and 10 meters, especially with those bands now open once again. If I mounted it low, it should work well for a domestic contest and if I mounted it high, it should do well in a DX event. Then, I stumbled upon VA3STL's Blog. He had exactly what I was looking for: a 15/10 meter loop that could be mounted temporarily. In his design, the vertical sides of the rectangular loop are the long sides. To attain a 50 ohm feedpoint, the sides of the loop are 1/3 of the total loop length, (Length = $1005/\text{Freq (Mhz)}$), and the sides are 1/6 of the total loop length. His dimensions are for 21.3 Mhz and 28.5 Mhz. That would be good for SSB work; but, I re-calculated the loop for down in the CW portion of the band.

I explained the antenna to my wife, Deb, KC8LYF, and we headed over to Home(ly) Depot to pick up a 6' piece of light wood and two ten foot pieces of 1/2" PVC pipe. I had the necessary rope, wire, and a 1:1 balun already laying around in the shack along with W8ERD's favorite temporary mast arrangement. One evening was spent drilling the holes and Sunday morning, the wife and I started getting the antenna put together and installed. I put the mast up to 32' which put the bottom wire of the antenna around 10' off of the ground. When I want to use this for a DX event/contest, I will run the mast up to 40'. After it was installed, I first took a picture. Hopefully, that is clear enough to explain what the end result looks like. Then, I hooked it up to the radio and was pleasantly surprised to find that it is less than 1.2:1 SWR in the CW bands on both 10 meters and 15 meters. I played with it for an hour or so and had very good success in the recent DX contest on SSB. (Yeah - I know. What the heck is KV8Q doing on SSB) He was testing an antenna - that's What!!!



The next event planned for this antenna is the ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest. This should give me a better antenna than the GAP vertical for that domestic event. Time will tell. Hopefully, it will help me get a sweep and a bunch of QSO's. I'll let you know. Then, I will take it down, carefully wrap it up, and put it back up for the next event.

If you are interested in this sort of antenna, give me a call. I would be glad to explain and clue you in on the 'gotcha's' during the construction process.

Until next time, have fun. Look for me on the low end of the CW bands. (The mike is back in retirement).
tom KV8Q ar

Ham Class Graduates

You're hearing some new callsigns on the air these days! The graduates of the DELARA Technician class are bravely putting their new radio skills on the air! Several have checked into the Monday evening net, and others have participated in ARES events like the Zombie Apocalypse. Well done to all! Here are some of the people and callsigns you'll be hearing!

BRADLEY S BELVILLE	KD8RBG	Technician
EMERY A BENNETT,SR	N8OVE	Extra
JOHN D BOTTI	KC8OKB	General
ELIJAH L COCHRAN	KD8RBH	Technician
MARTHA J HAFLER	KD8RBI	Technician
ROBERT J MCDONNELL	KD8RBJ	Technician
JULIE A MILLER	KD8RBK	Technician
EDWARD A MILLER	KD8RBL	Technician
SEAN D MILLER	KD8RBM	Technician
HAROLD J SIMONS	KD8QBZ	General
TIMOTHY M SLABEY	KD8RBN	Technician

And class student Ric Walker passed this weekend to become KD8RDT

All the successful students are automatically members of DELARA for the year.

Congratulations, and welcome to the best hobby in the world!

A Special deal, perhaps for a new ham

Now that 10 meters is hot, and we have some new hams that can operate on 10 meters, there may be some demand for the 10 meter 5/8 wave ground plane antenna I have had for some time. Gain in all directions! No rotator needed! Free to first claimer.
Bob W8ERD

W8CR, This is for YOU!

Wardenclyffe, Nikola Tesla's last laboratory will be on the air November 5th as special event station W3T! Wardenclyffe is located in Shoreham, NY on Long Island. W3T is part of a network of special event stations that are helping to raise awareness for the effort to purchase the laboratory and restore it into a science museum. To read more about the effort to restore Wardenclyffe, please check out <http://www.teslasciencecenter.org>. The other stations in the network are N3Y which will transmit via satellite and possibly HF from the New Yorker Hotel, Tesla's last home in Manhattan, and YU0TESLA which will transmit on 20m as well as other HF bands from the Tesla Museum in Belgrade. For the latest updates on what frequencies to catch the stations on and a sneak peek at the QSL cards and QTHs, go to <http://copaseticflows.appspot.com/teslaevent>.

73 de KD0FNR Hamilton Carter

"Ham of the Year"

He has been active in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service as long as the Section Manager has been alive, and for that Ron Moorefield, W8ILC of Kettering, Ohio has become the Eighteenth recipient of the Allan Severson, AB8P Memorial Award.

The award was presented to Ron during a meeting of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association in Kettering, Ohio on Friday, November 3rd. Ohio Section Manager Frank J. Piper, KI8GW, who made the presentation before a packed house, noted that the award was not only given to Ron for his resume of work, but how Ron carried out his tasks with integrity.

Moorefield was Emergency Coordinator for the Greene/Montgomery county areas from 1963 to 1985. In 1985, Ron was appointed District Emergency Coordinator for Ohio ARES® District 3, and held that same appointment until his announced retirement effective October 1st of this year. Ron still plans to be an effective ARES volunteer in his local group. Ron is also an active liaison in the Ohio VOAD program, and works with the Dayton Hamvention® team as well.



The award had been established in 1992 and was named "Ohio Ham of the Year" until 1999. That year it was renamed after Allen, of Lakewood, Ohio, who had become a silent key in 1997. The award winners listed here are all hams who, like Allan Severson, have dedicated themselves to the advancement of the American Radio Relay League in Ohio.

Although AB8P had served the Section as Section Manager and went on to a distinguished career as Great Lakes Division Director on the ARRL National Board of Directors, the annual award announcement only mentions one sentence about him which is part of every memorial award certificate. That sentence quickly demonstrates the reason for the renaming of this award. "Allan's devotion to serve amateur radio inspired a whole generation of Ohio Section leadership
- ARRL-Ohio.org

Another Bright Idea?

Craig Miller, W8CR



As you're popping the cork on the Dom Perignon this New Year's Eve to celebrate the passing of another year, take a moment to pause to bid farewell to an old and trusty servant: the incandescent light bulb.

Just in case you haven't been let out of your cave in the past few years, Congress in their unlimited ability to control every aspect of our lives deemed it necessary, back in 2007, to ban the tried-n-true baby of Thomas Edison, starting with the 100 watt starting January 1st, 2012. They are mandating you switch to other forms of lighting mainly the curlicue compact fluorescent lamps (CFL).

Don't get me wrong, I've been a big advocate of CFL bulbs for years especially when powering your home via solar panels and wind gennys. When it take one \$300 panel in full sun to generate enough power to burn a 75W light bulb for a few hours verses an entire day using a CFL - they work. But when the government tells me I must alter my ways, I naturally rebel. Just like the ban on gravity flush toilets to save water - now you have to flush 3 times to get last night's burrito out of your sight, using more water than the old standard models. Thanks Congress!

CFLs have been touted to last forever and are super environmentally friendly. Personal experience has proved you barely get a year out of these things and the mercury in them prevents you from disposing via Rumpke. Dread if you ever break one: call the EPA and Hazmat unit!

Fluorescent lighting provides light - that's it. Stark, utilitarian blue-white hue, many times flickering, causing headaches. Incandescent bulbs provide a warm glow - little suns in your private universe. Some clear vintage bulbs are so pretty you can gaze at them simply for the enjoyment. In fact I found some replica vintage squirrel cage bulbs I liked so much I use them in my shack on a dimmer. Just enough light to get the job done, the beautiful amber glow is so relaxing and warm.

Sure, they aren't as efficient and CFLs or LEDs. Are candles efficient? Your crackling fireplace on a snowy night has an EPA energy standard of 95%. Would you rather read a good book using stark, monochrome moonlight or the rich full spectrum hue of sunlight?

The LED Christmas lights are simply hideous. Those aren't amber-white! They're blueish, purpleish, whiteish, something...

Nothing is better than looking at the warm glow of an 833A or an 807 vacuum tube. Can't say the same staring at a MOSFET (unless there is something REALLY WRONG).

While you're waiting for your CFL to flicker on and warm up, sing Auld Lang Syne and take another sip champagne.



The W8ERD STEppIR Antenna Saga

I now have all the motors etc attached to the boom and all the connectors and cables are wired and installed (over 100 connections!). Still in my garage.

I am now at the point where they say to do a sanity check on the motors and wiring. The controller provides a test for this, which extends the elements just a few inches, one at a time.

To test it, I left the remote cat5 stuff out of the circuit, and plugged the controller directly into the antenna. This failed completely, and I have now learned that if you order the remote control board, then they leave the local driver chips out of the controller. Saves money, but it would be nice if they would say that in the manual and in their sales literature.

So I connected all the remote control cat5 stuff on my bench and tried again. Another failure. If the remote board and the controller are both plugged into their respective separate 24V power supplies, the controller turns off. They are connected only via the cat5 cable. No hope. And this is with the antenna totally disconnected, so it has nothing to do with any wiring errors I might have made with all the motor wiring.

I went thru 3 levels of tech support with Steppir (They are really quite helpful.) They have never seen this problem before (WHY ME???).

They conclude that my remote board is defective and they are sending me a new one. They think it is shorted somewhere, since it is hard to understand why the cat5 cable connection could do anything to just turn off the controller.

So I am dead in the water as far as continuing to assemble and test the antenna, until I get the new board. I hope it works!

And the saga continues...

November 4 - The new remote board has arrived. Not only that, but they sent me ALL the electronics- Control console, remote board, 2 power supplies, all cables and all manuals. WOW!

I put it all together separately from all the old parts, to avoid mixing problems. IT STILL FAILS EXACTLY AS BEFORE.

BUT I HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM.

They provide a cross over cat5 cable to connect the controller and the remote board. As a debugging aid, I went to Radio Shack and bought my own cross over cable. I tried it, and VOILA! it works fine. I also tried a non-cross over cable, and that also works in

the sense that it does not shut down the controller, although then the signaling does not work, as one would expect.

This means that BOTH the cross over cables they sent me are defective, in the same way. I suspect they have a whole bad batch of them, and they never tested them. I have called them, and am awaiting a callback.

November 5 - Using the Radio Shack crossover cable, the antenna has now passed its sanity check. All the motors run correctly, and the elements go in and out as they should, upon command. The motors are quite noisy, which is a little scary when you first turn them on and don't know what to expect.

I only made one initial connection error, easily fixed by reversing 2 plugs. Now I am ready to move the antenna out to the back yard, so assembly can continue:

Attach the halves of the boom together, while on the saw horses. Insert all 8 fiberglass element tubes into the motor housings and attach them. Fix the inevitable problems that will arise in the above steps. :) Then test the antenna again by running the elements all the way out to the 20M setting and back. Try all bands.

I have a metal detector that will tell us where the elements are inside the fiberglass tubes. Next step is to erect the small portable mast and put the antenna on it. Then put the boom truss together and adjust it properly. Actually apply RF and measure the SWR at a height of about 6 feet.

Maybe we can temporarily hoist it to 15 feet or so for a final test.

November 6 - Gary and Ken came over yesterday and we moved the antenna out of the garage and into the back yard and put it together for the first time. Now it actually looks like an antenna. See the attached photos that Gary took.



And the saga continues...

Bob, W8ERD

Ham News

At the FCC: President Barack Obama has nominated two new FCC Commissioners: Jessica Rosenworcel and Ajit Varadaraj Pai. Rosenworcel has been nominated to replace retiring Commissioner Michael Capps. President Obama selected Pai to fill the seat vacated by Meredith Attwell Baker, who left the FCC in June 2010. If Rosenworcel and Pai are confirmed by the Senate, the FCC would be at its full complement of five Commissioners.

The FCC has been down one commissioner since Baker's departure, and Capps' departure at the end of the year would leave the agency with only three commissioners: two Democrats and one Republican. Only three sitting Commissioners may be members of the same political party. At present, Chairman Julius Genachowski, Capps and Mignon Clyburn are Democrats. If confirmed, Pai will join Commissioner Robert McDowell as one of the two Republicans on the Commission.

Emergency Test: The FCC, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) at 2 PM EST (1900 UTC) Wednesday, November 9.

Carving out Time for Ham Radio

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech (www.twit.tv), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says "Zero!" and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don't take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don't make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, "OK, here's the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month." Less than half of those in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they

even bother to come to meetings if they don't get on the air?

So, if you're a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Googled, "making time for things you love." I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Googled "make time for hobbies" and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby! (<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points that both made:

1. Schedule it. Set aside a specific time during which you're going to do ham radio. Don't let that time get pre-empted.
2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio. Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a "shack" and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.
3. Partner up. Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it's a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you're a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.
4. Create a project plan. Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you'll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There's so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that's one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you'll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When he's not down in his shack, working with a friend on yet another amateur radio project, Dan writes amateur radio study guides. You can find them on his website at www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual. Make some time to e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

DELARA By-Laws concerning election of officers

Our November meeting is the business/election meeting! Bring your nomination for officers! BE there to keep from getting nominated!! (HI) Whatever your motivation, here's the legal stuff.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

Sec. 1 - The officers of this Association shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. A single individual may simultaneously hold the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The officers shall begin their term of office the first day of January following their election.

Sec. 2 - The officers of this Association shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of one year or until their successors are elected.

Sec. 3 - Vacancies occurring between elections may be filled by special elections or may be appointed by the Executive committee.

ARTICLE IV- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 - The President shall preside at all meetings of this Association, and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of these Bylaws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents that are adopted by the Association, and none other; and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of President.

Sec. 2 - The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter.

Sec. 3 - The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, keep a roll of members, submit applications for membership, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and send written notices to each member. He/she shall at the expiration of his term turn over all items belonging to the Association to his/her successor and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Bylaws of the Association and have the same with him/her at every meeting. The Secretary shall cause all amendments, changes and additions to be noted thereon and shall permit the same to be consulted by the membership upon request.

Sec. 4 - The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the Association; the Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended. He/she shall pay no bills without proper authorization (by the Association or its Executive Committee). At each "regular meeting" he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. He/she shall at the expiration of his/her term turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the Association to his/her successor and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer. Inventory records shall be maintained by the Treasurer on any property, equipment, or assets owned or acquired by the Association.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

There shall be an Annual Meeting, a Semi-annual Meeting, and Program meetings. It is the intent of these Bylaws to ensure that most of the business of the Association will be conducted at the Annual Meeting, with some additional business during the Semi-annual Meeting; however, to ensure good order, any Program meeting may become a business meeting where the business of the Association may be conducted in accordance with the limitations set forth in these Bylaws. The Annual and Semi-annual business meetings shall be held at times and places in Delaware County as the President shall order in a written notice sent to Voting Members at least 3 days prior to the meetings. The Annual Meeting shall be held in November. The Semi-annual Meeting shall be held in May. Program meetings will be held at such times and places as directed by the Executive Committee, usually every month except December. Business may be conducted at any Program meeting held in Delaware County, but only when authorized by the Executive Committee, or upon the written request of any five Voting Members, and then only to consider such limited business which must be specifically identified in a written notice sent to the Voting Members at least 3 days prior to the meeting. The lesser of ten Voting Members or 20% of the Voting Members of the Association shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum at an Annual or Semi-annual Meeting, the members present may draft the proposed business for appropriate distribution to all voting members for resolution by those returning ballots within a period of one calendar month. The draft shall permit absentee voting