



THE FEEDBACK



Volume 03 Issue 01

April 2003

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 146 Laurel, MD 20725-0146

<http://www.larcmd.org>

email: larc@larcmd.org

Meetings and Nets:

⇒ 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays:

On-the-air Net at 8:30pm on 147.225+ PL156.7 (no tone required during nets)

⇒ 2nd Wednesday:

Informal/Social Gathering at 7:00pm – Sullivan's Restaurant; Rt. 198, at Rt 197

⇒ 4th Wednesday:

Monthly Meeting at 7:30pm - The Woman's Club of Laurel, 384 Main Street, Laurel

⇒ Nightly:

Informal Net/Rag-Chew from 9-11pm on 147.540

Repeater: 442.500+ PL 156.7 Hz

UHF Simplex: 445.975, VHF Simplex 147.54

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

c/o Pud Reaver, W3YD
6516 Brooklyn Bridge Rd
Laurel, Md, 20707



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Next Meeting:
April 23, 2003**



THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Officers:

President:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
Vice-President:	HD (Frank Scott)	K3HDM	301-773-0155	hdm@prodigy.aol
Secretary:				
Treasurer:	Jerry Siegel	N3WSG	301-937-1174	j_siegel@compuserve.com
Past President:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net

Other LARC Positions and Contacts:

FAR Representatives:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	301-345-7381	ka8ypy@arrl.net
Laurel VEC:	Diane Zimmerman	AA3OF	301-937-0394	aa3of@arrl.net
LARC VE Testing:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
AutoCall Reporter:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
T-MARC/D-MARC Rep:	OPEN			
Public Information Officer:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
Youth Programs:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Education and Training:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
Technical Specialist:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	w3dad@amsat.org
ARES/RACES Coordinators:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
Official Emergency Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	
Official Bulletin Station:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
Official Bulletin Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
Official Bulletin Station:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net
Official Relay Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	
Official Relay Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net

LARC Special Interest Groups and Mentors:

Antennas:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	w3dad@amsat.org
Packet Radio/APRS:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Repeaters:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
Satellite/EME:	OPEN			

ARRL Field Organization:

Atlantic Division Director:	Bernie Fuller	N3EFN	814-763-1529	n3efn@arrl.org
Atlantic Division Vice Director:	William C. Edgar	N3LLR	814-362-1250	n3llr@arrl.org
MD/DC Section Manager:	Tom Abernethy	W3TOM	301-292-6263	w3tom@arrl.org
MD/DC Asst Section Manager:	Brian R Davids	KA3WWI	(202)366-0507	
MD/DC Emergency Coord:	Mike Carr	WA1QAA	410-799-0403	bamcc@erols.com
Affiliated Club Coordinator:	Tony Young	WA3YLO	301-262-1917	tonyy@juno.com
MDC Section Bulletin Manager:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net

The Feedback is published monthly (except December) as the newsletter of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Items to be published in *The Feedback* should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month. Email submissions may be made to w3yd@arrl.net

Permission is granted to reprint from this publication provided credit is given.

**Editor: Pud Reaver, W3YD 301-498-6293 w3yd@arrl.net
 Publisher: Mark Doore, K3RAM**

**LARC Business Meeting
26 March 03**

Time: 7:28 PML

Place: The Women's Club of Laurel

BoD Present: WI3N/Jim, K3HDM/HD,

Absent: N3WSG/Jerry

Attendance: 15

Secretary’s Report: None tendered.

Treasurer’s Report: None submitted due to absence.

Old Business:

- 1) What happened to the Feed Back publishing.

New Business:

- 01) HD to check FCC online for a duplicate club call license, to replace the un locatable one.
- 02) HD to check ARRL web site to reup, Special Event Club, status.
- 03) HD to check ARRL web site to reup, ARRL Affiliated Club, status.
- 04) Discussion on the up coming events:
 - a) Montpelier May, 4 Sunday
 - b) Main Street May, 10 Saturday @ 06.00 AML
 - c) Field Day (back in the field, again) June, 28/29
 - d) Pallotti 5k Walk June, 7 Saturday @ 08.00 AML @ High School
 - d1) Relay for Life (in field at Laurel HS) . June, 7
 - e) CROP Walk. Not discussed.
- 05) LARC has a chronic need to fill the Secretary position.
- 06) On the Feed Back, W3YD/Pud, has agreed to pick up its administration till, Dec. 03
- 07) The ARES Institute will be held in Alexandria, Va; on May 24.
- 08) Discussion on a class to build direction finders.
- 09) Discussion on having a Fox Hunt event, may be combined with other local clubs or groups.
- 10) Discussed having another J-pole construction class.
- 11) Moved and unanimously passed for LARC to support W3TOM/Tom Abernathy as ARRL section manager.

Notes:

The meeting was adjourned at 8.50 PML.

Respectfully Submitted
HD/K3HDM

President's Ramblings

The meeting next Wednesday should be very interesting. I received an email forwarded from Mark Doore from John Dollen inquiring about amateur radio's role with an aspect of Homeland Security called InfraGard. To quote from John's email, "We would like to identify HAM Radio resources throughout the U.S., and would like to establish a (dedicated/pseudo-isolated) network for the dual purposes of enhanced national security and emergency InfraGard communications". I talked with John and invited him to come to the meeting and explain what this was all about. I think this will be of interest to us all and hope we have a good turnout. This is also our quarterly PVRC meeting night and we'll hold that meeting after the regular meeting.

Earlier in the year, LARC was invited to set up a table along with other community organizations at City Hall to give us exposure to the general public. Thanks to Jeff/KB3EQH, who also helped man the table, we had a decent brochure to hand out. We got a chance to see the brand new city Emergency Operations Center which is in a room with a horseshoe table with twelve chairs, two phones and a computer. We've been invited to submit an equipment list so that they can have a ham station in there. The city recognizes our value in being able to link them with the county or MEMA.

There are several events to put on your calendar. On **May 4** we will provide our usual communications services to the **Montpelier Festival**. Plan to meet at 0830 at the gate to the grounds that is off of Muirkirk Road. We should be finished around noon. For those of you who have never been to the festival, come on out and help then stay to enjoy the music, crafts and food. We should wrap up our duties around noon.

Following hard on the heels of Montpelier is the **Main Street Festival**. We'll set up our information tent in front of the Woman's Club at 0630 and commence our shadowing duties. At 0730 as many as possible will assemble at Sixth and Montgomery Streets to get our assignments for setting up the parade. We'd like to do our packet setup at the registration table and inside the Woman's Club with a printer as we did last year. So if a couple of you packeteers are available..... This just gets better with practice. I'll try to get an electronic list of the parade registrants. We'll probably pack up around 1600. 147.54 simplex and our repeater on 442.500 will be used for the event. (This event is **Saturday, May 10** ..ed)

On May 24 there will be an ARES Institute in VA just across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. It will run from 0800 to 1500. There's a \$10 fee that gets you lunch and a CD with all the handout material on it. I'll get out more info on the reflector as the topics get finalized.

On Saturday **June 7** we will help with the **Pallotti 5K Walk/Run** in the morning and the **American Cancer Society Relay for Life** at the Laurel High School that afternoon. Then, by popular demand, on the weekend of **June 28-29** we'll be doing **Field Day** set up at the field at Rocky Gorge Dam (our old site.)

Come Saturday **July 5** we'll be helping with the parade lineup on Sixth Street. The second weekend in August will find us hard at work running up the winning club score in the MDC QSO Party. Then the Labor Day Marathon, Riverfest, Sweepstakes, and Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade. Whew!! What a busy bunch. There's plenty here for everybody so get those batteries charging now.

73 de Jim/WI3N

This one is not easy ... Frank Treadwell/K3LDE was a great friend and supporter, in fact a plank, of the LARC.

Frank died while undergoing surgery to repair some heart parts, so they could then clear an aneurysm. He died peacefully in the hospital. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on April 17. He was 85.

During the formative years of LARC, when something needed to be done, but no one volunteered, Frank would quietly "do it". His participation started lagging as he spent more time with Ginnie, who died from Alzheimers in 1998. (She was a great golfer, and really enjoyed the game of bridge.) He was buried next to her at Arlington National Cemetery. Dididit dahdidah has several meanings, old buddy!

Prince George's County ARES/RACES

Maybe you can't do anything about the weather, but you can certainly do something because of it. Our big snowstorm of the year in February caused Prince George's County to activate its four wheel drive program. Over the course of two days several of our members manned our radios and phones at the county Emergency Operations Center and drove our personal and county four wheel drive vehicles to transport dialysis patients to treatment centers. Dialysis patients needing a ride called the EOC with their request. We then were able to use a map program on our computer to talk our driver to his destination. We found that this was particularly helpful since we generally had only one driver/operator per vehicle. It is very difficult to try to drive and look at a map when even pulling off the road to do so is nearly impossible. We learned to ask whether the person had special needs, such as being in a wheelchair. At one time Matt, N3JMK had two wheelchair bound persons and one other in his Jeep. HD, K3HDM, Matt, N3JMK, Mike, KB3IYQ, Jeff, KB3EQH, Jerry, N3WSG, Dan, KA8YPY, Larry, KD5ENP, Bob, KB3HGW, Brendan, KB3EDH, and I participated over the course of the two days. They were long days starting at 0630 and usually ending around 2000.

During our nets on the odd Tuesdays at 2030 on the 146.61 GMRA repeater, we continue to work on traffic handling by formatting and sending messages in ARRL NTS format. We also discuss various aspects of emergency communications. Everyone is invited to check in. Several of our membership were able to check into the Montgomery net and then several from Montgomery checked into our net.

We're going to set a date and place to invite the membership from several adjoining counties to get together and make up adaptors such as Anderson Power Pole to Tee connector, Power Pole to cigarette lighter plug, and so forth for our go kits. With about 8-10 adaptors we can dramatically raise our level of interoperability. Besides, it's always good to meet fellow ARES/RACES members from neighboring districts.

Our hospitals and Health Department are being shipped their radios and other equipment necessary to set up a complete ham station at each facility. The Health Department is also purchasing enough equipment to be able to set up several field stations. As we put these stations on line we will be conducting extensive training on the use of the equipment and testing its capability. All the radios are packet ready, which means lots of hands-on training for that mode. We'll be very busy for the foreseeable future.

We have field events in April, including a parade and the MS Walk where we have been invited to help with the communications. This gives us a chance to practice tactical operations while exposing the public to amateur radio and helping out a local cause.

73, de Jim Cross, WI3N

Prince George's County EC and RACES Officer

The following three submissions from Diane Zimmerman, the Laurel VE Coordinator:

LARC VE Team Leader Dale Wiles KA3SVF challenged the answer given to a question in the new Technician pool. His challenge led to the question being withdrawn.

Dale Wiles, Team Leader for the Peninsula Radio Operators Society VE Team, volunteered to make up some new Technician exams for LARC from the new Technician Question Pool to be effective on July 1, 2003. While preparing the exams, Dale noticed that the answer provided for one question did not seem to be completely correct.

Within 3 days after Dale challenged the question, the Question Pool committee had deliberated his comments, consulted with the FCC, and decided to withdraw the question.

Hams like KA3SVF (and like our own John Johnston W3BE who represents LARC on the question pool committee) work hard to make sure that the exams given to folks who want to be amateur radio operators fairly represent the knowledge that a person needs to be an Amateur Radio operator

*** **

The Laurel Amateur Radio Club VEC has a web site! The URL is:

<http://www.qsl.net/aa3of/>

You can also reach the VEC's web site by clicking on one of the links provided in the LARC web site.

The VEC web site contains general information about VEC testing and what to expect when you take a test. It also contains information about the various LARC VE Teams. The site has a monthly VE test calendar, on which upcoming tests for the LARC VE teams are listed.

The site was developed by webmaster Bob Rose AA3RR, who is a LARC VE Team Leader for the Anne Arundel Radio Club in Davidsonville, MD.

The web site is hosted at qsl.net by Al Waller K3TKJ. Al is a LARC VE with the Peninsula Radio Operators Society VE Team.

*** **

Why LARC VE Testing Is Free
By Diane Zimmerman AA3OF
LARC VEC Chairman

The Laurel Amateur Radio Club VEC is the only VEC serving the contiguous United States that does not charge a fee for VE exams. This year, the largest VEC's (ARRL and W5YI) increased their VE exam fee to \$12.

How does LARC do it? How does LARC administer the fourth largest (of 14) VEC programs in the United States yet not charge a fee for exams? The answer is that the Hams that work for LARC VEC are all volunteers, giving freely of their time and their resources in support of the VE program. Other VEC's may have expenses such as office rent and staff salaries that LARC's all-volunteer organization does not have.

The VEC does incur expenses in administering the VEC program. The Laurel Amateur Radio Club pays these expenses out of the club operating account. For the calendar year 2002, the club paid VEC expenses of \$160.42. This sum included software for exam generation and word processing, office supplies and postage. Postage and office supplies for mailing VEC accreditations to new VE's and for mailing new exams to the teams as the question pools change are the biggest expenses for the VEC.

According to the latest statistics available from the FCC, LARC VEC tested 1,184 applicants during the year July 2001 through June 2002. Although the FCC information year and the LARC VEC accounting years differ, the conclusion is clear – LARC VEC incurs less than 15 cents in expenses for each applicant tested by a LARC VE Team.

Each of LARC's 20 VE teams also absorbs their expenses, not passing them along to applicants. These expenses can include room rent for a test site, equipment (such as tape recorders and headphones for administering code tests), office supplies (costs of pens, paperclips, duplicating exams etc) and postage (to mail completed session packages to the VEC for uploading to the FCC.) Costs for several local LARC VE Teams range from 50 cents to \$1.50 per person tested. Teams that have access to free test space and to copying facilities donated by a sponsor organization have lower costs than other teams. Teams that need to replace equipment have higher than usual costs during the year. The clubs that sponsor LARC VE Teams pay these expenses as part of their public service mission.

LARC's all-volunteer organization is able to provide exemplary VE testing services because we provide on-the-job training and support to our local volunteers. I visit many of the LARC Teams during their sessions. LARC VE Team Leader Les Jamison WR3X and I travel around the region to provide training, support and guidance to LARC VE Teams experiencing personnel turnover and leadership transition. LARC VE Team Leaders John Creel WB3GXW and Bob Rose AA3RR provide on-the-job training to LARC VE's from other teams at their monthly test sessions. The LARC VEC and our VE Teams provided all of this training support at no cost to the applicants who take VE exams. The volunteer spirit that combines personal support with low costs is what makes the LARC VEC able to provide free VE exams.

SHACK SALE: Used toys for sale. Yaesu FT-51R dual band HT \$200; Radio

Shack 21-524 SWR/Power Meter \$5; Radio Shack 22-163 LCD digital multimeter \$20; MFJ 812B field strength meter \$20; 1997-2001 ARRL Travel Plus for Repeaters CD's \$10 takes all ; Micronta 22-171 digital pocket multimeter \$4; ANLI dual band HT antenna AL-800 \$15; Misc HT antennas, misc parts in box 'o goodies. Items are in good working condition. If interested, contact Diane Zimmerman via email aa3of@arrl.net, at home at 301-937-0394, or at work at 202-874-7795.

Short contest calendar, next few months:

WA7BNM 13-Month Contest Calendar
Compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Last updated April 2, 2003

Please send corrections and additions directly to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM:
bhorn@hornucopia.com

The web version of this calendar and of This Week's Contests can be found at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

Please note that you may not be able to operate during all of the total hours of the contests listed below. Total operating time may also vary by entry category. See individual contest rules for allowed operating hours.

DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 19
TARA Spring Wakeup PSK31 Rumble	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 19
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 19
YU DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 19 to 1200Z, Apr 20
GACW CW DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 19 to 1200Z, Apr 20
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1500Z-1859Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 1800Z, Apr 20
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900-2300 local, Apr 19
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 21
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint	1100Z-1246Z, Apr 25
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 26 to 1200Z, Apr 27
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 26 to 1300Z, Apr 27
QRP to the Field	1500Z-2400Z, Apr 26
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, April 26 to 0159Z, April 27 and 1200Z-2159Z, April 27
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 26 to 1700Z, Apr 27

May, 2003

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
IPA Contest, CW	0000Z-2359Z, May 3
MARAC County Hunters Contest, CW	0000Z, May 3 to 2400Z, May 4
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 3 to 2400Z, May 4
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 3
Indiana QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 3 to 1959Z, May 4
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 4
IPA Contest, SSB	0000Z-2359Z, May 4
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z, May 10 to 0600Z, May 11

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1200Z, May 11
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z, May 10 to 0200Z, May 11
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 10
CQ-M International DX Contest	2100Z, May 10 to 2100Z, May 11
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 10 to 0300Z, May 11
US Counties QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, May 17 to 2400Z, May 18
Anatolian RTTY WW Contest	1800Z, May 17 to 2100Z, May 18
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1800Z, May 17 to 1800Z, May 18
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 17 to 0200Z, May 18
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24 to 2400Z, May 25
VK-ZL Trans-Tasman Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 24
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000-2400 local, May 25
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 26 to 0300Z, May 27
Six Club WW Contest	2300Z, May 30 to 0200Z, Jun 2
Great Lakes QSO Party	0000Z, May 31 to 2359Z, Jun 1

Some excerpts from **THE MILLIWATT**, newsletter of the BRATS:

Vanity fees may go up to \$16.30 soon ... apply now if you want one!

Someone is selling subscriptions to CQ magazine on **eBay** for \$7.50. CQ is not involved, and will not honor these bogus "subscriptions" **Sartor Resartus!**

It is recommended that, if you have mobile gear in your car, you should have a copy of your license with you, in case you get stopped. It's a lot easier to flash a copy of your license than try to explain what the weird-looking radio is for. (In fact, it's probably a regulation.)

New Zealand is considering lifetime amateur radio licenses good idea ... anyone in LARC want to propose a NPRM?

Finally, your new editor (me) will definitely retire in December ... I guess it's time to start considering your commitment to the club. Everyone can do something; there are too few folks doing too much of the work. In my opinion, there's a lot of folks doing nothing (I'm editor ... I can say anything I want to say.)

And, finally, FINALLY was she prepared? or what??? (Can you find the duct tape?)



