



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 03 Issue 02

May 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: Something changed ... did you spot it?

⇒ 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:



May 28, 2003; 1930L

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:	Open			
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

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

LARC Business Meeting 23 April 03

Time: 7:30 PML

Place: The Woman’s Club of Laurel

BoD Present: WI3N/Jim, K3HDM/HD, N3WSG/Jerry, KA8YPY/Dan

Absent: None

Attendance: 17

Secretary’s Report: Tendered by WI3N and accepted as published.

Treasurer’s Report: Tendered and accepted at the meeting. Agreed to pay insurance premium, coverage unaltered for 2003

VEC Report: AA3OF/Diane absent.

FAR Report: From KA8YPY/Dan, Dan was reelected as President, WTG Dan !!!!!
W3QX /William was reelected to his position, Executive VP.
W3YD/Pud has accepted the position of Club Column editor.
The combined FAR Fest, Sept. 6-7, has got the green light for 2003, with the LARC VE Team onboard for both days
AA3OF/Diane was elected as a Vice President with FAR.

Old Business:

- 01) Montpelier Festival, Sunday, May 4th @ 08.30 AML. Nose count showed Op's wishing to attend.
- 02) Main Street, Saturday May, 10 @ 06.00 AML. Lot of Op's needed for this event.
- 03) Pallotti 5k Walk, Saturday June, 7 @ 08.00 AML @ Pallotti High School, Op's needed.
- 3a) Relay for Life, Saturday June, 7 PML (in field at Laurel HS) runs thru Sunday AML.
- 04) Field Day, June 28-29 ***** back in the field @ Supplee Lane again *****
- 05) The ARES Institute will be held in Alexandria, VA; on May 24.
- 06) N3DCI/Bill gave a minor overview of Fox Hunting/direction finding.
(including positioning and rules needed)

New Business:

01) The subject of InfraGard security was presented by John Dollen. The mission is backed by the FBI. The vision is a nationwide alternative for communications when the next terrorist attack occurs. The thought is going back to what has historically worked in the past. The feeling is the terrorist groups are looking forward at the high tech comm's methods and how to compromise them. Any HAM/HAM group has been asked to actively come on board.

02) The LARC 440 repeater was down. There was some discussion on the correction of its condition and will be looked at on a later date.

Notes: After the close of the meeting, WV3D/Kevin and KA8YPY/Dan went to the club shack to assess the condition of the repeater. They located the source of the problem and corrected it that evening. WTG guys !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The meeting was adjourned at 9.06 PML.

Respectfully Submitted
HD/K3HDM

Prince George's County ARES/RACES

ARES/RACES

The Prince George's ARES/RACES group has been busy this month. We helped out with the MS Walk down Henson Creek trail on April 5. This is the third year we have provided communications for that event.

On April 19 we helped with communications for the 9th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr Parade and Festival. This is the first year for us for this event. Our task was to shadow the key officials to keep them in contact with each other. We also were posted at the command center inside the FedEx Field complex, and with the EMS units. These types of events provide us with the chance to overcome poor conditions in the field, promote amateur radio with the public, introduce ARES/RACES to the police and fire personnel, and provide a community service. It also allows us to learn something about the rf environment in the area. For instance, we found that on simplex from inside the command center at the Fed/Ex Field complex, we needed 5W and a relay to work folks down the hill. When we shifted to the 146.61 repeater, we were able to easily work the entire area on low power. Thanks to the GMRA for the use of the repeater. Also thanks to HD, K3HDM, Jeff, KB3EQH, Dennis, KT3D, Pat, KK3F, Joe, N3TZA, and Larry, KD5ENP for coming out and giving a hand.

At our regular meeting we dissected the parade/festival and looked at the website that Jeff/KB3EQH will be putting up for us. We also determined that there is interest in running the EOC on Field Day as a Class F station in that new category. We plan to invite our local officials to stop by and visit with us.

The hospitals and health department are now beginning to receive their equipment. We will be setting up stations including high speed packet. This will mean training sessions for the membership on the equipment and exercises to familiarize ourselves with the locations and operating characteristics.

Anyone is invited to join us on our regular nets on the odd Tuesdays at 2030 where we practice traffic handling and review emergency communications topics. We use the 146.61 repeater.

73, de Jim, WI3N

Prince George's County Emergency Coordinator
Prince George's County RACES Officer

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.

Woman's Club of Laurel

BoD Meeting

Date: 5/15/03

Arrive: 8.00 pm

Place: The Women's Club of Laurel

Present: Jim/WI3N and HD/K3HDM

Attendance: 12

HD's Report:

Jim gave a overview of HAM radio, ARES/RACES and the VE Testing we do in their building. They thanked LARC for 'all' the past help with their building maintenance.

They also had a few items for this year, they would like to be attended to, if possible.

- 1) Some aluminum siding is down on the driveway side.
- 2) The down spout appears to have a smashed in portion, driveway side, again.
- 3) Jim pointed out an arc in the rain gutter on the driveway side, but there is only a down spout on the Main Street end. Jim said he would cut the gutter on the rear end and install a rear down spout to carry off the water on that end and stop it from possibly running into the building.
- 4) Jim is going to install a dedicated 20A feed to the fridge, as it is now on a circuit with the window A/C, and frequently 'pops' the circuit breaker.
- 5) The crawl space doors are in need of some attention, (Jim is aware).
- 6) LARC was asked about the possibility of tasking the snow removal, Jim responded "yes". But this year, when he got to the WCoL, (after the snow stopped), it had been shoveled/removed. The president of the WCoL stated some of the husbands had done it. Again, Jim, reiterated, he waits for the snow event to "stop" then, he does the required removal.
- 7) LARC was informed of the sublet use of the WCoL building by The Shepherd Ministries, on Sunday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturdays (12.00 -2.00PML).

Notes:

- 1) Also mentioned was the brick sidewalk on the bank side, being in need of some attention. But it was also noted, no one knew who's domain it fell under (Bank or WCoL?), so it is just in limbo, for now.
- 2) There are some wooden shelves in the kitchen area, who is the owner of them, no one seems to know.
- 3) There is a piece of wooden trim with nails, where does it go/fit ?
- 4) Jim said he would find the name of the chair person for The Friends of Laurel and tender it to the President of the WCoL, BoD.

The meeting was adjourned at: 8.37 PML

Respectfully Submitted
HD/K3HDM

**“W3LRC”
 Laurel Amateur Radio Club Event
 Laurel Main Street Festival
 10 May 03**

NetCon communications were conducted on 147.540, simplex.
 Parade communications Op’s were using 147.510, simplex.
 And, the electrician, was using 154.570, NetCon had a direct link with him.
 The LARC 440 repeater was not receiving well and was unusable.

06:50 AML: NetCon Operational

09:00 AML: Parade start

4:00 PML: NetCon QRT.

Weather: We had light rain in the AM, but it soon stopped and became very nice out. By 2:00 PM, we had clear skies for the remainder of the event.

19 Op’s, as follows: (P -Parade, S-Shadow, R-Roving)

N3TZA.....Joe (P)	W3YD.....Pud (NetCon)
K3HDM.....HD (NetCon)	N3JMK.....Matt (P/R)
WI3N.....Jim (P Head)	N3XL.....Bill (S)
K3OH.....Bob (R)	K3IOG.....Howard (R)
AC3WC.....Charles (R)	KA3DVC.....ED (P)
K3RAM.....Mark (P)	KB3JNT.....Stephen (P)
KB3EQH.....Jeff (S/R)	KB3JNS.....Christine (P)
KT3D.....Dennis (NetCon/P)	WV3D.....Kevin
KA8YPY.....Dan	N3XKJ.....Jim
KB3BWR.....Toby	

Notes: This year, no Packet station was set up for the passing "hard copies" of the parade line up, to the reviewing stand. We tried voice comm's to perform this task, with no luck, instead an Op couriered the list to the reviewing stand. But the word from the reviewing stand was "we can see far enough back the line up, to tell what has changed"

Again for another year, lost and Found items were down (3) and 'ALL' were returned to the owners. Again, this year we had only one lost child, (again, lower attendance ??????) Also, the amount of paging of persons to relocate their group was down (cell phones ?)

Respectfully submitted by, K3HDM/HD

“W3LRC”
Laurel Amateur Radio Club Event
Montpelier Festival
 May 5, 2003

08.15 AML: On Site
 12.00 Noon: Ops QRT

11 Op’s, as follows

N3TZA	Joe	W3YD	Pud
K3HDM	HD	N3JMK	Matt
WI3N	Jim	KT3D	Dennis
N3WSG	Jerry	K3HU	Hugh
AA3WC	Charles		

We shadowed Diane and Karen (MNCPPC) and did the usual checking of vendors credentials at the Muirkirk Road entrance (Matt/N3JMK). Pud & HD manned the lower gate and various Op's manned the upper gate. Diane was shadowed by N3XL/Bill and Karen's shadow was KB3EQH/Jeff.

We were also in contact w/ the MNCPPC personnel on their HT's on 151.4850 (141.3).

WI3N/Jim, had to slip away early to a stint blowing on the tuba, way to go, Jim

Respectfully submitted by,

K3HDM/HD

The Laurel PVRC contingent met in conjunction with the Laurel ARC. Tho' normally meeting after the LARC meeting, we met jointly because of the program for the evening.

PVRC members attending were: K3HDM, KA8YPY, KT3Z, N3TZA, W3DAD, W3YD, and WI3N.

The program was a presentation by John Dollen on INFRAGARD, an information sharing and analysis effort between the government, businesses, academic institutions, and state and local law enforcement agencies. These entities meet regularly to share information on communication vulnerabilities. The program is under the aegis of the FBI. The premise (simplified) is that if all communications are "hacked", amateur radio may have the only links available to start the recuperation process.

For more information you can visit: www.nipc.gov/infragard/infragard.htm or <http://www.infragard.net/> John Dollen works for SAIC, who apparently are deeply involved in, and great supporters of, this program.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pallotti 5k Walk, Saturday June, 7 @ 08.00 AML @ Pallotti High School, Op's needed.

Get some fresh air early on this Saturday morning ... our communications involvement is usually through by around 1000. (Or, walk the course with your HT!)

Relay for Life, Saturday June, 7 PML (in field at Laurel HS) runs thru Sunday AML.

Saturday afternoon through Sunday morning. We just keep an eye on the track at Laurel High School ... and enjoy some of the food that is available ... another good excuse to get some fresh air!

Field Day, June 28-29 *** back in the field @ Supplee Lane again *******

This around-the-clock event is a good excuse to do some HF work, working stations from Maine to Florida, and out to the west coast, maybe even Hawaii and Alaska. We usually take a break around meal time and have a good two hour social. Bring a dish, something to drink, some mosquito repellent, and be prepared to do some old-fashioned hamming. Operators and Loggers Needed!

LARC VEC DISTRIBUTES 2003 TECHNICIAN EXAMS

By: Diane Zimmerman, AA3OF
Chairman, LARC VEC

The technician (element 2) question pool changes effective July 1, 2003. To prepare the LARC VEC teams for the new question pool, in May 2003, the VEC distributed CD's with 27 new technician exams.

The VEC prefers to distribute material in electronic rather than in paper form. Last year, the VEC distributed exams and administrative forms in word processor format on CD. While this gave the team leaders added flexibility in printing original documents, it also had the "side effect" that documents lost their formatting when loaded onto PC's set with different default formats for their word processors. To counteract this problem, this year I converted all documents to Adobe Acrobat PDF format for distribution.

The VEC adopted a new full-page CSCE for VE sessions on or after July 1, 2003. This new CSCE document was converted to Adobe Acrobat form and distributed on the CD. The new CSCE has larger type and larger lines for writing in applicant information. The full-page size makes it suitable for framing.

Also new for this year are 5 word per minute morse code exams (element 1) on CD. LARC VE Team leader George Burkett N3YB converted morse code exams prepared by LARC VE Team Leader Les Jamison WR3X to digital form. Chairman Zimmerman distributed CD's with the new morse code exams along with the CD's of written tests and administrative forms. The new code tests on CD will make administering code exams easier by eliminating the need to wind through cassette tapes to locate the desired exam. Use of the new code tests on CD is optional; teams that prefer to use tapes may continue to use them.

=====

Rob KG6OSD,

In response to your question about the performance of my equipment, I put in 20 ground radials per Hustler's instruction book and I have been very happy with the performance of the 5BTV vertical trap antenna. I hear that the length of the radials isn't really that important, but I would recommend putting in as many as you can in your space. I managed to fit them all in per the book, installing the long ones (67 ft?) in an L-shape.

I use CWGet software to decode CW and any signal my computer can read, I can work. I have worked Dx all over the world on SSB and CW. In 10 -15- and 20- meter bands the antenna permits use of 100% power across full bands. On 40 meters I get 100% power out on most of SSB portion and 20 to 80% out in the CW portion. Even during the poor propagation condx lately I have been pleased with performance on 40 meters. I have to copy weaker signals by ear (which despite some hearing impairment, is better than my computer) and have been able to work 50-75% of the ones that I can hear well enough to copy. I view digging out the weak signals and the skill of sending morse code to be the heart and soul of my radio experience.

I wish I had 30 meter capability, it sounds sooo gud. The 5BTV's effective bandwidth on 80 meters is very narrow as advertised. But I was lucky and somehow I happened to cut the 80 meter whip for the center of the Dx window. I measured and assembled everything very carefully, exactly per the instruction book - not difficult. There is a tiny compression fitting that fits over the whip and fits into the tubing. It would be pretty easy to loose this along the way. I found mine through persistence and luck, after dropping it. If your whip is missing this, I'd put ample glob of silicone caulk into and around the fitting, or better yet replace it. You don't want water getting into your antenna. I have 2 guy ropes running to my back yard fence going NW and NE. Probably might need one running South, but wind from south is blocked by my house, which incidentally, doesn't seem to block my signals. They say you don't need guys in advertisements, but the instruction book says use the! m, ummm. The guys are needed here and anywhere else I've ever been. I use light-weight black nylon rope and it's virtually invisible.

I use a single length of heavy coax feedline between radio and antenna (100 feet), I tried a 15 ft jumper and lightning arrestor but they added some apparent line/connector loss that I can

live without. Consequently, I just disconnect my antenna when it's stormy and keep an eye on the weather reports. Someday I may regret this decision, but I could definitely tell that my signal wasn't as strong from a few signal reports and I could detect (hear) a slight loss on the receive side as well. A ham does what a ham's gotta do. With a vertical I just have to save those Decibels!

The 5BTV cost me less than an antenna tuner and looks good (to me anyway) in my back yard. I would be curious to know if an antenna tuner improves performance of this antenna and, if so, how much. I hear that they do. As you compare the 718 and your Yaesu, maybe you could let me know how much the tuner helps. I realize we'd be comparing apples and oranges, but if you can get out on 30 meters using an antenna tuner and 5BTV, wow! I'd have to make an antenna tuner a priority. I want one to support portable ops anyway, but if it has a practical application in my everyday ops, I might bump it up on the old wish list

73, Bill N3XL

And, another from Bill:

I am preparing a lesson plan for my daughter's third grade class, to go along with the radio demo I plan to give to the kiddies. One of the questions I had to figure out was: How long does it take for a radio wave to travel to the other side of the world?

When talking on a radio we seem to be talking directly to someone. How does the signal get there so fast if it has to be generated by the radio, propagated through the atmosphere, and received on the other end.

The answer is about .06 seconds.

Solution: Half-way around the world is 20,000 kilometers and since radio waves travel at the speed of light, which is 300,000 kilometers per second, we divide the distance by the speed and get the answer.

A special technical note, just for real LARC hams. The electricity running the radio equipment, and electromagnetic radio waves generated by the antenna, both travel at approximately the speed of light. Both light and radio waves' speed are slightly affected by the things that they pass through. This explains why we see different colors of light and why radio waves get bent differently by the atmosphere. The technical term for the bending/slowing affect in the medium being traversed is refraction, as you probably already knew.

73, Bill N3XL