



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 03 Issue 03

June 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

VHF Simplex 147.54; UHF Simplex: 445.975,

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Next Meeting:



June 25, 2003; 1930L

PRGM: FD; Foxhunt

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

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

President’s Ramblings

I’d like to thank everyone for turning out to the Fifth Annual Pallotti 5K Run. We had a dozen folks out on the course and manning the net control station. That was an excellent showing for early on a rainy morning. Even though our repeater had wax in its ears, we were able to adjust on the fly and use the 440 repeater on the old fire tower in Burtonsville. Thanks to John WB3GXW and Bill, WA3UTY for the help with and use of the repeater.

That afternoon, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life was moved indoors to the Laurel Mall. Instead of starting at 1600 it was delayed until 2030. Thanks to HD, K3HDM, Dennis, KT3D, and Jeff, KB3EQH for coming by to help out with it. I believe we would have been more active if it had been outdoors at the Laurel High School track. But, we were a presence and did a few useful things.

At the upcoming meeting our guest speaker will be Curtis “Robbie” Robinson, WG3R who will be talking about rf direction finding. His talk is a prelude to our planned foxhunt coming up July 13 at 1300. He will talk about techniques for zeroing in on the hidden transmitter. Learn some practical skills and put them to use during what should be a really fun afternoon. The fox will stay between Rt 50 and I-95, and within the county’s borders. We’ve invited the Central Maryland ARC, Goddard, GMRA, and ARES members to participate in the hunt and to come to the meeting to hear our speaker.

We have permission to hold Field Day at the usual place on Panther Field by Rocky Gorge Dam. I have the Lions Club tents, Pud has arranged for Fred Frederick’s bucket truck to be available, and the plan is coming together. We will meet at the field at 1000 on Saturday June 28 to begin setting up. We’ll go key down at 1400 and begin tear down at 1400 on Sunday. If you have a particular time you want to operate, please let me know. Hope the field is dry enough to drive on.

We will be helping with the 4th of July parade again this year. We could use a dozen hands. We’ll assemble at the corner of 6th and Montgomery Streets for assignments. The parade starts at 1100 and we need to meet at 0930. As always the festivities are on the Saturday after the 4th, so the 4th will be on the 5th in Laurel this year. Make any sense?

73, Jim, WI3N

This is just a short note to let you all know that Ed Rummel/KB3DVC went in to Washington Hospital Center Friday for emergency multiple bypass surgery. The stints from his last procedure clogged up. Since no news is good news, as of this writing he should be on his way to recovery. It will be several days before he can talk with us. More as I find out.

Jim Cross/WI3N

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!

NEW WASHINGTON DC ARES/RACES & REFLECTOR:

An internet reflector for the newly established Washington DC ARES/RACES has recently been activated. For information on how to join the DC group and reflector go to: <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/dcaresraces/>. This is not to be confused with Maryland or Virginia ARES/RACES groups although all will be operating in concert during emergencies and major exercises. You can also contact Robert Lee, KM3DR, at: km3dr@aol.com

NEW FCC RULES FOR 5 MHZ:

The new five channel Amateur Radio allocation in the vicinity of 5 Mhz

opens at Midnight, Friday, July 3rd, (local time). No operation is permitted before that.

The FCC has issued new rules for 5 Mhz under part 97.303(s). In part, the rules require Amateurs to maintain in their station records either manufacturing data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain if using an antenna other than a half wave dipole. There are also strict power requirements.

ARRL has posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) concerning 5 MHz operation on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty.

FOXHUNT :

The Laurel Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a foxhunt beginning at 1300L on July 13. You are invited to the LARC meeting this coming Wednesday, June 25, at 1930L for a presentation by Curtis "Robbie" Robinson, WG3R on techniques to use in search of the elusive fox. We meet at the Woman's Club of Laurel clubhouse at 384 Main Street which is also where the LARC VE team tests each 3rd Saturday. Talk in on 147.54. With this cc I'm inviting CMARC, Goddard, and GMRA members along with LARC and any ARES/RACES members who would like to participate.

We anticipate that the boundaries will in general be the northern part of Prince George's County between Rt 50 and I-95.

Looking forward to a fun day.

Jim Cross, WI3N
President LARC

Understanding the FCC's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Inquiry (Jun 19, 2003) -- Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) technology poses significant interference potential to HF and low-VHF spectrum use between 2 and 80 MHz.

[Full Story](#) <<click here or go to the ARRL site.

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration (Jun 20, 2003) -- Registration for the Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006) and Satellite Communications (EC-007) courses opens Monday, June 23, 12:01 AM EDT (0401 UTC). Registration will remain open through Sunday, June 29. Classes begin Tuesday afternoon, July 1. Registration for the ARRL HF Digital Communications (EC-005) and VHF/UHF--Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008) courses remains open through Sunday, June 22. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org. On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to this mailbox. To learn more, visit the [ARRL Certification and Continuing Education](#) Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR, hrobins@arrl.org.

Prince George's County ARES/RACES

As of this writing, the two Health Department locations and four of the six hospitals have received all their shipments of radios, power supplies, coax, connectors, etc. We're still waiting for coax to be ordered for two of them. Our technical team is beginning to go to the hospitals, inventory the orders, install the tnc's in the

radios, and assemble the stations. The plan is to have an emergency backup digital and voice link for these agencies with each other and the Emergency Operations Center in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. This link will allow the hospitals, Health Department and EOC to network themselves as a group or to pass traffic between any two or more entities. The onsite amateur radio stations will enable them to better coordinate critical information for human and material resources. We are putting together a short packet course using the radios that will be at the agencies. The course will be run at various times to allow all the ARES/RACES members to familiarize themselves with both packet and the radios. We are also putting together a short course covering various general topics in the area of emergency communications and also information particular to our county. For a good introduction to emergency communications, I recommend that you take the Level 1 Emergency Communications course offered by the ARRL.

There are still many amateurs in our county who have not signed on with our ARES/RACES group to help in an emergency. One of the reasons we are still clinging to our frequencies is the provision in the FCC rules that says we will make ourselves available in emergencies. The time to learn how you can help in an emergency is not during the emergency. By becoming officially enrolled in ARES/RACES you can get a county ID that will help you get in to your assigned location. We need volunteers to help at each of the six hospitals, two Health Department sites, and the EOC. We also need volunteers who are willing to set up in the field in shelters, at prophylactic pharmaceutical dispensing sites, and anywhere else the county has the need for emergency back up communications. Here’s an opportunity to provide a real service for homeland security and to give something back to this wonderful hobby and the citizens of our county. If you would like to be trained for emergency communications, please email me at wi3n@arrl.net.

Our Director of Emergency Management is very supportive of our efforts for the county and has allowed us to apply for funds from a supplemental grant administered by the state. Our goal is to update the equipment in our radio room, put together a portable field station, and get some radios and equipment for the mini bus the department has. If we have to vacate our EOC we will still be able to maintain communications with our field sites, or we can have the capability to operate from an incident site or other location.

Our ARES/RACES team will operate in the new Class F classification for Field Day. We’ve obtained permission from the ARRL to make copies of the Amateur Radio Today video hosted by Walter Cronkite. These copies will be bundled with other material about Amateur Radio and specifically about what we do in Prince George’s County and given to the County Executive, County Council, and various department heads with an invitation to visit us during Field Day to meet us and get a first hand look at our operations.

Finally, we have invited our surrounding ARES/RACES groups to come by the Fire Services Building from 1000-1600 on July 19 to build five different adaptors using Anderson Power Poles, male and female cigarette lighter connectors, and tee connectors. Besides having enough adaptors in their go kits to connect to virtually any power source, it will provide our neighbors a chance to see where our EOC is and to meet us and other area ARES/RACES members. There is a good chance that we will one day find ourselves in need of mutual aid or being called upon to supply aid to another county. Besides, it’s always nice to be able to meet and learn from other hams with an interest in emergency communications.

73 de Jim Cross, WI3N
Emergency Coordinator and
RACES Officer for Prince George’s County

From a PVRC advisory:

Nextel has been granted trademark and registration for "Push To Talk" and "PTT". Anyone using these terms may be in violation of Nextel's rights. Read more details in the following Nextel press release:

http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/ir_site.zhtml?ticker=nxtl&script=410&

(Click on this site, then click on “Press Releases” in the left sidebar)

Laurel Amateur Radio Club
“W3LRC”
Pallotti 5k Run/Walk Event

07 June 03

Communications were conducted on the WA3UTY 443.650 repeater, as the LARC repeater was not passing any audio.

Op's: 15 as follows:

- K3HDM (NetCon).....HD
- KT3D (NetCon)..... Dennis
- W3YD.....Pud
- WI3N..... Jim
- K3RAM.....Mark
- KB3JNT.....Stephen
- KB3JNS.....Christine
- AA3WC..... Charles
- K3OH..... Bob
- KB3DVC..... Ed
- KB3HGW..... Bob
- N3WSG..... Jerry
- N3IZU.....Dick
- KB3JKO.....David
- N5RJM.....Mark

Stopping by::
K3JNT/ Stan

06:25 AML : NetCon Operational

08:01 AML : Race Starts.

08:14 AML : Lead runner crosses finish line.

08:57 AML : NetCon QRT.

Notes:

There were no major incidents to tender, just normal type Op & Shadow duties.

This year we had lousy weather: rain, lots of rain. At one point from the NetCon position, we were barely able to see 50 feet across the street to the far curb; and COLD ... the participants having completed the race, while standing in the vicinity of NetCon, were shivering as if in the Arctic. And, a good time was had by all !

Respectfully submitted,
K3HDM/HD
NetCon

Laurel Amateur Radio Club
"W3LRC"
American Cancer Society
Relay for Life Event

07 June 03

Communications were on the LARC 147.540 simplex frequency.

Op's: 4 as follows:

K3HDMHD
 KT3D Dennis
 WI3N..... Jim
 KB3EQH..... Jeff

On site:

HD 7.25 PML, followed closely by Dennis, then Jim and Jeff.

QRT:

Dennis 10.30 PML (+/-)
 Jeff 11.00 PML (+/-)
 HD 1.25 AML
 Jim 5.30 AML

Notes:

This event was moved from the Laurel Sr. High School Track/Field, to the Laurel Mall due to the massive rain storms that went through the area on Saturday. (there was some minor over flow on the river where we do River Fest, up to the seating area on the walk benches, but nothing catastrophic).

As I see it, from HD:

The communications requirement here was virtually nonexistent. A few comms were passed, but most problems were solved by event staff, internally. Either more Op's are needed, or these folks seem to be able to handle things on their own. The fact is, this event IS a prime FRS (Family Radio Service) event, within the staff.

Respectfully submitted,
 K3HDM/HD

An original contribution from John Menard, N3GXA ... tnx, John ... keep 'em coming!

Dear Mr. Ham,

Thank you for your kind offer to demonstrate amateur radio to our elementary school students. Although this is a wonderfully welcome idea, we the administration of P.S. 13 have some issues with the International Phonetic Alphabet. After a careful

reading, we found it to be politically incorrect, and perhaps even racist, sexist, and promoting evil. Here are some of the problems:

Alpha and Delta: Clearly Greek words, and only Greek. Singling out of specific nations is not allowed in the modern classroom.

Bravo: Found in some histories to be an American Indian word. Never used anymore.

Charlie, Oscar, Victor: Blatantly sexist male given names. Victor could be Victoria, but we'll just settle for "Vicky"; sort of gender neutral. This could possibly be done with Charlene, but we have a student by that name and wouldn't want to upset her. We used "Ozzy" for the O. The kids really like that one.

Echo: Acceptable

Foxtrot, Tango: These are names of traditional dances, and dancing is no longer allowed in school. We find this a bit sad, but with the way "dancing" has deteriorated, we had no choice but to outlaw it. Also, we think a more serious word could be chosen, such as Fixture, and Tent.

Golf: A sport that uses separate tee locations for male and female players? No way.

Hotel: Derived from a French word, but might be OK once the current anti-France fad calms down.

India: Would be OK if referring to the ink, not the country, so let's just change to "Ink".

Juliet, Romeo: Ever read the famous Shakespeare play by this name? Definitely not appropriate for children.

Kilo: A common drug term. In fact we've been hoping the cocaine culture would switch to the imperial system, but no luck yet.

Lima: Only acceptable if pronounced like the bean, not the South American city.

Mike: Must be spelled "Mic" as if short for microphone, or else falls into the same problem as Charlie and Victor.

November: Original meaning is literally "blood month", due to the tradition of butchering at this time of year. Isn't there something less violent?

Papa: This is "father" in French. Not very fair to mothers, we think. So, we changed it to "Parent".

Quebec: An Algonquin word. (What is it with you people and Indians, anyway?) How about Q-tip?

Sierra: Most of us think of mountain ranges when we hear this, but it's really a Spanish word for "saw". Weapons such as saws, plastic butter knives, and Tweety Bird wallets are prohibited in school. We changed to "Seven".

Uniform: We tried several years ago to have uniforms approved for our students, but it was thought to hinder individuality, and it's too militaristic. Changed to Unisex.

Whiskey: Worse than Kilo I'm afraid.

X-ray: Acceptable, if only because no one can think of another word that begins with X.

Yankee, Zulu: Both are derogatory, racist names. We changed to Yam and Zebra. Although there was some talk about Yam being a bad word somewhere, but so far nothing has come of it.

Thanks again for your efforts, and I'm glad we got these things cleared up.

Sincerely,

The administration of P.S. 13

QST de W1AW
Propagation Forecast Bulletin 25 ARLP025
From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA June 20, 2003
To all radio amateurs

Low sunspot numbers and geomagnetic disturbances in the over-the-hill portion of the solar cycle continue. There are enough sunspots for some good HF propagation, but we are about three years past the cycle peak and about three and a half years ahead of the

next sunspot minimum. Complicating the situation is continued high solar wind and flares, causing constant disturbance to geomagnetic conditions. HF operators generally want stable geomagnetic indices, such as a K index at 3 or below and a daily A index of 10 or less.

A chart in the recent NOAA Preliminary Report and Forecast of Solar Geophysical Data at <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1450.pdf> shows the enhanced geomagnetic activity following the peak of a solar cycle.

//snip//

William Hartman, N6FB forwarded a question from the eHam.net forum about the relation between A and K indices, as well as a few other questions. The K index is a measure of geomagnetic stability at various magnetometers around the globe. During periods of activity, the higher latitudes tend to have higher K indices. For mid-latitude K values, an index of 3 is normal. Below 3 is nice and quiet, and above is disturbed. Each point in the K index, which is published every three hours, represents a big change. It is a non-linear system.

The A index is published daily, and is made up of the eight K indices over 24 hours. It is a linear scale, so a one point change doesn't represent a big jump in activity. For instance, if you had a constant K index of 2 for 24 hours this would produce an A index of 7. A constant K index of 3 is equal to an A of 15, and K of 4 equals 27. The K usually changes every three hours, so the A is somewhere in between the values shown here. A web page that shows the relationship is at http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/GEOMAG/kp_ap.html.

You can see recent mid-latitude, high and planetary A and K indices at <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/DGD.txt>. Note that on June 17 and 18, 2003 we had a planetary A index of 50 and 54, which is very high.

//snip//

Back to recent indices as well as a projection for the next few days, we had average sunspot numbers drop nearly 37 points from last week to 112.7 this week. Solar flux was also down. Not surprisingly given the conditions and all the reports, the average planetary A index increased from 21 to 30. Space weather was remarkably mild on Thursday, June 19 with mid latitude and planetary K indices down to 2 or 3. However, the forecast shows more of the same enhanced activity over the next few days, with a planetary A index of 25, 25, 20 and 20 for June 20-23. Solar flux should remain around 125 on those days. On June 20 we should enter a solar wind stream flowing from a coronal hole, which should cause those high A indices.

NNNN
/EX