



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 03 Issue 08

Nov/Dec 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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

6516 Brooklyn Bridge Rd
Laurel, Md, 20707

**Next Meeting:
JAN 28, 2004; 1930L
N3TZA Assumes
Control**



THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Officers:	President:	Joe Craven	N3TZA	301-776-6398	n3tza@rcn.com
	Vice-President:	Kevin Craven	WV3D	301-773-0155	kevinc@erols.com
	Secretary:	Toby Widdicombe	KB3BWR	301-490-0188	tobyw@cpcug.org
	Treasurer:	Dennis Fitzgerald	KT3D	301-459-1247	dennis@dkf-naf.com
	Past President:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	preaver@earthlink.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	preaver@earthlink.net
T-MARC/D-MARC Rep:	OPEN			
Public Information Officer:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@earthlink.net
Youth Programs:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Education and Training:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@earthlink.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	preaver@earthlink.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	preaver@earthlink.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 Emergency Coord:	Mike Carr	WA1QAA	410-799-0403	bamcc@erols.com
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MDC Section Bulletin Manager:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net

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

Editor: Pud Reaver, W3YD 301-498-6293 Publisher: Mark Doore, K3RAM

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



Don't FORGET:

144.235 MHz SSB at 8:00 PM LOCAL TIME every Thursday..

**Please pass the word and 73 IKE W3IKE FM18SW
w3ike@yahoo.com..**

Washington, DC - The FCC unveiled the second phase of its on-going history project today with exhibits, displays, and a web site on a few pioneers of radio's core technologies. The particular focus of the exhibits is mobile radio and its applications for safety, business, and personal uses. The first phase of this history project looked at television.

The new web pages (<http://www.fcc.gov/omd/history>) cover the ideas that made radio possible, the power that made radio realistic, and the quality that made radio popular. The work of Hertz, Marconi, Fessenden, Tesla, Alexanderson, DeForest, and Armstrong are briefly covered on these pages.

Available from the web site are depictions of the exhibits and display items that can be seen in the FCC's headquarters building.

The exhibits, displays, and web site of the FCC's history project are designed to highlight the rich technological heritage that underlies today's vibrant communications marketplace.

To all stations living in and around the Eastern West Virginia Panhandle:

Starting in January, I will be starting (again) the Eastern Panhandle Traffic Net. It will meet every evening at 6:45pm on the 147.255 repeater. Click the last link in my signature for more information.

73!

Nick KB8NDS - ARRL Eastern WV ASM
Member NCI-4641

West Virginia Section News Editor

Martinsburg, WV - MP BA99.9 on CSX's Cumberland East End Sub
Webmaster

-Walkersville Southern Railroad (<http://www.wsrr.org>)

-Northern Virginia Traffic Net (<http://www.nvtm.org>)

-KB8NDS' Radio Page (<http://www.qsl.net/kb8nds>)

-WV Section News (<http://www.arrl.org/sections/WV.html>)

Webmaster and Net Manager

-Eastern Panhandle Traffic Net (<http://www.qsl.net/kb8nds/eptn>) <---!!!

Interesting article if you're into "sunny stuff"

Date: Wed, 12 Nov 2003 15:12:02 -0600
Subject: The Sun Goes Haywire
From: NASA Science News <snglist@snglist.msfc.nasa.gov>

NASA Science News for November 12, 2003

Solar maximum is years past, yet the sun has been remarkably active lately. Is the sunspot cycle broken?

FULL STORY at
http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/12nov_haywire.htm?list77434

Another contribution from our own N3XL ...TNX, Bill!

Pud, Here we go again, I actually figured something out ! Not bad for a systems engineer, hi hi.

Hooking up the Astatic Silver Eagle to an ICOM-718

73, Bill N3XL

I won an Astatic Silver Eagle, D104SE, microphone at Dayton a couple of years ago, apparently just before these mics were taken out of production. Well, it sat in the box until last weekend and I finally decided to try to connect it to my 718. Besides being a very nice looking piece of equipment, I liked the idea of having the mic stand up closer to my mouth. I had to research quite a bit on this, as the manufacturer's install instructions are basically nothing more than a wiring diagram. I couldn't find a specific cookbook solution on how to hook it up and had a lot of questions. I did due diligence on the web, where I found a write up by W8CWE on how he successfully connected an Astatic D-104 mic to his Icom 706MKII (still kinda wondering if he really needed to connect the PTT wire, hi hi). I also found some related writeups in QST, also about the older D-104 which was the version of the Astatic "Lollipop" made before the Silver Eagle (SE). The SE is advertised as modern rig compatible and has a circuit card in it presumably for this purpose.

Bottom line, I hooked the Silver Eagle up and it works beautifully. My power out of the rig seems much better using this mic (don't ask me to explain why). OK, it's really simple to hook up.

1. Obtain 8 pin female mic connector.
2. The only wires to use are the white one and the bare shield, cut away the others (brown, blue, red, violet, yellow and black) at the edge of the sheath.
3. You don't need a battery as the transmit power comes from the rig on the white wire. I got this tidbit of info from both the QST article and W8CWE's article.
4. Solder the white wire to pin 1 of the connector and the shield wire to pin 7.
5. Assemble connector and attach to radio.
6. Turn on Vox feature (don't ask me why) by pressing Vox button.
7. Ensure mic amplifier tweaker in the base of the mic is all the way counter clockwise (Astatic recommends this position for starting calibration process).
8. Go to quick set-up menu on the 718. Put Vox Gain at High setting. Turn Anti-vox setting to OFF. Set Vox delay to 4. (I found these setting to work well and others not as well, don't ask me why).

I am a very happy camper. Haven't done deep audio analysis, but from the signal reports I have received I have no reason to believe that I sound weak or tinny. It is sure nice to see that power out meter zipping all the way to 100%. 73

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with

headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-nine (59) scholarships for the academic year 2004 - 2005 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds seven of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-two (52) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2004 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Source: Diane Zimmerman, AA3OF
Chairperson
Scholarship Committee
aa3of@arrl.org

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Finally, from the Editor:

LARC had a great year-end installation/holiday banquet at the BRASS DUCK (the restaurant of the Best Western Motel in Laurel.) The highlight of the evening, and in the editor's opinion one of the best programs we've ever experienced, was the guest speaker, Mr. Alan Heil, recently retired from Voice of America. Mr Heil had audio clips of significant events that happened "on his watch", and interlaced these clips with anecdotes and personal experiences. 38 club members and guests certainly enjoyed his presentation.

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Nothing official from the Marathon Director yet ... but the word is the race will be run the Sunday after the Presidents' Day holiday .. ie Feb 22. Will let you know as soon as I hear something.

It has been fun doing this job for the last several months, but I've had it! it's time for someone else to step to the plate (maybe for only a year?) ... the job consists of prodding folks for their monthly contributions, collecting interesting articles, and posting in a timely manner. (The FEEDBACK was invented as a reminder of the monthly business meeting.) Currently the FEEDBACK is distributed only via email and posted on the LARC site, and this gives the editor **carte' blanc** to make this as large or small and as creative as time permits. If you are interested, please contact Joe/N3TZA.

Sorry for the delay of this issue. Hope to see-you all at the Jan meeting!

ARL Sixty One

73/PUD
