



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 04 Issue 08

August 2004

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 146, Laurel, MD 20725-0146

<http://www.larcmd.org>

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Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Freq	Event
Wed	08/04	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	08/11	1900		Social Gathering at Sullivan's Steak & Beverage Co
Sat	08/14	1200		Maryland-DC QSO Party
Sun	08/15	1200		Maryland-DC QSO Party
Wed	08/18	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	08/25	1930		Monthly Meeting @ Woman's Club of Laurel
All		2100	147.540 simplex	Informal Net / Rag-Chew

Repeaters:

VHF: 147.225+ PL 156.7
UHF: 442.500+ PL 156.7

Simplex:

VHF: 147.540
UHF: 445.975

Upcoming Meetings:
July 28, 2004 1930 EDT
August 25, 2004 1930 EDT

President's Ramblings

Welcome, as we prepare to another issue of the Feedback.

There will be a foxhunt Saturday July 24. It will begin from Bennigan's in Laurel at 10AM local time. The boundaries will be varied slightly to include part of Howard County (details on Saturday). Hope to see you there! Please pass the word to anyone you think may be interested. *Sorry for the short notice!*

The July 4 parade went off very well and I think it was a success. Thank you to all who participated.

The MD/DC QSO Party (August 14th and 15th) is coming up. Please mark your calendar and plan to participate!

Keep in touch!!

73,
Joe, N3TZA

LARC Field Day 2004

I'd like to thank everyone who helped pull this thing together! The efforts of all the members who contributed are greatly appreciated. It was a worry right up to key down, getting approval to use the field, gathering equipment, and getting participants. It all came together and even the weather worked out fine!

It was a bit of a hassle getting the use of the WSSC field. The letter requesting the use of the field didn't get received. The person in charge had changed prompting a faxed copy of the letter to the correct person with two weeks to go. Where it was verbally supported and sent to legal for review. In the final week after many phone calls the president (Joe, N3TZA) was able to get the insurance information (thank you Dennis, KT3D!) to the legal staff that prepared the legal approval document for signing and notarizing. Obviously the procedures have changed in the view of security for the near by dam! The WSSC staff was very helpful and appreciated the time constrains; I'd like to thank them for their efforts too.

At this same time the gathering of troops and equipment was in panic mode! The club's radios were available, but not all had power cables for operation on Battery power. It was decided to use the Icom 706 donated by Ed KB3DVC and one of the Kenwood transceivers (if a power cable could be obtained). The backup was a Yeasu FT747 of Joe's, N3TZA. The army antenna mast, antennas, and coax were in the club shack. The club bought 2 new deep cycle batteries for the repeater back up, to replace the one huge battery that had expired. Michele WK3X offered her old laptop for logging and a deep cycle battery, solar panel, charger and a generator (if we could get it back from the person that borrowed it!). Chuck KB3KTX donated a battery and charger. Toby, WB3BWR provided a generator. HD, K3HDM offered his generator. Charles, AA3WC offered his VHF / UHF vertical and battery. In the end we had just enough people and just enough equipment to make a go of it.

Field Day began at noon on Saturday at the club shack Gathering up supplies and heading out to field Day site at WSSC field next to the T. Howard Duckett Dam. First up, the Lion's Club tent. It didn't take long for those gathered (Joe, N3TZA; Charles, AA3WC; Jeff, KB3EQH; Chuck, KB3KTX; Toby, WB3BWR; Ed, K3QX; Kevin WV3D; Brian, (no call yet...)). The antenna was going to be a dipole

hanging from the army mast. But after untangling the guy ropes it became obvious that we didn't have what we needed to get it up properly. So, Ed K3QX's new Buddipole antenna came to the rescue! By 1400 EDT the 2A FD setup had the club's Icom 706 on the air on 20M. A second rig became N3TZA's Yeasu FT747. It was up and running a while later with a inverted "V" wire dipole strung from some strapped (read duct taped) together MFJ telescoping masts. A third "long wire" antenna was run vertically up the MFJ mast just because we could.

Operating mostly on 20 meters was tough! The band was stuffed and getting in around the big guns was not easy. 40 Meters was a little more productive but still, 100 watts to a wire dipole is a challenge! (That we were up to!!). Jim, WI3N dropped by and made a contact; the station Ed K3EQX had been working on for quite awhile! The bands were like that. In the late evening we were visited by a guy in tow truck and some guys walking by after a late night fish at the reservoir.

As evening turned into early morning, thing slowed down. Some of us hit the tents, and some went home for the night. The FT747 ran most of the night and early morning on 80 Meters, which was hopping, and contacts were piling up! I quit at about 0530 local and Chuck, KB3KTX picked up at 0600 local, woken up by Toby's Generator finally running out of fuel. (It only ran a florescent droplight.) So we were only off the air about 30 minutes. As the sun rose on Sunday morning life returned. Chuck's wife arrived with bagels and N3TZA returned with donuts; Breakfast!! Dennis, KT3D stopped by and so did Jim Ried, KD3S.

Operating continued until 1400 local. The group's effort logged about 150 contacts in the 24-hour period. Everyone had a fine time. The weather was as good as could be asked for. The Field Day set up was broken down by 1500 EDT Sunday. Plans are being made for a slightly bigger set up next year!

In an effort to not leave anyone out here is a list of those who were there. If I missed anyone please let me know, and I apologize in advance!

Ed	K3QX
Chuck	KB3KTX
Toby	WB3BWR
Joe	N3TZA
Charles	AA3WC
Bill	(Charles's son, No Call)
Jeff	KB3EQH
Dennis	KT3D
Jim	WI3N
Jim	KD3S
Kevin	WV3D
Brain	(Kevin's son, No Call)

73!

Kevin WV3D

The 2004 Maryland-DC QSO Party

The 2004 Maryland-DC QSO party will be held from August 14 1600 UTC to August 15 0400 UTC and August 15 1600 to 2359 UTC. That's Saturday, August 14 from noon to midnight EDT and Sunday, August 15 from noon to 1959 EDT.

We have an antenna party planned at the shack for Sunday, August 1. The last issue of The Feedback had an incorrect date for the antenna party – my apologies.

We have about a dozen members who plan to work in the shack and/or as rovers but we can always use more. In less than an hour you can make QSO's from 4 counties in the Laurel area – we can really jack up our score if we get out and make those QSO's.

The MD-DC QSO Party has the following suggested calling frequencies:

1.895 3.643 3.920 7.06 7.230 14.06 14.270 21.06 21.370 28.035 28.370
50.150 52.525 144.15 146.55 146.580 432.15 446.000 MHz.

Please listen for the club station, W3LRC, or call it during the contest – every QSO counts!

More details on the Maryland-DC QSO party can be found at <http://www.w3cwc.org/funcontest.htm>

If you can't find W3LRC on the air or are having trouble getting through please call me on my cell phone at 240-498-8432 and we'll get it figured out!

73 de K3QX – Ed H.

==== ARRL News =====
==>HAWAII'S GOVERNOR VETOES AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA BILLS

Hawaii Gov Linda Lingle has vetoed two Amateur Radio antenna bills. Both pieces of legislation would have provided limited opportunities for amateurs living under private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) to erect antennas. HB 2773 would have opened the door for amateurs living in condominiums to make arrangements with the homeowners' association board to install an antenna without having to change the CC&Rs--often a more difficult process. HB 2774 would have granted similar rights to the relatively few amateurs who live under CC&Rs in agricultural-zoned property. Lingle, a Republican, invoked the same reason for refusing to sign both bills into law.

"This bill is objectionable because it amounts to an inappropriate and unacceptable governmental intrusion into the contractual affairs of the property owners," Lingle said July 13 in her veto messages to HB 2773 and HB 2774. "This measure would allow the installation of antennas in an owner's unit, notwithstanding objections by other owners."

The two measures, sponsored by Rep Ken Hiraki (D-28), had undergone substantial changes in wording from that proposed in the original legislation. Following lengthy negotiations and a House-Senate conference, HB 2773 passed the Senate May 3 on a 25-0 vote and the House 37-14. On the same day, HB 2774--essentially completely reworded from its original text--also received unanimous Senate approval, while House members okayed the measure 35-16.

ARRL Pacific Section Manager Kevin Bogan, AH6QO, said that while the two pieces of legislation represented only incremental improvement in the antenna situation for Hawaiian amateurs living under CC&Rs, they also could have provided a basis for further gains later.

Both measures would have required homeowners' association boards to provide a written explanation if they denied permission to install an amateur antenna, and Bogan called the final versions "a nudge toward reasonable accommodation" by homeowners' association boards.

Lingle said in her essentially identical veto messages that purchasers of property in planned communities should be able to rely upon CC&Rs when deciding whether to buy a unit and "not have to worry about subsequent legislative bills that trump the governing documents by permitting certain people to erect antennas on property within the subdivision."

==>FCC AFFIRMS \$11,000 FINE FOR CALIFORNIA AMATEUR

The FCC has ordered Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, to pay an \$11,000 fine for alleged "willful and repeated" violations of the Communications Act of 1934 and Amateur Service (Part 97) rules. The Commission's July 9 Forfeiture Order followed a Notice

of Apparent Liability (NAL) issued March 31. Granda did not respond to the NAL nor to earlier FCC correspondence, and the FCC said it was affirming the forfeiture based on the information it had before it.

"The noted violation involves Mr Granda's failure to respond to official Commission correspondence and causing intentional interference to Amateur Radio communications," the FCC Order said.

In its earlier NAL, the FCC asserted that on at least eight occasions, Granda, 58, "willfully and maliciously caused interference to other stations and conducted activity in an effort to obtain exclusive use" of a 1.25 meter repeater pair. The Whittier, California, licensee was the recipient of a December 2002 Warning Notice from the FCC Enforcement Bureau alleging that he deliberately interfered with two repeaters, KD6ZLZ and WA6NJJ, and requiring him to provide a detailed plan to prevent interference. Granda failed to respond to that and to subsequent notices, the FCC said.

In late 2002, the FCC dismissed Granda's complaint against the KD6ZLZ and WA6NJJ repeaters. Granda had told the FCC that he'd been using the two frequencies "continuously for over 25 years." In January 2003, the FCC's Los Angeles Field Office issued a Warning Notice to Granda alleging that his station was transmitting improperly and causing interference to other stations. It ordered Granda to cease automatic control of his repeater.

Agents from the Los Angeles field office used direction-finding techniques to track interfering signals to Granda's residence and inspected his station, the FCC said. According to the NAL, Granda "orally admitted" that he had received the warning notices, and he told the FCC agents that he was "trying to prevent anyone from using 'his' frequency by re-transmitting 147.49 MHz signals on 222.24/223.84 MHz 'to keep the channel occupied.'"

Last August, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside the renewal of Granda's Amateur Extra class license, which expired last November. His renewal application has reverted to "pending" status.

Granda has 30 days to pay the fine. If he fails to do so, the case could be referred to the US Department of Justice for collection.

THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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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 PowerPro80@yahoo.com

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