



# ***THE FEEDBACK***

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Volume 04 Issue 10

October 2004

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*THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER*

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Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 146, Laurel, MD 20725-0146

<http://www.larcmd.org>

email: [larc@larcmd.org](mailto:larc@larcmd.org)

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## Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Freq	Event
Wed	10/06	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	10/13	1900		Social Gathering at Sullivan's Steak & Beverage
Wed	10/20	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	10/27	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

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> <b>October 27, 2004 1930 EDT</b></p>
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## President's Ramblings

All is going well. We are planning a foxhunt on October 10 - Kevin WV3D will have details.

Our annual installation dinner is set for December 12. You will find a form elsewhere in this paper. Some members like to include their annual dues in the same check. This will be provided for in the form. It will be a great help to your president if you will return this ASAP.

Also remember that elections for officers will be held at the next meeting on October 27. Last year's officers have agreed to stand for re-election – there are no other nominations at present.

73,  
Joe, N3TZA

## **The 2004 LARC Annual Banquet**

The Annual Christmas/Officer Installation Banquet will be held at:

**Kaufmann's Tavern  
239 Gambrills Road  
Gambrills, MD**

**Sunday, December 12, 4-7 PM**  
**4-5...Happy Hour, 5-6...Dinner, 6-7... Officer Installation**

**Price is \$28.00 per person.**  
*The price includes tax and gratuity.*

Buffet Items:  
**Top Round of Beef  
Roasted Turkey Breast  
Seafood Newburg with Rice**

Please use form at the end of the Newsletter.

## FOXHUNT!

The Club will sponsor a foxhunt on Sunday, October 10, 2004. The foxhunters will gather at the Bennigan's Steak and Beverage Co parking lot near the intersection of Maryland Routes 197 and 198. Signup and Talk-In will begin at 9:30 a.m. The talk-in and the hunt will be conducted on 147.540 Mhz. Foxhunters will start at 10:00 a.m. and the hunt will end at 1:00 p.m. The boundary for the hunt will be a 6 mile radius from the starting point. Please pass the word to anyone who may be interested. See you there!

73,  
Kevin, WV3D

## ARRL Sweepstakes 2004

The ARRL Sweepstakes Phone Contest will take place from 2100 UTC November 20 to 0300 UTC November 22, 2004. In case you had not heard the Club has a new radio! This will be an excellent chance to test it out. We will need operators to man the Club station for 24 of the 30 hours in the contest. We will also need to have at least one extra class control operator on hand during all operations. This will allow technician and general class operators to work on all portions of the HF phone bands for the contest.

We also need to fix up our wire antennas for 40 and 80. This would allow us to run 10, 15, 20 on the beam and use another transmitter on 40 and 80.

The phone contest will probably be our main thrust but if we can get a few CW operators we can also work the ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest will take place from 2100 UTC November 6 to 0300 UTC November 8, 2004.

Contact Ed, K3QX, if you want to participate or just show up at the shack!

73,  
Ed, K3QX

## Bill Wins!

I recently received a certificate for completion of the ARRL Emergency Communications Level 1 course and just signed up for the ARRL the Level 2 course. I also recently received a certificate from Radio Amateurs of Canada, Inc. for First Place Canada Winter Contest 2003 "W3 Call Area" category Single Operator, 14 MHz, Low Power with 896 points. I did the contest at a casual pace doing CW on Saturday, SSB on Sunday and some mop up CW Sunday evening. 20 MHz stayed active both days and I had regular nights of sleep. I was very surprised to win anything!

73,  
Bill, N3XL

## 2004 Maryland-DC QSO Party

Our logs have been submitted for this year's Maryland-DC QSO Party. Scoring is set to take place in the first week of October so we should know before long how well we stacked up. Keep your fingers crossed!

73,  
Ed, K3QX

### ==>ARRL HAS ROLE IN MARYLAND AMATEUR TOWER CASE VICTORY

ARRL member John Evans, N3HBX, says he'll go forward with plans to erect four 192-foot towers on a 44-acre farmland tract he owns near Poolesville, Maryland. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, testified as an expert witness on Evans' behalf September 9 when a Montgomery County Circuit Court judge denied a request for a preliminary injunction brought by Evans' neighbors in an effort to have his building permits for the structures rescinded.

"Thank you for your sterling support today!" Evans e-mailed Imlay after the ruling by Circuit Court Judge DeLawrence Beard. "I am sure it made a difference." While another court proceeding to deal with the interpretation of Montgomery County's zoning ordinance lies ahead, Evans' attorney, Steve Van Grack--a former Rockville mayor--has told him he's free to put up his towers--even at the risk that they might have to come down later if the courts ultimately rule against him. "And that is what I plan to do," Evans said.

Imlay says Judge Beard was not convinced by the assertions of Evans' neighbors that installing the four antenna support structures would result in irreparable harm, and he declined to grant an injunction to stop the project until its legality could be established in court. "The issue was whether or not a special exception--like a conditional use permit—is required or just the building permits that were issued by the County," Imlay explained. A conditional use permit would have required a public hearing. "Evans is not out of the woods yet, but this allows him to put up the towers," he said.

Judge Beard ruled only on the preliminary injunction request, however. The neighbors earlier had attempted to get a temporary restraining order, but that was denied by the Circuit Court August 30. In turning down the injunction request, Judge Beard said the towers could come down just as they went up--if that was his final decision--so any harm to the neighbors would not be irreparable.

The county granted Evans a building permit to construct the towers as accessory use structures on June 23. Evans reportedly paid just over \$1 million for the property in March on the condition that a building permit for the towers be approved. He's also built a house on the property, which is within Montgomery County's agricultural reserve.

Evans' neighbors have strenuously opposed the DXCC Honor Roller's plans to put up the towers for his new contest station, and they told reporters the latest setback will not halt their efforts. Contending the tower project will destroy the "rural character of the area," more than 200 area residents signed a petition requesting a public hearing.

According to The Gazette newspaper, Evans has met with delegations of neighbors in an effort to accommodate their complaints--including an offer to plant trees to obscure the view of the towers. He also offered to remove the towers in 15 years when he'll be in his mid-80s and "probably no longer interested in pursuing the hobby," the news report said.

The Washington Post this week reported that neighbors didn't learn of Evans' plans until construction trucks began showing up at the site. Several neighbors have ceded their own development rights to the county to keep the area as agricultural open space. They suggest that Evans' tower project makes a mockery of the agricultural easements.

## New 1x1 Call Sign Procedure

The new National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators web site has an on-line form that can be used to request a 1x1 call. The URL for the site is:

<http://www.ncvec.org/>

To reach the 1x1 call sign page, on the left side of the NC-VEC home page, select 1x1 Call Signs. This will take you to the 1x1 Special Event Call Signs page. You can search the 1x1 call database to determine whether your desired call is available on your dates, read the FCC's Rules about Special Event Call signs, or review the Frequently Asked Questions. When you're ready to reserve your 1x1 call, select One by One Request Form from the list. This will take you to the form.

To get to these functions directly, bypassing the menu, use

<http://www.ncvec.org/1x1.php>

--or--

<http://www.ncvec.org/search.php>

to search the 1x1 call sign database, and use

[http://www.ncvec.org/1x1\\_request\\_form.php](http://www.ncvec.org/1x1_request_form.php)

to go directly to the request form.

The form requests the same information that has always been requested for the 1x1 call sign management system. Previously, LARC VEC did not have an on-line application form. People who wanted special event call signs had to send the VEC an email with the desired information.

When you select a coordinator on the form, be sure to select Laurel ARC, Inc. from the pull down menu.

The system is designed to automatically search the request when it is made to confirm that the request is valid for the call sign and dates being requested. When the user submits the form, if the selection is not available, they will be prompted to make another selection automatically. If the request is acceptable to the database they also have a final review chance to edit the request prior to sending the request.

When the application passes the review process and is sent, LARC VEC will receive an email message letting me know that your 1x1 call sign application is pending.

The system is designed on a first-come - first-approved basis. This means that more than one request may be made for a specific call sign on the same date. The first application to be approved is the winner. The second application must be declined.

73,  
Diane, AA3OF

==>"INTRUDER SIGNAL" ON 40 METERS REMAINS A MYSTERY FOR NOW

An unidentified signal that's been showing up on the 40-meter phone band on or about 7238 kHz has mystified amateurs in the western US and Canada, where it's been heard frequently for the past few weeks. Although it resembles a steady carrier, a closer inspection suggests that the intruding signal actually is a series of closely spaced signals. Don Moman, VE6JY, in Edmonton, Alberta, says the signal is quite loud at his QTH.

"This signal looks a lot more interesting than it would sound--just a broad tone/hum/buzz, depending on where you tune," he said. One spectrogram from VE6JY showed perhaps a half-dozen or more discrete signals. "It's certainly loud enough out here, peaking broadly south-southwest from Edmonton," he said. Moman was using a 5-element Yagi and was hearing the signal at 10 dB over S9.

That conforms with observations reported by Bob Gonsett, W6VR, at Communications General Corp (CGC). He says engineers at the CGC lab in Fallbrook, California took a quick look at the intruder September 6 at around 2120 UTC and found "several close-spaced CW carriers--perhaps from one specially modulated transmitter, perhaps from transmitters at different locations," he reported. CGC reported the signals appeared on 7238.063, 7238.150, 7238.237 and 7238.412 kHz, with the 7238.237 kHz signal being "the strongest of the group."

While no one's sure what it is, the FCC HF Direction Finding Facility has been able to determine that it's coming from somewhere north of Prescott, Arizona, and west of Interstate 17. FCC monitoring indicates the "buzz" is centered on 7238.1 kHz with a bandwidth of about 1 kHz and spikes spaced at about 90 Hz apart.

Reports to the International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Monitoring System indicate the signal has been heard from about 1700 to 2130 UTC, although Moman reported hearing it at around 0300 UTC and said the signal even went off the air for a few seconds while he was listening to it. Jack Roland, KE0VH, in Colorado also heard the signals for a couple of evenings this week. "Something is not right there," he remarked.

High Noon Net Manager Bill Savage, N5FLD, in Albuquerque, New Mexico said several net participants--in Nebraska, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota and Arizona--were able to hear the mystery signal.

**Banquet Reservation and Membership Renewal**

**Please return ASAP, before the banquet date to:**

**Dennis Fitzgerald, 6908 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seabrook, MD 20706-3606**

**You may also contact Dennis @: [dennis@dkf-naf.com](mailto:dennis@dkf-naf.com)**

**You may re-up at the banquet, copies will be available.**

**Name/Call:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28.00ea = \_\_\_\_\_

**2005 LARC Membership**

Regular Member \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Each Additional Family Member \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 7.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Blind \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Under 21 (oldest ham in house) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Silent Key Fund donation ..... = \_\_\_\_\_

W3LRC 440 Repeater Fund Donation ..... = \_\_\_\_\_

**WB3GXW Repeater Dues**

Per Household, 2m & 440 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_





## THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

<b>Officers:</b>	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	jcross3@juno.com

### Other LARC Positions and Contacts:

FAR Representatives:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	301-345-7381	ka8ypy@arrl.net
FAR Representatives:	Diane Zimmerman	AA3OF	301-937-0394	aa3of@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
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 [ed2000@gmail.com](mailto:ed2000@gmail.com)**

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