



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 04 Issue 11

November 2004

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 146, Laurel, MD 20725-0146

<http://www.larcmd.org>

email: larc@larcmd.org

Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Freq	Event
Wed	11/03	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	11/10	1900		Social Gathering at Sullivan's Steak & Beverage
Wed	11/17	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	12/01	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Sun	12/12	1600		Annual Banquet and Officer Installation
Wed	12/15	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	12/29	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	01/26	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>Next Meeting: January 26, 2005 1930 EST</p>
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President's Rumbblings

LARC has had a good year. We have participated in many public serves events, contests, foxhunts, and assisted ARES/RACES in providing emergency communications for PG hospital. We also took part in several ARES/RACES practice exercises. Though participation was good, we still need more club members to come out for events. Even if only for one or two, we could use the help to insure success.

We are looking for any suggestions on topics for future club meetings. I'm sure that listening to the club officers talk over club business is exciting, but it may be getting a little old. Your input will help us plan more interesting monthly meetings in the year to come.

As I'm sure you know, the new club officers are the same as the old club officers, except Ed, K3QX has taken over as Secretary for Toby, WB3BWR. Now is a good time to be thinking about the 2006 slate of officers....

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.

I hope to see you at the banquet!

73,
Joe, N3TZA

The 2004 LARC Annual Banquet

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

**Kaufmanns'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**

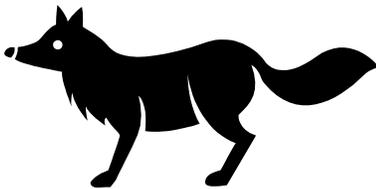
Please use form at the end of the Newsletter.

Another View From The Fox Hole...

On November 10, 2004, we had a great time playing the fox. “Team Fox” (see photo) consisted of me (Kevin, WV3D), my son Brian, and Joe, N3TZA. Brian was lookout while N3TZA and I took turns on the radio. We picked a location near where the last fox hid (Savage Park). Guilford Park is a small Howard County park nestled between Guilford Road and the I-95 entrance ramp off of Route 32. The Park is not well known and has the added benefit of being less than a mile from my house. We set up in an old, now unused, picnic area. Being unused the grass and shrubs are a bit high and there is no view of it from the rest of the park. We set up a camping table, slipped a 2m ladder line J-pole antenna over the end of a 33ft MFJ telescoping antenna pole, connected to the 2m rig, and were on the air!



At 10:00 a.m., N3TZA started at the mike while I took my truck home and rode my bike back. Don't always look for a vehicle!! We transmitted approximately every 10 minutes with foxhunt information and read what ever was around. A geography book (Brian was finishing up homework), the DMM and its' manual, and the rigs battery made for odd, if not interesting, content. I wonder how it sounded to the casual scanner? We should have brought some QST's!!



Three teams had gathered at Benigan's in Laurel. Bill, N3DCI and Craig, WA3TID teamed up; Jim, WI3N and Dennis, KT3D made another; Bob, KB3HGW went solo. All the participants' started out in our direction. Bill and Craig came closest first. They checked out the previous hiding spot in case we tried it again and spent some time checking the area around us for a while. Jim and Dennis chased some multi-path signals to the location of N3TZA's QTH (about 3-4 miles as the crow flies from us). About an hour and a half into the hunt and on their second trip into the park we heard Bill calling for Craig to come in the “other entrance”. He had us cornered! And a minute or two after that Bill came walking around the tree line shielding us from the rest of the park. The jig was up! Jim and Dennis were not too far behind, followed by Bob a short time later. After breaking down the equipment, we retired to the Bagel Bin in the Savage Mill to discuss the day's events.

The next Foxhunt is scheduled for some time in February (It's a good thing foxes have fur!). The honor for being the fox was passed to Dennis, KT3D and Jim, WI3N. Stay tuned for the exact time and day!

73,
Kevin, WV3D

Robert Zimmerman, KB3IWD, Wins Emme Award

Robert Zimmerman, KB3IWD, has been awarded the American Astronautical Society's (AAS) Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award for his book Leaving Earth: Space Stations, Rival Superpowers, and the Quest For Interplanetary Travel.

The Emme Award was established to provide recognition to the truly outstanding book published each year serving public understanding about the positive impact of astronautics upon society.

Leaving Earth, which was published by Joseph Henry Press in 2003, is a history of manned space exploration since the Apollo lunar landings, describing the efforts by engineers and astronauts in both the United States and Russia to build the first interplanetary spaceships.

The award will be formally presented at the November 2004 AAS Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA.

Robert Zimmerman is an award-winning science journalist and historian. In addition to Leaving Earth, he has written two books about the history of space exploration. Genesis, The Story Of Apollo 8, published by Four Walls Eight Windows in 1998, describes the family and political tale behind the first manned mission to another world. The Chronological Encyclopedia Of Discoveries In Space, published by Oryx Press in 2000, is a detailed reference book describing what was accomplished on every space mission, beginning in October 1957 with Sputnik and continuing through December 1999.

Robert Zimmerman's articles on science, history, technology, and culture appear regularly in many different magazines, including Astronomy, Air & Space, Natural History, The Sciences, The Wall Street Journal, Invention & Technology, Fortune, Ad Astra, American History, and Stardate.

For further information about Robert Zimmerman's work, visit his web site at:

<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~vze3cxp/zimbib.htm>

A New Club Shack is Coming!

LARC is about to go through another change in venue. We'll soon be moving our club shack operations from the room behind the old armory to our new spaces in the Laurel City Hall. Historically, that room was a USO operation. We will have a corner in the Emergency Operations Center and also the use of a room that is approximately 9' x 21', which will double as a planning room for city decision makers in the event of an emergency activation. The repeater will be located in that room. We plan to set up a uhf/vhf station and hf station in the EOC space similar to what we already have and will also have the capability to re-arrange it so that we can split the stations between the two rooms for contesting or emergency operations if needed. We'll be removing and re-installing the tower at city hall (they are still trying to secure permission to brace it on a building that adjoins their building but is not owned by them), and also, hopefully adding another section of tower. We're already gaining about 50' over our current tower site. The city will be able to install a couple of their antennas on our tower. We will be issued a computer by the city with Windows 2000 or XP so that we can set up an internet node for our digital operations. We also plan to put up a 440 beam to use with ATV. They are very excited about the prospect of having us be able to send video to them from an incident.

Using the Winlink 2000 Software, we will establish an internet portal so that we will be able to send email from a packet station in the field. While this is touted as being of great use if the internet is not available, I believe that even with the internet still functioning, being able to send email over the radio from the field to various departments and download replies will be a very useful feature. I believe that we will also be able to use the internet for DX spotting during contests as an alternative to the packet DX Cluster we now use.

Additionally, the city will be setting up a communications van and they will be equipping it with ham radios, packet, and ATV so we will have a position in the van to link it with, at this point, the police station and city hall.

These are exciting times of working together with the city to provide our citizens with some excellent emergency communications services. Of course the Winlink 2000 node will also be a part of a larger statewide network and we will be able to link the city with the county and state if necessary. The City of Laurel is light years ahead of any other municipalities in Prince George's County or the state for that matter in planning for an utilizing amateur radio as an integral part of their emergency planning. Once we are set up we will be testing the system and participating in drills to hone our skills and dovetail with what the city anticipates it needs from us.

73,
Jim/WI3N

2004 Maryland-DC QSO Party

The Club took second place in this year's contest and achieved our first official clean sweep – thanks to all who participated! We had about the same number of QSO points as the club that won but we lost out on multipliers. This happened because of 2 antenna problems: Our wire antenna is defective and VHF and HF beams are on the same rotator so we can really use only one of them at a time. We hope to improve this situation at our new shack and take first place next year!

CQ WW SSB Contest

A number of club members participated in the CQ World Wide Single Sideband Contest using our new radio in the shack. The crew made 250+ contacts with the large majority on 20m. We will be submitting our scores for PVRC shortly.

ARRL Sweepstakes 2004

The ARRL Sweepstakes Phone Contest will take place from 2100 UTC November 20 to 0300 UTC November 22, 2004 (1600 EST Saturday 11/20 to 2200 EST Sunday 11/21). 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 will be putting together an operating schedule with a view of getting as many members as possible involved and achieving a clean sweep. Watch for further announcements.

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	jcross3@juno.com

Other LARC Positions and Contacts:

FAR Representative:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	301-345-7381	ka8ypy@arrl.net
FAR Representative:	Diane Zimmerman	AA3OF	301-937-0394	aa3of@arrl.net
PVRC Representative:	Bill Smith	N3XL	301-805-4211	n3xl@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
MDC Section Manager:	Tom Abernethy	W3TOM	301-292-6263	w3tom@arrl.org
MDC 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**

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

Editor: Ed Herbrechtsmeier/K3QX



Banquet Reservation and Membership Renewal

Please return ASAP, before the banquet date to:

Dennis Fitzgerald, 6908 100th Avenue, Seabrook, MD 20706-3606

You may also contact Dennis @: 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: _____

**Ed Herbrechtsmeier
14314 Blackmon Dr
Rockville, MD 20853-2142**

**«M_2First_Name» «M_3Last_Name»
«M_4Address»
«M_5City», «M_6State» «M_7Zip»**

