



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 05 Issue 02

February 2005

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Freq	Event
Wed	02/02	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Net
Mon	02/07	2030	147.225+	Laurel PVRC Net
Wed	02/09	1900		Social Gathering at Sullivan's Steak & Beverage
Mon	02/14	2030	147.225+	Laurel PVRC Net
Wed	02/16	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Net
Mon	02/21	2030	147.225+	Laurel PVRC Net
Wed	02/23	1930		Monthly Meeting @ Woman's Club of Laurel
Mon	02/28	2030	147.225+	Laurel PVRC Net
All		2100	147.540 simplex	Informal Net / Rag-Chew

Note: 147.225 PL tone is usually off during nets.

Repeaters:

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

Simplex:

VHF: 147.540
UHF: 445.975

**Next Meeting:
February 23, 2005 1930 EST**

Vice President's Ramblings

The president is a little under the weather at the moment, so you have to put up with me. The first meeting of the year was well attended. We even had new members join and a few visitors considering getting licenses. From the discussion of events for the year it is clear that there is a need for all the club members to come out and help. I know it is tough to get to all the events and meetings (I have a hard time too). But, if all the dues paying members picked 1 or 2 events for the year to participate in, the turnout would be sufficient to make them all a success. (Assuming everyone doesn't pick the same 1 or 2 events!!). Many of the events do not require too much of a day and with a higher participation rate, the time require would ease a bit more. We had volunteers to head many of the events. So, when they call for help, give generously!

Sadly, we have in the last several months, lost long time members of our club. Ed, KB3DVC and Pud, W3YD (a founding member of the club) have become silent keys. Over time they became a "given". If they were well, they were there! Both were important contributors to the club and community and they will be sorely missed.

The club shack is on the move in the next several months. Efforts will begin soon to move equipment from the club shack to the new digs at the Laurel EOC. That effort will include dismantling and reassembling the antenna and repeater systems. Details will be forth coming. Keep an eye on the reflector!! The new space is smaller, but we are not using half the stuff and space in the present location now. After some purging we should fit fine. We are becoming an important part of the city's plans. They didn't move our club shack to the city's regional EOC for nothing. Your participation in public service events is needed and appreciated!!

We have a busy and exciting year ahead! Come on out and enjoy HAM Radio in action!

73,
Kevin WV3D

New Net Inaugurated

The Laurel Chapter of the PVRC has started a new net to focus on contesting with the Club and PVRC. Bill, N3XL, our PVRC representative, has arranged with John, WB3GXW, to use the 147.255 repeater every Monday night for this purpose. The first night was a big success as we had PVRC officers check into the net via Echolink. Our next contest will be the North American Sprint/SSB on February 5 from 7:00 pm to 11:pm. While this does not qualify as a PVRC 5M contest it should be fun to try this new format. We also plan to have our computers networked for the first time. Please check into the net – everyone is welcome!

Editor's Note: The following article written for the last edition but I forgot to put it in!!!

Here Comes Santa

Or, more accurately - Is there a Santa in the house?

That could have been the theme of this year's Christmas Tree Lighting and parade. This event is the last official public service act of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club for 2004. As usual we performed flawlessly. The event itself, however, was not up to its usual standards.

Having not heard from the sponsors (The Friends of Main Street) I called the city to get a number for the *charge d'affairs*. I was given it and also told that she had only come in the day before to get the parade permit. I called the cell number and left a voice mail. Within an hour she called me back and said that she'd just realized that we hadn't been contacted and said she'd sent me an email that morning asking if we could help. I said we'd try (always a good cover in case we can't get the troops out). The email was indeed in my box when I checked later that evening, however, since time was short I called HD and asked him to put out an email immediately, and he handled it with his usual efficiency.

There was a good turnout for the event. HD, K3HDM parked up at B Street to keep an eye out for the Fire Truck with Santa. Dan, KA8YPY and Sue, N3QYX were there as was Jim, N3XKJ. They did traffic duty as the parade progressed up Main St. Parade lineup was done by Jeff, KB3EQH, Matt, N3JMK, Cynthia, KB3KFZ and Evonne, KB3KGC. Charles, AA3WC and I were there as well.

There were twelve parade participants this year, with several dropouts from previous years. The carolers were a no show and there were no speeches by the local dignitaries. The organizer of the parade wasn't sure what the route was until she took a suggestion to look at her permit. The fire truck arrived, sans Santa, who was called five minutes before the parade was supposed to go and said that no one had asked him to do it. We did have a Santa of sorts on the fire truck this year, albeit a little stiff. The Laurel Meat Market gave permission to use the mannequin in the store, which we carried out and the firemen strapped to a pole on top of the truck. First time I've seen a Santa on a stick. However, the tree was lit and the parade headed up the street to the party at the Phelps Center. All the kids in the parade and watching were happy and that's what really counts.

Jim Cross, WI3N

Meeting Programs

Tired of those meetings where all we do is talk about old business, new business, who is doing which event when? We can't get away from the business talk entirely but we do intend to add programs that are interesting and informative as a regular part of our meetings. If you have an idea for a program or have something you would like to present, please contact a board member.

The program for the meeting on Wednesday, February 23 will be "Radio Operations in the Coast Guard." Mona, NY7P, was a Coast Guard CW operator in Alaska. She will be presenting a program about her experiences in radio in the Coast Guard. Please plan to attend.

Laurel VEC Jump-Starts a New VE TEAM



Diane Zimmerman AA3OF and Les Jamison WR3X went to Camp Hill, PA, on January 29, 2005, to assist the new Amateur Radio Club of Trinity VE Team with its first VE Test session.

This team spun off the former Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club (HRAC) VE Team, which disbanded upon the retirement of its Team Leader.

The Amateur Radio Club of Trinity is the school club for Trinity High School, a private school with an intensive science curriculum. The Club is Elmered by Sean Barnes, N3JQ, a physics teacher at the school. Last summer, the HRAC Team

tested Sean's 65 advanced physics students in an inspiring session at which every student passed the exam. This happy event was the subject of an article in CQ magazine and was featured on the ARRL web site and on Amateur Radio Newsline.

Below are photos of Sean and the students who tested at the exam session. All photos by Bob Zimmerman.



The VEC received the following email from N3JQ after the January test session:

01/31/2005 12:09 PM

To: <Diane.Zimmerman@fms.treas.gov>
cc: <k3pd@comcast.net>, <ka3pdq@juno.com>, <w3rx@juno.com>, <liskamangas@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: Results of Saturday's Session

Diane,

Thank you for such a quick turnaround on these callsigns. I printed the FCC "reference copy" for each of these 9 students today. They were quite excited. They will all be on the air by tomorrow. (We tried a few local repeaters today at the end of the class, but struck out. We only had a few minutes left at the end of the class. Tomorrow I will dedicate the class to getting each of them to make a contact via the 2-m radio).

You and Les showed great professionalism with the first ARCoT session. I took a good set of notes from the ideas you and Les gave me during and after the session. Thanks for sending the copies of the pictures you took.

This group of 9 students is the full class of "General Physics" students at Trinity. My four "Academic Physics" classes comprised the initial 65 tested this year. This single group of 9 was the final group that took a bit longer to learn the theory. (They do not have a double-lab scheduled into their master weekly schedule, so when I do a lab with them, it typically takes 3 x 40 minute classes to accomplish what a single 85 straight minutes of double-lab gets done in the

Academic Physics classes. This group has been ready for a little while, since I anticipated a 1/15 test date originally.

This group, in particular, will really benefit from the license. These "General Physics" students are probably taking their last science class with me. This group is interested in physics, but does not have the math skills necessary to tackle college physics or a calculus course. They really feel good about themselves to have accomplished something in a science class that they "thought" they had no skills/interest in. This kind of achievement can change career thinking for them. It's a great confidence boost.

I look forward to working with you and the Laurel Team. If there is anything I can do to return the favor of your helping at the ARCoT test session, please let me know. I do hope to make the Timonium Hamfest on April 2/3.

I will keep you posted of activities within the ARCoT group here in Camp Hill PA.

Thanks again,

73

Sean Barnes, N3JQ

P.S. Steve and Lou - thank you for being available through the changes necessary to get the first official ARCoT Laurel session to occur. Your experience is highly valued and appreciated by me and the students at Trinity. Thanks again - see you Wed 2/9 at the HRAC meeting.

Diane, AA3OF



Jim, WI3N and Pud, W3YD at Montpelier, May 4, 1977

of antenna legislation and he was contacted for his thoughts. I later met him after John Albertine, W3GFS, talked me into re-taking the tests to get my ticket (my original one lapsed in 1969) and I joined the Laurel Amateur Radio Club. Pud was one of the first friends I made in the club, and, I found out, one of the founding fathers or planks as he called it. After he became President the next year, I became the Feedback Editor back when cut and paste involved scissors and paste. Pud was the main man when it came to all the activities the club was involved with, particularly the Main Street Festival and the Pallotti

Clarence "PUD" Reaver,
W3YD, SK

When our esteemed editor, Ed, K3QX, (he didn't really ask me to call him that, but if we keep saying nice things about him perhaps he will stay on for a bit) asked me to write something for the Feedback about Pud, I said I'd be happy to. This will be just one person's reminiscence. We all have our memories and maybe some of yours will appear in these pages in the future.

The first time I heard of Pud was in the late 70's when the City Council was considering some type

High School Cross Country Run through the Rocky Gorge watershed area. He was also a mainstay of the Field Day activities when we set up in our traditional spot on the WSSC property (I'm guessing he had a hand in securing that too). That was in the days when logging involved filling in large sheets of paper laid out by number and alphabetically, and doing one for each band. Pud was the one who checked for duplicates, tallied the score and sent it in. He continued sending in our scores as the club became more involved in contesting (at his urging), which is a facet of the hobby that Pud has enjoyed for many years, garnering numerous "Clean Sweeps" in the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest as a single entry. Pud's philosophy in ham radio was that if people saw that some aspect was fun they would try it. He provided us with the opportunity to enjoy some fun by inviting us to his basement shack to work the MDC QSO party and Sweepstakes. As we set up our club shack at various sites (some of you may remember contesting out of the Harrison-Beard Building with the leaky roof dripping on our glowing amplifier!) Pud was always in the forefront of organizing our contesting activities. He introduced us to and organized us as a chapter of the PVRC, thus transferring his joy of contesting to some of us who wouldn't have tried it without his guidance and providing the opportunity.

He ranked as a ham's ham. There were very few aspects of our great hobby that he didn't explore at some time in his sojourn in ham radio. He still got excited (though you may not have seen it) over working the "rare" one and his country total was up there. I remember his calling me to tell me that he'd worked the special event station MORSE in England on CW commemorating the first transatlantic contact by Marconi. I talked with the person after his funeral whom he linked up with her parents in Mexico after an earthquake there to relieve her anxiety over their safety. He volunteered and took on one of those thankless jobs as a sorter for the QSL Bureau. One of the ways he gave something back to the hobby that was one of the great pleasures of his life. He also supported the LARC VEC continuing to give our tests for free as another way of giving back to the hobby. How many of you had him as a VE in the room proctoring your test, taking the CW test from him, or copying notes from him at one of our licensing classes? How many of you got some instructions from Pud in formal traffic handling either at a LARC meeting or in an ARES class. For many years he was a fixture on the MEPN moving traffic. He was also a member of the Prince George's County ARES/RACES group, and participated in the TOPOFF Exercise and several callouts and standby's for disasters. He was a major force when the club had a special event station, planning and working the event and getting out the certificates. He also responded to the QSL's we received from the various contests we worked.

All of our lives are unique and have many aspects to them. With our friends and loved ones we only get to see parts of the fabric of their lives. Pud was a husband, father, grandfather, mathematician, former Air Force officer, retired NSA employee, and from our peek into his life a consummate ham radio operator, having personally nurtured the various interests many of us have in amateur radio. As most of you know, Pud had a fear of heights, but could always be counted on to be there in the ground crew. I'm convinced that in his Christian faith, he's now overcome that fear and has at least metaphorically taken his spiritual journey to new heights. So, 73, Pud, thanks for being a friend, for all your help and elmering, and we'll see you later.

Jim, WI3N

Basics I Skywarn Class

This class is essential for becoming a Skywarn Spotter. It is a 3-hour class that covers the basics of how Skywarn and the National Weather Service operate, what you need to report and how, and how to spot severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. **This class is a pre-requisite for all other classes.**

February 26th, 11:00 AM EST, University of Maryland Campus. For registration, either visit the website <http://www.atmos.umd.edu/~gcm>, or contact Melanie Follette at (301) 405-7677.

THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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