



# ***THE FEEDBACK***

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Volume 05 Issue 07

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*THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER*

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Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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## Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Freq	Event
Wed	06/22	1930		Monthly Meeting @ Woman's Club of Laurel
Wed	06/29	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Net
Wed	07/06	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Net
Wed	07/13	1900		Social Gathering at Tubby's
Wed	07/20	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Net
Wed	07/27	1930		Monthly Meeting @ Woman's Club of Laurel
All		2100	147.540 simplex	Informal Net / Rag-Chew

Note: 147.225 PL 156.7 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

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> <b>July 27, 2005 1930 EDT</b></p>
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## President's Rumbblings

Welcome to another issue of the Feedback. This must mean that another month has slipped by! Half way through 2005! Hard to believe!! We have been busy. This past week has been very busy. Starting with the Walk For Life at the 8<sup>th</sup> street field. Jim WI3N, Chris N3NYK, and Joe N3TZA participated. Two Antennas were installed on the Laurel EOC, one for 2m/440 operation and a 440 beam. The 440 beam was used for an ATV link to be used in a EOC exercise on Saturday. Friday, Jim WI3N, Doug KB3HER, and Joe N3TZA assisted at the Carroll County Commex. Saturday, Jim WI3N, Matt N3JMK, Jeff KB3EQH, Dan KA8YPY, Joe N3TZA and Hugh K3HU assisted with communications via 2m and ATV between the EOC and a police command vehicle at an exercise at the Laurel High School. Now we look forward to Field Day June 25 & 26! See you all at the next business meeting June 22!

73,  
Joe/ N3TZA

## Field Day is Coming!

I'm not as organized I as I had hoped to be at this point but here is the scoop. June 25 through June 26 2005 we will be holding LARC Field Day activities at the T. Howard Duckett Dam Field on Brooklyn Bridge Road (see map). We have all our paperwork in order with the WSSC. The gate to the field will be open noon on Saturday to 4:00 PM EDT Sunday. I am hoping the gate will be open a little sooner to allow us access for vehicles. If not, we can unload the lighter stuff roadside and get started!

This year we are pleased to have a few members from CMARC, the Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club joining us. We will probably work as W3LRC 2A (or 3A) depending on the number of people that participate. The plan is to work the whole 24-hour period 2pm Saturday to 2pm Sunday. There will likely be several people staying to operate overnight. It would be great to have enough people involved to operate 3A. There is some interest in CW operation, so if you are so inclined, bring your favorite key or keyer and have fun! At least one rig will be an IC-706. Some things to consider bring with you, a chair, food & drink, light jacket for the evening chill, and sunscreen (It's the middle of a field in June). We hope to have a large tent to shelter the activities. Sadly, the club trailer is not in the best of shape and may not make it. A few basic furniture pieces will be available, tables for the radios and an operator chair or two. All we need for sure is people! ***Diploes and tents do not set themselves up! Thanks!***

73,  
Kevin/WV3D

## Howard Lehnert, K3IOG SK

Howard's life was greater than the sum of its parts. All of us have been given different glimpses and been associated with different aspects of his life such as husband, father, square dancer and amateur radio operator.

Howard has been licensed probably since around the time I was born and amateur radio has played a large role in his life. Others here, like Paul Miller, N1AFQ, who, as a young man, was urged on by Howard to get his license, can speak to his amateur activities prior to the Laurel Amateur Radio Club.

Amateur radio is not some sort of secret society. In fact it is the exact opposite of a secret society. In amateur radio we share our knowledge and our time with other amateurs individually or through groups. We are always happy to explain to others or learn from others.

Howard certainly exemplified this model. He was one of the founders of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club around 25 years ago. He was instrumental in getting the club certified by the FCC as a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, one of 14 groups in the country who are authorized to give the FCC exams for amateur licenses. For Howard and the club, it has been a way of giving something back to a hobby that we all enjoy, since our club has never charged for exams, even though we are allowed to do so. Howard devoted a great deal of his time to designing and printing the many different exams required for the VEC teams to administer. There would be ten or more different exams for each of five license classes. Not only did he do the exams, he also made the keys that could be laid over the exam for ease of grading. Additionally, Howard made the code tapes for the 5, 13, and 20 words per minute required for the various classes of license. We've generally had ten to twenty or more teams around the country and world giving the exams under the LARC VEC umbrella. What you have here is a tremendous amount of work to keep everything up to date with question pools changing every couple years. Not only that, he also came to our VE sessions in Laurel on the third Saturday for many years to help with the administration of the tests and grading of the exams. It was an enormous undertaking that went on behind the scenes for which there was no particular recognition or reward, other than his satisfaction of doing a very important job and doing it very well.

Ham radio really is a lot of fun. One conversation with Howard still stands out for me. I was newly licensed and driving up Main Street one night with my early version of a mobile rig, a handi-talkie into a little amplifier. I gave a call on the club frequency of 147.54 and Howard came back to me, as has happened many times too numerous to count since. We went back and forth a couple times. I gave him some long-winded comment and turned it over to him. Silence, that went on for at least a minute. Dang, I thought. I either blew up my radio or my amplifier. I called again and listened. Howard came back chuckling. Seems he'd picked up his pipe in his microphone hand and been trying to talk to me using his pipe as the microphone. I nearly drove off the road laughing.

During Field Day amateur radio operators all over the country set up one or more stations, run emergency power for at least 24 hours, and try to make as many contacts as possible all over the country. During the early days of the club, Howard was a very active participant, making contacts and logging. We weren't always sure if it was the fun of operating Field Day or the great potluck dinners we had there in the field that drew him to the event.

Speaking of events, the club focus is public service and the members participate in several annual local events. For a number of years we placed ourselves around the course of the Pallotti cross country track meet held up by the Rocky Gorge dam and reservoir. Howard faithfully helped out and we have the pictures to prove it.

For a number of years, Howard shared liaison duties to the Main Street Festival Committee with Pud and later, me. Since we provide communications to the key committee members during set up, man the information booth, and do the parade line up, maintaining a good working relationship with that committee has been priority number one. But I think the donuts came in a close second. Howard could always be counted on to be there to do the work the day of the Festival, too. He was on hand at this year's Festival the second Saturday of May. One year, he was home in the afternoon and provided us with up to the minute weather reports on the big storm coming in from the west. It was early afternoon, and the committee had to make a decision on whether to close it down early or wait til the 4 pm scheduled closing. It was really looking nasty, the wind was up and the committee was on pins and needles. But based on Howard's reporting, educated guess and a reverse rain dance, the festival was kept open to the delight of the vendors.

Another area of amateur radio operations is that of emergency communications. Howard was the RACES Radio Officer for Montgomery County for some years. That is a position appointed by the Emergency Manager of the county and is the liaison between the county and the amateur radio community. It involves recruiting, training, and maintaining a ready group of amateurs to be available in the event of a disaster. There are training nets to hold, drills, exercises, and public service events to provide warm bodies for and a lot of organizing to do. Again, Howard stepped up and gave of his time and talent in another facet of the amateur radio world.

Amateur radio has a technical part that is dwarfed by a very large social part. The people hams enjoy most being around is other hams. Howard somehow actually achieved something that most of us guy hams only dream about. He got Hester and Jim to get their licenses and they've been part of his and our amateur family for many years.

Food always seems to play some part in our get-togethers, whether it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday social, the first Friday lunch, the Field Day potluck, or the Holiday Banquet. For nearly two years since it's inception, we've enjoyed Howard's camaraderie at our lunches held the first Friday of the month. It's etched in my memory and I'm sure several others the time we called for the ambulance to take him to the hospital with a series of strokes. Good thing he chose to lunch with one of his social circles that day.

Finally, many hams live to ragchew. We had HF schedules with Howard over the years when he hauled his equipment up to New Hampshire. We'd carefully tune in the frequency, fiddle with the notching filters, and finally, among the static crashes and signal that faded in and out, hear the words from Howard's lips that we worked so hard to hear, the weather report for New Hampshire. There were several of us that used to get together between 9 pm and 11 pm on the club simplex frequency to ragchew. We'd talk about antennas, rigs, the weather and all types of minutiae. We'd always know when 10 pm arrived, because Howard had to excuse himself to get his "obs" and call them in to channel 4. Then we'd close down at 11 pm, and watch channel four to see if Bob Ryan mentioned Howard Lehnert reporting from Burtonsville. Now Russ, N3AUQ, is wandering the country living in his camping trailer, George, K3GK, is retired in North Carolina, Dick, N3MJA is a silent key, Pud, W3YD, is a silent key, and now Howard, K3IOG, is a silent key. But even as the evening group dwindled we could count on Howard to be somewhere near the microphone. When Joe, NA3T, would come through town on his way north or south, once in awhile he would find one of us on the air, but odds were very good that he would enjoy Howard's company til he got out of radio range.

That Joe drove up from North Carolina, that some came from other parts of the country, and that local folks from the McDonald's coffee klatchers, square dance crowd and Laurel Amateur Radio Club came to be with Hester and Jim to celebrate the life of Howard, is a real testament to the person he was.

Jim/WI3N

## **"You Load 16 Tons And What Do You Get?"**

I believe those are the opening words to a song made famous by Tennessee Ernie Ford. Although recorded a long time ago, it can be compared to a recent project accomplished through the combined efforts of members of four DC-area Amateur Radio clubs--The Green Mountain Repeater Association, the District of Columbia Metropolitan ARC, the Laurel ARC and the Prince George's County (MD) ARES/RACES.

When Keith Poptanich, KB3EGL, purchased a 700 pound crank-up tower from a local ham, the call went out for help. That call was answered!

A call for help, a combined club member response, some planning, strong backs and one heck of a driver got the job done. Participants Keith, KB3EGL; Jim, WI3N; HD, K3HDM; Ev, WA3DVO; Ken, KB3IIE; Cape, N3TTX; Jim, WA3NSI (being a sight-impaired ham did not deter Jim); Lee, KM3DR; Bob, KC3VO; Jim, KB3KHL, and non-ham Rick. These guys have a lot of talent in areas other than radio--it took some doing to plan, maneuver, carry and drive 700 pounds of steel across town, but as one of them said at the end of the job: "Piece of cake."



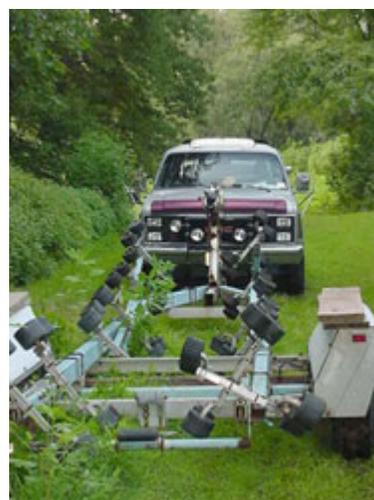
**Getting ready to lift 700 pounds of steel.**



**Nine hams and one non-ham on their way...**



**...through the fence and around the bend...**



**...to a waiting trailer hitched to a heavy duty truck**



**From here the tower was taken across town to the home of  
KB3EGL.**

Murray Green/K3BEQ

Editors' Note: The above article was taken from the ARRL web site and also appeared in the GMRA newsletter.

## THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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