



# ***THE FEEDBACK***

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**Volume 05 Issue 08**

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***THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER***

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**Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

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**Upcoming Events:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Freq</b>	<b>Event</b>
Wed	07/27	1930		Monthly Meeting @ Woman's Club of Laurel
Wed	08/03	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Meeting
Wed	08/10	1900		Social Gathering at Tubby's
Wed	08/17	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Meeting
Wed	08/24	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: August 24, 2005 1930 EDT</b></p>
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## President's Rumblings

Greetings to all, by the time you read this a number of vacationers will be home. Kevin, WV3D will be back from Ocean City, Jim, WI3N from Niagara Falls, and Ed, K3QX from Canada (with fish maybe?).

The MD/DC QSO Party will be August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, so plans need to be made. The DC Road Runners 15K is planned for September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Agricultural Center (so more plans need to be made). Hopefully some of you will be there.

I hope to see all of you at the next meeting on to start all this planning!

73,  
Joe/ N3TZA

## Field Day 2005



**Jim Cross WI3N and Tom Abernethy W3TOM at the LARC 2005 Field Day site.**

Field day 2005 brought Laurel Amateur Radio Club and Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club members out to the WSSC field next to the T. Howard Duckett Dam. By 14:00 EDT the W3LRC 2A FD setup had two HF rigs on the air using an inverted “V” 80M dipole strung from a surplus army mast and a G5RV. The group logged about 180 contacts in the 24-hour period. We were honored to have a visit from ARRL section manager Tom Abernethy W3TOM, and a late night visit from the Laurel Police. One new endeavor that LARC tried this year was to do a two way ATV contact for 100 points. The equipment was brought to the site in the evening and set up. An extension ladder with a pole lashed to the top and 10-element beam mounted on the pole was put up and pointed towards the Prince George's County EOC. A picture of about P-1.5 was received at the EOC from the site, but no picture from the EOC was received at the

LARC/CMARC Field Day site. It was approximately an 11.5-mile effort with a few hills in the way. Close, but no 100 points. The weather was hot but a slight breeze under the large Lion's Club tent kept thing bearable (Thank You Lion's Club!). All had a good time. The Field day set up was broken down by 15:00 EDT Sunday. We are already discussing our plans for next year!

73,  
Kevin/WV3D

A Few Field Day Pictures  
by Dennis, KT3D



## Fourth of July Parade

It seems that no sooner do we pack up the tents and gear from Field Day, then we roll into the Fourth of July parade line up. Thanks to those stalwart folks who showed up to lend a hand, Matt, N3JMK, Bob, KB3HGW, Kevin, WV3D, Toby, KB3BWR and Jim, WI3N.

There is a vast difference between this parade and the Main Street Festival Parade. For one thing the line up is very loose. Whereas on Main Street we line everyone up on 6<sup>th</sup> Street pointing to Main Street, this one lines up on 6<sup>th</sup> Street pointing to Montgomery Street and down Montgomery Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street. With the exception of the West Laurel Rag Tag Band, there are no high school bands since school is out, but there is a full compliment of fire trucks, rescue and police vehicles.

This year the CERT folks and the Police Auxiliary were assigned to each intersection along the way. The CERT folks had no radios except for some who were in the dual role of CERT and Police Auxiliary. It occurred to me that we have no way to talk with the Police Auxiliary, who use the police channel 3. I plan to talk with the chief to make sure our NCS has a police radio for interoperability. This will be particularly helpful for Main Street and any other drill or disaster where we are all called out. In fact, we'll see about codifying a communications plan for all the players. Might as well take the city to the next level.

Matt went up to the Phelps Center which was the staging area for the antique cars to be there to give them the signal when to start. They started on their own and rolled out eight minutes early. Once they start they keep going because if they stop some of them begin to overheat. Everybody else took up positions at intersections along the parade route on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. I helped make sure that the participants lined up on Montgomery Street got placed into the line up at the right spot as the parade went by.

They said that next year we will have a bigger role as they recognize that once we feel that we're not needed, we'll stop coming. I think that some more planning needs to be done between the hams, CERT, and Police Auxiliary.

For the fireworks, Dan, KA8YPY, and Jim, N3XKJ were on the side of the lake with the shooters and I was with the soundman to coordinate the music and beginning of the fireworks. There was a bit of action on Dan's side of the lake while the officials moved people away to meet their mandatory perimeter requirements. On our side of the lake we marked time till the perimeter was secured. All in all, the fireworks went off ok and were, in my opinion, the best that they've ever been. Kevin, WV3D was across the street monitoring our frequency in case more help was needed.

Thanks again to all of you for being there. We're definitely noticed by the Mayor and City Council and it's good PR for us even if we weren't exactly overworked doing the event. One other accomplishment for the day is that after the parade, we finally took the last of our stuff up to the city hall and we're completely out of the old shack now.

73, Jim, WI3N

## Be careful what you tell them ...



The City of Laurel in Prince George's County has set up in its city hall what has been designated as a regional EOC. The city is unique in that it is in Prince George's County and abuts three other counties, i.e., Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel. If a disaster occurs in the area, it will most likely affect more than one of those jurisdictions.

The city asked the Laurel Amateur Radio Club to move from the space that they had donated to them for a club shack behind the Armory into the EOC located in city hall so that their radios would be in very close proximity to the decision makers. After a public signing of a document at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council, the club members have been gradually moving their equipment to the new location. The pace of the move sped up when the city asked for help with an upcoming, secret drill. On Saturday, June 18 there was to be a hostage scenario in the Laurel High School. Somewhere during conversations with the city officials about amateur radio in general, we had mentioned that one facet of amateur radio was Amateur TV. The planners for the drill asked us if we would be able to provide a live feed back to the EOC in city hall from the site so that they could watch it on TV.

As luck would have it, or, rather, we like to think, good planning, the Prince George's County ARES group purchased some ATV equipment with some grant money that we were given by Reggie Parks, our Emergency Manager. So, with the help of Al, KZ3AB, Matt, N3JMK, and Joe, N3TZA over the course of several days we set up the equipment, checked out the city's Mobile Command Vehicle, made sure the cables were correct and ran some tests. It worked just fine, producing a clear picture through ½ mile of woods and houses with our 20W ATV transceiver. We had imagined all sorts of scenarios for our use of the ATV component of the drill, but at the planning meeting the city decided that it just wanted to have us broadcast the image from the swivel camera on the roof of the Mobile

Command Vehicle. On the Thursday before the event, the city drove their new Mobile Command Vehicle to the High School and we put up an antenna and fed the image from the camera (it normally feeds video to two monitors in the vehicle) back to the EOC. It was a distance of 4200 feet and we produced a pretty good picture. We used a vertically polarized 10 element 440 beam mounted at about 40' on the three story building behind city hall, temporarily pointed in the direction of the High School (mounting the antennas was another story!) and a vertically polarized 10 element beam on a pole at the site.

Matt used his Delorme mapping software to produce a topo map between the sites to see how the hills between the sites looked, and it wasn't too bad. The day of the event we set up at 0830 and the picture was a bit fuzzier than before, probably because all their equipment on the vehicle was now turned on creating intermod. We plan to test it one day soon by turning on each piece of equipment in the van one at a time to see if we can find the source. The drill began at 1000 and was covered by channel, 4, 5, and 9 news. Our ATV part of the exercise worked well, but, because the news folks weren't in the EOC, we weren't reported on.

One additional benefit of having amateur radio involved in this drill was that we found that the Police Lieutenant in the command vehicle was unable to communicate with the Police Lieutenant in the EOC. No problem, our amateur on board, Steve, W8JSG sent and received traffic with Jeff, KB3EQH in the EOC. Because of his close proximity to our operating position, the Lieutenant in the EOC could listen to the speaker of our radio direct, and if need be could have used the microphone and talked directly with the other Lieutenant. We also copied the tactical traffic on NIMS forms for a written record of it and had the Lieutenant in the EOC initial it. We had a tri-band antenna above the beam and found that when we keyed on our talk channel on 2 meters, the picture got fuzzy, so we switched to the 220 band and had no problems. Dan, KA8YPY and Jim, N3XKJ helped out also at the site by maintaining a connection with the EOC and shadowing personnel when they were away from the vehicle. Matt, N3JMK is our in house ATV guru and was there for the on site set up and at the EOC during the event adjusting and experimenting for next time.

The drill concluded at 1300 and we've been invited to the city debriefing the first part of July. So the moral of the story is beware what you tell them you can do, because an emergency manager somewhere may just ask you to do it!

73,

Jim Cross, WI3N

EC/RO Prince George's County, MD

## THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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