



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 05 Issue 10

October 2005

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	09/28	1930		Monthly Meeting @ Woman's Club of Laurel
Wed	10/05	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Meeting
Wed	10/12	1900		Social Gathering at Tubby's
Wed	10/19	2030	147.225+	On-the-Air Meeting
Wed	10/26	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>Next Meeting: September 28, 2005 1930 EDT</p>
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Vice-President's Rumbblings

The Laurel 5K has come and gone. Now it is time to look toward other upcoming events!

The next event should include attendance of the 9-28-05 club's meeting, where the nominating comity will present its slate of officers for the coming year. If you are interested in a position and haven't made your wishes known, please contact WI3N or N3TZA or come to the next meeting. Elections will be held at the October meeting. That will be the last business meeting for 2005.

Progress is being made in the selection of the location and date for the annual installation dinner. With luck, the details will be ready for the next meeting.

River Fest is coming up 10-8-05 so mark your calendars! Operators will be need as shadows and maybe hayride mobile. Come on down and enjoy the festival and do a little radio on the side!

November is Sweepstakes; keep the weekend of 11-18-05 in mind! Who knows; the new shack may be able to get on the air! If not an alternate location is sure to be found!

December 3, 2005 will be the Laurel Christmas tree lighting! A short and festive event to kick off the holidays!

That's all I have for now! See ya Wednesday!

73,
Kevin, WV3D

HD Benefit

LARC is the sponsoring organization for a benefit to help with the medical bills for HD, K3HDM. As a long time and very active member, it is certainly fitting that we do this.

The event has been booked into the Laurel American Legion Post 60 hall for Sunday, November 6. It will run from 2-7 pm. There will be a crab feast, with beer included in the \$40 ticket. Friends will be asked to sell tickets and take donations. We'll also need volunteers to wait tables, bus tables, set up and clean up. The donated entertainment is a rock band to open, a couple of quick change artists comedy group, and featured is the J. R. Booker band that HD has been close to for a long time.

A Day at the Disaster Operations Center

by Jeff Epstein, KB3EQH

Like many hams, I watched the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina, including the frustrating communication problems in the affected area. I did some work in Echolink conferences and I registered with the AB2M / ARRL database when it opened. My go kit was -- and is -- ready. In the meantime, I seized an opportunity that came up to work in the Disaster Operations Center of the American Red Cross on Sunday, Sept. 4.

The Disaster Operations Center is part of the national headquarters at 2025 E Street NW, in Washington, DC. I reported to Response Technology, the national resource for the teams that deploy information technology and communications in the field -- computers, phones, radios, and more. Several other hams were there, including my PG ARES colleague David Lychenheim, WA3TMC.

My job was to help cover the phones, since the main desk was understaffed and overworked. I learned in short order that the Red Cross was hoping to deploy a dozen towers in the affected states to facilitate low-band Red Cross radio, and use satellite phones, cell phones, and other communications in the meantime. (Amateur Radio, as far as I could tell, was not much of a factor, although Echolink was monitored. At the Network Operations Center where I sat, there was an operating position for amateur radio, but it had no radios, just a cover panel.)

Unfortunately, as the field calls came in, so did other calls, such as help with e-mail, forgotten logins and passwords, and requests for PowerPoint assistance. Still, it wasn't nearly as busy as the previous day, I was told. We simply took the information and cleared the items as fast as possible. Just as in ham radio, I copied and cleared traffic.

And then, suddenly, the word came that the president was on the way in. That would be George W. Bush, the President of the United States. There was a semi-frantic effort to empty wastebaskets and make the NOC look presentable. And a short while later, he arrived. I was there with about 3 or 4 other people, and I had on a headset and tried to look busy. The president and Mrs. Bush came in and greeted us, escorted by the leadership of the Red Cross. Mr. Bush shook my hand and asked me what this office did. I quickly explained that "we take trouble calls for information technology in the field." Was there much trouble, he asked? No, I said, not much.

The president then made a few remarks to all of us, to the effect that as bad as the situation was, the nation was responding, the federal government was responding, and "we're gonna get on top of it." He said something about the Red Cross having a lot of field teams out there. He looked at me again, and I said "we have a lot of resources deployed, sir." He thanked us and left to continue the tour of the DOC.

That was the highlight of my day, of course. The rest of it was answering phones and charging up Blackberries. As I write, I am trying to get scheduled for more DOC work. I'd like to especially thank Jeanne Rexroad, N4ZGI, at the Red Cross for making this day possible for me. I'd also like to thank the following people at the Red Cross: Dick Harman, WA4USB; David A. Craig, KF4FWO; Ed Finley; David Lychenheim, WA3TMC; Kimberly Charles, Ed Krom, KD4KHP; and all the other Red Cross volunteers and staff. I worked with. It was an honor and a privilege to serve the American Red Cross and I hope I am able to do it again soon.

Laurel 5K Run



L-R: Alan, N3DUE; Bob, K3OH; Ed K3QX; Mark, K3REM; Steve KB3JNT

The LARC operators helping work communications for the Laurel 5K gathered at the stage of the 8th street field in Laurel at about 6:30 am Saturday 9-17-05. Net control was up and running by 7:30am and all operators were in their assigned locations for the race at 8:00 am. Participating were: Alan, N3DUE; Bob, K3OH; Mark, K3RAM; Ed, K3QX; Steve, KB3JNT; Jim,

WI3N; Bill N3DCI and Kevin, WV3D. The only problem encountered was a failure of the race computer, which delayed the start of the race by about 10 minutes. Other wise all went well and the net closed down at 9:00 am. Thanks to all who came out at such an early hour to make the LARC supporting effort successful!

Next event: River Fest 10-8-05

73,
Kevin,
WV3D

Laurel 5k Net Control Station



Steve, KB3JNT and Mark, K3RAM

Nominations for 2006 Officers

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for LARC office. The nominations will be made at the September 28 regular meeting and the voting will take place at the October. You may place another name in nomination if you wish, however, that person must have previously agreed to have their name be placed in nomination.

President:	Kevin Craven, WV3D
Vice President:	Ed Herbrechtsmeier, K3QX
Secretary:	Jeff Epstein, KB3EQH
Treasurer:	Dennis Fitzgerald, KT3D
Member at Large:	Dan Blasberg, KA8YPY

LARC Holiday Banquet Planning

Al, KZ3AB and Jim, WI3N have completed a survey of four area restaurants for the annual LARC Holiday Banquet. The cost varies from \$30.00 to \$38.00 and there are many, many menu options available. A decision on the restaurant must be made at the September 28 meeting so that we can secure reservations. Please try to attend the meeting to help decide where and when the banquet will be held.

LARC Wednesday Net 9-21-05

Net began at 8:30 EDT with 7 check ins: Pat, KK3F; Bill, N3XL; Charles, AA3WC; John, WB3GXW; Matt N3JMK; Charles, N3OQD; and Jim, KF6VBJ.

Bill, N3XL announced the start October 3 of PVRC Monday night net at 8:30 pm. He also wanted us to know that there would be a PVRC meeting after the next LARC Business meeting 9-28-05.

John, WB3GXW Announced that the Amateur related news programs such as the Amateur Radio Newsline had been very interesting with Hurricane Katrina information. You can tune into the 147.225+ repeater to listen in at 8:00 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Charles, N3OQD checked in from Baltimore testing out his new rig. Jim, KF6VBJ checked in from College Park. And expressed an interest in joining the club. Hopefully we will meet him on the 28th.

The net concluded at 8:56pm.

73,
Kevin, WV3D

THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Officers:	President:	Joe Craven	N3TZA	301-776-6398	n3tza@rcn.com
	Vice-President:	Kevin Craven	WV3D	301-498-2805	kevinc@erols.com
	Secretary:	Ed Herbrechtsmeier	K3QX	301-871-2698	k3qx@arrl.net
	Treasurer:	Dennis Fitzgerald	KT3D	301-459-1247	dennis@dkf-naf.com
	VEC Chairman:	Diane Zimmerman	AA3OF	301-937-0394	aa3of@arrl.net
	Member at Large:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	301-345-7381	ka8ypy@arrl.net
	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
PVRC Representative:	Bill Smith	N3XL	301-805-4211	n3xl@arrl.net
LARC VE Testing:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
AutoCall Reporter:	Mona Singleton	NY7P	240-632-1492	mss@md.net
T-MARC/D-MARC Rep:	OPEN			
Public Information Officer:	Jeff Epstein	KB3EQH	301-317-0650	jeffrey@pobox.com
Youth Programs:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Education and Training:	OPEN			
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	kk3f@arrl.net
Official Relay Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	kk3f@arrl.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

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 Asst Section Manager:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
MDC Asst Section Manager:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net
MDC Emergency Coord:	Mike Carr	WA1QAA	410-799-0403	bamcc@erols.com
Affiliated Club Coordinator:	Tony Young	WA3YLO	301-262-1917	tonyy@juno.com

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

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Editor: Ed Herbrechtsmeier/K3QX



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

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

