



# THE FEEDBACK

Volume 97 Issue 8

August 1997

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 3039, Laurel, Maryland 20709-3039

<http://www.webtrek.com/~laurel/org/larc>

email: [larc@webtrek.com](mailto:larc@webtrek.com)

### Meetings and Nets:

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays:  
On-the-air Net at 8:30pm on 147.225+ PL156.7 (no tone required during nets)
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday:  
Informal/Social Gathering at 7:00pm – Tubby's Restaurant; Rt. 198, 1 mile West of I-95
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:  
Monthly Meeting at 7:30pm - The Woman's Club of Laurel, 384 Main Street, Laurel
- ▶ Nightly:  
Informal Net/Rag-Chew from 10-11pm on 147.540

### Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 3039  
Laurel, MD 20709-3039



## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 27 – 7:30pm

The Woman's Club of Laurel  
384 Main Street  
Laurel, Maryland

**Presentation: Batteries by Ken Stuart, W3VVN**



**THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**Officers:**

President:	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@bellatlantic.net
Vice-President:	Roger Davis	W3LM	301-776-6961	rldavis2@juno.com
Secretary:	John Menard	N3GXA	301-725-1641	n3gxa@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Patty Menard	N3OYN	301-725-1641	

**Other LARC Positions and Contacts:**

Immediate Past President:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
Membership:	Patty Menard	N3OYN	301-725-1641	
FAR Representative:	Joe Seasey	KA3UZI	301-725-5822	
FAR Representative:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	202-667-5780	dan.blasberg@juno.com
Laurel VEC:	Bob Busch	WB3KXJ	301-317-7819	rbusch@erols.com
LARC VE Testing:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	creewb3gxw@aol.com
AutoCall Reporter:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
Membership:	Patty Menard	N3OYN	301-725-1641	
T-MARC/D-MARC Rep:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	aa0005@mail.pratt.lib.md.us
Public Information Officer:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@erols.com
Youth Programs:	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@bellatlantic.net
Education and Training:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@erols.com
Technical Specialist:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	aa0005@mail.pratt.lib.md.us
Emergency Operations:	Mike Moseley	WB3HUP	301-317-8546	wb3hup@aol.com
Club Emergency Station:	Mike Moseley	WB3HUP	301-317-8546	wb3hup@aol.com
Official Bulletin Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@erols.com
Official Relay Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@erols.com

**LARC Special Interest Groups and Mentors:**

Antennas	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	aa0005@mail.pratt.lib.md.us
ATV				
Contesting				
Packet Radio				
APRS	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@bellatlantic.net
QRP	Scott Rosenfeld	NF3I	301-549-1022	ham@w3eax.umd.edu
Repeaters	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	creewb3gxw@aol.com
Satellite/EME				

**ARRL Field Organization:**

Atlantic Division Director:	Kay Craigie	WT3P	610-993-9623	wt3p@arrl.org
Atlantic Division Vice Director:	Bernie Fuller	N3EFN	814-763-1529	w3efn@arrl.org
MD/DC Section Manager:	Bill Howard	WB3V	410-551-6775	wb3v@erols.com
Affiliated Club Coordinator:	Tony Young	WA3YLO	301-262-1917	tonyy@juno.com

**Items to be published in *The Feedback*** should be submitted by the Monday preceding the third Wednesday of the month. Email submissions may be made to [larc@webtrek.com](mailto:larc@webtrek.com)

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**Editor: John Menard, N3GXA      Publisher: John Creel, WB3GXW**

# The August Feedback

-by N3GXA

I often like to start off by saying a bit about the last meeting, and all the great things you missed if you didn't attend. Well, I know Scott/NF3I was asked to give the program on QRP low power operating, and kit building on short notice, but the whole thing looked like it had been prepared for months. Many avid, (and I mean avid), QRP guys came to talk, show equipment, give out literature, and answer questions. I don't think you really have to be much of an electronic genius to know that building a whole transmitter into a tiny pill bottle is quite an accomplishment. I really was impressed. (Refer to the meeting minutes for a listing of all the names and calls of Scott's helpers.)

August is usually a pretty slow month in the land of Feedback writers, but don't let that diminish the impact of Pud/W3YD's article about the recent MDC QSO party. It seems likely that LARC has won for the second year in a row, and set a scoring record for the second year in a row. Pud has explained all the exact numbers, and made a few statements of certain facts which should wake up the competition for next year.

In the new member category, please add to your list:

Scott Howell, N3BYY  
7674 N. Arbory Way  
Laurel, MD 20707  
ph: (301) 483-0107; e-mail: whowell@hq.nasa.gov

While you're at it, Jim/N3ZJG announces his new e-mail address: autocar@erols.com

This month's meeting is to feature a program by Ken Stuart/W3VVN who is an expert on batteries. I personally intend to see this, because it seems that within the last few months almost every battery powered thing I own has suffered failure to its Ni-Cd pack. Also to be discussed will be the many upcoming events which I'm sure Mark/N3NTQ will explain in his column. These include the Pallotti Run, Crop Walk, Riverfest, FARfest, Novice/Tech class, and antenna building party. Maybe August isn't so slow after all.

### **Renew Your ARRL Membership Through LARC**

When you renew your ARRL membership through LARC, the club gets to keep \$2. It's easy to do:

Just complete the ARRL renewal form and send with check made out to LARC to:

Laurel Amateur Radio Club  
c/o Patty Menard/N3OYN  
905 Montrose Avenue  
Laurel, Maryland 20707-3835

Please don't wait until the last notice from ARRL to renew!

**New ARRL memberships** can also be done through the club.



### **September Birthdays**

- |    |       |                 |
|----|-------|-----------------|
| 5  | N3YOY | Paul Kirchman   |
| 7  | W3DAD | Kevin Arber     |
| 9  | N3LFL | H D Scott       |
| 11 | N3EFN | Bernie Fuller   |
| 17 | N3JMK | Matt Mantich    |
| 20 | WV3D  | Kevin Craven    |
| 22 | KC3SI | Marty Brown     |
| 26 | AA3OF | Diane Cooperman |

first year: 1933, last year: 1960

**Did we miss anyone?**

## **Minutes of LARC Meeting – 23 July 1997**

- Called to order at about 7:30pm, President Mark/N3NTQ presiding; held at The Woman's Club of Laurel, 384 Main Street.
  - Approximately 29 members were in attendance.
  - Treasurer, Patty/N3OYN reported the treasury holds about \$1419.
  - Bob/WB3KXJ, gave a VEC report, noting that approximately 12 were tested at the previous monthly session. He and other representatives of the LVEC attended the Nation VE Conference in Gettysburg recently.
  - FAR representative Dan/KA8YPY, reports that Carolyn Creel/N3UXZ has been awarded a FAR scholarship of \$1000. Also volunteer workers are still needed for this year's FARfest. A minimum of 6 club members would be required, and it appears that LARC may have enough volunteers if a definite time slot can be decided. Mark/N3NTQ will contact Tony Young to see what times are available.
  - Field Day Chairman Jim/WI3N reported on the recent FD operation, thanked all who attended and operated or otherwise helped. The event was considered very successful.
  - Mark/N3NTQ coordinator of the Laurel Independence Day event gave thanks to all operators and reported on the event.
  - In new business, Pud/W3YD talked about the MD-DC QSO Party contest on August 9-10. LARC is defending champs and will plan to operate from the station at WB3HUP. This will be a serious attempt at winning.
  - The annual Novice/Tech licensing class is scheduled to begin 22 September at the West Laurel Recreation Center. N3NTQ provided handbills for attendees to use for advertising.
  - The Laurel Riverfest is scheduled for 4 October. Pud/W3YD reports that this year is expected to be twice as big as last year, and last year was quite successful.
  - Mark/N3NTQ asked for volunteers to aid new member Pat/KK3F in antenna work on Saturday; there were quite a few volunteers.
  - The evening presentation was on QRP and kit building, organized by Scott/NF3I who presented handouts. He was aided by 5 friends and cohorts: N3XRV/Chris Cartwright, WA8MCQ/Mike Czuhajewski, W6TOY/Bruce Muscolino, WA4KAC/Walt Thomas, and K3TKS/Danny Gingell; all warmly received.
  - The 50/50 was worth \$7 won by Mary Ellen/W3VY, and K3TKS drew additional tickets for several QRP doorprizes which he awarded.
  - The meeting adjourned at about 9:15pm.
  -
- Respectfully submitted, John/N3GXA**

### **THIS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION**

It is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. I had to learn the Morse code and a lot of electronic theory to be able to operate it legally. In this station, it is possible to transmit and receive signals all over our earth. I can handle emergency and personal communications and create good will and diplomacy. I did a lot to do a lot, so don't give me any static about how messy this place is!



## President's Ramblings

Lots happening:

- Many thanks to Scott/NF3I and his contingent for putting together the QRP presentation for the July meeting on such short notice. They did an excellent job and I found it all to be very interesting. One of the things that really struck me was that you don't have to spend thousands of dollars to get started on HF. I think this sometimes gets overlooked as new hams see the rigs of our veteran operators and head down to the local ham store.
- Ken Stuart (W3VNN) doing his Battery presentation at the August meeting. I'm looking forward to this and am sure you won't want to miss it either.
- We had an antenna party for new member Pat/KK3F putting up a 2-meter Isopole and trap dipole for him. Many thanks to Mike/WB3HUP, Jim/WI3N, John/WB3GXW, Jim/N3ZJG, Pud/W3YD for the donation of time and/or materials.
- I heard that a less publicized (so as not to arouse the neighbors' suspicions) antenna party was held for Henry/WB3HZI recently. I'm not sure who all helped out, but many thanks to you.
- John Riehl (NV3C) is in need of some antenna work, so let's see if we can get that on our schedule.
- I probably neglected to mention previously that John/NV3C and Joe/KU3Z came to the rescue of a visually impaired gentleman interested in getting his ham license. They took the brand-new question pool from some text files and ran it through John's text-to-speech software to produce some audio tapes. Thanks guys!
- John/WB3GXW is planning to upgrade his 444.250 repeater on Labor Day weekend. He will be installing a controller that is identical to the one he has on 147.225+ as well as adding Autopatch capability. I know several members have recently purchased 440 HTs so here is another opportunity to put them to use. The XYL (Ondine/N3SCU) and I have enjoyed the use of John's 440 machine for some time now and are excited about the upgrade.
- The club now has a new email address, [larc@webtrek.com](mailto:larc@webtrek.com). We had previously been the generic [laurel@webtrek.com](mailto:laurel@webtrek.com) address. We also now have an email reflector (listserver) – the address is [larc-l@webtrek.com](mailto:larc-l@webtrek.com). If you send an email to this address it will be forwarded to all LARC members with email and a few others close to our hearts.
- Election time is rolling around. A nominating committee will be formed at the August meeting. Please consider volunteering to be on the nominating committee or running for a board position.
- The MD/DC QSO party was a great success -see Pud's notes.
- The Novice/Tech class will begin on Monday September 22, 7-9pm and run for 10 weeks. Please spread the word. Flyers will be available at the meeting, or I can mail some to you. Also consider sitting in on some of the classes as a refresher or to prepare to become an instructor in the future.
- We will be helping out with ticket sales at the FarFest on Saturday, September 6 in Gaithersburg from Noon to Midnight. We need a minimum of 6 volunteers (2 per 4 hour shift). The more volunteers the shorter the shifts. I'll have a sign-up sheet at the meeting or you can send me an email, voice mail, NTS message, ...
- LARC will also be doing VE tests at FarFest on Sunday, September 7. This year the tests will actually be on the Fairgrounds site. Please contact John/WB3GXW if you can help out.
- Michele/WK3X and I were presented with Paul Harris Fellow awards from the Rockville Rotary Club this past week. Michele was recognized for her work as the Montgomery County RACES Radio Officer. I know personally the great work she did in that position and the award was well deserved. She also does quite a bit of work in support of the Laurel VEC, and is one of LARC's most competitive contesters. Other recipients were Bob Ryan (NBC Channel 4 meteorologist & Past President American Meteorological Society (AMS)), Dr. Joe Friday (NOAA Assistant Administrator for Research & former Director of National Weather Service), Terry Treschuk (Rockville Chief of Police & Director of Public Safety and Community Services), and Jeanette Halleran (various PTA/community volunteer roles). Stan/K3JNT sponsored the awards. There was a brief panel discussion between the award recipients on the topic of Weather Services, Public Safety and Emergency Services: Government, Commercial, and Volunteer Cooperation. It was certainly a topic that we could have spent several hours discussing.
- Planning a build project for Saturday October 25. Plan to do copper pipe J-Poles, definitely 2-meter and possibly 440. Cost will be about \$15. Mike/WB3HUP is graciously hosting.
- Highlighting our upcoming activities: meeting 8/27, FarFest gates 9/6, FarFest VE testing 9/7, VE testing in Laurel 9/20, Novice/Tech class 9/22, Pallotti Run 9/27, RiverFest 10/4, Crop Walk 10/5, SET 10/4-5, OASIS sometime in October.

73, de M ark/N 3N TQ



**From the Keyboard of Pud/W3YD**

**LARC SETS ANOTHER RECORD!**

Another MDC QSO has come and gone, and tentatively we have set another record for club competition! Last year we won with 154,947 points, eclipsing the old record by almost 25,000. This year's eclipse is 90K above that, with 245,106 claimed points. We were helped this year by a good club installation at WB3HUP's work QTH, by several dedicated rovers, and by a crew of contesters you couldn't wrestle the mike away from, if a rig was vacant. I just have to say it: WE ARE UNBEATABLE! and you can wave that statement in front of anyone's nose! (Eh...pride go-eth before the fall, or something like that?)

A breakdown of scores follows: read BAND---MODE---QSOs---QSO Pts:

80	CW	3	9
75	fone	70	130
40	CW	24	97
40	fone	97	134
20	fone	384	520
6	fone	11	43
2	fone	268	1118
70cm	fone	75	352
TOTAL		932	2403

Final score is total qso points (2403) times multipliers:

Nr. of states (49 + MD) + nr. of MD counties (20 out of 25) + nr. of DX qso's (32).

102 times 2403 = 245,106 !!!

Operators in the shack were W3LM, W3YD, W3DAD, WB3HUP, WK3X, N3LFL, and N3YOW ( friend of HUP's, who made the last 2-meter qso----an aero mobile!) On the road (the rovers) we had KD3ZS, N3MJA and N3TZA who gave us eleven counties, and N3JMK who hit 13 counties over the weekend! NF3I gave us four counties, mobile, some on HF, some CW, and some on the higher frequencies. There were also a lot of club members who made the 3-county circuit around the club station, and that really helped us jack up our score. So, thanks for a great club effort! and all we can do is top it next year.

Our 75-meter score is very low because we just couldn't hear on that band. Mike did some investigating, and found a very noisy transformer on a fairly new power line just down the road. As this is going to press, the power company is fixing that problem. It was characterized by a 240 Hz hum, and was very, VERY prominent on 75 and 160 meters.

So, thanks again for all of you who helped and supported the mission. And don't forget, Sweepstakes is right around the corner!

**UP-COMING EVENTS**

The premier event of our public service agenda, the PALLOTTI CROSS-COUNTRY races, is right around the corner, on Saturday, September 27. Everyone enjoys this one, and as I've said before, some of the participating coaches have told me that "if it weren't for you guys, we probably wouldn't come back next year." If you've helped before, you know what that means....we do good work there, and that's "not braggin', just fact!"

I just returned from a RIVERFEST (October 4) meeting, and things are going great! They are still looking for a few more hand-craft vendors, but there is a good list of activity planned for the day, so mark it on your calendar....that time of the year is really great down by the riverside.

## **The FAR Report – August 13 Meeting**

FAR President, Chuck Sommer (N4OSD), called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. at Columbia College in Takoma Park, MD.

There were 21 in attendance representing 24 clubs :

The July minutes were approved as mailed.

The treasurer's report was given by Charles Johnson (N3HFO) and accepted.

### Auto Call

Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported that the names of those who purchased subscriptions to Auto-Call in the memory of Ethel Smith will be published in next issue of Auto-Call. There were approximately 30 who participated.

### Survivor's Assistance

Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported very little activity. He still holds about \$500 worth of equipment from Ethel Smith's estate.

### Scholarship Committee

Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) reported that one scholarship from the group in Augusta, Maine will not be available next year. He also reported that Ten-Ten, International has increased the number of scholarships they are offering from three to four. The Northern California DX Foundation has requested FAR to administer and award a \$1,000 scholarship on their behalf. The recipient would be required to hold a General Class license, or higher, be active on CW and interested in DX'ing. And, the Maryland Mobileers will make a \$1,000 scholarship available next year. This brings the total number of scholarships that FAR will administer and award on behalf of various groups to approximately 61.

### ARRL Report

Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC), ARRL Vice-President, reported that discussions about license structuring continued at the ARRL Board Meeting. The ARRL Convention in Jacksonville, Florida was held the week before last. And, finally, discussion continues on Little LEOS. Two participants gave up citing that Little LEOS would be unprofitable. The other two participants have combined into a single organization.

The Federal City REACT Amateur Radio Club applied for membership in FAR. Their Trustees are Michael Holland, N3YGU and Norman Kaplan, N3LDM. Their organization promotes the use of radios for public service volunteer and emergency communications. The application was approved. We welcome to "Federal City" to FAR with the expectation of a mutually beneficial association.

Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported on the MEPN/FAR Picnic. There were in excess of 50 attendees. The cost to FAR was \$342.00. Everyone is looking forward to next year's picnic and the possibility of direct participation by the Laurel ARC.

### Announcements

Page Pyne (WA3EOP) reported that the Maryland-DC QSO Party, sponsored by the Antietam Radio Association, was a huge success. In the first two days after the contest, 15 logs were received.

The Federal City REACT Amateur Radio Club will be setting up communications for the MS Challenge 5K Run, a "Fun-Run," and a "Wheel Chair Race" on September 14. Volunteers are needed to help with communications. Contact Lenny Schachter (N3RPQ) or Michael Holland (N3YGU) for details.

The Baltimore ARC will be operating special event station W3FT in commemoration of their 50th anniversary and 50 years of affiliation with ARRL. Operation will be from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time on September 27. W3FT will be transmitting on HF and VHF frequencies.

The Goddard Amateur Radio Club will be operating a special event station in commemoration of the Apollo 17 Moon landing during December, 1997. More specific information will be forthcoming, but GARC hopes to secure their "old" call sign, WG3SFC (standing for Goddard Space Flight Center), for the special event.

Jerry Gavin (NU3D) reported on the success of amateur radio communications during the Cycle Across Maryland bicycle race.

A FARFest Committee was scheduled immediately following the Trustees' meeting.

A motion to adjourn was entertained at 8:42 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at the Lee Center in Alexandria, Virginia at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10. See Auto-Call magazine for directions.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Dan Blasberg, KA8YPY**  
**Alternate FAR Representative**

## **"Empire of the Air, The Men Who Made Radio"** **-A Book Review by N3GXA**

Written by Tom Lewis, this well indexed and footnoted book deals with the historic invention of the radio science by careful examination of three principle players: Edwin Howard Armstrong, Lee DeForest, and David Sarnoff. Although the book is carefully researched historically, it reads easily like a novel or biography. Research for a book like this involves many hours of checking past records and archives. Thus, history texts can often be quite dry in reading, but Lewis is actually an English professor who is interested in history and technology. He has also written and produced documentary films.

Briefly, Lee DeForest was the inventor of the vacuum tube which he called the "audion". Edwin Howard Armstrong is the inventor of the superheterodyne circuit and FM, and Sarnoff was a great commercializer of industry who eventually became President of RCA.

In the context of this book, there is a difference between "radio" and what we may call "wireless". This explains why none of the gentlemen mentioned above is Guglielmo Marconi. Mr. Marconi is often referred to in this book, but the author is aiming for a technology that doesn't just "communicate", but actually has "sound" and will reach the masses directly. On this point I agree with Lewis completely, because after reading the intentions of Armstrong to "broadcast" radio waves, we see how the technology changed the world. No one would have much need to broadcast a beacon of CW to the general public. The Marconi company, (for whom Sarnoff was an employee), basically sent news and messages around the civilized world by CW wireless signals. DeForest imagined a system which would allow farm families and others to hear an opera, or take a college course, or enjoy a baseball game, all over the air. Said DeForest: "I look forward to the day when opera may be brought into every home. Someday the news and even advertizing will be sent over the wireless telephone." Interestingly, advertising was not part of early broadcasting. The business argument was to sell radios, and it did work. They looked down on advertising, and when it finally came about, no one would stoop so low as to mention actually prices on the air.

The story winds its way through the earliest part of this century, (DeForest, the oldest of the three graduated Yale in 1896), through the two World Wars, and into modern consumer electronics, though not too heavily. The personalities of the three men couldn't be much more different; DeForest was quite confident of himself, always on the verge of striking it big it seems. He was voted by classmates at Yale as "most conceited". He always had some sort of scheme going to market his inventions. Armstrong was a researcher at Columbia University and highly respected by the engineering establishment. He invented the superhet circuit while an Army officer in France during the First World War. He spent much of his life defending his patents which were making others rich, though he had made quite a bundle in radio (and TV) himself. Sarnoff was an immigrant who worked very hard and had a great mind for business. He started as a telegrapher for the Marconi company which eventually became, in part, RCA. Interestingly, as president of the company he had a key installed in his desk with which he often communicated in Morse code to certain others in the company.

Reading the book has given me fresh insight into the technological revolution of this century. One can see why certain things worked out as they did and grieve at the lost potential of it all. Sarnoff and RCA had their eyes set on television many years before the technology was available to actually do it. But, they saw what control it would give them and all the riches they would earn. Modern American business would do well to note that the huge RCA conglomerate, under the very strong direction of David Sarnoff, funneled money into top research and development instead of excessive stock dividends. Upon Sarnoff's retirement in 1965, this point was duly noted in a letter written by Mr. Konosuki Matsushita who was a big fan of Sarnoff. In 1986 RCA ceased to exist. Take a look at the labels of some modern consumer electronics; I bet you'll see the name "Matsushita" a lot more than "RCA".

*Empire of the Air* is written by Tom Lewis and published by Harper Perennial; New York, New York.

## **A brief note on Intermod -from an "expert"**

"I love intermod. I must. Why else would I listen to it so much?"

Recently, a few of our members have been looking into replacing their home station 2 meter handi-talkies with FM mobile radios in order to better fight the interference of local paging stations. You may want to look into past Feedback articles on the subject of filters you can build, and on my choice of FM radios.

Since I live in a very bad area, I put a filter in line with my HT at home. This is a Radio Shack unit which also has an amplifier. The coax then continues out to my roof mounted Isopole antenna. This works pretty well, though not perfectly. This situation also led me to choose an intermod resistant mobile radio; the Icom 2000H. Without that filter, the Icom suffers interference much worse than the HT with filter. In fact, it would not be usable for packet, I believe.

The bottom line is that I am much happier with the HT plus filter than I would be replacing it with a "real radio". Of course, the Icom 2000 offers many other nice features and reliability that make it superior to the HT otherwise. I guess that's why it's now installed in my wife's car.

-N3GXA

## **Excerpts from Recent ARRL Letters**

### **ARRL'S NEW TECH Q&A DEBUTS**

The ARRL's Tech Q&A -- Your Quick & Easy Path to a Technician Ham License, will be available starting in mid-August. Written by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, the new book includes each question and answer for the new Novice (Element 2) and Technician (Element 3A) question pools. Where's the "quick and easy" part? The format of Tech Q&A will make studying for the Tech exam a breeze. Each question is printed with the correct answer letter shown in bold type. An accurate, but brief explanation follows each question. It's everything the aspiring ham needs to pass the Technician exam in a straightforward, uncluttered presentation--no hunting around. Tech Q&A is \$12.95. Order Item #6222. Call toll-free 888-277-5289 to order.

### **SURVEYS SHOW TECHNICIAN LICENSE MOST POPULAR**

A survey of ARRL Volunteer Instructors shows that most teach between one and two classes a year and the vast majority of students obtain their Technician tickets. The survey revealed that classes average eight students. Graduates are 5% Novice, 88% Technician, 5% General, 1% Advanced, and 1% Extra.

Approximately 11% of the more than 2000 Volunteer Instructors responded to the survey. Of that group, 90% reported they use Now You're Talking in their classes. The instructors said that 80% of their students join the ARRL.

In another survey, ARRL-Registered School Teachers reported that their students' favorite ham radio activities, by far, were HF DXing, taking part in licensing classes, radio club activities and VHF/UHF operating. The 108 teachers who returned their surveys (approximately 11% of the total) say they introduced nearly 8800 students to ham radio. The teachers said that about 60% of their licensing classes prepared youngsters for the Technician license and 40% for the Novice ticket. Most teachers said they use ARRL study materials.

Volunteer Instructors and ARRL-Registered School Teachers were polled last spring. The ARRL Educational Activities Department recently compiled the results of the two surveys. --Rosalie White, WA1STO

### **HELP KEEP ARCHIE ALIVE**

Archie Comics have traditionally been one of the best Amateur Radio tools for use in classrooms, Scout gatherings, and other youth get-togethers. These books introduce young people to lifetime adventures they can enjoy through Amateur Radio. In many cases, these comics are the first step toward getting a license and getting on the air. But, we gave away the last ones several months ago.

We need your financial assistance to help defray the costs of replenishing our supply of these popular Amateur Radio materials. Our current goal -- the cost of the minimum print run of 100,000 comics -- is \$30,000. Donations towards Archie Comics will be used only for that purpose. We'll list the names of contributors making donations of \$25 or more in the front of each book. We'll give special recognition in print to clubs and others who make substantial contributions. The ARRL is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations to the League are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by the IRS.

Please make checks or money orders payable to "ARRL -- Educational Activities Fund." On the memo line, please write "Archie Comics." You may put your donation on a credit card. A donation form is on the Web, <http://www.arrl.org/ead/archie/> or you can call 860-594-0340. Be sure to designate "Educational Activities Fund." Our deadline to receive donations is October 31, 1997. --Dan Miller, K3UFG

### **FCC POISED FOR GATE 3 GRANTS**

Grants under the FCC's vanity call sign program Gate 3 could start showing up soon. The FCC has been wading through the vanity applications it received prior to the opening of Gate 3 on August 6. On August 22, the FCC reported it had processed vanity applications received up through August 5 -- the day before Gate 3 opened -- but was still dealing with apparently unsuccessful or problematic applications in the so-called "work in process" (WIPS) stack.

In a last-minute flurry of activity this week, the FCC granted 232 vanity call signs for applications received from July 17 through August 5. Another 325 applications from that period hit WIPS, and it is those applications the FCC will deal with next, before moving on to Gate 3 applications. The FCC says it received 1613 vanity applications between August 6 and August 20.

### **THREE DIRECTORS FACE COMPETITION**

Three ARRL directors will face competition this fall for their seats on the ARRL Board of Directors. The contests are in the Atlantic, Delta and Great Lakes divisions.

In the Atlantic Division, the candidates are incumbent Director Kay Craigie, WT3P, of Paoli, Pennsylvania, and Jim Carson, WK2K, of Ithaca, New York. Atlantic Division Vice Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, is without opposition for his seat.

(snip)

Ballots will be distributed by October 1, 1997, to ARRL members of record as of September 10, 1997. Ballots must be returned by November 21, 1997.

### **CQ-ing cellphone:**

Maybe it's a bit of an inside joke on the part of cellular telephone manufacturer Nokia of Finland, but Sam Haviland of Farmington, Connecticut, recently discovered that one of the ring options on Nokia's Model 638 makes the phone send CQ in Morse code. Haviland, a Navy veteran, is not a ham but he still remembers the code. Coincidentally, Haviland's father-in-law was F. Cheyney Beekley, W1GS, an early QST advertising manager.

The ARRL Letter is published by the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259. Rodney J. Stafford, KB6ZV, President; David Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice President.

#### **The ARRL Letter is available free of charge from these sources:**

- The ARRLWeb page (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>). This version of The ARRL Letter includes any photographs.
- The HIRAM BBS: 860-594-0306.
- The ARRL Technical Information Server (Info Server): Send an e-mail message to [info@arrl.org](mailto:info@arrl.org). The subject line should be blank. In the message body, type send ltrmmdd.txt, where mm represents two digits for the month and dd represents two digits for the day (The ARRL Letter is published every Friday). For example, to request The ARRL Letter file for Friday, January 3, 1997, you'd type send ltr0103.txt. Then, on a separate line, type quit.
- CompuServe and America Online subscribers, as a downloadable text file in the services' ham radio libraries
- The Netcom server. run by the Boston Amateur Radio Club and Mike Ardai. N1IST: Send e-mail to

**Clips from " NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #1043 - 08/08/97"**

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(Fax senders wait for voice prompt.)

**PACKET COURSE OFFERED IN TROY**

The Troy, New York Amateur Radio Association will host a new "Introduction to Packet Radio" course on Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28. Both sessions of this course are free and will cover the basics of packet operation, including station setup, basic commands, TNC parameters, node networks, bulletin boards, computers, software, and operating courtesy. A working station will demonstrate packet's capabilities and limitations.

All students will receive free copies of IBM compatible packet software along with the course workbook. For more information or to register, contact Stephen Anderman, WA3RKB, evenings after 8:30 PM Eastern time at (518) 664-6809.

(Via WA3RKB)

**AMATEUR RADIO AND THE INTERNET**

More repeaters are adding linking worldwide on the Internet. One of the latest is Washington, DC's Green Mountain Repeater Association. Green Mountain is not only connecting their repeaters 146.61 and 146.88 MHZ to other repeaters around the country but to hams worldwide as well.

According to Murray Green, K3BEQ, the linking of amateur radio to the computer world is a slow process that will take time for some of our amateurs to accept. He says that the repeater to internet connection may not be as revolutionary as the explosion of repeaters in the 70s. It is however quickly becoming another method of extending the range of repeater transmissions. This, for amateurs to explore, use and enjoy in the best interests of amateur radio and public service.

(Via K3BEQ)

**IRC ARES/RACES CHAT NET**

The ARES and RACES Internet Relay Chat Net is held every Sunday morning at 10:00 hours Pacific Daylight Time. Anyone can log onto it from most any Internet Service Providers, worldwide. For more information go to the net

web page at:

[www.kennerla.com/ares](http://www.kennerla.com/ares)

(Via Press Release)

**ARRL TO HELP RECRUIT KID HAMS**

The ARRL Board will soon be introducing a program to coordinate enlisting local volunteers from League affiliated and special service clubs to introduce young people to technology through Amateur Radio and to potential careers in technology. In creating the program, the ARRL Board cited the increasing importance of technological literacy and President Clinton's call for greater volunteer efforts on behalf of youth as reasons for the project.

(Via ARRL)

**Newsline is generally broadcast locally by John/WB3GXW :**  
**Sunday @ 8:30pm on 147.225+ PL156.7**  
**Tuesday @ 7:15pm on 147.180+ PL156.7**

August 1997						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 1997						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 1997						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Upcoming Activities and Events

### August

27      **Wed**      7:30pm      **LARC Monthly Meeting (Batteries by Ken/W3VVN)**      **384 Main Street**

### September

3      **Wed**      8:30pm      **LARC Net**      **147.225+**  
6      **Sat**      **Noon-Midnight**      **FarFest (man the gates)**      **Gaithersburg**  
7      **Sun**      8:30am      **FarFest (VE testing)**      **Gaithersburg**  
10      **Wed**      7:00pm      **LARC Social Meeting**      **Tubby's Restaurant**  
10      **Wed**      8:00pm      **FAR Meeting**      **Alexandria, VA**  
17      **Wed**      8:30pm      **LARC Net**      **147.225+**  
20      **Sat**      9:00am      **Laurel VE Test Session**      **384 Main Street**  
20      **Sat**           **Amateur Radio Awareness Day**  
22      **Mon**      7:00pm      **Novice/Technician Class Starts**      **WLCB**  
24      **Wed**      7:30pm      **LARC Monthly Meeting**      **384 Main Street**  
27      **Sat**           **Pallotti Invitational Cross Country Run**      **Supplee**

### October

1      **Wed**      8:30pm      **LARC Net**      **147.225+**  
4      **Sat**           **Laurel Riverfest**      **Laurel Riverside Park**  
5      **Sun**           **Crop Walk**      **Laurel**  
4-5      **Sat-Sun**           **Simulated Emergency Test (SET)**  
8      **Wed**      7:00pm      **LARC Social Meeting**      **Tubby's Restaurant**  
8      **Wed**      8:00pm      **FAR Meeting**      **Takoma Park, MD**  
15      **Wed**      8:30pm      **LARC Net**      **147.225+**  
18      **Sat**      9:00am      **Laurel VE Test Session**      **384 Main Street**  
18-19      **Sat-Sun**           **JOTA (Boy Scouts) – may cancel**  
22      **Wed**      7:30pm      **LARC Monthly Meeting (elections)**      **384 Main Street**  
25      **Sat**      9-12      **Copper J-Pole Build Project**      **ATR**

## Some Upcoming Hamfests and Conferences

### **September 7 - F.A.R Fest '97, Montgomery County Agricultural Center (Fairgrounds), Gaithersburg, MD**

Gates open 6am, Commercial Buildings open 8am, Admission: \$5 Adults, Children under 12 Free. Talk-in 146.955-, 443.400+, 146.520. Tailgate \$15 per 10 ft space plus one admission ticket. Special Drawing 11:45am, picture id required to claim prize. All requests for advance table and space reservations, contact: Mary Morris/N4TCL, n4tci@erols.com, 703-971-9305

### **October 5 - Columbia ARA - West Friendship, MD**

8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Howard County Fairgrounds, Computers - Amateur Radio – Electronics, Amateur Exams will be given at no charge Featuring: 40,000 Sq. Ft. of Indoor Display Area, Large Outdoor Tailgating Area, Covered Areas for Inclement Weather, Many Dealers – Computers & Ham Radio, Great food and Refreshments On Site - Bring the Family. Proceeds benefit CARA Scholarship, Amateur Classes and Repeater System (Including Open Autopatch). Talk In: 146.52 Simplex, 147.135(+) Repeater, 223.92(-) Repeater  
Richard B. Frank, W9RZ, 12933 Kentbury Dr., Clarksville, MD 21029, 410-531-2933, Fax: 301-854-2756 E-mail: [rf52@umail.umd.edu](mailto:rf52@umail.umd.edu)  
<http://www.clark.net/pub/jrmassi/caranews.html>

### **October 10-12 - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Baltimore, MD**

Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs in digital communications, networking, and related technologies to meet, publish their work, and present new ideas and techniques for discussion. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications. The Digital Communications Conference is not just for the digital expert, but for digitally-orientated amateurs of all levels of experience. <http://www.tapr.org/tapr/html/dccconf.html>

### **October 26 - Mason-Dixon, Westminster, MD**

Carroll County ARC and Penn-Mar RC, George Johns, N3JKY, PO Box 763, Hanover, PA 17331, 717-633-6641