



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 98 Issue 02

February 1998

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

Meetings and Nets:

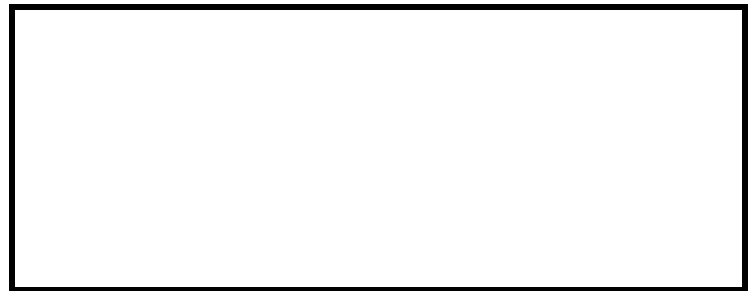
- ▶ 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays:
On-the-air Net at 8:30pm on 147.225+ PL156.7 (no tone required during nets)
- ▶ 2nd Wednesday:
Informal/Social Gathering at 7:00pm – Tubby's Restaurant; Rt. 198, 1 mile West of I-95
- ▶ 4th Wednesday:
Monthly Meeting at 7:30pm - The Woman's Club of Laurel, 384 Main Street, 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, February 25, 7:30pm
384 Main Street
Laurel, Maryland



THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Officers:

President:	John Menard	N3GXA	301-725-1641	n3gxa@hotmail.com
Vice-President:	Jerry Siegel	N3WSG	301-937-1174	j_siegel@compuserve.com
Secretary:	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@webtrek.com
Treasurer:	Patty Menard	N3OYN	301-725-1641	

Other LARC Positions and Contacts:

Immediate Past President:	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@webtrek.com
Membership:	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@webtrek.com
FAR Representatives:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	202-667-5780	dan.blasberg@juno.com
	Joe Seaseley	KA3UZI	301-725-5822	jseaseley@erols.com
Laurel VEC:	Bob Busch	WB3KXJ	301-317-7819	rbusch@erols.com
LARC VE Testing:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	creewb3gwx@aol.com
AutoCall Reporter:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
T-MARC/D-MARC Rep:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	karber@smart.net
Public Information Officer:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@erols.com
Youth Programs:	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@webtrek.com
	Scott Rosenfeld	NF3I	301-549-1022	ham@w3eax.umd.edu
Education and Training:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@erols.com
Technical Specialist:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	karber@smart.net
ARES/RACES Coordinators:	Mike Moseley	WB3HUP	301-317-8546	wb3hup@aol.com
	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
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Official Bulletin Station:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	creewb3gwx@aol.com
Official Bulletin Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@erols.com
Official Relay Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	pgormley@nova.umuc.edu
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	karber@smart.net
Packet Radio				
APRS	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@webtrek.com
QRP	Scott Rosenfeld	NF3I	301-549-1022	ham@w3eax.umd.edu
Repeaters	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	creewb3gwx@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
MD/DC Asst Section Manager:	Jerry Gavin	NU3D	410-761-1423	k2ilq@aol.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 15th of the month. Email submissions may be made to larc@webtrek.com

The Feedback is published monthly as the newsletter of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Permission is granted to reprint from this publication provided credit is given.

Editor: Mark Doore, N3NTQ
Publisher: Mark Doore, N3NTQ

President's Ramblings

February is the shortest month, and I hope I will be forgiven for offering my shortest article. Although I've been operating out of the loop lately, it has been reported that the last Comex, (emergency communications exercise), from the Laurel Hospital emergency station went very well. Rumor has it also, that the next one will be covered by the Laurel Leader. I'm not qualified to say much more about that, but our emergency communications group will be reporting on this at the meeting. I've now predicted that there will be no snow emergency declared this winter though; we've witnessed not only crocus blooms, but daffodils too. This, of course, lets us prepare for next winter more easily.

I've been stopping in on the Monday night General classes, and they continue to be very impressive. Several of our newer members are students, and it's good to see them upgrading without any hesitation.

Patty/N3OYN said she was watching TV news last week and noticed John/WB3GXW featured in a story on baby seats in automobiles. (As an expert on the subject, that is, not as a baby.) When I asked how he looked, she answered quite well, and said "you can tell he's done this before".

I should mention that dues are due, (\$15 annually). Since I'm not editing the Feedback anymore, I didn't come up with any humorous cartoons about red stars on mailing labels. However, Mark/N3NTQ has planned to work it out using his database, and I'm sure it will be more informative than the red star, even without the cartoon.

Last Saturday, I had an opportunity to visit the new Baltimore Football Stadium at Camden Yards, (still under construction, of course). This was to happen at the same time that Patty/N3OYN was driving alone to York Pennsylvania, so we decided that she could probably contact me on a Baltimore repeater. The Telephone Pioneers Radio Club has the antenna mounted atop of a local skyscraper which used to be known as the MBNA building, (I don't know if it's still called that). On the northbound trip I was running a bit late and hit the machine from inside my office, a bit scratchy but readable, she reports. The stadium visit was taking longer than I thought it would, and it's a rather noisy site, so my HT remained off for a few hours. But finally, my group and I climbed to the highest point we could without going onto the lights, and the spectacular view of the antenna (and all of Baltimore actually), reminded me to flick on the HT. Sure enough, N3OYN was just on the Beltway on her return trip. Of course my signal was reported to be great, and I exaggerated that I could almost spit onto the MBNA building from there. I probably didn't exaggerate as much, (depending of course on my spitting abilities), when I said that I could probably hit the machine with my antenna detached. It was quite exciting to be transmitting from the top of the city, and I reported on the construction project for all who cared to listen. It was a clearing, cold day, so visibility was great. Oh yeah, the workers on the field looked like bugs, so it was a preview of the cheap seats, (relatively speaking only) because we were not much higher than the highest seating area.

73, hope to see all at the meeting, N3GXA



March Birthdays

6	N3MIH	Dick Sanford
9	N0JHL	Kris Traugher
11	NV3C	John Riehl
16	WT3P	Kay Craigie
19	N3CRR	Joe Sedita
23	W3WVV	Heru Walmsley
28	WK3X	Michele Cimbala
29	N3MXZ	Chris Rosenfeld

first year: 1926, last year: 1972

Minutes of LARC Meeting – 28 January 1998

- Meeting was called to order at 7:37pm, President John/N3GXA presiding. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.
- The customary introductions were made and John/N3GXA handed out some new name badges.
- Treasurer Patty/N3OYN reported the checking account balance to be about \$1000.
- VEC Coordinator Bob/WB3KXJ reported that all is well with the Laurel VEC program, excepting FCC computer problems for the previous five days. The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club (BARC) will start testing under the Laurel VEC again, on the fourth Saturday of the month.
- Secretary Mark/N3NTQ moved that the October meeting minutes as published in the November Feedback be approved. Membership in attendance the minutes.
- Pud/W3YD updated us on several items:
 - The General Class this past Monday had eight students. Scott/NF3I is teaching code after the class, which everyone stayed for. We are using the ARRL text.
 - The January Feedback indicated that the Emergency Volunteer Form could be submitted to Pud. These forms should be sent to Mike/WB3HUP.
 - The banquet has been held at the Timbuktu for the past three years, maybe is time to try something new. Patty/N3OYN volunteered to the banquet coordinator for 1998.
 - The GW Marathon will be Sunday 2/15. The course is the same as last year, strat time is 10:30am with an early opening of the course for runners that need some extra time. Runners will not be allowed to start the 3rd loop after 2pm. This run is a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon so there should be a good turnout with some good runners. LARC should meet at the Visitors Center (log cabin) on Powder Mill Road by 9:45 for instructions and assignments so we can be ready and on the course by 10:30.
- Phil/K3MEG reported that rumors of his demise are not true.
- T-MARC Rep Kevin/W3DAD talked about proposed move of APRS activity from 145.790 to 144.390. He gave an excellent background on the use of the various frequencies and the issues surrounding this proposed frequency change.
- FAR Rep Dan/KA8YPY reported on the Dec/Jan FAR meetings:
 - FAR has 67 scholarships (\$500 - \$2000) to award, interested parties should contact the Scholarship Committee for an application.
 - The National Capitol ARES Council (NCAC) submitted funding requests to FAR:
 - HF transceiver at NWS. This was approved.
 - Two 50 watt mobile repeaters. This was approved. One system will be for MD and the other for VA. It is anticipated that the MD system will be stored at the PG County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). These will be available for emergency or public service use.
 - The January ARES Training Institute in Bethesda had 67 people attend, including several from LARC. The next ARES Institute will be June 13 at the Red Cross in Falls Church.
 - FAR funds available for projects that benefit the amateur radio community in the local area. Project proposals are welcomed by FAR, the approval cycle can run from 3 to 12 months.
- Jim/WI3N was the main speaker for the evening, talking about Emergency Communications and the LARC effort at Laurel Regional Hospital. He brought along the Kenwood TM-V7A, PAR notch filter, 35 amp Astron power supply, and N3MJA J-Pole antenna for demonstration. Things are really coming together and it looks like the City of Laurel wants LARC to also have a station at City Hall where a communications center will be established. It is important that everyone complete the Volunteer Information form in the January Feedback so that a phone tree can be setup.
- John/N3GXA designed some emergency service logos that could be used by the club.
- It was reported that the Rockville Rotary Club has donated a 386 computer and printer to LARC for use in its emergency communications role.
- Dan/KA8YPY won the 50/50.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

- Respectfully Submitted, Mark/N3NTQ

D C Roadrunners - Presidents Day Marathon (15 Feb. 98) by N3LFL / HD

KB3BLK, NetCon operational: 09:01 AML

Cross Banding on 147.540/446.100 Leaving 445.975 open for emergency traffic and the 147.225 repeater on standby for backup

Conditions were sunny and cool when I arrived on site, a beautiful day for a change !

The "start off yell" was at: 10:29 AML

NetCon QRT at: 4:00 PML

Breakdown of time:

Marathon: 2 hrs, 37 min (196 head)

Relay: 2 hrs, 26 min

LARC transported two (2) runner to the main staging area and Race officials transported one (1) as K3IOG / Howard was already in transit.

We also assisted a Photographer who locked his keys in his car. We relayed to a PG Co Police officer and he took care of it (the Photographer didn't like my suggestion of using the door stop at NetCon ! (a brick)

We, also, had a minor incident of interference locking up the operational frequency, at NetCon, for a very short time.

LARC Members participating in Communications:

N3LFL / HD NetCon Op
N3JFX / Don NetCon Op (import from 146.610 repeater Grp)
WB3HUP / Mike
N3TZA / Joe
W3YD / Pud
N3LDY / Irv
N3WSG / Jerry (bicycle mobile)
K3IOG / Howard
N3NTQ / Mark
K3IOG / Howard (roving mobile)
WB3KXJ / Bob
KD3ZS / Charles
N3JMK / Matt

No LARC member ran in this race.

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.

The February Commex

February 10 during the statewide Commex for the RACES program several members from LARC, hospital security and visitors were present for our first Commex exercise from the Laurel Regional Hospital. The following traffic in NTS format was generated with a reply received from the PG OEP.

1 Routine KB3BLK 64 Laurel, MD February 10

Kay Graham

PG OEP

(Break)

The Laurel Amateur Radio Club operating from the Laurel Regional Hospital is activating equipment donated by PG County ARES and the Laurel Woman's Club X We have operational capability on 2 meters and 440 MHz X Operating and orientation is being offered to Bethany Smith/K8JCG Mike Moseley/WB3HUP Jim Cross/WI3N Mary Ellen May/W3VY Charles May/KD3ZS Pud Reaver/W3YD Howard Lehnert/K3IOG Jerry Siegel/N3WSG Joe Craven/N3TZA Toby Widdicombe/KB3BWR

(Break)

Mike Moseley/WB3HUP/AEC/PG County

2 Routine KB3BLK 25 Laurel, MD February 10

MEMA

(Break)

The Laurel Amateur Radio Club has activated emergency communication equipment from the Laurel Regional Hospital X We have 2 meter and 440 MHz capability 73

(Break)

Mike Moseley/WB3HUP/AEC/PG County

1 Routine N4OSD 39 Landover, MD February 10

Mike Moseley

(Break)

I thank the LARC for their time and effort in bringing the Laurel Regional Hospital on line X This is the first medical facility in PG County to have direct radio communication with the county EPO X

Thank you

(Break)

Kay Graham/PG OEP

We would like to thank everyone who participated with our first successful Commex from the hospital. A special note of thanks to Pud/W3YD, Jim/WI3N, Howard/K3IOG and Kevin/W3DAD who helped set up and test the antenna and radio at the hospital and we gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Women's Club of Laurel and PG Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP).

73 de Mike/WB3HUP

The March Commex – Tuesday March 10, 7:30pm

Pud has contacted the Laurel Leader, and they will be at the next COMMEX, to take pictures of us, the Woman's Club, Hospital folks, etc. Hope to have a good turn out from the LARC membership.

LARC "OPERATES" FROM LAUREL HOSPITAL

By Roger/W3LM

On Tuesday, 10 February 1998, the LARC participated in the PG County RACES CommEx from the Laurel Regional Hospital. This was the first occasion for the Laurel Club to conduct its operations from this site.

Participants included Mike Mosely/WB3HUP - LARC Emergency Coordinator, Pud Reaver/W3YD, Jim Corss/WI3N, and a number of other LARC members.

Pud/W3YD gave a brief overview of the NTS for the members and explained how the LARC will conduct in communications during any county emergency from the Laurel Regional Hospital.



Pud/W3YD provides instruction in the preparation of messages for the NTS.

From the E-Mail Bag...

Subject: Radio support for WBM
From: "Patrick M. Brown" <pbrown@mitre.org>

Hi Pud,

I plan to send you a formal Thank You for your team's assistance, but let me just send a quick note: Thank you! Each year I find that the radio>comm is more and more useful. I hope it was a good exercise for you guys. At least it was a great winter day to be outside (for some).

Last year, you recommended cutting off the 3rd loop at 2:00 and that did work well this year, especially since all the runners, I believe, were past that point. We also put up some "Caution - Road Race" signs along Powder Mill but I don't imagine that slowed traffic too much.

Pud, if you wouldn't mind, please send me the address and official name of your club. Thanks again,

Pat Brown
Washington's Birthday Marathon

Subject: Band Plan Enforcement
From: "Kevin Arber" <karber@smart.net>

The article below appeared in an AMSAT news bulletin. If you are interested in this topic and want to have your say you should contact your ARRL Division Director -- see QST -- with your comments. Our (Atlantic Div) director is Kay C. Craigie, WT3P, wt3p@arrl.org.

Kevin, W3DAD

FCC Asked to Enforce Band Plans

The ARRL is considering an attempt to change voluntary compliance of amateur band plans into Federal law. The league believes many hams face a growing problem of FM incursion into what is traditionally non-FM spectrum, including frequencies normally used for satellite communications.

The ARRL may ask the FCC to put teeth into the voluntary band plan concept by asking the Commission to issue a declaratory ruling where any operation that conflicts with established, voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects others operating in accordance with applicable band plans, is considered poor amateur practice. As such it would be also be considered a rules violation.

Such a ruling could go way beyond protecting satellite, weak signal and other VHF/UHF users from being harassed. It could also be applied to problems on the high frequency bands where specialized modes which also need protection tend to collide with mainstream SSB and CW transmissions.

AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan W3XO said that, while he supports the intent of ARRL's initiative, he will suggest to the AMSAT-NA Board of Directors that the organization go on record to preserve the current practice of using FM in conjunction with Earth to space and space to Earth communication within the satellite sub-bands. But, he said that he would also recommend that the Board support a ban on FM terrestrial-only communication, and possibly all terrestrial-only communication in these segments.

[ANS thanks the ARRL, Newsline and Bill Tynan W3XO for this information.]

Subject: BIRTHDATE MISC INFO
From: KB3BWS <KB3BWS@aol.com>

FREDERICK SCOTT PERRY KB3BWS
I USUALLY GO BY MY MIDDLE NAME SCOTT

I AM A MEMBER OF THE LOST IN THE FIFTIES CAR CLUB. CAPABILITIES ARE 2 MTR MOBILE IN A 1955 PONTIAC. ICOM 22S WITH 5/8 WAVE MAG. AND 2 MTR KENWOOD HT, THE ICOM IS SEMIFUNCTIONAL. RECEIVERS I HAVE INCLUDE A 1937 RCA 9K2 CONSOLE, 1950'S KNIGHT, 1950'S HALLICRAFTERS, 1950'S ZENITH TRANSOCEANIC ROYAL 1001, AND SOME OTHERS. I AM PLANNING TO UPGRADE TO TECHPLUS AND HOPEFULLY GENERAL BY 1999. FUTURE GOALS INCLUDE BUILDING A VINTAGE HOMEBREW MOBILE 40MTR CW TRANSMITTER/TRANSCEIVER FOR USE IN A 1919 MODEL T FORD (TOO BAD SPARK GAP IS ILLEGLE) TRANSMITTER WILL BE PORTABLE FOR DOUBLING AS A BASE STATION.

EARLY TUBE 10 MTR SSB FOR THE PONTIAC, HOPEFULLY A COLLINS KWM-1 LATE 1960'S 10 MTR RIG FOR MY 1967 MUSTANG AND A PRE 1960'S STYLE BASE STATION HAM RELATED INTERESTS INCLUDE VINTAGE RADIO/TELEVISION CW QRP, ATV, AM, I HAVE BEEN COLLECTING AND REPAIRING VINTAGE RADIOS SINCE 1987. TV'S SINCE 1990.

SEE YOU TOMORROW

73

SCOTT KB3BWS

Subject: HUM SOLVED, STATIC SOLVED
From: KB3BWS <KB3BWS@aol.com>

MISSED A BREAKER THE FIRST TIME. WHILE WELDING I BLEW THE BREAKER THIS COMPUTER WAS ON AND NOTICED THE HUM STOPPED. TRACED PRIMARY PROBLEM TO A BROKEN GROUND ON THIS COMPUTER.

ITS AMAZING HOW STRONG A SIGNAL CAN BE RADIATED BY A COMPUTER, IT FOLLOWED THE MAIN LINE INTO THE STREET. CAN STILL GET SLIGHT HUM MAY BE SOMEONE ELSE'S COMPUTER, ITS NOT BOTHERSOME TO THE POINT OF TRACING IT YET. BGE CAME BUT COULDN'T FIND THE SECOND PROBLEM. GAVE US A TROUBLESHOOTING PAMPHLET.

LAST WEEK SOMEONE STOPPED BY AND SAID OUR HEATPUMP WAS ICED. OPENED IT UP, FOUND 2 RUSTY CAPS, BURNT RESISTOR AND A BURNT WIRE. AFTER REPLACING THE CAPS THE TV AND TELEPHONE STATIC STOPPED ALONG WITH SOME OF THE MAJOR RADIO STATIC. NOTICED THE DEFROST RELAY WAS BAD. STILL WAITING FOR A REPLACEMENT DEFROST RELAY.

SCOTT KB3BWS

Subject: Apparently successful repeater workday!
From: "Scott Rosenfeld [NF3]" <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>

The W3EAX U of MD 145.49 repeater is apparently up and running once again.

Dan, KA8YPY - keep working out!!! That was impressive!

Thanks to a gin pole and lots of advice, plus a cadre of eight people (at one time or another), and the desire to take down a really, really big 2m antenna, re-build it, and put it back up in a single day, we DID it!!!

What was wrong? Intermod, de-sense, lots of other stuff, too.

When the antenna came down, the tape was removed from the point at which the two phasing harness assemblies were connected...remember, this antenna has been up for EIGHT years...

They were UHF connectors with a PL-258 double-female. They looked OK until we pilled everything apart, and a giant cloud of white dusty powder came out. Every surface was coated with corrosion. It was truly disgusting, and amazing it had ever worked at all.

After tearing down all connections, and a panicked call to KC3VO, we had replaced the PL-259s with N-connectors, and everything somehow went back together. Back on the roof, taping & sealing, and re-mounting, and

PLEASE USE THIS REPEATER. WE BELIEVE IT TO FINALLY BE HEALTHY AND USE IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN VERIFY THIS.

It feels good to see this much teamwork really pay off. Now, to get the satellite antennas working.

* Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19mc QRV 80-10/6/2/440 *

Subject: APRS Freq. Change
From: "Kevin Arber" <karber@smart.net>
To: "Gary Hendrickson" <GHENDRIC@fcc.gov>

Gary,

I am in favor of T-MARC supporting a national APRS frequency of 144.39 MHz. The following rationale applies: APRS needs a national frequency that is both coordinated through the ARRL and supported by the regional frequency coordinating bodies.

The 144.39 MHz frequency is currently specified as the national Canadian APRS frequency and is available since AMSAT-NA has relinquished that section of the Oscar subband(144.30 - 144.50 MHz) for other use. 144.39 MHz falls within the T-MARC digital subband.

The current 145.79 MHz frequency is not compatible with the Amateur Satellite Service allocation that starts at 145.8 MHz because of adjacent channel interference problems.

The current 145.79 MHz frequency is actually taking up what is or was designated as an experimental channel. APRS is no longer an experimental use. T-MARC should support protection of this frequency for use only in low-power experimental situations.

As for the selection of 145.80 for a manned-space downlink and thus subjecting manned-space to APRS interference, I believe the following to be pertinent:

A) Previously US manned-space operations occurred in the 144.40 to 144.50 and on 145.55 MHz. This was unacceptable because it put FM in the CW/SSB portion of the Region 1 (Europe) 2-meter band (144.0 - 146.0 MHz) and utilized the European FM calling frequency for manned-space operations.

B) The Europeans have removed repeaters from the 145.20/145.80 pair in order to accommodate AMSAT wishes to use that frequency pair for manned-space -- 145.20 uplink (Europe only) and 145.80 MHz downlink.

C) Manned-space uplinks for US are proposed as 144.49, 144.47 and 144.45 MHz. This use should be supported by T-MARC as well and is consistent with the 1997 T-MARC revision of the 2-meter band plan.

Kevin Arber, W3DAD

The following comments were provided to me from local amateurs and are included for your consideration:

(removed due to space (ed))

Subject: NF3I/MD-MW FYBO (long but worth it!)
From: "Scott Rosenfeld [NF3I]" <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>

Maryland Milliwatts QRP FYBO...single xmtr, multi-op. Call used - NF3I
Location - Burtonsville, MD. Coldest temperature experienced: 36F
68 Qs x 34 SPC x 4 (field) x 4 (<40F) x 2 (batt) = abt 36k points

Wow, talk about fun! Chris N3XRV and I used two of those 32' aluminum masts with 5' PVC sections he'd machined with a Dremel in order to get 'em to fit (ID <> OD, heh heh). Anyway, that was at 9:30 a.m. The setup was only abt 1/2 mile from my house, which was convenient because I had to walk the dogs every six hours or so.

SO ANYway, two masts went up. One held the G5RV, and the other held a 66' "director." It didn't NOT work, but I can't promise it really helped that much :)

The "station?" The tailgate of Chris' Suburban.

We made it on air at 1630z, about 30 mins late. We must have done a good job on the antenna because we could actually hold frequencies for periods of time... well, not as well as WQ0RP could, but it was fun.

Running the "full pint" on Chris' IC-735 (and with a few small gel cells that seemingly wouldn't die, even though the 735 draws 4 amps on xmit, and we were calling CQ a lot) we tallied a prelim total of 68 Qs and 34 multipliers.

20 was fair, 40 was pretty good, and 80 completely stunk. Actually, I should clarify that 40 was good UNTIL the NA QSO Party started, and we became invi-sible amongst the 300-foot trees, being small shrubs.

Around 9 o'clock, we were pretty cold, and Qs were hard to come by, and Danny had to leave, so we decided to break everything down and pack up a few hours early. The whole clean-up took about 60 minutes, including making sure we didn't leave anything out in the field.

We'd had probably a half-dozen non-hams stop by.

Special Thanks:

To Danny, K3TKS, who brought two pizzas from Domino's. Hailing from NYC, I personally don't much like Domino's BUT it sure as heck tasted good.

To Toby, KB3BWR, experiencing his first outdoor operation, who brought a big bag of "Swiss Mix," containing nuts, peanut butter chips, raisins, and M&Ms...that didn't last long.

To Skip, KB3BXV, and family. He showed up three times, the last of which was at 11:00 when we'd already packed up, and I was at home warming up... the hot cocoa still served its purpose.

To Pat, N3MIT, who graced us with his presence for several hours even though he was really feeling sick.

To Scott, N3BYY, who hung out for at least four hrs. with his guide dog sitting patiently in the truck.

To Jon, KD3FG, whose beard has grown of late and who couldn't bring his homebrewed shorty 20m 3 element backpack beam because his company had a crisis and he had to put in something like 40 hours this weekend, and somehow managed to swing by for a few minutes anyway.

To Nico, KF4UNA, who wacthed and wondered, "why?"

To Mike, N3UEZ, for giving us a scare because we didn't expect anyone else to be coming by :)

To EVERYONE we worked, FYBO or not, including those folks who said "TEMP? KN" when we asked them for the full exchange...guess they weren't sure what "TEMP" meant...and to hear a call, and we all suddenly shout out "Hey, it's" and fill it in with Ade, or Doc, or Ernie, or Brian, or Mike, or Rich, etc...

To all the spouses/SOs of everyone who participated, and didn't really have to ask why people would be going out and doing Field Day in the middle of winter, and putting themselves at a "disadvantage" by running just 5000 mW or less.

...and, most importantly, to the Burtonsville Elks Lodge members, who permitted us (with insurance certification in hand) to use their several-acre back lot just up the street from my home. There were NO other good options available, and we appreciate it greatly.

What did we learn?

After 10 hours, 36 degrees becomes pretty cold. Layers of clothing help a little.

Thinsulate gloves are STILL pretty thick. You CAN send CW with gloves on, albeit not very well.

It's hard to write legibly with gloves on. Less than 5 watts works, period.

ZUT! Pass on the Pork Rinds (Lite)!

* Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19mc QRV 80-10/6/2/440 *

February 1998						
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

March 1998						
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				

April 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			

Upcoming Activities and Events

February

21	Sat	9:00am	VE Test Session	384 Main Street
25	Wed	7:30pm	LARC Monthly Meeting	384 Main Street

March

4	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+
10	Tue	7:30	Commex (w/ Laurel Leader, Women's Club)	Laurel Hospital
11	Wed	7:00pm	LARC Social Meeting	Tubby's Restaurant
11	Wed	8:00pm	FAR Meeting	Alexandria, VA
18	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+
21	Sat	9:00am	VE Test Session	384 Main Street
25	Wed	7:30pm	LARC Monthly Meeting	384 Main Street

Some Upcoming Hamfests and Conferences

March 15	Keystone VHF - York, PA (note corrected date)
March 15	Two Rivers ARC - Monroeville, PA
March 28-29	Baltimore ARC - Timonium, MD
April 4	Appalachian ARG - Fredericksburg, PA
April	Delaware Valley RA - Trenton, NJ
April 25	Columbia-Montour ARC - Bloomsburg, PA
April 26	Penn-Del ARC - New Castle, DE *** note date change ***
May 2	Anne Arundel & Kent Island ARCs - Grasonville, MD
May 3	Warminster ARC - Wrightstown, PA
May 3	Antietam Radio Assn - Hagerstown, MD
May 24	Maryland FM Assn

1998 Dues

If your mailing label does not say 1998 and/or has a red star/highlight then we don't show you as paid for 1998. Please send in your 1998 dues so you continue receiving The Feedback and other member benefits:

Regular Member	\$ 15.00
Each Additional Family Member	\$ 7.50
Blind	\$ 10.00
Under 21 (oldest ham in house)	\$ 10.00
WB3GXW Autopatch (2m/70cm)	\$ 17.00

Please make check payable to LARC and mail to:
 Laurel Amateur Radio Club
 C/o Patty Menard (N3OYN)
 905 Montrose Avenue
 Laurel, MD 20707-3835

We hope you will continue your membership with the Laurel Amateur Radio Club. Your membership dues allow us to do VE testing, provide training classes, publish The Feedback, support many community events, provide emergency communication services, and many other worthwhile activities. Thank you for your support!