



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 98 Issue 03

March 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, March 25, 7:30pm
384 Main Street
Laurel, Maryland

Presentation: Antique Radios and Audio by Scott/KB3BWS



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:	Patty Menard	N3OYN	301-725-1641	
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	creewb3gxw@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:	Scott Rosenfeld	NF3I	301-549-1022	ham@w3eax.umd.edu
	Mark Doore	N3NTQ	301-572-2385	mdoore@webtrek.com
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
Official Emergency Station:	Mike Moseley	WB3HUP	301-317-8546	wb3hup@aol.com
Official Bulletin Station:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	creewb3gxw@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	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
MD/DC Asst Section Manager:	Jerry Gavin	NU3D	410-761-1423	k2ilq@aol.com
Affiliated Club Coordinator:	Tony Young	WA3YLO	301-262-1917	tony@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

Because it's tax time, I have been clearing away the pile on my desk and trying to file things as best I can. Much of the paperwork involves the LARC, and several lost and found Feedbacks were in there. The reason I'm so slow at filing is that I have a tendency to read (or re-read) the things I come across. Well, I determined that Mark/N3NTQ is producing a great newsletter, particularly noticeable when compared with other clubs and volunteer organizations. The amount of original reportage from members, the technical articles, is impressive; and most improved since my time as editor, the photographs. As I mentioned last month, a color photo, clearly digital in origin, appeared on our doorstep with nowhere to call home. Well, I attended the March 10 Commex at the Laurel Hospital, and there witnessed Roger/W3LM operating a digital camera, and of course, he's the culprit. All contributions to the Feedback are appreciated. If you have something that would be of interest to others, don't be shy about sending it to Mark for publication. Now to get back on track, we appear to have a complete, (or nearly so), archive of Feedbacks, so if there's something you want from the past speak up. Also, it would be wonderful if someone could endeavor to index these documents. I know it's a lot of researching to do, but here's what I envision: A high school student seeking a computer course term project could index the material and then place this on the LARC web page. The text could possibly be scanned and submitted for old articles that are still current. Or, a student seeking public service credits could do it, (and perhaps skip the scanning, web page, etc.). Think about it kids. I should have all the back issues in order by April 15, (dv).

At our upcoming March meeting, the program will be antique and historic audio and radio. Scott/WB3BWS (a fairly new ham), has agreed to show some of his collection including a 1914 gramophone, a 1947 Motorola TV, a radio receiver from each decade beginning with 1920, and a selection of antique telephones. As interesting as the items themselves, are the stories of how he acquired and repaired them. Oh, he'll probably be transporting all these things in his 1955 Pontiac, as that is his daily driver for the time being.

I mentioned the Commex of March 10, and I expect there is coverage of it elsewhere in the Feedback. It went very well, although there is still some intermod finding its way in. Officials of the Woman's Club of Laurel, the Prince George's Emergency Operations center, and the hospital were there. Jim/WI3N carried the meeting and explained very well the events to the non-ham attendees.

I think that this is your last Feedback if your 1998 dues aren't paid. Check your label, don't be left out.

73, bcnu at the meeting, N3GXA

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 will 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!**

Minutes of LARC Meeting – 25 February 1998

- Meeting called to order at 7:37pm by President John/N3GXA, 35-40 in attendance
- Peggy (now KB3CEH) passed her Tech exam, Scott/N3BYY passed the 5wpm
- January meeting minutes were approved as published
- Treasurer Patty/N3OYN reported finances about same as last month with \$1100 in the bank, insurance has arrived and is due in April, same price as last year
- Feedback Editor Mark/N3NTQ reported that the Feedback labels indicate 1997/1998 depending on if paid yet
- T-MARC Rep Kevin/W3DAD reported on various frequency issues
- FAR Rep Dan/KA8YPY reported that next month is the annual election of FAR officers, FarFest will be moved Bowie in 1999 (3rd weekend of September), and clubs encouraged to volunteer to help with FarFest this Sept
- VE/VEC – Pud/W3YD reported on an unreportable item.

Old Business

- Commex - Pud/W3YD reported that about 10 people attended on 2nd Tues In February, on March 10 Kay Graham and members of the Woman's Club will be in attendance and the Laurel Leader is also expected
- Club has received a letter from the City of Laurel Letter offering to advertise any of special events in a monthly brochure they intend to publish. We we forward our list of activities for the entire year and let them decide what is appropriate to be listed
- Scott/NF3I reported that the LARC website is out of date, Mark/N3NTQ will work on this!
- John/N3GXA has extra copies of old Feedbacks for anyone that is interested.
- Club Call sign – Roger/W3LM suggested that a small committee come up with some recommendations for next month's meeting. Roger/W3LM (defending his call sign) , Pud/W3YD, and Scott/NF3I will come up with a short list for next month's meeting. It was noted that Jim/WI3N is the trustee of the club's KB3BLK callsign.

New Business

- Montpelier Festival – Roger/W3LM reported that this will be the first Sunday in May. There was some frustration last year over the duplication of effort between LARC and Park & Planning, and some P&P people indicating that they did not us. Dianne Sills called Roger last week and he suggested that back out this year. Dianne said she would call P&P and that she feels LARC is very instrumental in getting the vendors in place in the morning. There is some interest in putting up the LARC tent at the Festival even if we don't provide communications support. If we don't provide communications for the Festival we (i.e. Jim/WI3N) will not help with setup on the Thursday night either.
- Banquet – Patty/N3OYN volunteered to be the coordinator/chairperson this year. Some suggestions for the location were the Timbaktu, Burn Brae, a fire hall, and the Great Room @ Savage Mill w/ Ma' Kettle doing the catering. The banquet will be the first weekend in December.
- Science Fair @ Eisenhower Middle School – Dick/N3MJA reported that he and four other LARC members (one on standby) we judges at the science fair. They did admirable job on very short notice – there were 207 exhibits and the judging took two hours. LARC judges were Dick/N3MJA, Pud/W3YD, Mike/WB3HUP, John/N3GXA, and Jim/WI3N. All reported to have had a good time and felt it was a great opportunity.
- OASIS – Mark/N3NTQ reported that he is not longer doing the program but may start up again in the Fall.
- Scott/NF3I recognized that he is now co-chair of Youth. His thanks to Dan/KA8YPY for help with antenna at U. of MD (usually a two person job), working on th 45' tower on top of a 5 story building. Scott had pictures of the event and the infamous connector. 15 meters opened up last week to Europe and Hawaii. Dayton Hamvention is only 2 ½ months away and he is forming car pools. Last call for the Tentec group purchase. Also reported on the ARRL Coaches program and suggested that LARC might get involved in this. Homebrewing was almost lost at WARC-97.
- General Class – Pud/W3YD reported about 10 folks attending and Scott/NF3I is doing morse code after the class. March 23 will be the last class and be the VE test session.
- John/N3GXA suggested establishing a meetings/programs committee and also have some members be greeters for visitors to the meetings.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm

The March COMEX

-by N3GXA

As you undoubtedly know from recent editions, the LARC Emergency Operations Group has been operating from their emergency station at Laurel Regional Hospital. The station was put together with support from the Woman's Club of Laurel, and the Prince George's County ARES. This is the first ARES RACES station to be installed in a county hospital.

The monthly Communication Exercise (COMEX) is on the second Tuesday of each month, and in February, a substantial LARC contingent was successful in putting the station on the air and practicing National Traffic System message handling. (See last month's Feedback for details). Everything went so well, that they decided to invite the press and interested guests for the March 10 COMEX, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hospital's basement conference room.

There were about 21 in attendance including the Woman's Club board of directors, P.G. Emergency Preparedness Officer Kay Graham, a photographer from the Laurel Leader Newspaper, and various members of LARC. Also from the County contingent were ARES Emergency Coordinator Vicki Gigante KA3PVS, and John Klim N3KHK. Jim/WI3N summarized the basics of the station for our guests, and generally explained things as we went along, while Pud/W3YD handled the radio work. He sent a message from Mike/WB3HUP to Kay via N4OSD, and worked on simplex frequencies for future use. 147.54 Mhz appears to be an acceptable 2 meter simplex frequency, and a 440 Mhz channel was tested, but needs work.

There was still some ugly intermod cutting into things despite the new notch filter in use. However, it was not able to overcome the repeater, only weak signals. Those guests not used to radio signals had some difficulty in hearing through the hash at times, but W3YD was able to send and receive all he needed, except for the 440 effort. Dick/N3MJA provided public information pamphlets for our guests, and they were all made to feel as welcome as possible. Roger/W3LM served as digital photographer, (you'll see).



Dick/N3MJA, Pud/W3YD and Jim/WI3N at the LARC radio station in the Laurel Regional Hospital. Participating in the RACES ComEx on 10 Mar 98. (Photo by: Roger/W3LM)

TECHNICAL TOPICS

Kevin Arber, W3DAD

HF Beacons

When we consider the possibility of establishing an HF link, thoughts often turn to sunspot numbers, 10.7 cm flux and the A and K index. Experienced hams may be able to determine the chances of having a QSO with a fellow ham in another location using only this information. Others may use it as input to a propagation prediction program. Still others may consult the propagation charts published in QST. There is another way.

Real time conditions can be determined by listening to the worldwide HF beacon network established by the Northern California DX Foundation in cooperation with the IARU. Local radio organizations or universities operate the NCDXF beacon network. Detecting a beacon is a good indicator that propagation exists between you and the area of the beacon station. The beacons are active on all bands between 20 and 10 meters.

The NCDXF beacons are timed to transmit for ten second intervals and repeat every three minutes. They consist of the station callsign followed by four one-second dashes, each decreasing in power by 10 dB. Maximum power is 100 watts; vertical antennas are used. Because the power steps are exact, the signal can be used for receiver calibration purposes.

You will find NCDXF beacons on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 MHz. The country of origin can be determined from the callsign. Calls are sent at 22 wpm, and are 4U1UN, VE8AT, W6WX, KH6WO, ZL6B, VK6RBP, JA2IGY, 4S7B, ZS6DN, 5Z4B, 4X6TU, OH2B, CS3B, LU4AA, OA4B and YV5B. Beacon stations are also planned for Russia (UA) and China (BY). Current beacon status is posted on the Internet by NCDXF (<http://www.ncdxf.org/>) along with links to some handy software to display the active stations.

Modern commercial and government HF communications systems use the beacon technique to maintain critical HF communications without having to employ trained and experienced radio operators. The technique is called Automatic Link Establishment. ALE radios are programmed with up to 100 frequencies and automatically scan for incoming ALE calls. Received calls are evaluated for quality and the information is stored. This information is then used to select a frequency to use in sending messages. In fact, the link may even QSY during the transmission of a message. Amateur radios could be designed to make use of the NCDXF beacons in much the same way. Accumulating and processing S-meter values could point to band openings.

In addition to the NCDXF beacons, other beacons are scattered throughout the HF spectrum. Amateurs operate many of these, however, commercial beacons or stations operating 24 hours/day can also be useful. A complete listing is given in the Amateur Radio Almanac published by CQ magazine. Locally we have a beacon, W3VD, sponsored by the APL ARC, operating on 28.295 MHz. W3VD is useful for checking 10-Meter antennas for front to side and back ratios.

Next time you're wondering if a HF band is open, listen for a beacon. In three minutes you can determine not only if the band is open, but also to what part of the world.

Due to space limitations the **The FAR Report** has not been included in this issue.
Hard copies should be available at the March meeting,
or you can request a copy via email to larc@webtrek.com.

AMSAT Spring Meeting – April 19

Chip Weems (W4PBG) announced that the AMSAT Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19, at 1:00 PM at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Visitor's Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Talk-in will be on the WA3NAN repeater (146.835-).

ARES Institute – June 13

The next ARES Institute training session will be held on **June 13, 1998** at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Falls Church, VA. The cost is \$10 and includes a catered lunch on-site. For reservations, contact Lenny Schachter (N3RPQ) at +1 202 291 2189. Make checks payable to: "NCAC" and mail them to Lenny Schacter at: 1811 Quincy St. NW, Washington, DC 20011.

1998 Air Force Anniversary QSO Party

In response to an enormous number of requests following the Air Force 50th Anniversary QSO Party in September 1997, the AF Anniversary QSO Party is now an annual event!

It will be held on the third weekend of September, 1998 from 0001UTC on Sept 19th until 2359UTC on Sept 20th. Full rules are at The Razorback Radio Club web site:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k5xs>

Radio Shack HTX-404 On Sale

This 440Mnz handheld is being discontinued and is sale for \$129.95 through March 28.

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.



**Toby/KB3BWR operating the LARC station in the ARRL DX Contest.
(Photo by: Roger/W3LM)**

FOR SALE

Ten-Tec Scout 555, 50w SSB/CW rig. Excellent shape with hand mic, noise blanker, 80-40-30-20-17-15-10 meter modules. With linear (heavy-duty) TT 937 power supply. \$625 for all, incl. manual.

Ten-Tec Century 21, Analog, excellent condition. Works great, CW only, 10-15-20-40-80 meters, 0-70w input power (gives between 25 and 40w output, max). Built-in power supply. With manual. \$185.

I'm also toying selling my **Corsair II w/263G** remote VFO, if anyone's interested. However, I don't know of a price to ask on it yet.

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD
<http://w3eax.umd.edu/~ham>
 301-549-1022 h 301-982-1015 w



April Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|--------|----------------|
| 2 | N3MJA | Dick Downes |
| 3 | KB3YR | Dick Chabot |
| 7 | K3IOG | Howard Lehnert |
| 9 | W3FUO | Hugh O'Donnell |
| 11 | N3LDY | Irv McWherter |
| 12 | N3NTQ | Mark Doore |
| 13 | W3HCK | Dave Henkin |
| 25 | W3VY | Mary Ellen May |
| 26 | WA4AVU | Don Downs |
| 27 | WB4APR | Bob Bruninga |
| 27 | N3GJF | Lorn Hinish |

first year: 1927, last year: 1961

If I missed you please email me at larc@webtrek.com, call me at 301-572-2385, or give me a holler on 147.225+.
 Mark/N3NTQ

From the E-Mail Bag...

Subject: Answers to Questions

From: "Kevin Arber" <karber@smart.net>

At the LARC meeting last night, I was asked several questions for which I did not have detailed answers. Hope this helps. 73, Kevin, W3DAD

What mode is RS-12 in and where can I get keps?

RS-12 is in mode KA which allows both 21 and 145 MHz uplinks - downlink is on 29.410 - 29.450. Keps are available from <http://www.amsat.org>. This satellite can be worked with simple antennas and low power when it passes close or over the Baltimore area. Below info from AMSAT news.

RS-12
(Uplink 145.91-145.95 MHz CW/SSB, Downlink 29.41-29.45 MHz)

Operational, mode KA. The 15m ROBOT is operational.

Pedro, KP4SQ has been active on RS12, QSL to KD8IW.

[ANS thanks Rusty Hack, NMLK, for this news]

Frank Edwards, VE3ER, reports he will be operating from Caye Caulker, Belize, for almost two weeks in March using the call V31FE. Starting on March 3, and continuing through March 16, 1998, Frank will be available on RS-12 using both CW and SSB modes. RS-12 is currently in mode KA, with a 21 MHz or 145 MHz uplink, and a 29 MHz downlink. Look for V31FE's downlink near 29.415 MHz on SSB and 29.440 MHz on CW.

What frequencies can be used for a temporary repeater?

Thank's to T-MARC's April 97 Autocall column for the following answer:

This month I'll discuss the "Shared, Non-Protected" (SNP) frequency pairs which have been established on the 144, 222 and 440 MHz bands (formerly known as the "Repeater Builder's Channels"). These repeater frequencies are intended primarily for the operation of temporary, portable or emergency repeaters, secondarily for repeater experiments, and finally for permanent repeater operations, on a shared basis.

Several groups have built "portable" repeaters which they use for short-term temporary operations such as at public events, on the scene of an emergency situation, or at hamfests. Other groups have established "permanent" operations on one of the SNP pairs, perhaps while waiting for a regular repeater pair to become available.

These frequencies are highly recommended for experimental "remote-base" operation, and for the operation of dual-band mobile rigs which have built-in repeat capability. PLEASE don't just plop down on what appears to be a "vacant" frequency for your cross-band operations! Many problems have been created by operators unknowingly setting up shop on some other repeater's input, or on a link frequency. Use the SNP's!

In all cases, all sponsors and users must realize that since these are shared frequencies, some form of coded access is probably needed in order to keep interference and nuisance problems to a minimum. CTCSS access is a simple way of keeping order. For operations which are more-or-less permanent, T-MARC has available a limited form of frequency coordination which is available to those sponsors. Check out the procedures on our Web Page.

The frequency pairs which have been established for SNP operation are:
144.57-in/145.17-out; 222.20-in/223.80-out; 442.875-in/447.875-out; and 447.900-in/442.900-out. As of this writing, we are aware of 2 stations operating on the 2 M. pair, but not certain of anything on the other bands.

Recent coordinations include a UHF link for a remote receiver on one of the Delaware 2 M. repeaters. We note the new club callsign, KV3B, on the Montgomery ARC's 146.955 Rockville machine. And we're still looking for E-mail addresses for any repeater sponsors who have them. The new, up-dated ARRL Repeater Directory should be available soon. Look for it!

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO

What frequencies do wind profiler radars use?

Wind profiler radars use 404 MHz to project a signal almost straight up to detect wind shear. Except for one located in New England, all profilers I am aware of, are located in the mid-west. About 1992 an authorization was obtained to use 449 MHz for wind profilers on a shared basis with amateur radio (actually the 70 cm band has always been shared on a secondary basis with government radiolocation radar). The NOAA planned to begin changing the operating frequency by September 30, 1993, however, I do not know how many have actually changed, if any. NOAA had planned to construct up to 200 new wind profilers; the status of that project is also unknown to me. For further information see March an

Subject: looking for help/ideas for a program in May

From: Scott Howell <whowell@hq.nasa.gov>

Ok, folks here is the deal and those interested please contact me as soon as you can at the following numbers etc.. Work from 7:30 to 5:00, but try before 4:40 if you can. (202) 358-1558 after 6:30 pm at (301) 483-0107, E-mail at whowell@hq.nasa.gov, or you can find me after 21:00 usually listening to the 147.135 machine.

Prince George's County has a camp every year for the students in the County visual disability program. The dates are May 19, 20, and 21. I am looking for either ideas or buddies to help put together a program introducing Amateur Radio. The ages range from about 5 or 6 through 17. Not all age groups have to be included in the activity, but would be nice. Also, for those kids that are really interested, I thought if a couple of folks wanted to stay the night, we could put a station on the air and allow them to make a couple of contacts. As far as content, I am not exactly certain which would be best for presenting, but I am sure someone can help me fill in the blanks.

I am thinking that a short demo of CW and possibly an explanation of the other various modes and how they are used might be good and of course a little on the history. Also allow some hands-on inspection of gear etc. I am sure an hour or two could be very easily filled. I am going to take a guess that each group would probably consist of no more than 10 to 15 kids at a time.

So again any help would be much appreciated. This is kinda cutting it close, but would like to shoot for this year and if not there is always next. tnx to all.

Subject: Re: looking for help/ideas for a program in May

From: n3mih@juno.com

Is there a way of enabling the visually disabled to use the w5yi test simulation software? If a person wants to be a ham and already knows a little about radio, that software is a great training aid and confidence builder.

How do totally blind people take the test? I would think that taking a sight-oriented test would be much more difficult than using a sound-oriented radio.

I am looking for a cheap laptop computer to bring the w5yi test software to the Mid Atlantic DOGS search and rescue group. They already have a lot of handheld simplex experience on 155.16, so they wouldn't be starting from scratch. A minimal DOS laptop should do. A \$400 used 486 seems a bit much, especially if I end up giving it away.

Dick Sanford <n3mih@juno.com>

Subject: HF for under \$500.00 ???

From: XRLA31A@prodigy.com (FRANK T SCOTT)

*****I ran across this message on one of the News Groups. Forwarded

FYI. 73 Murray, K3BEQ

>Subject: Re: New ADI HF Radio! ADI Equipment good ?

>sammy wrote:

> >

ke6qmj@hotmail.com wrote:

Amazing News!

A friend of mine called the fine folks at ADI-Premier Communications today to ask some questions about their products. The tech on the phone told him about some of what they have coming out. He was excited to learn, and I was too, that they have a new radio about to hit the streets -- a low cost HF rig!

I was told that the radio would have all 9 HF bands, general coverage receive, and be very easy to use. The folks at ADI also said that the radio would be very simple, and would not have many of the more advanced features of other radios. The price? UNDER \$500!

I can't wait to see the new radio! With the sunspots coming back, and ADI's new low cost HR radio coming out, maybe some guys like me will finally be able to afford to get on HF!

I've never used any ADI equipment, are their radios any good?

I guess the real question is, Can an HF Radio for under \$500 be any good?

(I know we'll have to wait and see; assuming that the rumor is true.

Subject: New 440 repeater
From: bbradt@juno.com (Robert G Bradt)

Everyone -
Glenn, WN3G, informed me of a new repeater located in Centerville on frequency 448.225 output/443.225 input, with a pl of 114.8. The repeater is actually located 2 miles south of Centerville, and 4 miles north of Queenstown, on the eastern shore. The antenna is at 350 feet, on the top of the tower, with no shadowing. It has superb coverage. Callsign for the repeater is N3KCA/R and the trustees name is Rick. He would be happy to have signal reports so he can determine the footprint. I heard stations in Dover, DE; Millford, DE, and me just north of Crofton with excellent signal hearability from the repeater.

Give it a try!

73 - Bob/W3BOB

Greater Baltimore Hamboree and ComputerFest

Host to the ARRL Maryland State Convention

March 28-29, 1998

Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland

Voice Information at 410-HAM-FEST (410-426-3378) or 800-426-3378 (800-HAM-FEST)
Two BIG buildings! of Commercial Retail Space. Over 500 tables in the Electronic Flea Market Space
204 Premium Indoor Tailgate, Five Acres, over 600 spaces!!! of Outdoor Tailgating

Getting there: Take I-695 to I-83 North. Take I-83 to Padonia Rd East. Take the first Right for Deereco Rd and the park and ride lot, or go east to York Rd, turn right, and go to the York Road gate.

Best bets for parking: The Park and Ride lot off Deereco Rd, to the west of the fairgrounds.

Also, the Timonium Rd gate has some parking available.

But the best bet is to use the Light Rail to get to the fairgrounds.

Subject: Convention Programs

From: atdnews@bfdin.com

=====[Distributed Message]=====
ListServer: atdnews (Atlantic Division Lists)
Type: Moderated by Sysop (Bill Edgar)
Distributed on: 02-MAR-98, 13:12:58
Original Written by: IN:wt3p@email.msn.com.
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UPCOMING CONVENTION PROGRAMS

Programs have been announced for the Delaware and Maryland State ARRL Conventions. The Maryland convention, held in conjunction with the Baltimore ARC's hamfest at Timonium, MD (March 28-29), will feature a full slate of forums on Saturday, March 28. Topics will include QRP, antique radios, public service communications, an FCC forum presented by an FCC official, ARRL forum, and DXCC/VUCC forum. The DXCC/VUCC forum will be conducted by Bill Moore NC1L, from the DXCC Desk at ARRL HQ. Bill will also be available during the hamfest to check QSL cards for ARRL awards.

Headlining the forums at the Delaware State Convention, held in conjunction with the Penn-DelARC's hamfest in New Castle on April 26, will be Ed Hare W1RFI. Ed is the ARRL's point man on RFI and the FCC's new RF exposure guidelines. Ed's book on RF exposure has just been published by the League. If you have questions about the new RF exposure guidelines, you will want to attend Ed's forum ... he can answer questions in Plain English or Engineer-Speak, as you prefer.

Also at the Delaware convention, the ARRL forum will be combined with a club leaders' forum at 10 AM. Delaware club presidents ... please stand by for further information to be sent to you by U.S. mail.

Interesting programs are also planned for the Atlantic Division / New York State Convention at Rochester, NY, and at the Western New York Section Convention in Hamburg, NY. Stand by for more information as these dates draw closer.

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 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		

May 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						

Upcoming Club Activities

March

23	Mon	7:00pm	Last General Class, VE Test Session	384 Main Street
25	Wed	7:30pm	LARC Monthly Meeting	384 Main Street
26	Thu	9:00pm	PG County ARES Net	145.350-

April

1	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+
8	Wed	7:00pm	LARC Social Meeting	Tubby's Restaurant
8	Wed	8:00pm	FAR Meeting	Alexandria, VA
14	Tue	7:30	Commex	Laurel Hospital
15	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+
18	Sat	9:00am	VE Test Session	384 Main Street
22	Wed	7:30pm	LARC Monthly Meeting	384 Main Street
23	Thu	9:00pm	PG County ARES Net	145.350-
29	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+

May

3	Sun	8am-5pm	Montpelier Festival (tentative)	Montpelier Mansion
9	Sat	6am-5pm	Main Street Festival	384 Main Street

June

6	Sat	7am-10am	Laurel 5K Run/Walk	Pallotti High School
27-28	Sat-Sun		Field Day	WSSC/Panther Field

July

4	Sat	8am-10pm	Laurel 4 th July Parade, Festival, Fireworks	Lake & 4 th /Montgomery
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Hamfests and Other Events

- March 28-29** Baltimore ARC Hamfest - Timonium, MD, <http://www.concentric.net/~gbhc>
- April 4 Appalachian ARG Hamfest- Fredericksburg, PA, 717-566-2606
- April 5 Delaware Valley RA Hamfest- Trenton, NJ, 609-882-2240
- April 19** **AMSAT Spring Meeting** - 1:00 PM at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Visitor's Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Talk-in will be on the WA3NAN repeater (146.835-). <http://www.amsat.org>
- April 25 Columbia-Montour ARC Hamfest - Bloomsburg, PA
- April 26 Penn-Del ARC Hamfest- New Castle, DE , 302-793-1080, <http://www.magpage.com/pennndel>
- May 2** **Anne Arundel & Kent Island ARCs Hamfest - Grasonville, MD, 410-643-1125**
- May 3 Warminster ARC Hamfest - Wrightstown, PA., 215-674-5218
- May 3** **Antietam Radio Assn Hamfest - Hagerstown, MD, 304-728-7769**
- May 15-17** **Dayton HamVention, Dayton, OH, 937-276-6930 or 937-427-3109, <http://www.hamvention.org/>**
- May 24** **Maryland FM Assn Hamfest, 301-384-6513 or Voice/Fax: 301-879-2785**
- June 13** **ARES Institutue** - at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Falls Church, VA. The cost is \$10 and includes a catered lunch on-site. For reservations, contact Lenny Schachter (N3RPQ) at 202 291 2189. Checks payable to: "NCAC" and sent to Lenny Schacter at: 1811 Quincy St. NW, Washington, DC

