



# THE FEEDBACK

Volume 98 Issue 04

April 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](mailto:larc@webtrek.com)

### Meetings and Nets:

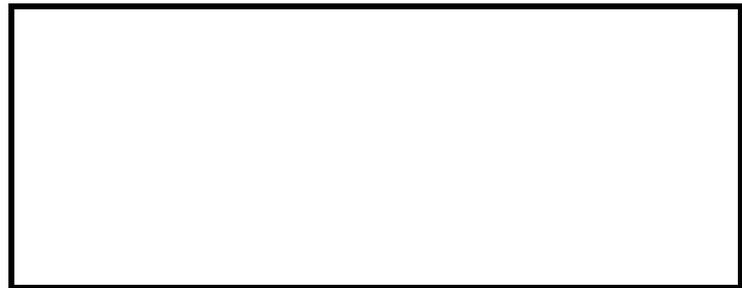
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays:  
On-the-air Net at 8:30pm on 147.225+ PL156.7 (no tone required during nets)
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday:  
Informal/Social Gathering at 7:00pm – Tubby's Restaurant; Rt. 198, 1 mile West of I-95
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:  
Monthly Meeting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

c/o Mark Doore (N3NTQ)  
2929 Gracefield Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-1668



## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30pm  
384 Main Street  
Laurel, Maryland

Topics: Montpelier & Main Street



Day, ...

**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
MD/DC Emergency Coord:	Mike Carr	WA1QAA		
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](mailto: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

I always like to talk about the last meeting to begin, so let me point out that if someone was to have missed last month, they are regretting it now. OK, it's not all that clear cut, but I want to thank Scott/KB3BWS for his demonstration of antique radio and audio equipment at the March meeting. As I think I said at the time, I'm sure there are museums where you can see a c.1914 phonograph, but it's not often that you can be recorded onto a real wax cylinder using such a machine. (I tried to sing a few bars, but I just don't have the booming voice needed to make a really good wax cylinder recording.)

Tony Young, WA3YLO, of the FAR presented an award to John/WB3GXW (who was not there to receive the certificate) as the Ham of the Month. This is an honor that John is very deserving of considering all he has done and is doing. Tony implied that there are other hams in the Laurel Club who are also good candidates for this award.

The funeral home viewing for Mike, WB3HUP/SK was the day after the meeting, 26 March, and the LARC was well represented. In fact, I noticed something interesting in the visitor's log book; beside the fact that most of the hams signed with their call sign. I don't know exactly who was responsible for the information, but under "Organizations" the only listing was for the Laurel Amateur Radio Club. The only other group I know he belonged to was the VFW, (possibly expired) and I guess there are more, but LARC was the one and only listed. (Military service in Vietnam was a separate listing.) Mike was born on 25 December 1949 in Washington D.C., and died on 24 March 1998 at Adventist Hospital, aged 48 years.

The Laurel Leader didn't print much about the Laurel Regional Hospital emergency station, but they did print a very good photo of Pud/W3YD operating. Dick/N3MJA had provided public information flyers, which was good thinking, and if there can be a little review of those things before the meeting, I can update the graphics in time for Montpelier and Main Street. I can also provide our new seal to AutoCall magazine. Perhaps someone can remind me and point me in the right direction.

At the April meeting there are a few items to talk over;

- The Montpelier Festival; how much we will do, and how.
- The Main Street Festival: Howard/K3IOG, and Pud/W3YD have been attending the planning meetings. We'll need to determine setup and availability of equipment.
- Field Day is in June, but it would be good to start thinking. I would like to get some volunteers to be on a FD committee. They can decide who is in charge later.
- We should try to determine what can be done with our various pieces of equipment now that WB3HUP isn't around to shepherd it.

Hope I haven't left too much out.

**- 73 de N3GXA**

**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.

## Minutes of LARC Meeting – 25 March 1998

- Meeting called to order at 7:40pm by President John/N3GXA, about 35 in attendance with several new people and visitors
- John/N3GX reported on the death of club member Mike Moseley (WB3HUP) early Tuesday morning, servies to be Thursday in Chaneyville, he was an organ donor, family requested donations to the American Heart Association in lieu of flowers, club voted to make a donation of \$50
- Tom/N3JOA's wife, Anne, passed away about a week ago. Tom has heart problems of his own and plans to move to smaller quarters soon and Jim/WI3N has offered our help with his relocation. Please contact Jim if you can provide assistance. The club voted to donate \$25 to the St. Phillips Building Fund.
- Minutes of the the February meeting were approved as published.
- Treasurer Patty/N3OYN reported that the club currently has \$1000 and the insurance has been paid.
- Training Coordinator Pud/W3YD reported that the General Class has finished with 10 taking exams. Many passed elements on Saturday as well as Monday. Pud suggested that the club offer a 4-5 week seminar on Advanced/Extra class topics this summer. About a half dozen people showed interest in this.
- Pud/W3YD reported on the recent contest that LARC participated in. About 25k points scored with new ham and club member Toby/KB3BWR making a significant contribution.
- Club voted to be affiliated with the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) for another year.
- Kevin/W3DAD passed around some pictures of antennas and towers of W3LPL, PVRC's premiere station. They submitted 16 million points in the contest.
- Scott/NF3I reminded us of the Navy Transmitter Tour scheduled for April 18, contact John Cummings (N3VCE) at 410-293-6903.
- Club Callsign Committee Chairman Roger/W3LM provided a hardcopy list of suggested vanity callsigns to the attendees. After much discussion, members were asked to vote for their top 3 choices using the lists handed out. The board would use the results of the vote to guide their decision on which callsign(s) to apply for. A club may have more than one callsign, each one currently costs \$50 for the 10-year term. (see results below)
- Roger/W3LM reported that Dianne Sills of the South Laurel Recreation Council would like LARC to work the Montpelier Festival in the morning while the vendors are arriving and getting setup.
- Pud/W3YD reported that the Commex at the hospital this month went very well. Representatives from the Woman's Club (donators of the radio equipment), Kay Graham (PG County EOC, contributor of the antennas), representatives from the hospital and the City of Laurel, Vicki Gigante/N3POG? (PG ARES/RACES) and several club members were in attendance. A photographer from the Laurel Leader took some pictures, one of which was subsequently published. LARC will participate in the COMMEX from the hospital the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except June, July, and August. Members are welcomed and encouraged to participate.
- SK Mike/WB3HUP was an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Prince Georges's County, and also the LARC Emergency Coordinator (as well as an ARRL Official Emergency Station). We will a volunteer or two to take over these positions.
- Meeting temporarily adjourned at 8:37pm for demonstrations by Scott/KB3BWS.
- Meeting reconvened at 9:05pm for the presentation of the FAR Ham of the Month by Tony Young (WA3YLO). The recipient, John Creel (WB3GXW), was not available to accept in person, so John/N3GXA accepted in his place.
- Meeting adjourned for the night at about 9:10pm.

**Respectfully Submitted, Mark/N3NTQ**

### Results of the Club Vanity Callsign Vote

Callsign	Points	Count
W3LRC	45	21
W3SS	38	16
WL3M	33	14
N3VE	17	8
W3ARC	5	3
W3MDC	4	3
N3VM	4	3
K3VEC	4	2
K2YT	2	1
W3YB	2	1
W3AN (N/A)	1	1
W3VEC	1	1
N3YD	0	0

- 29 Ballots were submitted
- 3 callsign selections were to be made on each ballot with an indication of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice
- 3 points were awarded for each 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2 points for each 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, and 1 point for each 3<sup>rd</sup> choice
- if a ballot only had one callsign marked it was awarded 3 points
- if a ballot had more than one callsign marked but did not indicate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices then points were awarded as follows:
  - 2 selections – each awarded 2.5 points ((3+2)/2)
  - 3 selections – each awarded 2 points ((3+2+1)/3)
- the 'Count' column indicates how many times a callsign was selected, regardless of whether 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or unspecified choice

K3AD (N/A)	0	0
K3HM	0	0

## TECHNICAL TOPICS

**Kevin Arber, W3DAD**

### ***AT-11 Automatic Antenna Tuner***

The AT-11 is a fully automatic, 100-watt, microprocessor based HF antenna tuner. The tuner is capable of handling a large impedance range. By using an L-network, in which the capacitor is switched between the input and output, antenna impedances both above and below 50 ohms are accommodated. In all, eight inductors and eight capacitors are switched by relays into series and parallel combinations to provide over 131,000 tuning combinations. Tuning is accomplished in a second or two for most antennas. For antennas exhibiting very high SWRs, tuning may take a bit longer. In some cases, as with any tuner, a match may not be achieved. The tuner is powered by 12 volts and can draw up to 500 mA with all relays energized.

I purchased the AT-11 as a kit and assembled it over a period of three days last November. Assembly is straightforward and is easily within the capability of someone who has some experience soldering components to PC boards. The most difficult part was winding the eight toroid-tuning inductors and the small inductor used for the SWR meter. The SWR meter circuit inductor must be carefully constructed and installed to achieve proper operation of that circuit. However, the instructions are clear and no problems should be encountered if they are followed. My manual had one mistake. It called for measuring the current draw after installing the microprocessor and stated the draw should be 10 mA. I was surprised to find my unit drawing 33 mA. An E-mail to LDG on Thanksgiving Day got a same day reply from Dwayne, WD8OYG, who said that the manual should state 30 to 35 mA. The increase was the result of an oscillator module change. Alignment is a snap and needs only a digital voltmeter and your 100-Watt radio.

Operation is as simple as connecting the AT-11 between the radio and antenna. Two modes are available; AUTO and SEMI. In AUTO mode the tuner senses any mismatch and automatically tunes to find the best match. In SEMI mode the operator must press the TUNE button to activate the tuner. In both cases tuning should be done with low power (<10 watts) applied. Many radios will reduce power into a high SWR, however, some (Ten-Tec) are capable of putting 100 watts into a fairly high SWR. To save the relay contacts from damage, manually reducing the output power is highly recommended. In operating my tuner during contests, I switched antennas and forgot about this. In all cases the tuner quickly tuned the new antenna at full power without any damage. SWR indication is via a set of three front panel LEDs; green for less than 1.5, yellow for 1.5 to 2 and red of over 2. A LED is also used as a tuning indicator; however, the relays make a rasping sound as they go through the combinations, giving an audio indication that tuning is in progress.

As a test I used the AT-11 to tune a 17-meter vertical to other amateur bands. The 17-meter antenna is a mobile whip mounted at six feet on a board fence using two radials. SWR values are those measured at the transmitter end of the coax cable using an Autek Research RF Analyst. The SWR tuned values were those indicated by the AT-11. In all cases the tuning cycle was complete within three seconds. The AT-11 was even capable of matching the extremely high SWR values at 80 and 40 meters. I tried 160 meters but was unable to obtain a match.

#### **Results for a 17 meter antenna**

Frequency MHz	SWR	Z value	SWR Tuned
3.6	>15	29	2 - 3
7.1	>15	39	1.5 - 2
10.11	11.0	200	1.5
14.10	5.6	47	1.5
18.10	2.0	41	1.5
21.10	7.1	153	1.5
28.10	9.7	46	1.5

Since only DC voltages and ground are routed to the front panel, this tuner's front panel can be remoted using a multi-conductor cable. In addition to the controls mentioned above, up/down push button switches are provided on the front panel for those who would like to tweak the automatic match. I found that I rarely could better the

match found automatically; therefore, I did not much use this feature. A power switch is also provided on the front panel.

The rear panel mounts two SO-239s and a power connector. The box measures 2 ¾ h x 8 ½ w x 6 ½ d. The kit can also be purchased without the enclosure.

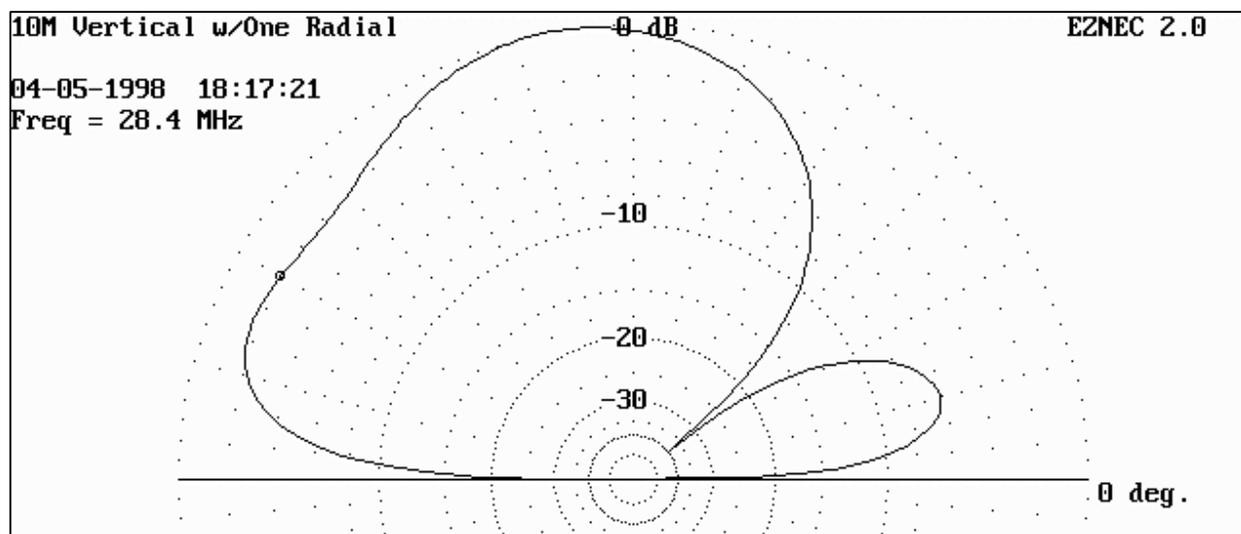
There is no separate tuner bypass switch. Provided that the power is applied, the relays will remain configured as last tuned. If SEMI is selected, and another band or antenna is chosen, the match will be incorrect. If AUTO was selected, the tuner will attempt to obtain a match at the first CW symbol or speech syllable. In cases where a resonant antenna has been chosen, and the operator wishes the tuner out of the circuit, the power may be turned off. With the power off, the inductors are all shorted and the capacitors are opened to ground. This bypasses the tuner except for the SWR indicator circuit.

I found the AT-11 to be a welcome addition to my station. It is much more convenient to use than the roller inductor tuner, is faster, and, in AUTO mode, can follow my excursions up and down the band when using a high-Q antenna. It is available from LDG Electronics, phone 410-586-2177. Check it out at their web site <http://www.radix.net/~ldg>. The AT-11 was reviewed by the ARRL and reported in the January 1996 issue of QST. If you are thinking of building an AT-11 the QST article is worth reading.

## The One-Radial Vertical

Although fairly well known among low band operators, the characteristics of a one-radial vertical are much less familiar to those operating the higher bands. Normally one would think of a vertical's radials positioned in some symmetrical pattern under the antenna. The usual illustration in the literature is four equally spaced wires. However, radial wires can be used in any number, and sometimes using just one is advantageous. A one-radial vertical will exhibit directivity in the direction of the radial wire. Although, the front-to-back ratio may only be 10 dB or less, it is enough to be discernable. In addition, the radial wire itself will radiate, sending most of its energy at high vertical angles. While verticals are mostly known as low angle DX antennas, the one-radial vertical will work well when local coverage is desired.

Hams who have elevated vertical antennas mounted on decks, porches or roofs, and do not have space for numerous radials, can use a one-radial configuration with the radial pointed in the desired direction. This should work well with a 10-meter vertical antenna for DX to Europe or South America. With the radial pointed West from our Baltimore area, the antenna would cover the rest of the U.S. Because of the vertical component of the radiation, it would also serve well as an RS-12 satellite downlink antenna for passes to the West. Members of MEPN using 75 meter verticals, and having trouble with statewide coverage, may want to try running a single elevated (just a few inches will do) radial wire to produce more vertical radiation.



The plot above shows the elevation pattern for a one-radial 10-meter vertical using 8.2-foot elements. The antenna was modeled at six feet above ground using EZNEC. The impedance is  $Z=39-j23$  ohms and will provide a 1.7 SWR to a 50 ohm transmission line at 28.4 MHz. The directivity and high angle radiation are apparent.

## **The F.A.R Report – April 8**

\* FAR President, Chuck Sommer (N4OSD), called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD.

\* The attendees introduced themselves. There were 18 trustees in attendance representing 18 member organizations.

\* Secretary's Report - Al Brown (KZ3AB) distributed copies of the March minutes. They were approved as distributed and posted via e-mail and snail-mail.

\* The Treasurer's Report was given by Charles Johnson (N3HFO) and accepted.

\* Auto-Call - Millie and Ed Mumford (N3KGQ & N3IRO, respectively) reported that 14 subscriptions and 14 single copies to Auto-Call were sold at the Timonium Hamfest. This is down about a third from last year.

\* Survivor's Assistance - No report.

\* Scholarship Committee - Scholarship Chairman Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) reported that, so far, he has received 130 requests for information and 30 applications. He reminded everyone that the cut-off date is the end of May.

\* ARRL Report -- ARRL Vice-President Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) reported on a Bill in Congress to provide spectrum replacement in case any frequencies would be taken away from the Amateur Radio Service in the future. He also reported that arbitration procedures are being worked on in cases involving repeater frequency coordination, etc.

Hugh also made an appeal for volunteers to operate the Smithsonian Station, NN3SI. A half-page ad in Auto-Call on behalf of NN3SI was approved.

\* FARFest -- FARFest 98 Chairman Al Brown (KZ3AB) announced that plans for FARFest 98 were progressing at the usual pace. No documents have been signed, yet, to secure a location for FARFest 99. The next meeting of the FARFest committee will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm. The location will be announced later. If you are interested in participating, please reserve that date on your calendar.

### **\* Old Business \***

\* The Charles County Amateur Radio Club applied to the Foundation. Mike Tackish (KA3GRW), one of the proposed trustees, presented a nice overview of their activities. Both the club and their trustees were confirmed. Congratulations to the Charles County ARC!

\* Nominating Committee Report - Dan Blasberg (KA8YPY) and Lenny Schacter (N3RPQ) presented the slate of candidates for the election. Dan Blasberg (KA8YPY) voluntarily removed his name from consideration as a FAR vice-president. By unanimous consent and a single vote by the secretary, Al Brown (KZ3AB), the slate of officers was approved.

The newly elected officers are:

- President - Chuck Sommer (N4OSD) representing PG Co RACES/ARES
- Executive Vice President - Al Brown (KZ3AB) representing Antietam Radio Association and MEPN
- Vice Presidents - Hugh Katz (KB3TB) representing the Voice of America ARC
  - Tony Young (WA3YLO) representing Anne Arundel Radio Club
  - Mary Morris (N4TCI) representing the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
  - Mike Holland (N3YGU) representing the Federal City REACT Amateur Radio Club
  - Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) representing the FAR Scholarship Committee
  - John Chitwood (K3RGB) representing the FAR Scholarship Committee
- Recording Secretary - Dan Blasberg (KA8YPY) representing the Laurel Amateur Radio Club
- Treasurer - Charles Johnson (N3HFO) representing the Anne Arundel Radio Club

Congratulations to all!

### **\* New Business \***

There was no new business.

### **\* Announcements:**

> The next ARES Institute training session will be held on June 13, 1998 at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Falls Church (Merrifield), VA. The cost is \$10 and includes instructional materials and a catered, on-site lunch. For reservations, contact Lenny Schacter (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.

> 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-).

> Bill Dobson (N3WD) announced that 17,000 people attended the Timonium Hamfest and ARRL Maryland-DC Section Convention. Congratulations to BARC for a fine hamfest!

> Jerry Gavin (NU3D) requested operators to help out with the simultaneous occurrence of the Bay Bridge Walk and the arrival of the tall ship Whitbread into Baltimore Harbor on May 3. If you wish to help, contact N3QXW or KA6TYY.

> The Kent Island Hamfest is scheduled for May 2.

> Page Pyne (WA3EOP) reminded us that the "Great Hagerstown Hamfest" is scheduled for Sunday, May 3 at the Hagerstown Junior College grounds just off I-70 at Hagerstown. Contact Bob Long (KD3JK) for info or directions.

\* A motion to adjourn was entertained and passed at 8:50 pm.

\* The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 8:00 pm at Lee Center in Alexandria, VA. See Auto-Call magazine for directions.

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

### **National Capital ARES Council - ARES Institute**

American Red Cross National Headquarters, 8111 Gatehouse Rd , Falls Church, Va 22042

**June 13, 1998: 8:30-5:00**

\*\*\* fifteen minute breaks after each one hour session, lunch at noon

8:00 - 8:30

Registration--Presidential Conference Center Lobby

8:30 - 9:30

Track A Utilization of ARES/RACES for served Agencies--Frank Mackey K4EC,

ARES/RACES Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator

Track B Incident Reporting, What 911 Wants to Know

Track C National Traffic Service, Basic Message Composition and Handling

9:45 - 10:45

Track A Panel Discussion with Served Agency Representatives

Track B Red Cross Disaster Welfare Inquiry, How it Works

Track C NTS Exercise (following first hour class)

11:00 - 12:00

Track A Disaster Operation Center Tour and Station Demonstration for Served Agency Representatives

Track B Large Event Planning & Preparation, Working with The Corps for the Marathon—

Jeanne N4ZGI, DEC Virginia District 2

Track C Directed Net Procedures, the Basics

1:00 - 2:00

Track A New Emergency Alert System--Fred Vincent, Virginia Department of Emergency Services

Track B Packet 101 (bring your equipment, set up and operate—advanced registration required)—

Bernie Wimmers N4JDF, ASEC Virginia Section

Track C Directed Net Exercise (following previous hour's class)

2:15 - 3:15

Track A Skywarn Hurricane Class (must have already attended Basic SkywarnObserver I)—

Melody Hall, FUTURE HAM, National Weather Service

Track B Packet Exercise (following previous hour's class)

Track C Alternative Power Sources

3:30 - 4:30

Track A Skywarn Hurricane Class, cont.

Track B Incident Command System--Ross Merlin WA2WDT, National Public Health Service

Track C J-Pole Construction Project (requires advanced registration)

4:30 - 5:00

Evaluations--please take a few moments to tell us what you like, don't like or would like to see next time.

**Preregister by sending \$10.00 (check payable to NCAC) to Lenny Schachter N3RPQ at 1811 Quincy St, NW Washington, DC 20011. Please, let Lenny know if you plan to attend courses requiring advanced registration.**

## **UPDATE: LAUREL MAIN STREET FESTIVAL**

Howard/K3IOG and Pud/W3YD have been attending the Laurel Board of Trade meetings concerning the upcoming Main Street Festival. The date is Saturday, May 9; the time is 0600 (for LARC to start, anyway). The parade will officially kick off the festival at 0900, and we will close down at 1700.

As of this date, there are approximately 250 vendors, crafters, food >stands. They expect the number to increase to over 300 by festival time.

At 0600, LARC will start providing comm support to the Main Street >committee: i.e., helping the vendor population get to and from the assigned >spot; help in adjudicating vendor placement; fire and safety support. (You experienced guys remember the time we had to hold the parade because a pig eas on fire....or the time a woman went into labor just at parade time....etc.) And, of course, the Mike Moseley incident last year.

The parade committee chair has finally admitted that LARC knows more about organizing a parade than she does, and has declared this year that LARC is in charge. Jim/WI3N will be directing activity from that location. He has proposed a change in the set-up that should make things smooth as glass -- if the police department accepts it. Last year we used 440 to communicate parade traffic back to net control. If there is enough 440 equipment available, I would guess Jim would like to use that on site....bring your dual-banders.

I will be in Texas during the meeting. Howard will have the most current information....we hope to see you-all on the 9th!

**Pud Reaver, W3YD**

## **SUBMARINES TO TAKE TO THE AIRWAVES**

**From The ARRL Newsletter Online, forwarded by Michele/WK3X.**

Several submarines and other Naval vessels will take to the air the **weekend of April 25 and 26** for Submarine Memorial Radio Reactivation Day, sponsored by the Submarine Veterans Amateur Radio Association. In the wake of a successful event last spring, the shipboard ham radio activity has become an annual event on the last weekend of April. The association hopes to reactivate the radio rooms of as many of the 23 memorial submarines as possible. This year's event has taken on an international scope with the participation of several Italian submarines plus the possible participation of hams from a memorial submarine in Vladivostok, Russia (possibly using RS56M).

Jim Flanders, W0OOG, in Plano, Texas, reports the USS Torsk in Baltimore and the USS Growler in New York City will join this year's roster. Flanders says other "definites" for the event are the USS Requin in Pittsburgh, the USS Drum in Mobile, Alabama, the USS Batfish in Muskogee, Oklahoma, the USS Pompanito in San Francisco, the USS Bluegill in Washington, the USS Croaker in Buffalo, New York, the USS Aluminaut in Norfolk, Virginia, and the USS Grayling memorial in Denver. He's hoping for confirmation from others.

"Last year was the first year we did this, and I manned the Batfish in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and my dad, K4RQQ (SK), manned the Drum in Mobile Bay," Flanders reports. (A memorial service for Murray Flanders, K4RQQ, was held aboard the vessel last November.) Other ships active last year included the USS Pompanito in San Francisco and the USS Requin in Pittsburgh. Norm Drechsel, WA3KEY--who plans to operate from aboard the USS Growler, is helping to coordinate the event. Last year, just four ships were active, but Flanders is hoping to get up to 20 on the air this year. A certificate is available. Flanders says hams can participate in two ways: Work as many of the subs as possible or help to operate from one of the memorial ships.

Operations will run from 1500 to 2200 UTC each day. Anticipated operating frequencies will be 3.943, 7.243, 14.243, 21.343, and 28.343 MHz, plus or minus 10 kHz. Flanders says some ships will not be on the air Sunday for a lack of operators. Also, he reports, some old timers "can't last two full days on a cold boat."

For more information, contact Jim Flanders, W0OOG, tel 972-517-8481; e-mail jaf@sprintmail.com; <http://www.flash.net/~jflandr>.

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PRESS RELEASE  
 3/20/98

Newsline and TAPR Present:

## "The Second Annual Ham Radio Town Meeting of the Air"

The Amateur Radio Newsline (Newsline) and Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Inc. (TAPR) are proud to bring to you the second annual 'Ham Radio Open Town Meeting of the Air,' live to the Internet in "RealAudio."

**Date: Sunday, May 17, 1998**

**Time: 10:00 AM - Noon**

**Place: Dayton Hamvention - Meeting Room \_\_\_\_**

**Netcast: Live - in RealAudio to the Internet courtesy TAPR with "hot-link" from [www.arnewline.org](http://www.arnewline.org).**

### TOPICS:

#### Topic 1: 10:00 - 11:00 AM

#### **Debate: Should the current voluntary bandplans be made mandatory?**

Moderator: Jim Davis, W2JKD - Moderator

Keynoter: Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML

Debaters Yes: Rich Moseson W2VU - Editor of CQ VHF Magazine.

No: Greg Jones WD5IVD - President - Tucson Amateur Packet Radio

#### Overview:

For the past three or four years, many VHF/UHF weak signal SSB/CW users have been complaining about FM operators encroaching into spectrum that, by gentlemen's agreement has, traditionally been reserved for non-FM operations. Similar inter-mode rivalries are also escalating on the high frequency bands.

At its January 1998 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors passed a resolution directing that the League file a request with the FCC for the issuance of a "Declaratory Ruling." Its purpose would be to make adherence to the given 'gentlemen's agreement national bandplan' of any given period in time to be mandatory" by making non-adherence a "bad operating practice." This would make any ham who might violate a bandplan subject to FCC penalty. ARRL 1st Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, will keynote this session with a short address explaining the reason that the Leagues' Board of Directors took this action.

Some hams favor such an approach. Others do not. Debating this issue with moderator Jim Davis W2JKD are Rich Moseson, W2VU, the editor of CQ VHF magazine who supports the ARRL Board of Directors action and Greg Jones, WD5IVD, the president of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio, Inc. who opposes any and all restrictions.

#### Topic 2: 11:00 - 12 Noon

#### **Discussion: No-Code: Life Beyond Repeaters**

Moderator: Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

Keynoter: Dave Bell W6AQ - "An Extra Looks at the Success of No-Code"

Presenters: Adam Weyhaupt N9MEZ - "The Mississippi River Floods"

Dave Booth KC6WFS - "Getting Started in VHF DXing"

Ronald Ross KE6JAB - "A Codefree Satellite DXpedition to the South Pole"

#### Overview:

Moderated by Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, perhaps a better name for this hour would be: "No-Code: A Real Life Amateur Radio Success Story." This is because we intend to dispel the myth that one must know the 'dots and dashes' to be a so-called "real ham."

Leading off this session is one of the nation's -- and the world's -- most respected radio amateurs: Dave Bell W6AQ. A television and film producer/director by profession, Dave holds an Extra class license and was a recipient of the coveted Dayton Radio Amateur of the Year Award for his ongoing efforts in promoting Amateur Radio to the non ham world.

Dave Bell believes that the codefree Technician class license has been an overwhelming success. He will keynote this session and tell you why the term "no-code" must disappear and be replaced by "Technician."

Dave will be followed by three Technician class hams whose exploits have added greatly to the overall positive image of Amateur Radio. First is Adam Weyhaupt N9MEZ of Alton, Illinois, and winner of the 1995 Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award for his work in coordinating relief efforts in the wake of the Mississippi River flooding of 1993. Adam will explain what it was like for a teenager who was a new ham to devote all of his free time to public service through Amateur Radio during this time of extreme emergency.

Adam will be followed by Dave Booth KC6WFS of Santa Clarita, California. Dave may not know much about the Morse code, but he has racked up an impressive record as a VHF/UHF DXer, contester and experimenter. His two favorite interests are restoring and operating vintage tube-type gear and sharing <<his enthusiasm for the classic radios through his articles in CQ VHF magazine.

Rounding out the hour will be a trip to the South Pole with Ronald Ross, KE6JAB. Ronald took ham radio satellite gear with him, made many contacts, uplinked 70 messages, of which 16 were JPEG images. Those messages were posted on his website, back in San Francisco, California, so that his ongoing adventure could be shared with many hams (and non-hams) through cyberspace.

This session produced for the 1998 Dayton Hamvention by The Amateur Radio Newsline with Netcasting provided by Tucson Amateur Packet Radio, Inc.



**Silent Key Mike Moseley (WB3HUP). A long time LARC member, contributor to the club and amateur radio, bright and innovative, always there to lend a hand to someone in need, quiet and modest, a mentor to young and old, he always had a heart of gold. We'll miss you Mike.**

**The Weekly News**

ARRL Audio News,  
 This Week in Amateur Radio,  
 Amateur Radio Newslite,  
 and /or The R.A.I.N Report  
**may be broadcast locally by John/WB3GXW at  
 one or more of the following times:**

- Saturday @ 8:00pm on 147.225+ PL156.7**
- Sunday @ 8:00pm on 147.225+ PL156.7**
- Tuesday @ 7:15pm on 147.180+ PL156.7**



**May Birthdays**

- |    |        |                |
|----|--------|----------------|
| 3  | KB3BCG | Edward McNaney |
| 10 | WB3HZI | Henry Noll     |
| 14 | K3MHZ  | Bill Clark     |
| 14 | KU3Z   | Joe Grzesik    |
| 18 | N3NYF  | Tom Freeman    |
| 23 | WA9DLD | Len Sandelli   |
| 25 | N3NYM  | Paul Raeder    |
| 26 | N3LDJ  | Jim Washington |
| 26 | WA3YLO | Tony Young     |
| 30 | W3PYZ  | Frank Alling   |

first year: 1917, last year: 1964

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

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						

June 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				

## Upcoming Club Activities

### April

<b>22</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>LARC Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>384 Main Street</b>
23	Thu	9:00pm	PG County ARES Net	145.350-
29	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+

### May

<b>3</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8am-12noon</b>	<b>Montpelier Festival</b>	<b>Montpelier Mansion</b>
6	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+
<b>9</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>6am-5pm</b>	<b>Main Street Festival</b>	<b>384 Main Street</b>
12	Tue	7:30	Commex	Laurel Hospital
13	Wed	7:00pm	LARC Social Meeting	Tubby's Restaurant
13	Wed	8:00pm	FAR Meeting	Alexandria, VA
16	Sat	9:00am	VE Test Session	384 Main Street
20	Wed	8:30pm	LARC Net	147.225+
<b>27</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>LARC Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>384 Main Street</b>
28	Thu	9:00pm	PG County ARES Net	145.350-

### June

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

### July

<b>4</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>8am-10pm</b>	<b>Laurel 4<sup>th</sup> July Parade, Festival, Fireworks</b>	<b>Lake &amp; 4<sup>th</sup>/Montgomery</b>
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## Hamfests and Other Events

April 25	Columbia-Montour ARC Hamfest - Bloomsburg, PA
April 26	Penn-Del ARC Hamfest- New Castle, DE , 302-793-1080, <a href="http://www.magpage.com/penndel">http://www.magpage.com/penndel</a>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Anne Arundel &amp; Kent Island ARCs Hamfest - Grasonville, MD, 410-643-1125</b>
May 3	Warminster ARC Hamfest - Wrightstown, PA., 215-674-5218
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Antietam Radio Assn Hamfest - Hagerstown, MD, 304-728-7769</b>
<b>May 15-17</b>	<b>Dayton HamVention, Dayton, OH, 937-276-6930 or 937-427-3109, <a href="http://www.hamvention.org/">http://www.hamvention.org/</a></b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Maryland FM Assn Hamfest, 301-384-6513 or Voice/Fax: 301-879-2785</b>
<b>June 13</b>	<b>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 20011.</b>
	<a href="http://www.ares.org">http://www.ares.org</a>

