

THE FEEDBACK

Volume 03 Issue 05

August 2003

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 146 Laurel, MD 20725-0146

<http://www.larcmd.org>

email: larc@larcmd.org

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 – Sullivan's Restaurant; Rt. 198, at Rt 197

⇒ 4th Wednesday:

Monthly Meeting at 7:30pm - The Woman's Club of Laurel, 384 Main Street, Laurel

⇒ Nightly:

Informal Net/Rag-Chew from 9-11pm on 147.540

Repeater: 442.500+ PL 156.7 Hz

VHF Simplex 147.54; UHF Simplex: 445.975,

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

c/o Pud Reaver, W3YD
6516 Brooklyn Bridge Rd
Laurel, Md, 20707



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Next Meeting:



Aug 27, 2003; 1930L

PRGM: Upcoming stf.

THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Officers:

President:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
Vice-President:	HD (Frank Scott)	K3HDM	301-773-0155	hdm@prodigy.aol
Secretary:	Open			
Treasurer:	Jerry Siegel	N3WSG	301-937-1174	j_siegel@compuserve.com
Past President:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net

Other LARC Positions and Contacts:

FAR Representatives:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	301-345-7381	ka8ypy@arrl.net
Laurel VEC:	Diane Zimmerman	AA3OF	301-937-0394	aa3of@arrl.net
LARC VE Testing:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
AutoCall Reporter:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
T-MARC/D-MARC Rep:	OPEN			
Public Information Officer:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
Youth Programs:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Education and Training:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
Technical Specialist:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	w3dad@amsat.org
ARES/RACES Coordinators:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
Official Emergency Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	
Official Bulletin Station:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
Official Bulletin Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net
Official Bulletin Station:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net
Official Relay Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	
Official Relay Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	w3yd@arrl.net

LARC Special Interest Groups and Mentors:

Antennas:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	w3dad@amsat.org
Packet Radio/APRS:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Repeaters:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
Satellite/EME:	OPEN			

ARRL Field Organization:

Atlantic Division Director:	Bernie Fuller	N3EFN	814-763-1529	n3efn@arrl.org
Atlantic Division Vice Director:	William C. Edgar	N3LLR	814-362-1250	n3llr@arrl.org
MD/DC Section Manager:	Tom Abernethy	W3TOM	301-292-6263	w3tom@arrl.org
MD/DC Asst Section Manager:	Brian R Davids	KA3WWI	(202)366-0507	
MD/DC Emergency Coord:	Mike Carr	WA1QAA	410-799-0403	bamcc@erols.com
Affiliated Club Coordinator:	Tony Young	WA3YLO	301-262-1917	tonyy@juno.com
MDC Section Bulletin Manager:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net

Items to be published in *The Feedback* should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month. Email submissions may be made to w3yd@arrl.net

The Feedback is published monthly (except December) as the newsletter of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Publisher: Mark Doore, K3RAM

President's Ramblings

August. At this point we are beginning to statistically descend in temperature. Summer's winding down. Only got up enough steam to do about one day's worth of MDC QSO Party contest. But that was fun. During the contest we found out that the top dual band vertical wasn't working on 2 Meters. Later we deduced that the 440 portion of the antenna used by our repeater was having the same problem. So we killed the repeater until we come up with a fix for the antenna. We'll discuss at the meeting the possibility of moving the repeater to a different location.

But August isn't over with yet. We've still got the Larry Noel 15K run in the Ag Center on August 31. Their website says the race is from 5 -7 pm. We'll confirm that we'll meet at the Log Cabin Information Center on Powder Mill Road at around 1615 for deployment. While it's an ARES function, many LARcer's are members of ARES and participate. Even if you're not a member of ARES you are most cordially invited to help out.

At the August meeting we'll be corralling the nominating committee to find some candidates to fill the officer slots. Please give some thought to helping the club out with a commitment of your time and talent for the upcoming year. We present the slate in September and voting takes place at the October meeting.

Fall Fest will be the weekend of September 6 and 7. Since LARC is an active member of FAR, I hope that if you are available to help out that you will sign up on the website given elsewhere in this issue. I know that many of us will be helping with the test sessions scheduled for both days this year.

Also in September will be our next foxhunt scheduled for Sunday September 21. In October we will have our annual MDC Simulated Emergency Test on the 4th in conjunction with the rest of the United States. Riverfest will be held on October 11 this year. It is sponsored by the Laurel Board of Trade and we help out with the communications.

You might want to be thinking about this year's holiday party. Sullivan's had good food and at reasonable prices, however, I think it was awkward for any speaking and visiting old friends. It's not too early to be thinking about other places to check out around town. One possibility is to rent a hall and have it catered. The Woman's Club only holds about 40 and may be a bit too small. Or we may end up back at Sullivan's.

Ed Rummel, KB3DVC, has just gone through his 6th or 7th operation. He's lost about fifty pounds and is very weak. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he struggles to recover.

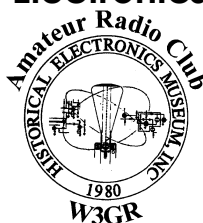
73, de Jim/WI3N

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K3VOA, my club, needs a rotor plate for rohn 45.

de Hugh K3HU 202-619-2412 or K3HU@ ARRL.net or 301-262-1733

The Historical Electronics Museum ARC



Amateur Radio Training

Amateur Extra License Course Begins: September 9, 2003

- ◇ 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM Every Tuesday Night - Course is about 12 Weeks
- ◇ **Conducted at the Museum:** Near the corner of West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing road in Linthicum, Maryland. Next to the BWI Marriott Hotel.
- ◇ For information and Registration call: Les Jamison WR3X 410-787-0341 or e-mail w3gr@arrl.net.
Registration closes August 29, 2003.
- ◇ **Open only to holders of a current General or Advanced Class License**
- ◇ **There is NO course fee**
- ◇ **Because of the large amount of text material to be covered, CW code should be individually negotiated with Les Jamison WR3X.**
- ◇ **The Class size is limited to 20 students.**
- ◇ **VEC Testing will be done at the museum**
[It is not necessary to participate in the course to take the VE test]
- ◇ **More information is on the HEMARC web site: <http://www.qsl.net/w3gr>**



August 2003 W4PBG

Statewide Mini SET

In an effort to prepare for the upcoming SET on Oct 4, there was a statewide communications exercise held Aug 23 from 1200-1400. Stations were to check in to the Central Region Net, Western Region Net and Eastern Region Net. As the names imply, each net is made up of a geographically similar group of counties. We are in the Central Region Net.

One of the goals of the exercise was to have the people on the net methodically check in to the main repeater in each jurisdiction. This would establish who within a county would be able to maintain a liaison with another county should that be needed. Our Section Emergency Plan emphasizes the ability to have liaisons between each regional net and within regions. Because of the exercise today, a Net Control Station in our CRN will now have a matrix that will indicate where two counties can go off the net to pass traffic. Normal net procedure suggests that if Prince George’s County and Baltimore County, for instance, need to talk with each other, we now know that they can leave the CRN and go to either 146.67 repeater in Baltimore or the 146.61 repeater in Prince George’s County, pass their traffic and then return to the net. This way the entire net isn’t tied up while they pass their traffic. In the future we need to check on other counties and to also try it on simplex between Emergency Operations Centers.

There were 22 stations that checked into the CRN today and four others who were mobile and responded on a repeater. Nine of the 22 were from our county, and two of the four others were from here also.

In the coming days there will be a critique provided that will be sent out to the ARES/RACES group. It will point out some areas where we need practice in net procedures, the proper way to acknowledge receipt of traffic, how to properly leave and return to a net, etc.

It was a very good turnout and many important lessons were learned. The main Simulated Emergency Test is coming on Oct 4, and will incorporate the information that was learned today.

73 de Jim/WI3N
EC/RO for Prince George’s County

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The following countries have elected to eliminate morse code with all, or some, granting HF privileges to Amateurs holding no code VHF/UHF licenses:

- Switzerland
- Belgium
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Norway
- Netherlands

Pending are Austria and New Zealand. In the U.S. 6 petitions have been forwarded to the FCC requesting deletion of the code requirement.

Read the latest information on the ARRL website.

Date/	Venue	Program for FALL FEST	End
Time			Time

Saturday,
6-Sep-2003

9:00 AM 4-H Hall	Astronaut, Ron Parise, WA4SIR <parise@gelato.gsfc.nasa.gov> <ron.parise@gsfc.nasa.gov>	9:55 AM
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Dr. Parise flew aboard the space shuttle twice. First on STS-35 and again on STS-67. He plans to present a slide and audio program followed by a Q and A session.

10:00 AM 4-H Hall	Amateur Radio Microwave Communication, Bill Seabreeze, W3IY <W3IY@FCC.net>	10:55 AM
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Mr. Seabreeze is dedicated to the use of and experimentation with the microwave bands. He operates on amateur radio bands through 47 GHz.

He plans to help fellow amateurs discover the world of VHF/UHF/SHF/EHF radio during his presentation.

11:00 AM 4-H Hall	Collecting and Restoring Vintage Radios John Dilks, K2TQN <oldradio@worldnet.att.net> Paul Goodman, K2ORC <dalmatians98@yahoo.com>	11:55 AM
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Mr Dilks writes the "Old Radio" column for "QST" magazine. He will be displaying his Hallicrafters S-1 receiver which is one of only five known in the world.

Mr Goodman will talk about restoring AM MW transmitters for use on the amateur radio bands.

12:00 N 4-H Hall	Amateur Radio VE Exams, John Creel, WB3GXW <WB3GXW@ARRL.net>	4:00 PM
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9:00 AM Dining Hall	NCAC - Mike Carr, WA1QAA, <bamcc@erols.com>	9:55 AM
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The National Capital ARES Council plans to tell about their post 9/11 operations and their future plans.

10:00 AM Dining Hall	ARRL Forum - Tom Abernethy, W3TOM <W3TOM@ARRL.net>	11:55 AM
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Mr. Abernethy is the MDC Section Manager. He will host a forum to discuss the ARRL and it's field

appointments.

12:00 N Dining Hall Skywarn I Class 2:55 PM
 National Weather Service
 Register now at: <http://www.fall-fest.com/>

3:00 PM Dining Hall Skywarn Net Control Class 5:00 PM
 National Weather Service
 Register now at: <http://www.fall-fest.com/>

11:00 AM Barn 2 Maryland Emergency Phone Net Meeting, 11:55 AM
 Al Brown, <KZ3AB@ARRL.net>

This is a meeting of the Maryland
 Emergency Phone Net. Everyone is
 welcome.

Al Brown, KZ3AB, is the senior
 director of the MEPN and the ARRL
 MDC Section Bulletin Manager.

Sunday,
 7-Sep-2003

9:00 AM 4-H Hall NCAC - Mike Carr, WA1QAA, 9:55 AM
 <bamcc@erols.com>

The National Capital ARES Council plans
 to tell about their post 9/11 operations
 and future plans.

10:00 AM 4-H Hall FCC Rule Making & Policy, 10:55 AM
 Bill Cross, W3TN, FCC Wireless
 Telecommunications Bureau
 <BCross@FCC.gov>

Mr. Cross will be discussing the FCC
 and it's proposed rule making.

11:00 AM 4-H Hall Marconi Detector, Chip Weems, W4PBG, 11:55 AM
 <cmweems@ieee.org>

Mr. Weems is a retired Weshinghouse
 engineer.

Mr. Weems plans a brief biography of
 Marconi and an explanation and
 demonstration of Marconi's magnetic
 method of detecting radio signals
 before vacuum tubes were invented.

12:00 N 4-H Hall Amateur Radio VE Exams, John Creel, 4:00 PM
 WB3GXW <WB3GXW@ARRL.net>

75 meters (3.880 MHz), and
160 meters (1.885 MHz)
as band conditions allow.

- o - "W3F" license trustee - Al Brown, KZ3AB <KZ3AB@ARRL.net>.
- o - QSL to KZ3AB.

ARLX007 FCC upholds vanity fee policy, sets new fee start date

The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$16.30 for the 10-year license term will go into effect September 9. Until then, applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the current \$14.50 fee per vanity call sign application. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$160,000 from 9800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2003. That's up by almost \$30,000 and 800 applications from FY2002.

In releasing its annual Report and Order on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2003, the FCC responded at some length to comments filed from the amateur community. Some commenters had questioned the need for the fee, **the requirement to pay it when renewing a vanity call sign and why refunds were not automatic.**

Telecommunications Act provisions governing regulatory fee assessment cover applications for vanity call signs, which, the FCC said, "are voluntarily requested by licensees" and are "a value-added benefit not afforded to all licensees." Assessment of a regulatory fee to cover the FCC's processing and enforcement costs to make the vanity call sign service available is reasonable, the FCC concluded.

The FCC said its current policy of assessing "a nominal fee" at the time of initial application and at each renewal also allows greater access to vanity call signs. "A high one-time-only fee would be cost prohibitive for many entities wishing to obtain a vanity call sign," the Commission said. The Commission also said it incurs costs to manage each vanity call sign throughout its existence, not just in the first 10 years.

Regarding refunds due when the FCC denies an application, the FCC said its rules require a written request from applicants before it can process refunds of regulatory fees. "The written request serves as documentation when cross-referencing each unique file number that may be entitled to a refund," the FCC added.

The FCC said the documentation was particularly important in the case of Amateur Radio vanity applications, "because filing trends indicate that some applicants file several vanity call sign applications per day for several days on end." Requiring a written request makes it easier to certify "which fees are to be refunded for which dismissed applications," the Commission said. In addition, those processing applications in FCC bureaus and offices don't have the authority to issue refunds without proper documentation.

A copy of the Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site at, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc.

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The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) met in Gettysburg, PA on July 25 for their annual conference. Highlights of the conference are:

Fred Maia W5YI gave a report on WRAC 2003. The most interesting outcome of that meeting was the elimination of the international requirement that amateurs must demonstrate Morse code ability in order to qualify for a license to transmit on the HF bands.

The VEC's discussed a proposed entry level license for US amateurs that is patterned after the new entry level license recently introduced in Great Britain. The British license gives beginning operators access to most bands– including the HF bands (except 10 meters) – with a 10-watt power limit. Great Britain was one of the first countries to remove the requirement for Morse code transmitting and receiving ability in order to use the HF bands once WARC 2003 removed the Morse code requirement. The NCVEC appointed a committee to further study this proposed license and report back to the group with a recommendation for petition to the FCC to adopt such a license.

The NCVEC voted to file a petition for rule making with the FCC that asks that the present 5 WPM Morse Code test be eliminated for all license classes. The group elected Fred Maia W5YI to lead the team that developed the petition. A major consideration in taking this action was to achieve parity for US amateurs with amateurs in other countries that have eliminated the Morse code requirement for licensing. Under reciprocal licensing agreements, foreign amateurs with privileges over the full HF bands can operate as Extra Class in the United States, even if their license is the entry level license in their home countries.

The FCC demonstrated the new version of the ULS that is scheduled for introduction in the fall. This new version will be much easier for amateurs to use for activities such as changing their addresses and renewing their licenses.

The question pool committee reported that the question pools now have a four-year cycle. The new Element 2 (Technician) pool was effective on July 1, 2003. The syllabus for the Element 3 (General) question pool was released earlier this year; the new General question pool will be effective on July 1, 2004. There will be no new element in 2005, giving the amateur community less change in tests, a longer time for publishers to recover their costs, and the question pool committee an opportunity for some think time.

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club VEC reported on their project to test applicants living in remote areas via the Internet. This project will help residents of remote areas in Alaska that have limited (if any) access to VE services to become licensed.

The FCC's Bill Cross spoke about recent and pending rule changes. Riley Hollingsworth spoke about enforcement activities.

As usual, LARC was a leading participant in the conference. John Creel WB3GXW served as Chairman of the conference. Les Jamison WR3X provided administrative support. Michelle Cimbala WK3X is a member of the rules committee. John Johnston W3BE is a member of the question pool committee. Diane Zimmerman AA3OF represented LARC as the VEC Chairman and voting member of NCVEC.

The photo shows the LARC Team at NC-VEC. Photo by Bob Zimmerman KB3IWD.



Dscn1616.jpg

Double-click on the icon to see a picture of our delegation in Gettysburg!