



THE FEEDBACK

Volume 04 Issue 05

May 2004

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 146, Laurel, MD 20725-0146

<http://www.larcmd.org>

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Meetings and Nets:

- ⇒ 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays: On-the-air Net at 8:30pm on 147.225+ PL156.7 (no tone during nets)
- ⇒ 2nd Wednesday: Informal/Social Gathering at 7:00pm – Sullivan's Steak and Beverage Co
- ⇒ 4th Wednesday: Monthly Meeting at 7:30pm - The Woman's Club of Laurel
- ⇒ Nightly: Net/Rag-Chew from 9-11pm on 147.540

Repeaters:

VHF: 147.225+ PL 156.7

UHF: 442.500+ PL 156.7

Simplex:

VHF: 147.540

UHF: 445.975

**Next Meeting:
May 26, 2004 1930 PML
Be There!**

President's Ramblings

The first thing is to say a hearty THANKS to Ed Herbrechtsmeier for his greatly appreciated volunteering to publish this paper. I wish him luck and will do my best to be of assistance.

At the May meeting we will hear a talk by Tom Coates to encourage members to sign the petition that he's getting up against BPL. All members should be aware that there is a ham fest at Howard County Fairgrounds on May 30. The latest Fox Hunt apparently was a success, although I was unable to take part, due to family obligations. We will schedule another hunt as soon as we can. Well, there is my first attempt at the President's Mumblings! With practice I hope to improve.

Please help Ed by giving your opinions of this issue of the Feedback, and any ideas for future issues (articles would be good as well). Remember its your club newsletter!

Joe, N3TZA

Montpelier Festival

The Montpelier Festival is in its 34th year and for the last ten years or more LARC has been helping with the communications for the Festival setup. In years past we've had an information booth about LARC and ham radio in general (back when the booth was made of 2x4 wood braces), we've taken Ham-grams from the general public and sent them all over the country via the high speed CW National Traffic System net, and we've even done a special event station as part of the festival, I think for their 25th year.

Well, this year we were able to muster ten of our members to support their communications. (Note for next year, the offer is always open for our booth and/or a special event station for their 35th year). Thanks to Matt, N3JMK who put his life on the line at the bottom of the hill. The lanes have been changed on Muirkirk Road making for a more dangerous entrance. HD, K3HDM and Pud, W3YD took their usual roles as arbiters of who gets through the gate to park close to the grounds. Their eagle eyes only let the folks with the proper documentation pass their station. The traffic cop parts at the top of the hill this year were played by Joe, N3TZA, Ed, KB3DVC, and Charles, AA3WC. Large trucks to small cars were routed to me, Jim, WI3N, in an orderly fashion to fill in the vendor spots on the field. Toby/KB3BWR, in a selfless act of cutting his beauty rest short was on post at the Montpelier Road entrance to solve all the problems there at the speed of radio waves. Finally, kudos are in order to Chuck, KB3KTX and Bill, N3XL. They shadowed the young lady from Park and Planning and Festival Chairperson Diane Sills, respectively. They were obviously in pretty fair shape since we didn't have to call in the rescue squad with the oxygen tanks.

Thanks to everyone for turning out and making the setup at the 34th Annual Montpelier Festival a great success and showing our small slice of the world there the fun and usefulness of amateur radio.

Jim, WI3N

<p>W3IKE is trying to start a 2-meter SSB net. This net will meet at 8:00 pm local time on 144.235 MHz SSB. For more info please contact w3ike@yahoo.com</p>
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Main Street Festival

I'm writing this based on attending a planning meeting prior to the festival, preparing maps and notes for the parade setup, attending the debriefing meeting the week after the big day and being in Princeton, NJ the day of the activities.

As usual a group of club members met early to set up the tent, tables and chairs, and attach the antenna mast to the rear of HD's truck. Well, two out of three isn't usually too bad, however, HD did look like he spent too long in Mother Nature's Tanning Salon since the tent didn't make it to Main Street this year. People also had trouble finding the Information Booth (us) since the signs were still in hiding with the tent. Next year

We had the shadowing duties covered and also the parade setup. To the best of my knowledge (admittedly limited by not being there) the following folks gave a hand throughout the day for shadowing, parade setup and tear down. HD, K3HDM, Pud, W3YD, Bob, K3OH, Ed, K3QX, Kevin, WV3D, Joe, N3TZA, Brian (Joe's grandson, Kevin's son), Dennis, KT3D, Alan, N3DUE, John, N3GXA, Chuck, KB3KTX, Ed, KB3DVC, Jeff, KB3EQH, Howard, K3IOG, and Toby, KB3BWR. If I left out anyone, please let me know and you'll be given credit in the next Feedback.

Kay Sweitzer, the parade chair, told me that Kevin handled the parade lineup with grace, efficiency, and just like he'd been doing it for years. This year I made a map of the street layout for lining up the entrants. I also put together a list of instructions for the folks working the parade. The rain the night before added a new wrinkle in that instead of chalking the street Friday night, each ham was given a piece of chalk that morning and chalked off his assigned block on the street to get a relative idea of where to place the parade participants. For those unfamiliar with our system, we put the odd numbers on the east side of 6th St and the even numbers on the west side with each block holding ten spaces. Kevin forgot his watch, but being resourceful and not totally trusting in his ability to tell time from the position of the sun, he got Chuck to give him a countdown from his atomic clock. The parade kept with tradition and started right on time.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's festival a success. The committee is very grateful for our help and had nothing but great things to say about us. In my opinion, one of the problems with volunteer groups is a tendency for someone to get identified with a particular job and then keep doing that job until he drops. It is a very healthy thing to replicate oneself. I'd really like to thank Kevin for stepping in and doing fantastic at a job that I've done for years. It just goes to show that nobody is or should be indispensable. With a little planning and preparation and a willingness to give it a try, others in the organization can get the job done at least as well as or better than the person who has been doing it for some time. For the health of the organization, it is good idea to rotate around the work and have more than one person know how a job is done. Thanks to everyone for taking time out of a busy Saturday to help out with the club's premier public service event.

Jim, WI3N

Main Street Parade

All went well! Plenty of help showed up and Kay was very happy with the results. We had Chuck KB3KTX, Joe N3TZA, Charles AA3WC, Alan N3DUE, Dennis KT3D, Ed KB3DVC, Toby KB3BWR, and John N3GXA. We had to chalk the place numbers on the street ourselves, but they were only relative anyway. Dennis called in the changes to someone at the info booth (I haven't found out who yet) and all the changes got to the reviewing stand. Everyone lined up close to right; and except for a few misalignments there were no gaps or delays. The parade started promptly at 09:00 EDT (with Chuck giving me the count down. I forgot my watch!:-) Kay remarked that it was the best parade yet. (Does she say that every year?) Most importantly, she realized and appreciated the communication we

provided. She gave it the credit for making the parade a success. (I guess she has been skeptical in the past?) By 10:00 EDT it was history.

Kevin WV3D

“W3LRC”
Net Control Report
Laurel Amateur Radio Club Event
Laurel 24th Main Street Festival
08 May 2004

NetCon communications were conducted on 442.500 LARC repeater.
Parade communications Op’s were using 147.510, simplex.

07.15 AML: NetCon Operational

09.05 AML: Parade start

4:00 PML: NetCon QRT.

Weather: We had a cool, cloudy morning, but the afternoon was clear and sunny.

19 Op’s, as follows: (P-Parade, S-Shadow, R-Roving)

N3TZA.....Joe (P)	W3YD.....Pud (NetCon/AM only)
K3HDM.....HD (NetCon)	N3XL.....Bill (S)
K3OH..... Bob (R/S)	K3IOG.....Howard
AC3WC.....Charles (R)	KB3DVC.....ED (P)
KB3EQH.....Jeff (S/R)	KT3D.....Dennis (P)
WV3D.....Kevin (P/Boss)	N3DUE..... Alan (P)
KB3BWR.....Toby (P/R)	N3GXA.....John (P)
K3QX.....Ed (S)	KB3KTX..... Chuck (P)

Visitors to the LARC table:

AA6FS

N3PZQ

Notes:

The LARC kiosk, for the first time, was not set up at Net Con, making the afternoon sun brutal on the only Op remaining, HD. I was alone until KB3EQH / Jeff arrived from the Dulles Mass Causality Exercise in Va., at 3.00 PML. W3YD / Pud called on the repeater asking how it was going at 2:50ish, and I said I am alone here at NetCon.

So, Pud mounted an effort to come for shut down. We have many ops for the set up and parade but through the years the number around for shut down has dwindled such that, this is my last year at the position of NetCon, for this event.

Again for another year, lost and Found items were down and all but 1 was returned to the owner.. This year we had several lost children and, again, a lower attendance.

Respectfully submitted by, HD / K3HDM

From the *ARRL Letter*, May 7, 2004

==>MINOR FCC AMATEUR RULE CHANGES BECOME EFFECTIVE JUNE 1

The FCC says minor amendments to various Amateur Radio (Part 97) rules become effective June 1. The regulatory changes, which the FCC made on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions, appeared May 5 in the Federal Register.

The most extensive and substantive rule change involves §97.307, Emission standards, where the FCC revised the wording of §97.307(d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or amplifiers of any power level. Starting June 1, the rule will provide that:

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed after January 1, 2003, must be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed on or before January 1, 2003, must not exceed 50 mW and must be at least 40 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. If the mean power output of such as transmitter is less than 5 W, the attenuation must be at least 30 dB.

Still exempt from the provisions of §97.307(d) are transmitters built before April 15, 1977, or those first marketed before January 1, 1978.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator. The change reflects the advent in the late 1990s of the Universal Licensing System <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> electronic licensee database. Under the amended §97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is "a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the ULS consolidated licensee database to be the control operator of an amateur station." The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station."

Another change eliminates Technician or Technician with Element 1 credit licensees from the classes of operators permitted to prepare Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) and Element 2 (Technician written) examinations.

The Commission ordered the rule changes and additional wording updates within the context of a larger, wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140. That NPRM addresses several Amateur Radio-related petitions and proposes revisions to operating privileges (see "FCC Proposes Wide-Ranging Changes to Amateur Service Rules—Not Restructuring" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/04/15/102/>>). It also denied several petitions.

The FCC continues to seek comments on the various proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140. Comments are due by Tuesday, June 15, and reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513084388>.

Editor's Note:

Pud/W3YD, our last editor, said this job was fun but that it was time for someone else to step up to the plate. The job was described as "prodding folks for their monthly contributions, collecting interesting articles, and posting in a timely manner" but the description also said that the editor has "carte' blanch to make this as large or small or as creative as time permits. If you are interested, contact Joe/N3TZA."

Well, I was never any good at baseball but the job description didn't say anything about having to write articles or function as a reporter and I liked the "carte' blanch" idea. So at the last Wednesday night social I talked to Joe and tried out some of my foolish ideas on him (remember that carte' blanch) and he said, fine, take the job! So right away I prodded him for some President's Ramblings and he said one of his relatives would send me an E-mail. Jim/WI3N, apparently fearful of being subjected to my prodding immediately volunteered to send in an article or two. So it looks like this might work out as I'm OK at cutting and pasting but not too long on originality and creativity.

This May 2004 issue is a bit hurried - I wanted to get an issue out but I'm starting 2 or 3 weeks behind the normal schedule. My thought is that any issue is better than none at all. I'm hoping to do better next month.

My guess is that some of our members would prefer to have a paper copy of *The Feedback* rather than getting it by E-mail. That said I will be sending a paper copy to ALL members. However, if you would like to save the club 37¢, just let me know and I will take your name off the snail mail list. I will also E-mail a copy if I have an E-mail address. Again, let me know if you wish to be added or removed from the E-mail list. As always, *The Feedback* will be available on the LARC website, <http://larcmd.org>.

Please feel free to give me your ideas on how to improve *The Feedback*.

73 de Ed/K3QX

THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Other LARC Positions and Contacts:

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Items to be published in *The Feedback* should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month. Email submissions may be made to **PowerPro80@yahoo.com**

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