



The VOX



The Official *On-Line* Newsletter of the

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI / KB3SYV
Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA



Field Day Edition

tidbits,
FD info and
more!

Look for

**Field
Day
2013**

Officers

President: **Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG** (n3xg.radio@gmail.com)
Vice President: **Brian Klock - KW3K** (KW3K@kw3k.com)
Secretary: **Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK** (philbert17@ptd.net)
Treasurer: **Brian Snyder - KB3QHA** (brian@teamsnyder.net)

Board of Governors

Chuck Ballard - WB6CDY (wb6cdy@arrl.net)
Gary Decker - W3GRD (SCOUTIH79@YAHOO.COM)
Robin Gable - KB3GZV (kb3gzv@arrl.net)
Matthew Kriebel - KB3UZE (kriebz@gmail.com)
Paul Ryan - N0KIA (N0KIA@arrl.net)



VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M) ---- AK3M@rcn.com)

Webmaster - Paul Ryan (N0KIA) ----- (n0kia@arrl.net)

LVARC Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)
147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)
447.775 (PL 71.9)
Club Simplex Freq. - 147.420

LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)
146.940 (PL 71.9)

D-Star

W3OI Dstar repeaters are now on W3OI at
147.165, W3EPE at 445.225 and W3OK at
145.110









Join us for a Mid-Atlantic regional net Tuesdays
on the 147.165 port at 7:30 pm.

To register for the Gateway or need information
on setting up the radio, please visit
<https://24.229.28.14/Dstar.do>

W3OI Home Page: <http://www.w3oi.org>

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Field
Day
2013

Field Day 2013

(June 22 & 23)



Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark
(AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The June, 2013 LVARC meeting will be held on
June 4, 2013 at the Tri-Clover Fire Company at 7:30



LVARC / RACES NET

Don't forget to check into the Monday Night
LC/LVARC/RACES Net on 146.94 (PL 71.9) with an
alternate frequency of 147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)
The Net begins at 7:30 pm local time (ET).

*Many club announcements
will be heard there !*

Monday Night RACES/ARES Check-In Summary - 2013

Month

January
February
March
April



Number of Check-In's

108
105
133
132



Number of Nets/Mondays

4
4
4
5

Happy 75th Birthday W1AW! (see page 11)



IMPORTANT -- de Mark (AK3M)



CHANGE IN TESTING PROGRAM! The LVARC
will **NOT** hold a regular test session in June and July, 2013.

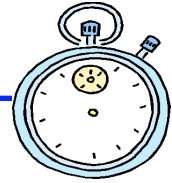
There will be testing at the FD site. Testing will resume the 3rd
Friday in August at **6:30 pm**. The **NEW LOCATION** will be
HANOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on **Jacksonville Road** in
Bethlehem, PA.

3890 Jacksonville Road --- Bethlehem, 18017-9307



Minutes of the May, 2013 LVARC Meeting

de - Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1933 Hrs, (EST).

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and then a moment of silence was observed for Silent Keys.

There were a total of 26 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 5 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, Phil – KB3HMK, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA, Robin – KB3GZV, Matt – KB3UZE and Gary – N3GRD.

Guests: Tonya Hook, Mel Shiers, Bob Mendelson (W2OKO), Tony Cusumano (KC3AMC), Myles Bodisch (KB3ZMA) and Maggie.

Corrections additions to the minutes: None noted

Approved by: Scott – KB3YOT

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$4,104.67

Ending Balance: \$4,027.30

Approved by: John – AB3LZ

Second by: Walt – KE3SP

Carried: (Y/N) Y

We received a check for \$344.50 from the "Tax Relief Raffle" the club did recently. Members sold a total of 130 tickets. Rod thanked everyone who participated.

Committee Reports: Repeater: The D-Star repeater was down. Rod got it up running again. Anyone who has the Baofeng UV-5R, there is an orange button on the left side. This button activates an audible alarm which will broadcast on the frequency that you are on. Rod suggested making it an audible tone that only you can hear.

Program: Tonight's program is on C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team). Rod welcomed Tonya and Mel. They will be doing the presentation. The hands on night, which is May 21, will be held at the Fogelsville Fire Station to meet the members of the C.E.R.T. teams. Rod is looking for a point person to do the hands on night. He will do the program.

Volunteer Examiners: At the April 19, 2013 LVARC test session, three tested and two passed. CONGRATULATIONS to Anthony Cusumano and Barbara Weimann who passed their Technician test. who tested at the April 19, 2013 test session.

Their calls were posted on the FCC website on April 24, 2013. Welcome Barbara who received the call KC3AMB and Tony who is now KC3AMC.

CHANGE IN TESTING PROGRAM! The LVARC will NOT hold a test session in June and July, 2013. Testing will resume the 3rd Friday in August at 6:30 pm. The new location will be HANOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on Jacksonville Road in Bethlehem, PA.

Rod received a call from the Red Cross telling us that they sold the building and the club will not be able to hold the VE test sessions there anymore. Mark was able to get the Hanover Elementary School to hold the tests.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Old Business: July 27 is the annual club picnic. It's at the Upper Macungie Park on Rt. 100. There are plenty of activities to do. More info to follow.

The St. Luke's / Lehigh Valley Road Runner's half marathon was held on Sunday April 28, 2013. More than 4,000 runners participated in this event. Communications support was again provided by the LVARC and were an asset to the event. Eighteen LVARC members showed up and performed admirably. The following operators volunteered, showed up early and provided as professional a service as amateurs can.

Thanks to Larry, (NR3R), John (AB3LZ), Don (N0VGA), Don (W3DLH), Ryan (KB3MPX), Joe (WF2O), Scott (KB3YOT), Judy (KB3YOS), Bob (WB3JSZ), John (KB3VNS), James (KC3AFU), Matthew (KB3UZE), George (KB3WTQ), Kent (KC3AFW), John (N3SQV), Paul (N0KIA) and Dave (W3AMC). Without these volunteers, our support for this and other ARES events, would not be possible.

This year's, "Girls on the Run," event will be June 6. Rod is looking for volunteers. The event starts at 6:15 PM. You need to be in position at 5:30 PM. Anyone interested in helping, contact Rod (N3XG).

Rod issued a report to the board about the issues the club was having on the 94 repeater. Rod spoke to the two individuals. One was receptive and the other wasn't. Rod feels the issue is taken care of. If you hear or have any issues with the two individuals, contact Rod or board member.

Paul read a list of the participants that helped with the _ Marathon. Those participants will get a ticket for the radio raffle that will be held at the end of the year. Remember, any activity whether it be a marathon, Field Day or some other event, you will get a ticket for the drawing.

New Business: This years Field Day will be at the S. Whitehall Twp. reservoir site again. It is on Brickyard Rd. The club will invite the C.E.R.T. members to come to Field Day and do the GOTA station. This will give them a chance to see us in full action. The idea of a snack chairman came up. Rod asked for a volunteer to do this committee. Rod said the club should be able to purchase some 6 packs of soda for the meeting.

Good of the Order: The 900 MHz repeater is down for now. Jeff Kelly (N3MFT) will get it up and running soon. Any questions, please contact him. At the "Hands On," night, Rod couldn't get his internet hotspot to send udp packet. He figured out that it has something to do with the hotspot. The Android and iPhone apps work.

Dave (WA3HVR) is in need of help to have someone do antenna work for him. If interested, please contact Dave.

New member applicants: Tony Cusumano (KC3AMC)







New Members Motion to Accept by: Scott – KB3YOT
Second by: Dave – W3AMC
Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2010 hrs, (EST.)
Motion by: Matt – KB3UZE
Second by: Charles – AB3RP
In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$	
Balance ending April, 2013 - \$4,027.30	

This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h2>June 2013</h2>						1
2	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Matt KB3UZE	LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	 "Girl's On the Run" 5K Contact N3XG	7	8
9	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Robin KB3GZV	11	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	13	14	15
16	 Father's Day	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Dorian KB3GZW	LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	21	22  Field Day
23  Field Day	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Rod N3XG	25	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	27	28	29
30	<h2>Field Day 2013</h2> 					

LVARC meeting - Tuesday June 4 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC

LVARC test session - Testing at Field Day site **ONLY --- See page 3**

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday June 3 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday June 4 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)

Thursday June 6 --- "Girls On the Run" 5K

Monday June 10 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday June 17 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday June 18 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)

Saturday & Sunday June 22 & 23 -- Field Day

Monday June 24 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

2013

There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.

LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

At the April 19, 2013 LVARC test session, three tested and two passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to
Anthony Cusumano and
Barbara Weimann who passed
their Technician test.



VE's in attendance were **Mark (AK3M)**, **Walt (KE3SP)** and **Frank (W3FTU)**.

For sale, battery box/stand for the Yaesu FT 817 and 817ND. Used 2 or 3 times. I will include 2 batteries and chargers I purchased from Radio Shack. --- **\$40**. Contact Larry (NR3R) at **NR3R@ptd.net**.

FOR SALE!



YAESU FT 817 DESKTOP RADIO STAND with BATTERY HOLDER

Have an article, diagram or an opinion you would like to share with the LVARC members in this newsletter? Send it to Mark (AK3M). You can submit VOX material in any form. Send it via email (AK3M@rcn.com) or US mail (5508 Hale Ave - Bethlehem, PA 18017). You can send pictures, diagrams or text. **The newsletter needs YOUR material to continue!**

2013 LVARC Events

June 22 & 23 --- Field Day 22 & 23
July 27 - LVARC Picnic

September 8 --- LVHN/VIA Marathon
October 12 --- Women's 5K Classic



2013 Field Day Gear

(available at the ARRL Store)



\$12.95



\$9.95



\$5.00



\$10.00



\$7.95

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/What-s-New>

LVARC
VE
Program



CONGRATULATIONS to

Anthony Cusumano and **Barbara Weimann** who tested at the April 19, 2013 test session. Their calls were posted on the FCC website on April 24, 2013. Welcome **Barbara** who received the call **KC3AMB** and **Tony** who is now **KC3AMC** !

Field
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2013

When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey." <http://www.eham.net/articles/21710>



Ham Radio Quotes - *"I have been frankly fascinated with that unpaid group of people with those ham radios, the Auxiliary Communications Service" [ACS]. [The ACS makes available] "a wireless system that seldom if ever can be totally disrupted by a disaster...ham radio operators are the heart and the soul and the life blood of that system."* ---- **The Hon. Mayor Willie Brown**, Mayor of San Francisco (1996-2004)



Field
Day
2013

The Field Day event uses all amateur bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 meter bands.

The Answer Man



Q -

What is the ideal height for a multi-band dipole?

(TNX to our **Answer Man**, Erik (AI3D))

Q: What is the ideal height for a multi-band dipole?

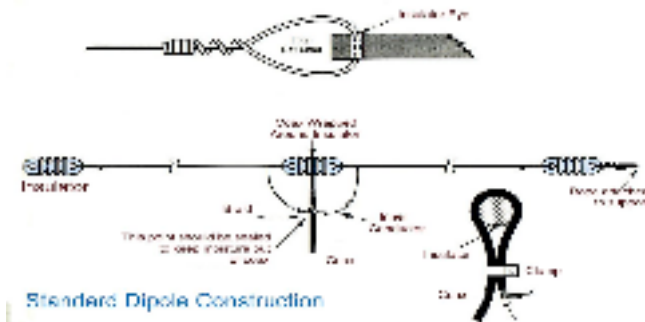
Asked by Larry (NR3R)

A: The answer to this question depends on whether you prefer to work “rare DX” or engage in short distance rag chewing on the HF bands. This is because you will want to optimize the antenna “take off angle” for your preference. The take off angle is defined as the angle at which sky wave radio signals are radiated from the antenna to the ionosphere. The take off angle varies for different antennas and heights above ground. Below, the picture shows an example of how lower take off angles are typically better for long distance contacts.



A single band dipole will exhibit different radiation patterns when placed at different heights above ground. In general, a dipole that is one half wavelength to one wavelength above ground will be good for DXing (take off angles less than 30 degrees). A dipole that is about 1/3 wavelength or less will be good for local communication. The plot below shows how a dipole’s take off angle varies with height above ground.

As the dipole’s height increases, the number of radiation lobes increases. In the figure below, we see that a dipole located $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength above ground has 2 main lobes but the same dipole when it is placed 1 full wavelength above ground will have 4 lobes. With the higher dipole, the radiation angle will be lower but it will also create nulls where performance will be greatly reduced. This means that we can’t achieve extremely low angles of radiation without compromising performance elsewhere.



Send your questions to Erik (AI3D) at:

GEISSENE@GMAIL.COM

What **IS** Field Day?

de Mark (AK3M)

Field
Day
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READER SUBMISSION

Field **D**ay is perhaps the biggest event in an amateur radio operator's year but what exactly **IS** Field Day? Well, some say it is an **emergency preparedness event** as operators are encouraged to operate under emergency conditions where generators, coolers, portable antennas and grills are used. Others say it is a **contest** as operators and clubs are encouraged to log their contacts and submit their scores to the ARRL, hopeful for recognition. Field Day is also an event that **challenges** and **sharpens** the operator's **skills** during often difficult HF operation (phone and CW)! I personally think Field Day is **ALL** of these as well as a great time to be outdoors on a Summer weekend with friends while participating in the the best event of the year! However you decide to describe Field Day, don't forget to enjoy the outdoors, weather and companionship of the event!



Remember --- Participation in LVARC Field Day will earn you incentive tickets.



900 MHz HTs For Sale



The LVARC has several Motorola GTX hand held radios for sale. They are reprogrammed to amateur frequencies in the 900 MHz (33 cm) band. Included, are DC and drop in AC chargers. The price for the package is **\$50.00**. This is a great way to get on 900 MHz for a small cost while helping the LVARC treasury. If interested in purchasing one or more of these HT's, contact **Brian (KW3K)** at KW3K@kw3k.com.



The Digbees

I'll be away on the June 22 & 23 weekend for Field Day!



That's nice dear.

I'm going shopping!

2013 Field Day Packet Now Available from the ARRL web site

<http://www.arrl.org/news/2013-field-day-packet-now-available>



The first ARRL Field Day was held in 1933 (80 years ago)!



Celebrating 75 Years of W1AW

Happy birthday W1AW!

W1AW is celebrating its 75th birthday (September, 2013) with offers for the amateur radio operator. See these offers for ARRL pins, key chains and shirts at:



<http://www.arrl.org/shop/W1AW-Supplies/>



I had a QSO with Paul, NA4ZI, from Tennessee.

He and his wife have produced some funny videos on HAM radio. Paul's wife June wrote the music and does the singing. She was very impressive.

READER SUBMISSION

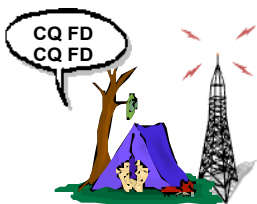
de John (AB3LZ)

<http://tinyurl.com/NA4ZI-VideoChannel>



In 1968, the LVARC held Field Day at the Queen City Airport and used what is now a salt storage shed as an operating shelter!





Field Day 2013

June 22-23



Suggested Field Day Gear

(Use this checklist as a guide. Check items (✓) as they are prepared/packed.)

Amateur Radio

- _____ HF radio
- _____ AC Outlet strip(s)
- _____ spare fuses
- _____ power supply
- _____ key (telegraph)
- _____ headphones
- _____ antenna(s)
- _____ appropriate RF connectors
- _____ tools
- _____ HT
- _____ spare batteries
- _____ AC extension cord(s)
- _____ antenna tuner

General Supplies

- _____ flashlight/lantern
- _____ paper (pads)/logs
- _____ clock/watch
- _____ pencils/pens
- _____ AC desk lamp for night operation
- _____ First aid kit

Personal Gear

- _____ folding chair
- _____ sleeping bag
- _____ pillow
- _____ sunglasses
- _____ appropriate clothing
- _____ snacks
- _____ books/magazines
- _____ personal toilet items
- _____ cell phone
- _____ eating utensils/cup
- _____ tent
- _____ duct tape
- _____ bug spray

Field
Day
2013

Note: The above items are suggested items only. They are not required but depending on your length of stay, they may make you more comfortable.

Notes



The LVARC 2013 Field Day plans



QST QST QST - de Rod (N3XG)

Field Day 2013 is quickly approaching.

W3OI will be live from Brickyard Road in South Whitehall Township.

June 22 and 23, 2013

We need help with set up, and with take down as we will again be hoisting antennas high into the air, don't forget Field Day is the best time to learn to operate HF, no matter what your license class, there are many activities and coaches available to help learn new modes, or just refine some old ones. Microphone shy? Try PSK.

Directions from Allentown:

Rt 309 North to Huckleberry Rd
Right on Huckleberry Rd to Brickyard Rd
Drive to the end of Brickyard Rd.



Please remember that the railroad tracks are active and unguarded, so Stop, Look, and Listen.

Also, observe the speed limit on Brickyard Road. The houses on that road are occupied and just experience the most traffic on Field Day. We want to be good temporary neighbors. Come out to enjoy the weekend!

"Girls On the Run" 5K will be held on **Thursday June 6**. The LVARC will provide communications support for this event. If you can help, contact Rod (N3XG) at n3xg.radio@gmail.com



Members of the L.C. CERT program gave an excellent presentation at the May 7 meeting. For more information on the Lehigh County CERT program, go to:

<http://ema.lehighcounty.org/Sections/CitizensCorp/tabid/157/Default.aspx>



Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators. <http://www.eham.net/articles/21710>





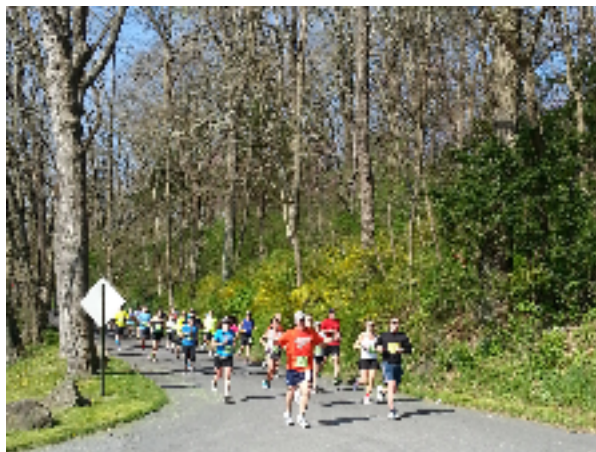
READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)

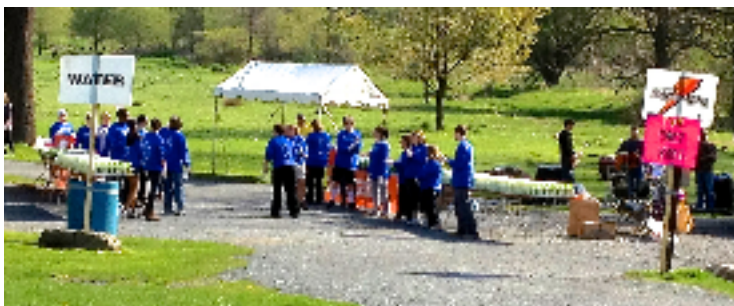
The 2013 St. Luke's 1/2 Marathon (approx. 13 miles) was held on a beautiful day on **Sunday April 28, 2013**, and once again, the **Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club** provided communications support for this event. The start was at William Allen High School. Net control was located at the Allentown School District stadium. Net control operators **Mark (AK3M)** and **Larry (NR3R)** were in direct contact with Dr. Michael Martinez, the event coordinator and medical officer, at the main medical tent at the stadium which also doubled as the finish line. Also located at the tent were representatives of the Allentown Police Department and Allentown EMS thus providing instant contact with emergency services. The NC station consisted of a Buddipole with a VHF antenna at the top up about 20 feet. In addition to 2 operators at NCS, there were 18 operators, "in the field."

A BIG TNX to **Larry** Miller, (**NR3R**), **John** Bartos (**AB3LZ**), **Don** Hoppes (**N0VGA**), **Don** Horst (**W3DLH**), **John** Gilbert (**N3SQV**), **Ryan** Pugh (**KB3MPX**), **Joe** Sirotnak (**WF2O**), **Scott** Leichssenring (**KB3YOT**), **Judy** Leichssenring (**KB3YOS**), **Bob** House (**WB3JSZ**), **John** Mosovsky (**KB3VNS**), **James** Sagazio (**KC3AFU**), **Matthew** Kriebel (**KB3UZE**), **George** Weiss (**KB3WTQ**), **Kent** Fitzgerald (**KC3AFW**), **John** Gilbert (**N3SQV**), **Paul** Ryan (**N0KIA**) and **Dave** Marsh (**W3AMC**). Without these volunteers, our support for this and other ARES events, would not be possible.

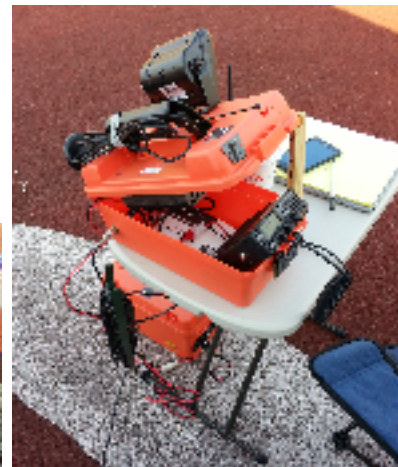
Below and on page 15, are photos of the event, submitted by LVARC communications volunteers.



Lehigh Parkway parking lot - Station - #9)
Photos courtesy of Bob (WB3JSZ)



Water Stop #5
Photos courtesy of John (AB3LZ)



Net Control Station
Photos courtesy of Larry (NR3R)

READER SUBMISSION de Bob (WB3JSZ)

I guess I won't put up that big antenna after all. (*View only if you have a strong stomach!* - ed)

www.liveleak.com/e/07b_1284580365

READER SUBMISSION de Larry (NR3R)

Neat web site for lots of radios and accessories.

www.asiaradiosales.com



READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)

The Battle Using "Wall Warts" is OVER!

I (as we all do) needed an outlet strip to handle *several* of my "wall wart" transformers. I found these short extensions at Amazon. They solved the problem just fine WITHOUT buying a special outlet strip!

1-Foot Extension Power Cable

5-pack ---- \$4.99



Need a nice AC (110v) to DC (12v) adapter for charging your HT's? Amazon has a nice device for only \$2.68!

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=ac+to+dc+adapter

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)



Radio Amateurs Provide Communication Support in Boston Marathon Bombings (*a must read -- ed.*)



<http://www.arrl.org/news/radio-amateurs-provide-communication-support-in-boston-marathon-bombings-updated>



Upcoming Summer ARRL Events



June

8-9 June VHF Contest
15 Kids Day
22-23 Field Day

July

13-14 IARU HF World Championship

August

3-4 August UHF Contest
17-18 10 GHz & Up Contest – Round 1
18 Rookie Roundup – RTTY

Confessions of a DXer Wannabe – A Primer

Alfred Gruenke, KB3JPP

READER SUBMISSION

Amateur Radio is a big tent. We have rag chewers, techies, repeater operators, EMEers, and the list goes on. The only common theme is, it involves electronic communications of some sort. Couple this with the love of learning, experimenting, and you have a lifelong hobby.

Chasing DX is only one of these variations, but it is the one I love the most. I have been interested with amateur radio most of my life, but have been active only the last ten years. Though I have enjoyed rag chewing off and on, my real love is DX. I never cease to be thrilled at the ability to communicate with strangers in some far-off land with nothing more than a shoe box (or smaller) sized equipment and a wire hanging from a tree, with similar equipment at the other end. No wires, no satellites, no optical cables.

I like awards. A few years ago I received the DXCC and WAC awards using my IC-746 PRO, a 100 Watt rig, and a G5RV Jr. antenna. It took me only ten months. Then, late in 2009 I bought and assembled an Elecraft K1, and set out to earn a DXCC-QRP, WAC-QRP, and WAS-QRP. My first QRP QSO was in January, 2010. To date (March, 2013) I've worked forty states and 105 countries, 99 confirmed with hard copy QSL cards. My best DX is Eastern Australia. According to Henk, VK2GWK, this was a 15,080 miles Long Path QSO. Henk has some pretty sophisticated equipment, and I believe him. Who am I to argue?

So, I guess I've learned a few things.

Working DX requires equipment that is capable of doing so, plus an antenna. I believe most modern equipment have this capability. I still use my IC746PRO, but I like my K1. The receiver is hot. Often, I can decipher a CW signal better on the K1 better than on the ICOM. Both rigs are connected to my G5RV Jr. via an antenna switch. The K1 has an internal Antenna Tuner, but I found it inconvenient and hard to use. Instead, I have a Z-11Pro II. It's automatic, thus no thinking required. That's a good thing. The ICOM is connected to a Signal Link transducer and to a computer with WinPSKse.2.23, a PSK31 decode program. A feature of this program is an audio frequency Spectrum Analyzer, handy for ensuring that the transmit frequency is the same as the receiving station, plus a few other goodies.

I also had the cw decode program CW Skimmer. It does a pretty good job but is certainly not perfect. I changed computers a few months ago and could not load it on the new computers, so now I'm on my own. One's code proficiency really doesn't have to be that good for DX. The traditional exchange is call sign, signal report, go to the next station. Sometimes there isn't even a polite 73! Sometimes the DX stations zip along at 35+ wpm, so it may take a few calling cycles to identify it.

Now for procedure. My computer is usually on Ham Radio Deluxe's DX cluster, http://dxcluster.ham-radio.ch/top_50_14_MHz.html. Hams around the world input the data after a QSO, listing the calls and frequency of DX stations, plus some other useful information such as their listening frequency. The calls have links to QRZ.com, making location easy. I find a cw station on the Cluster, then tune the radio to that frequency. Sometimes this works, often it doesn't. Or, I simply tune the K1 until I find a DX station. Then I tune the IC-746PRO to the station, so the signal is 800 Hz. I key the K1 until the transmit frequency is exactly 800 Hz as seen on the monitor. Then I respond with my call only. No chitchat, no tnx fer call. If it's a new country and it's pretty exotic, I work it first with the ICOM, then with the K1. I've had good luck doing that. Sometimes I send KB3JPP/QRP. If this sounds as if I'm looking for a "sympathy" QSO, it is. All's fair in Love, War, and DX! If the DX station is listening on a different frequency, they will usually send their call letters plus "UP". Usually this means 1 kHz, but not always. This is where the DX Cluster (sometimes) helps.

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Or, observe the station responses on the frequency spectrum. When the DX station addresses a particular station, all the signals stop except the station that is being addressed. Note the audio frequency, subtract 800 from it, and that is your offset frequency. Set your transceiver accordingly. Sometimes, DX stations shift their listening frequency. Now, I wouldn't say that sadism is involved, but just sayin'.


No need to hurry. Once a station has established itself on a frequency, they seldom change. If you miss them one day, try the next day. DX stations (especially DXpeditions) want to have as many QSO's as possible

A word of caution. If you have self-esteem issues, or don't take rejection well, DXing may not be for you. There is nothing worse than answering a CQ than to hear the station calling CQ again while you are still sending! This has happened with both the K1 and the ICOM. After a few cycles, you solemnly have to admit that you have not been heard, or you are being ignored. Take it like a man, suck it up, and move on.

Read and follow the QSL instructions on QRZ.COM. One doesn't need QSL cards for DXCC-QRP, but I like them. If it's a stateside station, I send my card and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If an ordinary station in South America or Europe, I send a self addressed envelope and \$3.00 to pay for return postage. If it's an exotic locale or a DXpedition, I send a ten spot, sometimes more. One really can't expect any amateur to shell out a couple of thousand bucks to mail QSL cards! So, if you want them, you have to pay. I also include a one page bio, plus that I was published in the October, 2009 QST Letters to the Editor, and the web address of a blog to which I sometimes contribute. Anything to distinguish you from the pack.

In total, I estimate that my success rate is around 60%. DXpeditions respond virtually 100%, if you contribute. If the station has a QSL manager in another country, the response is also very good. However, QSL's from some countries are extremely difficult. Belarus, Moldova, Egypt, and surprisingly, Finland, are all difficult. So are QSL cards from Alabama! But, I keep trying.


That's all there's to it. Experience the mystique and magic of foreign lands, enjoy being a good-will ambassador for Amateur Radio and America. And the awards look good in your shack.






Remember to take your camera to Field Day and submit your pictures to Mark (AK3M) for inclusion in the newsletter.






If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

<http://www.eham.net/articles/21710>





Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

<http://www.eham.net/articles/21710>