

DELARA NEWS

Delaware Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Vol. 24 No. 11

November 2005

DELARA meetings are always held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Tri-Twp. Fire Dept. meeting room, beginning at 7:30 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

ALL DELARA members are encouraged to check into the Monday evening Delaware County Net which meets every Monday at 8:00 P.M. on the W8SMK 145.17 repeater. Please join us! NCS call: K8ES

2005 DELARA Officers:

President: Vern Kollas, KC8YOH, 22 Weltergon Dr., Delaware, OH 43015

Vice President: Don Miller, KB8SIA, 2400 Hills-Miller Rd, Delaware, OH 43015

Secretary/Treasurer: Tim Trombley, K8TAT, 5900 US 42 South, Ostrander, OH 43061

Newsletter submissions to: Ken Bird, W8SMK, ken@midohio.net

DELARA web site: www.angelfire.com/tx5/delara

NOVEMBER MEETING!

The November DELARA meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16th at 7:30 P.M. at the Tri-Twp Fire Dept. meeting room.

This month's meeting will be our annual Business meeting and election of officers for the coming year. There may be a "tech topic", or something also.

THE PRES SEZ:

by Vern Kollas,

KC8YOH

Good afternoon to everyone!!! I hope everyone has had a good month since my last time at the keyboard. I am going to try typing this up quick before I blow away with the strong winds out there today!!!

At last month's meeting, we nominated club officers for next year. We will be voting at the meeting this month, so please be there if you would like to vote. Below are the nominees for next year.....

For President:

Vern Kollas, KC8YOH – Incumbent
Bob Brown, N8OB

For Vice-President:

Don Miller, KB8SIA – Incumbent
Tim Trombley, K8TAT

For Treasurer/Secretary:

Tim Trombley, K8TAT – Incumbent
Terry Webb, N0TW

Good luck to those who were nominated to serve the club for the coming year!!

The next thing I wanted to mention is regarding the DELARA Holiday Party. Since we do not have a regular club meeting in December due to the holidays, we should discuss a time and location for the annual Holiday party.

Also don't forget that DELARA will be hosting a testing session on November 15th for the current HAM class attendees. The testing will begin at 7:00 pm at the Orange Township Fire Station. This also presents a good opportunity for club members wishing to upgrade their license a convenient location to take the test. I believe the testing fee is \$15, but you may want to check with Sandy, N8YS or Joe, K8MP to be certain.

Just as a reminder, if any of your contact info changes such as phone numbers, e-mail address, etc, please make sure you let one of the club officers know. This helps us keep the roster up to date. We wouldn't want you to not receive a newsletter because you forgot to let us know your new information!

That is all I have for this edition of the newsletter. I hope to see all of you at this month's meeting.

73!

JOE'S PLACE: by Joe Papworth, K8MP

Howdy, from Joe's Place...

It's hard to believe it's nearly the middle of November already. I suppose it's because the weather has seemed milder than most years.

For wanna-be contesters like me, this time of year means the start of the contest season, the major ones anyway.

Last weekend was the ARRL CW Sweepstakes and a week before that was the CQ World Wide Phone contest. Later this month, (the weekend of Nov 19th), we have the Phone-side of the ARRL Sweepstakes, (more on that later) and a week after that, the CW-side of the CQWW.

In December, we have the ARRL 160-meter contest. It's usually on the first weekend in December, and the ARRL 10-meter contest, which is both phone and CW, follows a week later.

The Sweepstakes contests are somewhat unique, in that the information exchanged during a contact contains five parts. (Unlike Field day and others where usually only 2 pieces of info are sent).

A typical Sweepstakes contact on SSB would go something like this:

"CQ Sweepstakes CQ Sweepstakes This is Kilo-8-Mike-Papa, over"

(or use "CQ SS" to speed things up)

The replying station will probably just throw out his call.
"Whiskey-1-Alpha-Whiskey"

I'll respond with:

"WIAW, you're number X, Bravo, K8MP, 62, Ohio"

Then WIAW will give me their information, and then I move on to another QSO.

The five items in the exchange are:

- 1) QSO Serial number.
- 2) Precedence (A single letter indicating your output power) "Q" for < 5 watts, "A" for < 150 watts, and "B" for >150 watts.
- 3) Your call-sign.
- 4) Your check number, which is the last two digits of the year you were born.
- 5) And last, your ARRL section (Ohio for us guys)

E.C. NEWS: by Don Miller, KB8SIA

WOW! It is November already. Just where did the year go to ?

We are going to deviate from our schedule of meetings at the Delaware County EOC for the month of December. Our Technical Assistant E.C. John Beal, W8SJV has made arrangements with Tom Taft , KA8ZNY of the Franklin County ARES group to tour their newly refurbished facility on the 13th. They have some new radios and a tower they want to show and tell. It will be a joint session with their group. We will hold our meeting there. At 7:30 PM.

The facility is located at 5300 Strawberry Hills Farm Blvd. A map is available at www.coares.org I'll have some maps at the November DELARA meeting. The location is in a congested area where SR 161 is being reconstructed at US 270. It is assessable from all directions and caution is advised. I think the best way to get there would be to approach the area from the West from route 23 or route 3 and travel East to Strawberry Hills Farm Blvd and turn right. For those that will be driving to the site you can check with ODOT for the latest lane opens and closures at this web site www.161next.org .

It would be great if we had a large turnout so I am inviting the DELARA members to accompany the ARES group to this function. I recommend that we have a working car pool to cut down on problems. I will set up the pool but must know if you want to be a driver or rider. I myself can take 5 members. If interested in being either one call me at 740-363-3039 or e mail me at kb8sia@juno.com I'll have a log sheet available at the DELARA meeting on November 16th.

The Christmas Parade will take place on November 20th. The roster of Santa's helper communicators is complete and will be sent to you via E-mail. I'll have additional schedules with me at the meeting. My thanks to all that volunteered to make it a success again this year.

Well that is it from this keyboard this month. Talk at you next month.

The Sweepstakes are fun ones because you don't need a huge station to be competitive. The participants are from the USA, Canada, and their possessions, so you don't need the ability to talk half-way around the world.

You could easily obtain your W.A.S. (Worked all States) award in one day during this contest, and it would be good practice for our next Field Day.

For complete dates, times, and rules, go to:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/novss.html>

Well, that's about all for this month. I hope you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving season.

See y'all in December, at Joe's Place.

NØ Tenna Wizzard: by Terry Webb, NØTW

The Nostalgic Side of the Hobby

Having been licensed for 43 years, I sometimes find myself recalling some of the memorable times that I have enjoyed with this hobby. Tonight is such an occasion.

I was flipping through a notebook where I keep various awards, letters, etc. and I came upon a letter I received from the Commanding Officer of Midway Island. The letter was sent to me after I ran some phone patch traffic for Naval personnel who were stationed on the island. Ham Radio was their only link to loved ones back in the USA. One of the sentences in the letter hit upon what I feel is the core of ham radio ... "The foundation of Amateur Radio is built on unselfish service to others while providing a ready communications reserve of qualified radio operators in time of local, national and international disaster."

When I hear about new hams taking classes to receive their ham tickets, as well as those hams who are already licensed and are upgrading to get more operating privileges, I believe it is representative of "new blood" ready to step in and serve when needed.

Some other memorable times that I have experienced with this hobby include: earthquake relief (running health and welfare traffic out of Mexico City), handling Mayday calls from South America on two different occasions, and running phone patches for deployed military personnel and for maritime mobiles.

These are just as special memories to me as working enough DX stations to qualify for DXCC.

I've also had the privilege of meeting some of the radio pioneers who helped develop this hobby. Did you know that the inventor of the Windom antenna used to live here in Columbus? General Windom was a WWII veteran and was at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll for many years. John Kraus, W8JK, the designer of the OSU "Big Ear" radio telescope and inventor of the W8JK beam antenna also lived in this area. So, you never know who you may get a chance to meet in this hobby.

The technical advancements that have occurred with Amateur Radio are really amazing. When I was a kid, there was a comic book character that had a radio that he wore on his wrist! Such utter nonsense .. now it's reality. Ham radios used to be so heavy that it took two men to move them from location to location. Now they fit into your shirt pocket.

My end to this story is that it has no end. Ham Radio continues on, offering a multitude of services and enjoyment for not only the licensed hams, but for the citizens of many nations that benefit from the services of hams.

So next time someone asks, "Isn't Ham Radio just like CB radio?" Just smile and answer, yes, just like talking on a couple of cans tied together with a piece of string is like talking on a digital satellite phone system.

CU on the bands.

Classifieds: by Vern Kollas, KC8YOH

Below is a list of HAM equipment that Alex, KB8ITX had asked me list in the newsletter. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Alex for prices and more information. Thanks!!

Yaesu 757GX with all manuals and connector to Heil boomset

Icom 761 with all manuals and an old style desk mic

Icom 271a with all manuals, but it is having trouble on the front end.

Each has all the power cords and the like.