

# DELARA NEWS

Delaware Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Vol. 24 No. 9

September 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](mailto:ken@midohio.net)

**DELARA web site: [www.angelfire.com/tx5/delara](http://www.angelfire.com/tx5/delara)**

## SEPTEMBER MEETING!

The September DELARA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 P.M. at the Tri-Twp Fire Dept. meeting room.

At this month's meeting, we will be having a presentation by our very own Terry, N0TW on how to successfully install those pesky PL-259's that we all just LOVE to avoid!! Jimmie, WD8DCF will be showing us some N connectors as well.

## THE PRES SEZ:

by Vern Kollas,  
KC8YOH

So, here we are again. Another month has gone by and I am sitting here at the keyboard with a nice hot cup of coffee. As most of you know, yesterday was the Delaware All-Horse Parade. We had wonderful weather and it was an enjoyable event as always. Linda was saying as things were winding down that she has us all in the same spot for next year. Thanks go out to Linda and all others who make this event so successful and fun for all. I know I am already looking forward to next year!!

I am also sure that by now most of you are aware that DELARA is putting on another Tech class. I am sure Joe will have more details in his article, but if not, I have posted more details on the website. Speaking of the website, I also did a little "fall cleaning" just a few days ago. I removed some of the older pictures that were up there and added some new. I also added the "Shack Showcase" section. I bet you won't be able to guess who's tidy shack that is. HIHI!!! If any club members would like to have your shack posted for the world to see, please send them to me. I would be glad to get them on there for you. It could be fun to have a "before and after" section to show how stunning your shack looks before a contest, and then the ragged remains after those long hours of chasing that rare DX station. I am currently thinking about a winter makeover of the website. I had wanted to get this done sooner, but time is just not working in my favor lately. If you have any suggestions of things you would like to see, or any other ideas, please feel free to let me know as always.

The last thing I would like to bring up this month is if the club as a group would be interested in helping with the Hurricane Katrina relief in any way. I had been asked by another member if there were any of us that were going to go down. One thought I also had was if enough people were interested, that we could take a collection and we could make a donation to the Red Cross or Salvation Army in the club's name. I would be more than willing to head this up if there is any interest. Of course there isn't any obligation in doing so, just some thoughts that I wanted to present to the group.

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

## E.C. NEWS: by Don Miller, KB8SIA

Would we have been prepared for the terrible work that Mother Nature inflicted on the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida by the wrath of hurricane Katrina? With all the widespread activity going on right now with the name blame going on it will be interesting when all the laundry is hung out to dry later on. Human nature is funny in a way – Hind site is always better than foresight. None the less it is a wake up call for all persons involved with preparedness of communities. My heart goes out to those that were involved.

Listening to the H.F. amateur emergency nets and their traffic is horrific that will continue well into the winter I'm sure. Just to bring you up to date on those frequencies they are:

Health and Welfare traffic - 7.290 MHz Day Net  
Health and Welfare traffic - 3.935 MHz Eve Net  
Emergency Traffic - 7.285 MHz - Day Net  
Emergency Traffic - 3.873 MHz Evening Net  
SATURN Health and Welfare Net 14.265 MHz

From Rick Palm, K1CE comes these words of prediction – When the curtain is finally drawn on this calamity, you will see Amateur Radio and ARES written or rewritten into a host of more governmental and non-governmental organization plans for the future. Guaranteed. Mark my words on that. Get your pens ready.

We have made arrangements to have our A.R.E.S. meetings at the Emergency Operations Center this year and next. You may want to mark your calendar or cut this chart out and place it on the refrigerator. The dates (on a Tuesday) are:

October	11, 2005
December	13, 2005
February	14, 2006
April	11, 2006
June	13, 2006

Meetings will start at 7:30 PM If there are any changes in the scheduling you will be notified by 'E' mail or through this Newsletter column.

**Remember our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is October 11, 2005. See you there and bring a friend.**

That is all from this keyboard this month. Talk at you next month.

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## JOE'S PLACE: by Joe Papworth, K8MP

**Howdy, from Joe's Place...**

**It's Ham Class time again.**

DELARA, along with a lot of help from our friends Bill Carpenter and Fire Chief Tom Stewart, will be running a Technician Class beginning October 4<sup>th</sup> and ending with an exam session on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Those are all Tuesday evenings, with a start time of 7:00 PM.

The location will be the new Orange Township Fire Station. The class fee is \$40.00, which includes the study guide, the exam fee, and refreshments. Our instructor will be Bill, AA8EY. We plan to augment the teaching sessions with some live demos of various aspects of our hobby. Also, licensed amateurs are encouraged to attend any and all sessions in support of the new students. (I may be asking for volunteers to fulfill various duties)

New students may pre-register by contacting Sandy, (N8YS), Bill, or me. ([n8ys@arrl.net](mailto:n8ys@arrl.net) [aa8ey@earthlink.net](mailto:aa8ey@earthlink.net) or [k8mp@aol.com](mailto:k8mp@aol.com)).

Payment need not be made in advance. It can be paid at the first or second class session. The pre-registration is just a way to get a ball-park head-count of the new students, and to obtain an email address and/or phone number for contacting them.

Note: I'll be on vacation from 9-15 until 9-26. During that period, please route any pre-registrations and/or class-related communications through Bill or Sandy.

Well, that about covers it for this month. By the way, Joe's Place is going to QSY to North Carolina's Outer Banks during the fore-mentioned time period. (Barring any east coast hurricanes, that is). I hope to catch some of you on HF while I'm down there.

See you in October, back at Joe's "regular" Place.

# **NØ Tenna Wizzard:**

by Terry Webb,  
NØTW

## **Emergency Antennas**

Are you putting lives in danger if your radio can't be heard in an emergency? The answer may be ... possibly yes!

9-11, tornadoes, hurricanes, ice-storms, extended power outages, reservoirs on the verge of overflowing and causing downstream flooding of homes along the Olentangy River, rolling power outages – man-o-man – what kind of gloomy article is this going to be? Well, I decided to write an article about emergency antennas. Many of you participate in Field Day each summer, but how many of you have an emergency antenna that you can grab and take with you when you are heading out the door for an emergency?

Let's face it, most of our hand held radios just can't put a decent signal into repeaters from remote locations of the county, down in a basement, inside a steel-framed building, etc. Many of our mobile rigs/antennas can get back to the repeaters, but hand-helds quite often just don't have the power output and antenna efficiency required to be effective. Why waste the net control's time and possibly put people's lives in danger if you can not be heard effectively?

That's why I am an advocate for having an external antenna that can be quickly attached to a handheld for that extra coverage to make your signal readable. Some good external antenna examples include: 5/8 wave mag-mount, dipole, Moxon Rectangle, j-pole, and trapped vertical. Each type of antenna has advantages and disadvantages. But, any of them will improve the signal from a handheld if you are just using the rubber-ducky that is provided with the radio.

Perhaps one of the most portable 2-meter antennas is the j-pole made from a short piece of ordinary tv twinlead or 450 ohm ladderline. These neat antennas are so portable that you can roll one up and put it into your pocket or suitcase. If you are interested in constructing one of these really handy antennas, look at the following URL

<http://hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/races/antenna/pocket.htm>

Also, anyone wanting to build one, let me know and I will bring a piece of 300 ohm tv twinlead to the meeting for you – free of charge. My email is [n0tw@columbus.rr.com](mailto:n0tw@columbus.rr.com)

One of the handiest 70-cm portable antennas is the Moxon Rectangle. For its small size (3.6" x 9.7"), it

is really hard to beat. Look up this URL for information on building a Moxon Rectangle for any frequency. <http://n3wwn.futuretek.cx/calcs/moxon.php4>

Having an emergency antenna is very important and I strongly urge you not to put this one off. Build yourself several portable antennas that can be placed into use when needed. Each of us should have an emergency bag filled with emergency items needed if you are called into service. This is regardless of whether you are a member of ARES or not. You are a ham radio operator and there are no guarantees when an emergency will strike. Be pro-active and not post-sorry.

CU on the Bands

## **FROM THE "ARRL LETTER"**

### **==>AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS FILLING COMMUNICATION GAPS IN GULF REGION**

Hundreds of Amateur Radio operators from the gulf Coast and elsewhere in the US continue to volunteer their skills and expertise as the Hurricane Katrina relief effort heads into its third week. ARRL Section Managers (SMs) and Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs) across and around the affected region have been teleconferencing daily to keep their efforts on the same page. In the field, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other volunteers are assisting as needed to support communication for relief agencies as well as for state and local government and even the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Louisiana SEC Gary Stratton, K5GLS, says Amateur Radio was the only means for state officials at the state emergency operations center (EOC) in Baton Rouge to communicate earlier this week with the so-called "Florida parishes" above Lake Pontchartrain.

"We have had praise from one end of Louisiana to the other about Amateur Radio operators," Stratton said. "There was a communication to the EOC in Baton Rouge from FEMA that said, 'Ham radio is our prime communications with you, and they should get anything they need,' so FEMA recognizes the importance of ham radio." He also recounted how state officials arriving at the EOC were using ham radio to get through to their hard-hit parishes.

<snip> for the whole story, check it out.