

The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

November 2011

34th Year of Publication

The Prez Sez:



Nick N3CK

Nick wrote to the Board on Nov 3, 2011: "A very close friend of mine recently passed away. Being a doc I've had to deal up close with death and thought I had developed a certain level of bravado. This loss has affected me more than I would have predicted. I ask for all of your forgiveness, but I need to drop out of everything for about a month."

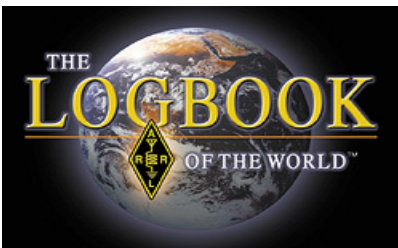
As a club, we feel honored that Nick thought so much of us to request to be given the time to grieve.

Hence, there will be no Prez Sez column from Nick for this issue. In turn, we will extend to Nick and his family all the solemnity and quiet that he has asked.

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## On the Air: Logbook of The World Experiencing Delays

Due to a large number of radio amateurs uploading their logs to Logbook of The World (LoTW) after last weekend's CQ Worldwide SSB Contest, the ARRL's online QSL verification service is experiencing delays.



According to ARRL IT Manager Michael Keane, K1MK, there is about a 60 hour wait for the more than 10,000 logs in the queue to be processed. "Logs are processed in the order in which they were received," he explained. "If you have uploaded your log to LoTW, your log is currently queued for processing. It has not been lost in the system. Uploading your log multiple times will only further delay your log and those of others to be processed."

Credit must be given to *The ARRL Letter* and The American Radio Relay League.

## AARC Public Service Events

AARC prides itself on it's contribution to the community, one way in which they accomplish this is providing communications and other services to organizations. If you have never helped with an event please consider doing so. most service events take between 3-8 hours of your time, but it is time well spent. Very basic equipment is required, usually just a hand held 2 meter radio, or sometimes nothing at all except your commitment to help setup, tear-down equipment.

Please contact Mark / KA3RNW for details of upcoming events. Your help is really appreciated.

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AARC members enjoy Project Night at the clubhouse

Nick Lomangino (N3CK), our club president, has developed a 3-event club program which features the activities known as "Radio Sport" and "Fox Hunting", both of which employ radio direction finding techniques.

The first event was the talk given by Richard McNeely(W3DQT) at the club meeting on 15 September.



We learned all about the exacting technique of Radio Sport and all about the procedures and equipment used in Radio Sport competitions. Mac brought a couple of directional

yagi antennas to show us, which were made from PVC pipe, a metal tape measure, and some other assorted hardware.

So at the 6 October meeting, there were 19 of us who assembled one of these antennas from kits provided by AARC for the cost of \$5. There were 23 kits prepared, but some members could not attend the project night, and will build theirs on their own. Almost all the participants took home a working antenna with acceptable SWR readings, and should be ready for the third event in the series, which

is to go on an actual "fox hunt" to find a hidden transmitter.
See the montage below of this activity.

Slate of Officers for 2012

Following is the slate for 2012 AARC officials. You will notice the absence of a name at the top. After many members have been contacted, not one will consent to run for president. There must be a member out there who would like to be the AARC President for 2012. We need you. Please come forward!

President: OPEN!

Vice-Pres: Chuck / K3ACT

Secretary: George / N3YSA

Treasurer: Rick / KK4GV

Directors: Vote for 3

Bob Jeter / K3RSJ

Jim Goldsberry / KB3NQY

Steve Hanlon / WM3O

Ron Boller / N3WOF

Milford Craig / N3WYG

Many times the question asked, "**What do I get for my dues?**" After all, the newsletter and roster are electronic now and anyone can read the newsletter on-line. (The roster takes a password but any member can see it and even print a copy.) Aside from the obvious, six repeaters, two digipeaters, full blown club station, clubhouse, presentations, operating events, training, and testing, a typical answer could be: "**The value of club membership is inherent in belonging to and supporting an amateur radio organization that you participate in and care about.**" It's not about what you get. It's about why you care. You are a ham and this is your club.

So get involved!

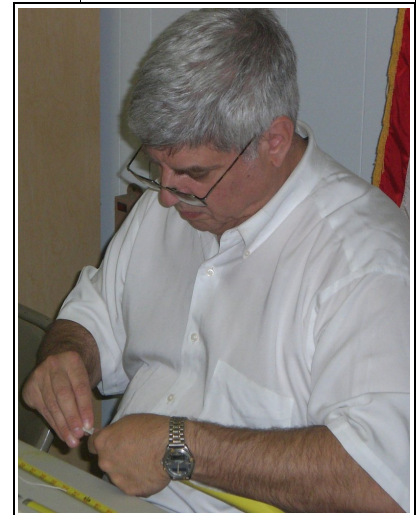


ANTENNA PROJECT OCT 3, 2010

The project consisted of building a Direction Finding antenna out of items found easily. The elements were steel tape measure cut to length. The boom is PVC tubing and elbows. Other materials included Velcro, hose pipe clamps, and other various hardware and cabling. Chuck Tanner, K3ACT, procured all the components and cut to rough size. With all the 'elmers' around, everyone had a great time and many operational antennas were made. Chuck even found that the antenna could be used to transmit.



Stay tuned for
an upcoming event
using these, and
other, antennas
in field operations.





2011 Maryland-DC QSO Party

The 2011 Maryland-DC QSO Party is officially over and what a difference a year makes. About this same time last year we wrapped up our first year as the sponsor of the Maryland-DC QSO Party after receiving 49 logs.

This year we received a total of 88 logs:

We received 33 logs from MDC stations in 11 counties, Baltimore City and Washington, DC:

- 21 Standard Stations from 8 counties and Baltimore City
- 8 Club Stations from 7 counties and Washington, DC
- 2 QRP Stations from 2 counties
- 2 Mobile Stations

We also received 55 logs from non-MDC Stations in 23 States, 2 Provinces and 1 DX entity:

- 51 Standard Stations from 23 states, 2 Canadian Provinces and 1 DX entity (Spain)
- 2 Club stations from 2 states
- 2 QRP stations from 1 state

Congratulations to the following winners of the operating categories indicated:

Winning Category	Call Sign	Name
MDC Club	WG3J	The 1900 Club
MDC Mobile	WA3EOP	Page Pyne
MDC QRP	AA3CS	Chuck Shefflette
MDC Standard	W3LL	Bud Governale
Non-MDC Club	W3GV (PA)	Radio Assoc. of Erie, PA
Non-MDC QRP	W4UT (TN)	Ronald Duncan
Non-MDC Standard	KD4BAO (SC)	Anthony Carasea

The official final standings are posted on the MDC QSO Party website:

<http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/2011MDCQSOPartyResults.pdf>

Certificates are in the mail to the winners. Plaques have been ordered and will be mailed as soon as we get them back

Again, congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who participated.

The next MDC QSO Party is scheduled for 11-12 August 2012. The 2012 Maryland-DC QSO Party Chairman will be Nick/N3CK.

Are You Interested?

It starts at 4pm on Saturday, 19 Nov 2011 and lasts 28 hours during which we can operate a maximum total of 24 hours. I'm talking about the **November Sweepstakes (Phone version)**. We would operate 1 or 2 entries – we're limited to one transmitter per entry

The club currently has a Yagi and a single Windom that are operational. The second Windom is down with one end

fouled around a 2-meter antenna about 50-70- feet up the big tower. This happened probably as a result of the tree falling on the lower guy wire last month. There's no telling when the Windom will be re-positioned. We could install a vertical with radials and we could hang a G5RV or another Windom from the clubhouse to the big tree by the Boy Scout building.

We can make this a nice social event among a few friends or we can invite the club membership to participate.

Let me know if you want to/can participate and what you'd like to do.

The editor heard that there may be something to eat! Are you interested? Bob/AA3RR will be the initial contact.

December 16, 2011-Are you Ready

The Holiday party is December 16th at 6pm in Ford Hall. Kim Delamarter and Barb Nixon are the co-chairs. Any and all help will be appreciated.

In order to save the club money and not have a large amount of food wasted It is **VERY IMPORTANT that you RSVP to Barb (thnixon@qis.net) by the first week in December.**

If you will be bringing children PLEASE also include in your RSVP their names, sex and ages. Santa will be giving out gifts and he would like to give age and gender appropriate gifts.

The club will provide turkey, chicken, ham and mashed potatoes. We will also have sodas and coffee. If you would bring a dish to share, that would make the party complete.

The club is pleased to give out door prizes. To be eligible dues needed to be paid prior to the Christmas Party. Drawing.

Postage Rates Increase in January

The US Postal Service has announced that as of January 22, 2012, the cost to mail first class letters, postcards and packages within the US will go up. The cost to mail a first class letter will be 45 cents, an increase of 1 cent.



According to the USPS, this is the first increase since May 2009. The cost of mailing a postcard will be 32 cents, an increase of 3 cents. This is the second increase for postcard postage in less than a year; in April 2011, the USPS boosted the postcard stamp price from 28 cents to 29 cents. You will also pay more to send letters to Canada, Mexico and other international destinations. Click [here](#) for more information on all the postal increases. (From *The ARRL Letter* and The American Radio Relay League.)

AARC experiments with a 2M simplex net

On 28 September 2011, after the AARC weekly 2M net on 147.105 was closed, most participants in that net hung around for an experiment in establishing a "simplex net" on the Anne Arundel County emergency frequency, 146.430. This was an exercise that we had hoped to perform during hurricane Irene but for various reasons that exercise was not successful.

This time we had some moderate success, and learned a bit about methods of establishing and maintaining contact on a simplex net.

In order to continue to develop this capability for hams in the vicinity of AARC's repeaters, this exercise will be repeated approximately every 5 weeks. Chuck/K3ACT will moderate this attempt each night he is net control for the Wednesday night 2M net.

Current plans are to cut the normal 1-hour 2M net a little short, and before closing it, write down a list of those stations who wish to stick around a while longer to establish the simplex "net". After closing the weekly net, we will all QSY to 146.430 and NC will call each station.

Then Chuck will contact who he can hear, he will pass temporary control of the "net" (in this case, "1st level relay station") to each person he can hear, and ask them to go through the list, noting who they can hear.

Then the 1st level relay station will report back to the Net Control (NC), recording who he/she made contact with. After all who NC can hear have had their turn as 1st level relay stations, then we can try to branch on each of the secondary "nets", passing the NC to a 2nd level relay station through a first level relay station.

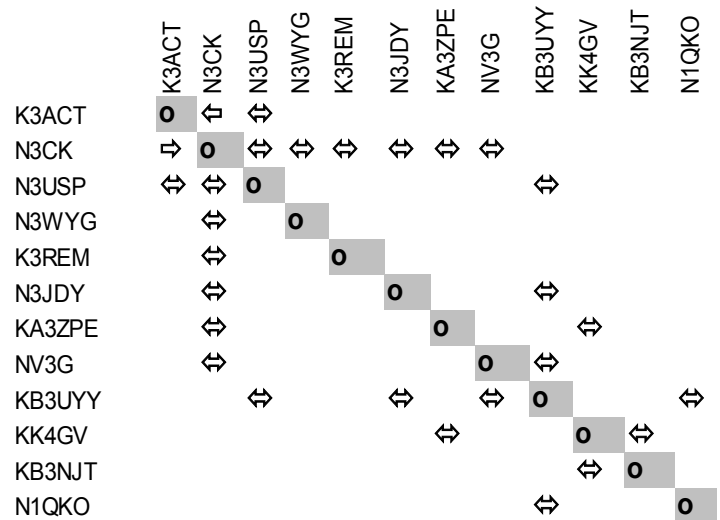
If all this sounds complicated, don't worry, because we all are learning as we go. We encourage you to join the weekly 2M net on 2 November and 7 December and see if you can be a part of our "simplex net".

I am experimenting with a grid to record 'hearability' between stations. If you write the callsigns of all participating stations in the left-most column, and in the same order across the top row, left to right, then there are two squares where each station pair intersect. You can put an arrow in each of these squares pointing to the station doing the hearing. If both stations can hear each other, make the arrow 2-headed. I am including a copy of the grid I drew up after our 28 September experience, and I hope it can be reproduced in the Newsletter.

So if you are interested in participating, I suggest that you draw up one of these grids to have handy to use to record your 'hearability' results. We may even use simple 'hearability' ranks like Low, Medium, and High. I hope that we can gather our 'hearability' data within an hour, and then at 9:30 all meet back on the 147.105 repeater to confirm our reports and see how well we did.

We had a lot of fun last time, and we look forward to greater participation as we map out this "net" together. I hope lots of you can join us next time.

Hearability chart between stations



October Exam Session Results

The second Saturday of the month has come and gone. It's history. And part of that history includes the results of our exam session on the 8th. By the way, can you believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner?

Eight applicants showed up and were administered 11 exams.

We administered five Element 2 exams (Technician) to five applicants all of whom passed.

We administered six Element 3 exams (General) to five applicants of whom three passed.

As a result of the exams taken and passed, three applicants upgraded to General and five applicants became new hams – all are Technicians. If you hear these call signs on the air, please congratulate them and in the case of the new hams, welcome them to our hobby.

David Tenhoff – **New Ham - KB3WNX – Technician**

Valen Tisdale – **New Ham - KK4EPR – Technician**

Lisa Tisdale – **New Ham - KK4EPS – Technician**

Kathleen Dove – **New Ham - KB3WNY – Technician**

Jonathon Ward – **New Ham - KB3WNZ – Technician**

Lisa Stehfest – **KF5MFH – Upgraded to General**

William Pemberton – **KB3WJI – Upgraded to General**

Daniel Wilson – **KE5ZNR – Upgraded to General**

The following Volunteer Examiners participated in this exam session:

KA2JAI	Mike Montrose
N3MB	Margaret Bevan
KB3LGC	Margaret Goldsberry
KB3MPR	Robert Delamater
N3USP	Glenn Bock
WW3R	Dick Maio
K3TH	Tom Hogevoil

Special thanks to Mike/KA2JAI for running the exam.

REPEATER FREQUENCIES

Davidsonville	Millersville	Glen Burnie	Annapolis
147.105+		147.075+	
223.880-	224.560-		
444.400+			442.300+

PL: 107.2 for all repeaters

The 147.105 and 147.075 repeaters are frequently linked. Please leave an extra second after the courtesy beep to allow the link to reset as well.

Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets.

Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD. For en-route directions, make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.

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Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

8PM, On the AARC Repeater 147.105

Other Amateur Radio nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time
Morning Commuter Net	147.105+ PL 107.2	Weekdays	0600
AA County ARES Net	146.805-Mhz PL 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670-Mhz	Daily	1830
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.820Mhz	Daily	1800
MD-DC-DE Traffic Net	3.557Mhz	Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Mobileers Net	146.805 PL107.2	Monday	1930
Maryland Slow Net	3.563 MHz	Daily	1930
REACT Net	147.105+Mhz PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930

Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc.

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First Class Mail

