

The "Membrain"

"Dedicated to the memory of our former Publisher, Peter WB2B"

A Publication of the Delaware
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DVRC Club Net @10:00 PM Tuesday after ARRL Audio News

DVRC CLUB REPEATERS

146.820 (- 600) Camden NJ PL = 131.8 Hz
147.210 (+ 600) Absecon NJ PL = 123.0 Hz
448.0250 (- 5.0 mHz) Camden NJ PL = 131.8 Hz

Also Accessible via Echolink at "W2CAM/R"

DVRC 2008 Officers and Directors

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Many of you wanted to see a pic of your Editor's 'modest' shack.. Here it is complete with my Frito-Lay baseball cap! (Yes, that's a working Plectron in there)

April 2008 Issue

Editor's Corner



By George – WA2RCB

The April 2008 DVRC Meeting will be held on **Saturday April 19th** starting at approx 10:00 AM at the Haddon Township Public Library building located at 15 Mac Arthur Boulevard in Westmont, NJ. The library is located atop the hill right behind the Crystal Lake Diner, McDonalds & Wendy's. Turn at the traffic light on Cuthbert Road, go up the hill and the library entrance is just past the car wash. Talk-in is on the 448.0250 repeater.

The 146.22/82 DVRC Camden NJ Repeater is off the air for maintenance and upgrade issues. For the present time DVRC Members and Friends should use the 448.0250 W2CAM/R UHF Repeater as an alternate. The Tuesday evening DVRC Net continues to be held on the 448.0250 Repeater at 10:00 PM. An update on the status of the 82 Repeater will be presented at the April meeting. The 147.210 Absecon NJ Repeater at the Jersey Shore continues to function normally.



Classic Radio of the Month: The Drake 2B Receiver and Q Multiplier. Mfg'r'd by the Drake Radio corporation during the 1960's it was ahead of it's time as it featured a very sensitive preselected receiver. Highly sought after today by collectors and DX/ CW operators for it's notable audio filtering comparable to modern radios. (WA5CMI Collection)

FCC SEEKS ENGINEERING SCHOOL GRADS FOR EIT

The Federal Communications Commission says it is seeking applications from engineering school graduates with superior academic credentials and an interest in communications engineering. This, for its 2008 Engineer-in-Training Program. The Engineer-in-Training Program program helps the commission recruit new and recent engineering school graduates to the agency and the field of communications. Recent engineering grads and candidates for graduation this spring are invited to apply for openings in the program's 2008 class. Additional information is available on the FCC's EIT Program page at www.fcc.gov/EITprogram, or by contacting the FCC's Human Resources Office at area code 202 -418-0130. You can also e-mail for more information to recruit@fcc.gov. (FCC)

The K7RA Solar Update

(Apr 4, 2008) -- The past few days have had very stable geomagnetic conditions. After unsettled to active geomagnetic indicators on March 26-28, conditions quieted down dramatically. Combined with the nearly two-week run of sunspots and the spring season, this makes good HF conditions. There were actually three sunspots, beginning on March 23 with the first one and a sunspot number of 14. March 24 and 25 each brought one new spot; the sunspot number rose to 35 and 52 on those days. Activity peaked between March 26-29 with daily sunspot numbers of 63, 57, 63 and 50. Yesterday, April 3, the sunspot number was back to 14 again, as one-by-one, the three spots drifted from view. Today's sunspot number may be back to zero, and it may stay that way until April 18-20. Sunspot numbers for March 27 through April 2 were 57, 63, 50, 41, 45, 25 and 24 with a mean of 43.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 84.8, 82.9, 82.6, 80.5, 79.2, 77.8 and 75.9 with a mean of 80.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 31, 21, 8, 8, 4, 4 and 1 with a mean of 11. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 19, 13, 6, 6, 2, 5 and 1, with a mean of 7.4. (K7RA)



Take a Couple of minutes today to remember and thank Our Troops serving at Home and Overseas.

2008 ARRL Exhibit Kits now available for Field Day

Field Day 2008 Rules and Forms Now Available It's that time of year again - time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rules changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks. 2008 Rules Changes: GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time. Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class. For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be

appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail. Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said. The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location. "We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again participate transmitting the W1AW special Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet. Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T shirts will be announced in the next few weeks. Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, you are encouraged to order them no later than June 13. 2008 Field Day Logo: Ride the Waves ARRL member Mary Von Lintig, KV2M, suggested the slogan for Field Day 2008: "Ride the Waves." A member of the South Jersey Radio Association, Von Lintig, inspired by the 2007 Field Day "bug" in last year's logo, enjoys VHF contesting and ARRL Sweepstakes and recently joined the Frankford Radio Club. "And, I like ARRL Field Day of course," she says. "I usually operate 21 hours of the event!" An avid portable radio operator, she has even been on-the-air while operating her lawnmower. "They also call me the YL on rollerblades." Mary and her husband Richard Van Lintig, KV2R, live in Voorhees, New Jersey. This year's logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS. Please visit the ARRL Field Day information page for all the details on Field Day rules, frequencies, forms, pins, logos and T shirts. The complete Field Day packet can

be downloaded from the site as well. If you have unanswered questions about Field Day, contact ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, via e-mail or by phone at 860-594-0236. If you want to order exhibit kits containing printed flyers about Amateur Radio, you may order these materials on the ARRL Web site. The cost of the exhibit kits ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To make sure you'll have the display material in time for Field Day, your order must be received before June 13. (ARRL)

ARRL President Appointed to Arkansas State Board

Mar 27, 2008) -- Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe has appointed ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to a four year term on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority. Harrison's appointment was approved by the Arkansas Senate. "It's an honor to be appointed by Governor Beebe to serve the people of Arkansas in this area that recognizes not only my professional accomplishments, but those related to Amateur Radio as well," Harrison said. The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority was created by statute in 1983 with the mission to bring the benefits of science and advanced technology to the people and state of Arkansas. This mission is addressed by strategies to promote scientific research, technology development, business innovation, and math, science and engineering education. (ARRL)

College Student Apologizes for Science Fair Project gone wrong

NEW YORK (AP) -- A college student has apologized for causing a scare on a subway train when his science project short-circuited and started smoking in his backpack. Gregory Kats, 29, said the device was just a model of an elevator's inner workings. But it frightened riders on the B train near the Seventh Avenue stop on Thursday. Kats said he tried to reassure his fellow passengers that it was a school project -- not a bomb -- but people scrambled for the exits nonetheless. The box he was holding had a small battery, wires and a motor. "They were panicking, and I realized their fear," an apologetic Kats said. He said he tried to disassemble the contraption on the platform even as he reassured riders, "Don't worry. This is my science project." Kats was questioned by police

and later released. Kats is a computer engineering student at the New York City College of Technology. "I'm very sorry for what happened," Kats said. "I hate to scare people. Next time, I'll be much more careful and keep my electronic projects at home."

DX NEWS

Operations from Clipperton Island ended early on Saturday March 15th. During the time the team was on this rare D-X-C-C entity, the members had to endure major tropical storms and extreme heat. This took its toll on both the operators and equipment. Even so, the last report on the operations Web page shows a total of 59,875 QSO's were completed. Of these 28,402 were on CW, 28,736 on SSB and 2,737 made on RTTY. Here's the post DXpedition information you need to know. First is that you QSL this operation to N7CQQ, either via the bureau or direct to John Kennon, P.O. Box 31553, Laughlin, Nevada 89028, USA. Also, for those who use electronic contact verification the logs will be uploaded to the ARRL's Logbook to the World as soon as they have been verified. GLORIOSO ISLANDS TO ACTIVATE IN MAY One of the most sought after D-X entities may soon be on the air. This with word that a French group that has been trying to get a permit to activate Glorioso Island for several months has finally received the necessary landing permit. If all goes well, the five operators hope to bring Glorioso to the ham radio airwaves in early May. Dates being talked about are May 5th to the 9th, but at airtime nothing is cast in concrete. They are currently looking for sponsors, and if you would like to help please contact F5OGL. Presently, Glorioso is ranked 4th in "DX Magazine's 2007 Most Wanted Countries World-Wide" in the mixed modes. Once there the team plans to have 3 or 4 stations on the air to help fill the need for QSO with this rather rare location. In DX, word that DL1BDF, plans to become active from Egypt as SU0ARA on all bands through March 19th. He also hopes to get a special permission for 80 meters because this band is usually not permitted for amateur radio. QSLs via SU1KM. K4QD and AF4Z will be active portable HH4 from the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission between March 24th and April 4th. They will operate 80 through 10 meters on CW, SSB and RTTY, but only as time permits. QSL via their home callsigns preferably using the ARRL's Logbook to the World QSO confirmation service. SP2JMB, will be active portable 3B9 from Rodrigues Island and then from Mauritius Island portable 3B8. This,

from April 1st through the 8th. His activity will be mainly on C-W with QSL's going to his call book address. A team of German operators will be active from Nouakchott in Mauritania through March 30th. No callsigns were provided but they do plan to operate the CQ World SSB contest on March 29th and 30th as a multi entry. QSL via DH7WW, direct or by the DARC bureau. Lastly, listen out for Senegal as a Swedish team of operators become active as 6V7I between April 6-12th. The group plans to have two stations on 160 through 10 meters operating CW and SSB, with monoband yagis and verticals. QSL via SM7DXQ. (DX Digest)

April, 2008 Contest Log

Montana QSO Party 0000Z, Apr 4 to 2400Z, Apr 5
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 6
SP DX Contest 1500Z, Apr 5 to 1500Z, Apr 6
EA RTTY Contest 1600Z, Apr 5 to 1600Z, Apr 6
QCWA Spring QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 5 to 1800Z, Apr 6
Missouri QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 5 to 0500Z, Apr 6 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 6
RSGB RoPoCo 10700Z-0900Z, Apr 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW1900Z-2030Z, Apr 7
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Apr 9
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 13
JIDX CW Contest 0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
Radio Maritime Day 1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
EU Spring Sprint, CW1600Z-1959Z, Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest 2100Z, Apr 12 to 2100Z, Apr 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon 0000Z-2400Z, Apr 13
UBA Spring Contest, SSB0600Z-1000Z, Apr 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB1900Z-2030Z, Apr 16
Holyland DX Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Apr 19
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Apr 19
ES Open HF Championship 0500Z-0559Z, Apr 19 and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 19 and 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 19 and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 19
Feld Hell Sprint 1500Z-1700Z, Apr 19
EU Spring Sprint, SSB1600Z-1959Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20

EA-QRP CW Contest 1700Z-2000Z, Apr 19 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 19 (80m) and 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 20 (40m) and 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 20 (20-10m)

Ontario QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 19 to 0500Z, Apr 20 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 20

YU DX Contest 2100Z, Apr 19 to 0500Z, Apr 20 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 20

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0300Z, Apr 21

SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Apr 23

RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 1900Z-2030Z, Apr 24

SP DX RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 26 to 1200Z, Apr 27

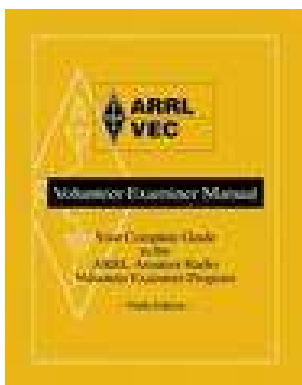
SV Helvetia Contest 1300Z, Apr 26 to 1259Z, Apr 27

QRP to the Field 1500Z, Apr 26 to 0300Z, Apr 27

Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 26 to 0159Z, Apr 27 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 27

ARRL VE Manual Now Available

The ARRL VEC leads the way when it comes to licensing amateurs, thanks to the excellent work of thousands of volunteer examiners who give so generously of their time, energy and skill.



Whether you have ever thought about becoming a Volunteer Examiner or you are a seasoned VE, the ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Manual is the complete guide to the ARRL Volunteer Examiner program. Packed with everything new and experienced ARRL VEs need to know, this book is loaded with information, including chapters on becoming a Volunteer Examiner, the Volunteer Examiner Team, preparing for the test session, Form 605; conducting the test session, session report and returning documents, FCC Part 97 Rules and more. Order your copy today. (ARRL)

ARRL EXPO at Dayton Hamvention

Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, will once again host the ARRL Youth Lounge and the Youth Dinner. Andrea is the 2007 recipient of the Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship, administered by the ARRL Foundation. With

just over a month to go, the final details for the ARRL EXPO at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention® are wrapping up and the secrets are being let out! This year's EXPO is meant to not only share in, but to embrace the Dayton Amateur Radio Association's (DARA) host of Hamvention theme of Amateur Radio + People = Fellowship. With more open-air areas and interactive booths within the ARRL EXPO, we hope to not only convey this message but provide easier opportunities for fellowship within the EXPO, offering more opportunities for interaction with the ARRL family.



The Dayton Hamvention will be held May 16-18 at Hara Arena. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, is overseeing the ARRL EXPO at Hamvention. "A new area within the EXPO this year is the ARRL Movie Room," she said. "We decided to try something a little different this year and create a cozy area to sit back and relax and watch a movie on the 10-foot screen. We are very pleased that Bob Allphin, K4UEE, Peter I participant and producer of the DXpedition video, will be a featured guest on Saturday in the movie room. This will be a unique opportunity to come and meet Bob, listen to additional commentary on the many DXpeditions he has been on and have some personal time to ask your questions about going on a DXpedition." Allphin has visited 93 DXCC entities, operated from 50 and been on 33 DXpeditions, of which 6 set world records. He took 5th place at the 1996 WRTC with teammate James Pratt, N6IG. Breen said that the Youth Lounge, organized by 2007 Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship recipient Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, will be up and running again this year. "With a bevy of activity for our young hams, the youth lounge is a full scale version of what every club and group can do to entice young hams to their events. This is a perfect opportunity to visit Andrea and the other volunteers in the areas and bring back ideas to your home clubs."

The 2008 Youth Dinner will also be on Saturday night, but with one change: Instead of being at a local restaurant, it will take place at the DARA Clubhouse. Breen said, "We're very excited by the generosity the DARA Board of Directors has shown to us. They let me know that the restaurant we've used the past couple of years for the youth dinner had gone out of business. So while I was searching for a new location, the DARA Board was meeting and decided to offer their clubhouse to the kids." Hartlage said she was thrilled with this option this year. "Not only can we enjoy a great pizza party at the clubhouse, but we can even have time to get on the air together! I'm so thankful to DARA for stepping up and helping us out in such a generous way." Breen followed up, saying, "DARA's theme of fellowship extends into the EXPO area with their partnership with us, including a new area within EXPO that will be dedicated to the newer operators and future hams." (ARRL)

It Seems to Us: Imaginary Numbers

By David Sumner, K1ZZ April 1, 2008

One of the most frustrating aspects of dealing with the issue of radio interference from broadband over power line (BPL) technology has been the irrational boosterism of the federal government. Just as generations of bankers have known that it's a bad idea to lend money to people who can't pay it back, generations of electrical engineers have known that -- unless you want it to radiate -- it's a bad idea to put radio frequency energy on an unshielded, unbalanced conductor. Financial experts will be arguing for years about whether the federal government inadvertently contributed to the subprime mortgage crisis and whether it should have acted earlier to head off a credit meltdown, but at least the government wasn't blatantly cheerleading on behalf of unsound lending practices. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said with respect to BPL. On the basis of wagonloads of wishful thinking and precious little else, the current Administration -- through the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and even the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission -- has devoted considerable effort to touting BPL as the "third wire" that would bring affordable broadband into American homes. Despite the rhetoric, it hasn't happened. According to the latest FCC figures -- which come from reports that service providers are required to file -- fewer than 5,000

broadband customers received service via BPL as of December 31, 2006.

Everyone makes mistakes. If today the Administration simply admitted that BPL has not lived up to its expectations and announced a shift in focus to other, more promising broadband technologies, we would be the first to applaud. An opportunity to do so came on January 31 with the release of the NTIA report *Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007*. This report sets out to demonstrate that Administration policy has contributed to substantial achievement of the vision of universal, affordable access to broadband. The report's Executive Summary notes that according to FCC data, the total number of fiber and power line connections grew by 789 percent over a three-year period but then states, "Fiber optic lines, however, appear to be almost entirely responsible for this expansion." So much for BPL, one might think. However, the term "BPL" is mentioned 45 times in the 60-page report. While the report acknowledges that "BPL has yet to make significant inroads in the broadband marketplace," it goes on to claim that "it holds promise for the future." A couple of sentences later, a description of the Manassas, Virginia BPL system is given -- but you have to read the endnotes to learn that the May 2006 article from which the description is taken was entitled "Powerline Promises Broken on Broadband." The NTIA report chose not to dwell on the fact that the article painted a dismal picture of BPL's future. (Speaking of Manassas, the BPL provider there recently announced that it has cut its office hours to just two hours per day.) The inspiration for this month's title, "Imaginary Numbers," is the following quotation from the NTIA's report: "Reliable BPL subscribership figures are difficult to find. The FCC's most recent data identify fewer than 5,000 BPL customers as of yearend 2006. That figure appears low, however. TIA [The Telecommunications Industry Association] estimates 200,000 current BPL subscribers..." Five years of experience in dealing with BPL systems as a radio interference source has given the ARRL considerable insight into the BPL industry. Based on that experience the FCC's figure of fewer than 5,000 BPL customers is entirely credible, so we were curious where the "estimate" of 200,000 current BPL subscribers came from.

We contacted TIA and learned that the figure came from a market study prepared by a telecommunications research consultant, based on research conducted by a second firm. We contacted the second firm and asked how the figure was derived. They responded: "The 200,000 number for BPL subs did not come from [us]. In our US broadband forecast, we estimate about 231,000 broadband subscribers in the 'other' category besides DSL, cable, satellite. Other includes BPL, but is not solely BPL." We then contacted the consultant. They responded, "Our source for the BPL figures was [the second firm]." When that firm's denial was shared with them they responded, "It was our understanding that BPL was the principal component as it was the first item listed." In other words, the figure of 200,000 -- a figure cited by NTIA because they regarded the FCC figure as too low -- came out of thin air. We immediately called this to the attention of the Acting Administrator of the NTIA and requested a correction. Two weeks later there has been no response. Our quarrel is not with TIA, which was invited to comment but declined to do so. Their telecommunications market study was comprehensive and mentioned BPL only in passing; surely they neither intended nor expected that it would be cited as an authoritative source of BPL data. The fault we find is with the NTIA, for giving credibility to this fictitious figure. The NTIA compounded its error by citing yet another "forecast" of 400,000 BPL customers by the end of 2007 -- a figure that is drawn from a year-old Web promotion for a \$3,000 "industry report." We would really like to know why the NTIA chose to dig around for sources of inflated BPL figures rather than to acknowledge the simple truth that the marketplace has opted for better solutions than BPL. What interest remains in BPL is largely in utility applications, not in consumer broadband service. To be fair to the surviving BPL manufacturers, in closing we must note that they now generally acknowledge the potential severity of our interference problem and have made considerable progress in engineering their devices to avoid the amateur bands. We just wish that the Administration was as interested in addressing the interference problem as it is in cheerleading for a technology after the fans have left the stadium.

(K1ZZ - ARRL HQ.)

Recent new radio offerings



ICOM IC-7000 HF



Icom IC-910H



Yaesu FT-950



Kenwood TMV71A 144/440 FM