

# The "Membrain"

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

A Publication of the Delaware  
Valley Ragchew Club  
PO BOX 8813  
Collingswood, NJ 08108-8813

Club Callsign: N2HQX – WWW.RAGCHEW.ORG

**DVRC Club Net @10:00 PM Tuesday after ARRL Audio News**

## W2CAM/R DVRC CLUB REPEATER FREQ'S

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

### DELAWARE VALLEY RAGCHEW CLUB – N2HQX

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| PRESIDENT:          | Lou Priestley - N2HQL       |
| VICE PRESIDENT:     | Bud Frye - KB2JCP           |
| SECRETARY:          | Steve Schaffner - KC2MIY    |
| TREASURER:          | Larry Gasperone - W2CAM     |
| DVRC CALL TRUSTEE:  | Lou Priestley - N2HQL       |
| WEBSITE EDITOR:     | Jose Diaz – KC2LCN          |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  | George Primavera - WA2RCB   |
| BOARD of DIRECTORS: | David McCaughrean - KC2LYX  |
|                     | Jean Priestley - KA2YKN     |
|                     | John Goheen - KB2ADL        |
|                     | Trevor McCaughrean – KC2KQU |



**DVRC FIELD DAY 2008 is Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Talk in Freq to the Site is 448.0250 mHz.

## June 2008 Issue

### Editor's Corner



By George – WA2RCB

A number of issues were discussed at the June 21 DVRC membership meeting. Among these were the current status of the Camden 146.820 Repeater. For the present time and until advised otherwise, the DVRC respectfully requests that all Club Members use ONLY the 448.0250 W2CAM/R UHF Repeater or 147.210 W2CAM/R for all DVRC Nets and Club related traffic and similar activity type communications. There will be a forthcoming announcement by the Board and Officers of the DVRC concerning 146.820 at future time. For now we encourage use of 448.0250 W2CAM/R.

The **2008 DVRC Field Day** will be held on **Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>** starting from approx 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Location is the same as last Year at the Voorhees FAA Radar Station on Haddonfield-Berlin Road. Come on out and have some fun operating HF! Unlike those "other radio clubs" the DVRC Field Day is geared to Fellowship, Fun and Relaxation with a good helping of food and HF Ham Radio tossed in! If you are looking for a Field Day where you can have real fun and meet some great people stop on by and meet the DVRC! Visitors and folks curious about Amateur Radio are ALWAYS WELCOME!

George, WA2RCB [wa2rcbradio@yahoo.com](mailto:wa2rcbradio@yahoo.com)





**Bud KB2JCP** – Our OFFICIAL DVRC 2008 Field Day Safety Inspector and Signal Report QA/QC QSO Auditor. (NOTHING ever gets past ‘Inspector Bud’ !)



Trevor KC2KQU on the roof of the RV checking out the tower which held up the Butternut Multi-band Vertical HF Antenna - This year 2008 Trevor will again bring out the new-and-improved DVRC Antenna Mast and Generator Set. A hearty “Thank You” to Trevor and company for all the hard work they did over the past two Years to make the DVRC N2HQX/FD Portable Emergency Contained Communications Response Unit a reality. Nice job guys !!

For the Second Year your editor will be bringing out a self-contained alternative Solar Power HF Station to the DVRC Field Day. Last year we managed to work 25 States, Canada and Puerto Rico using a 100% Solar Battery powered HF Station. This form of alternative fuel/power radio station represents the DVRC’s ongoing commitment to develop and put actual examples of conventional and practical alternative powered communications stations on the air and on public display in the light of “Peak Oil” and similar pending energy challenges facing the Earth. Be sure to check out our solar powered radio station which will be on display and operating at DVRC Field Day 2008.



### California Hands-Free Law to Go into Effect July 1 Ham Radio Not Affected Says ARRL Counsel

A new California hands-free cellular telephone law goes into effect July 1, 2008. It, like many others around the country, prohibits using mobile telephones while driving unless a hands-free device is utilized. ARRL has received numerous questions about its application to the use of mobile Amateur Radio stations by licensed amateurs. The law, in relevant part, states as follows:

"23123. (a) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving."

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, advises that "The definition of prohibited behavior in California's recent statute does not include a prohibition of operating a mobile, licensed Amateur Radio station while driving, because Amateur Radio transceivers are not telephones. While ARRL cannot guarantee that this statute will not be interpreted by law enforcement officers or the courts of California more broadly than that, it is our view that a fair reading of the statute excludes mobile operation of Amateur Radio equipment by licensed radio amateurs.

That said, it is obvious that drivers should pay full time and attention to driving. To the extent that operating their

amateur stations while mobile is a distraction to them, they should consider, if possible, pulling over safely to the side of the road and conducting their amateur communications while stationary."

ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, adds that while the statute on its face does not apply to Amateur Radio mobile operation, problems could still arise: "Law enforcement officers are not telecommunications experts and may not understand or be concerned about the difference between a cellular telephone and a ham radio. If you do get stopped, be polite and state that you were operating a mobile Amateur Radio transmitter as specifically authorized by the FCC and not a wireless telephone. Don't engage in an argument if the officer issues a citation -- that won't help your cause. If cited, you will need to follow the instructions about contesting the citation in traffic court. As ARRL counsel notes, the language of the statute does not appear to include amateur mobile operation. Unfortunately, you could have to go through the inconvenience of appearing in court to contest a citation." (ARRL)

---

### Protecting Modular Plugs from Breakage

If you have one of the newer rigs from Icom, Kenwood and others, you are probably familiar with the trend toward using modular (RJ45 type) jacks in place of the older, and sturdier 4, 6, and 8 pin connectors. Why are the rig manufacturers going away from something that not only worked but has been the standard for decades? Simple - cost.

Of course modular connectors are nothing new, they too have been around for decades. The difference is that the old style pin connector could be disconnected and re-connected many times, with no deterioration in performance. RJ45 type modular connectors were designed to be connected ONCE and then left where they were connected. As a result they are commonly used in telecommunications cabling and Ethernet cables.

The problem with applying this type of connector to ham applications is that many times a mic may be connected, disconnected and re-connected as a rig is used for portable or other operation. Over time the clip weakens and eventually breaks. If you've never tried putting on a modular jack, it can be very tricky! One false move with a bad crimp and you can cost you big \$\$ in expensive rig repairs. The other issue is that even though the modular jacks in use by Icom and others "look" like RJ45 jacks - they usually are slightly different. As a result, don't even try to use the kind of crimping tool they sell at Radio Shack - it just doesn't work. These jacks generally require specialized (and expensive) crimping tools and associated dies.

There is a solution that I've found that at least can help protect your modular jack and hopefully extend the life of it. These little modular jack protectors or boots simply snap over the your existing modular jack

and protect it both while in use and when not. There are really two types of these boots - "pre-assembly" which are commonly referred to as modular jack protectors or RJ45 "boots". The one you want are those designed for putting onto an RJ45 connector AFTER it is connected to the mic cable, commonly called "post-assembly RJ45 boots" (although they may go by other names as well).

Probably the easiest way to search for these on the web is to use the words "post assembly RJ45 boot" or "RJ45 snap-on boot." (KJ5XX)

---

## **KENWOOD AND JVC TO MERGE BY OCTOBER 2008**

Kenwood and JVC say that their proposed merger will be completed by this fall. Will this lead to a new high frequency radio from the labs at Kenwood Communications? While nobody will say for sure, at least one reason that Kenwood has not introduced a new, high end high frequency transceiver to rival offerings from Icom, Yeasu and newcomer Heiberling could have to do with aspects of the companies business that have nothing directly to do with ham radio. Rather some are speculating that it might have been the merger of Kenwood with the Victor Corporation of Japan that may have at least temporarily sidelined any major high frequency Kenwood product introductions this year.

According to a joint news release the two Japanese electronics giants will combine to form JVC Kenwood Holdings. The new corporation will have its headquarters in the city of Yokohama. The new model business will focus on car electronics, home electronics, and professional wireless systems, and will also explore new product segments.

In an earlier statement by Kenwood it was stated that the merger would have no impact on the company's continuing support of the amateur radio marketplace. (QRZ)

---

## **RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO RESPONDS TO MIDWEST STORMS**

From Indianapolis, south to the Kentucky line Indiana residents have been surrounded by fast rising flood waters this past week. Torrential rains from slow moving storms dumped up to 11 inches of water on Hoosier communities across the southern part of Indiana.

Dozens of Amateur Radio operators were activated in response to calls from various county emergency operations centers. Rising waters have closed many county roads across the region.

In Johnson County, just south of Indianapolis, amateur radio operators were asked to report closed roads and bridges damaged by fast moving water. A total of eight bridges were severely damaged and one dam was breached forcing evacuations from a small lake community. By noon Saturday most major highways and county roads were closed due to waist high water. Water rescue units sent to evacuate neighborhoods had

a hard time getting equipment to those in need.

Hams in Columbus and Seymour, Indiana provided communications to evacuation shelters. Several times they had to tear down and re-locate as those shelters were closed and moved to higher ground. The rain just kept coming. By Monday weary amateur radio operators were calling for relief as more shelters were opened or continued to operate.

It has been a busy month for Indiana ham radio operators. A week before the floods many of the same areas were raked by devastating tornadoes. Again, Amateur Radio communications was put to the test while providing emergency communications to area shelters and emergency management agencies across the state.

Rescue operations became so numerous local fire departments, the Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana National Guard were swamped with requests. The US Coast Guard dispatched rescue helicopters from Chicago while a contingency of US Marines located at Camp Atterbury near Columbus, Indiana postponed their training mission and began assisting with water rescues in Morgan County. The Marines are from Camp LeJune in North Carolina. They too fell victim to the tornadoes and local flooding. Their large Chinook helicopters flew search and rescue missions for several affected counties.

According to the National Weather Service records this is the worst flooding Indiana has seen since 1913. And it may not be over yet. All those flood waters are now flowing down stream causing new problems to Southern Indiana communities. (ARRL)

---

## **CANADA AND MEXICO NOT SWITCHING TO ALL-DTV FOR YEARS**

The United States may have next February 2009 cast in concrete for the final switchover from analog to digital television broadcasting, but its going to be a while before our neighbors to the North and to the South join us. Canadian telecommunications regulators say that it will be at least another three years before any digital switchover takes place in that nation. And this only after Canada's broadcasting authority ruled that television stations would be forced to switch to ATSC digital broadcasting by August 31 2011. And then there are a number of minor exceptions to this date. This for broadcast operations in remote areas where analogue transmissions will not cause interference to the new digital services. Mexico? Don't even think digital for another quarter of a century. As of this writing, Mexico has no plans to switch to digital television until sometime in 2022 at the very earliest, and that's just for a start-up date. It could take many more years before that nations digital transition is completed. And while Mexico has said that it will likely go with the ATSC system that is prevalent in North America, 25 years gives that nation a lot of time to explore alternative systems such as European OFDM. (Broadcasting Magazine)