

# The “Membrain”

“Dedicated to the memory of our former Publisher, Peter WB2B”

A Publication of the Delaware  
Valley Ragchew Club  
PO BOX 8813  
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Club Callsign: N2HQX – WWW.RAGCHEW.ORG

**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

### DELAWARE VALLEY RAGCHEW CLUB – N2HQX

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
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|                     | Jean Priestley - KA2YKN     |
|                     | John Goheen - KB2ADL        |
|                     | Trevor McCaughrean – KC2KQU |



Happy St Patrick's Day from the DVRC !!

March 2008 Issue

## Editor's Corner



By George – WA2RCB

The February 2008 DVRC Meeting will be held on **Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 still 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. We hope to present an update on the status of the 82 Repeater at the March meeting. The 147.210 Absecon NJ Repeater at the Jersey Shore continues to function normally.

George's tip-of-the-Month: Many of us have seen or experienced it. We get a pre-owned radio off of E-Bay or from an estate sale or elsewhere and one or more of the Phillips head screws holding the case, heat sinks battery box or other subchassis' in place are either missing or bugged up from use of the wrong sized screwdriver or other similar abuse. Problem is many of these screws are usually Metric pitch sizes and all we have are English pitch screws in the spare hardware jar. Next time you see an old VCR curbside on trash day grab it and take apart the VCR tape mechanism on the bench. Save every screw fastener. Most models, especially older side and top loading models are loaded with metric sized screws which fit most of the Japanese HF or VHF rigs. Some touch-up paint or black marker on the head and it looks just like the original.



### **FCC SAYS NO TO MORSE RECONSIDERATION REQUESTS**

The FCC has said no to a pair of proposals that had asked for the restoration of Morse testing for a qualification to become and hold a United States Amateur Radio license. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released February 28th, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In the wake of the FCC's actions to do away with Morse testing, two amateurs submitted separate petitions asking the agency to bring back Morse testing. Anthony Gordon, KG6EQM, objected to the FCC eliminating the telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell Ward, W4NI, requested the FCC reconsider its decision for strictly procedural reasons. (QRZdotcom)

### **Maryland Antenna Tower Court Case**

The Maryland Supreme Court has decided against being involved in the case where neighbors of John Evans, N3HBX, had sued after he obtained a permit and installed several 100 foot and higher radio towers as part of a contest station. The neighbors claimed the installation would devalue their property and that the installation was an eyesore. The case began back on August 30th, 2004 when neighbors of Evans antenna farm went to the Board of Appeals on Aug. 30, 2004, less than a month after construction began on the towers. The Board dismissed the neighbors' complaint that the tower permit was issued in error in November 2004. It said that the 30 day window of opportunity to appeal the permit had passed. The permit had been issued June 23rd, but the neighbors claim they first learned of the project when construction equipment arrived on August 5th. Two neighbors of Evans 44 acre property, Thomas Burruss and

Alan Gaunoux, filed the lawsuit in August 2004. The case eventually wound up in the Maryland Court of Appeals, which upheld the Board's original finding that the neighbors were too late to contest the permit. It did instruct the appeals board to decide if not notifying the neighbors had denied them of their due process property rights. The board found that the neighbors did not have any due process rights to Evans' land. This is the decision the neighbors ultimately took to the Supreme Court. According to the lower court findings, Evans, who said he has spent \$160,000 in legal fees, was within his rights to build the towers and followed the proper procedures. The county permitted the towers as an allowable accessory use, much like a swimming pool, detached garage or shed, according to county Board of Appeals documents and other published reports. His attorney Steven Van Grack says that as a matter of law, the towers were constructed legally. (ARRL dot Net)



### **GERMAN PUBLIC RADIO TO ABANDON EUREKA 147 BROADCASTING FORMAT**

A once prominent digital audio broadcasting format soon could be a technical achievement of the past in one European nation. This, as an oversight organization in Germany says its time to stop supporting Eureka 147. Jim Damron, N8TMW, has the details: The organization responsible for setting fiscal policy for public broadcasting in Germany has deemed the Eureka-147 Digital Audio Broadcasting codec unworthy of further investment. The KEF which oversees the financial aspect of DAB is calling for the equivalent of about \$246 million slated to fund public-service DAB

projects from 2009 to 2012 to be reallocated to other projects. Since 2001, some \$266 million has been allocated to KEF for Digital Audio Broadcasting projects. In explaining its recommendation to halt such funding after 2008, KEF said that receiver options remained limited in Germany and that public support for FM radio and the availability of satellite radio, Internet radio, podcasts and other outlets have changed the nature of radio broadcasting since DAB was first envisioned. But there is some strong opposition to such a phase out. A group called the Initiative Marketing Digital Radio is a European consortium of receiver manufacturers, transmitter network operators, program providers and institutions backing the DAB standard. It warns that Germany moving away from Eureka 147 could cause chaos. It says this is because the digitalization of broadcasting is unstoppable. (Radioworld)



### **WORLD BEAT - UK: BBC CLOSES SHORTWAVE TO EUROPE**

The British Broadcasting Company has announced that all its shortwave radio transmissions to Europe ceased on 18th February 2008. The U-K based broadcaster says that it recognizes that this will be a loss to some of their listeners, its managers point out that BBC World Service radio programs are delivered to Europe via other platforms including longwave at night. The BBC's World Service grew from the original British Empire Service which was inaugurated in 1932. Last year the BBC celebrated its 75th anniversary and today boasts an estimated world audience of some 180 million. According to the announcement, only the analog shortwave transmissions to Europe are affected. The experimental Digital Radio Mondiale or D-R-M transmissions for North East continental Europe will continue unaffected. Full details of World Service sound broadcasts can be found on the web at [bbc.co.uk/worldservice](http://bbc.co.uk/worldservice). (GB2RS)

### **RARE DX ALERT! - SPRATLEY ISLANDS COMING ON THE AIR**

If you have waited a ham radio lifetime to work the very elusive Spratly Islands, wait no longer. This with word that Ed Sawyer N1UR and his wife Christine, KB1PQN are expected to be active portable 9M6 from the Layang-Layang Island Resort in the Spratly Islands. This, between 0800 UTC on , March 22nd through midnight UTC on March 30th. The duo have already received their licenses. Once they get permission from the Navy, they will apply for a special 9M0 callsign. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters, on CW and SSB. 100 watts to omnidirectional verticals will be used from the near-by beach and the operators will be moving bands frequently to take advantage of changing band conditions and openings. Sunset on Spratly is 1040 UTC with sunrise at 2240 by the middle of that week. QSL cards for either operator go via Bob Tomkovich, Jr., K2RET, 405 Hemlock Dr., Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 in the USA. More information is on line at [www.nlurspratly.com](http://www.nlurspratly.com).

### **HARBACH ELECTRONICS PURCHASES RIGHTS TO PETER W DAHL TRANSFORMER CORP.**

The name Peter W. Dahl and the custom high voltage transformers and speciality chokes he designed will live on. This with word that Jeff Weinberg, W8CQ of Harbach Electronics, has purchased the rights to the name, along with the original transformer and choke specifications and designs, and the design equipment. Weinberg e-mailed at least one ham to confirm that the deal had been made. In his note he indicated that the next generation of Dahl designed transformers will be built by MagCap Engineering using the original specifications, and sold through Harbach Electronics under the Peter Dahl name. The transformer and chokes will be shipped FOB Canton, Massachusetts and shipped directly to the customer from the MagCap Engineering factory. (QRZ.com)

[EDITOR'S note: This is very good news for the many commercial and individual purchasers and customers of PWD seeking or having need of these special magnetic products which are getting very hard to find a USA manufacturer for and/or would have had to go to overseas and expensive manufacturers of the same]