



# THE WIRELESS HILL BEACON

The monthly newsletter of the  
Delaware Valley Radio Association  
P.O. Box 7024  
West Trenton, NJ, 08628-0024



June 2009

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**Hamfests**  
Unassigned

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**Programs**  
G. Wilson, K2GW

**Immediate Past President**  
D. Wilmore, W0YMV

## DVRA's Next Meeting...

The regular monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on **Wednesday, June 10th**, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, on Upper Ferry Road at Wilburtha Road in West Trenton. The site is easy to reach from I-95 or NJ-29. Talk-in is available on the 146.67 (PL 131.8) and 442.65 repeaters.

*All are welcome!*

## This Month:

### Plan on USING your Radio Skills with the DVRA!

The June 13th meeting of the Delaware Valley Radio Association will feature a planning session for our two major events this month:

1. **The ADA Tour de Cure** this Sunday, **June 14th** We will discuss the use of health & welfare networks as practice for emergency operations.
2. **Field Day at Mercer County Park** on the weekend of **June 27-28**. We'll explain how Field Day works, its importance in emergency preparedness, and how people can get involved. As our location Mercer County Park will be different this year, it's important for all members to come learn how they can participate in this fun activity that is the highlight of the Amateur Radio year!

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## Association Calendar

### 2009 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

January 14	April 8	July 8	October 14
February 11	May 13	August 12	November 11
March 11	June 10	September 9	December 9

The Directors Meetings are on the same date as the General Meetings above. However, the Directors Meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the club shack. Talk-in available on the 146.67 (PL 131.8) repeater.

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### TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASSES

Don Wright, AA2F, periodically holds Technician classes. Classes are held at various locations. Call Don at 609-737-1723 to register.

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### VE TESTING SCHEDULE

**2009 VE Testing Schedule:**

January 17	July 19
March 15	September 13
May 17	November 15

All exams start at 12:15 PM sharp!  
Testing is at the Hopewell Township Branch of the Mercer County Library, 245 Pennington-Titusville Road, Pennington.  
Contact Don Wright, AA2F, 609-737-1723 or aa2f@arrl.net for exam information.

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### 2-METER & 70-CM NETS

**2-Meter Nets:** All of the following are conducted on the club's 146.67 repeater.

The Pepper Net,	10:00 PM Daily,
Mercer Co. Emergency Net,	7:30 PM Tuesdays, KB2EGI, coordinator.

**70-cm Nets:** All of the following are conducted on the club's 442.65 repeater.

The Pepper Net,	9:00 PM Daily,
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### 2009 FUND RAISER

**DVRA Hamfest** Sunday, April TBD, rain or shine at the Mercer County Ice Rink

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*The Wireless Hill Beacon* is the monthly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Radio Association. P.O. Box 7024, West Trenton, New Jersey 08028-0024.

Internet: <http://www.w2zq.com>

The editor is T. Mark Bepalko, N2KIV ([imbepalko@aol.com](mailto:imbepalko@aol.com)). Submissions are welcome from members and others, preferably by e-mail as a text or Word file. The deadline is midnight on the 20th of each month for the next month's issue; publication of items submitted after that date is not guaranteed.

## **DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **Membership, T. Reeg, K2TFR**

1. N2HX is looking into the park for the August picnic.
  2. I am waiting for a graphic file of the club logo for name tags and shirts.
- BTW - Is the club roster ready for me?

### **Radio Station, D. Marlow, K2QM**

Nothing new to report this month.

### **Repeater Operations, R. Schroeder, N2HX**

Nothing new to report this month.

### **Physical Plant, H. Gold, AB2VG**

Nothing new to report this month.

### **Public Information, T. Bagdas, N2UI**

Press Release sent to media outlets for Field Day (Mercer County Park was indicated as site but chose not to be more specific as to location). Also sent info to contact at NJN and my personal contact (Outdoor editor for Times). We'll see what transpires. Ordered and received the PIO course from ARRL. Completed same with passing grade. Gary owes me a hat.

### **Training & Examination, D. Wright, AA2F**

Nothing new to report this month.

### **Web Service, S. Huston, W2SRH**

Announcing the birth of our daughter... photo elsewhere in this edition!

### **Programs, G. Wilson, K2GW**

The June meeting topic will be Field Day planning and the Second Saturday event will be the Tour de Cure. (Mark, please confirm the date)

### **Publications, T.M. Bepalko, N2KIV**

The newsletter is out...

**Minutes of the  
General Membership Meeting  
May 13, 2009**

Our Lady of Good Council Church,  
W. Trenton, NJ

Meeting was opened at 1930 by President Mark Bepalko. An introduction of members followed. The minutes were approved as appeared in the news letter. Mark stated that no results for the Trenton Computer Festival were available at this time.

The Tour de Cure for the American Diabetes Association will take place 14 June 2009. A new course will be used. There will be far fewer hills. June Field Day will be upon us. Various items were discussed.

Mark commentated on good appearances of the shack. Kudos to Hope and Hy Gold for their efforts and labor.

Don, AA2F, gave particulars regarding exams. Tom, NU2I, gave information on the Iron Man competitions- more info will be given later. These public service events are opportunities to prepare for actual emergencies.

Russ informs us that the Black River and Western Rail Road will have activities to support the fight against autism.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 1951 hrs. Following the regular meeting Dan Ostroy, K2UL, gave a very informative and interesting presentation on the National Traffic System. This is a very rewarding and valuable ham activity. It is excellent training for emergency preparedness and it keeps one active and on the air. To get involved contact the ARRL web site [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org), or, email [K2UL@arrl.net](mailto:K2UL@arrl.net)

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Sundra, W3ZLP  
Secretary

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**Minutes of the  
Director's Meeting  
May 13, 2009**

Lawn mower in operating condition

No results from Trenton Computer Festival.

AC generator is operable-an AC plug will be need however.

The club is in need of a field day captain. The sug-

gestion was made to appoint an understudy for the Field Day captains position

The club shack is on a waiting list for a fiber optic line.

Joe W3ZLP

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Sundra, W3ZLP  
Secretary

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**2009 Public Service Events**



**Tour de Cure**

**Sunday, June 14th**

Goddard School, Princeton, NJ

Mark, N2KIV & Darryl, N2JVP Event Coordinators

SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AT THE JUNE MEETING. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS!!!

## Balanced Lines April 2009

Bob Schroeder, N2HX ©2009

### REMEMBERING D-DAY

In case you don't remember what occurred on Tuesday, June 6, 1944, that was D-Day. I have the pleasure to know a number of men who were there. Last night I was reading an article in the NRA *Rifleman* magazine about D-Day and was surprised and delighted to see mention of one 1<sup>st</sup>/Sgt. Leonard "Bud" Lomell from Company D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion. "Bud" and his men fought the battle at Pointe du Hoc. As it turns out, I happen to know "Bud" Lomell. He's an attorney who lives and practices in Toms River.

My purpose for mentioning all this is that June 6 is fast approaching. Let's all remember what D-Day was about. If you haven't seen the film, *The Longest Day*, try to catch it on TV because I'm sure it will air many times over the June 6 weekend. There may even be a special event station operating on HF. Let us remember those who went there and never returned. And for those who did return, listen closely when they tell their stories. And then thank them.

### SPRING RACES SYMPOSIUM HELD AT THE STATE EOC

The spring 2009 RACES symposium was held at the NJ Office of Emergency Management on Sunday, May 31. A total of 46 hams attended the semi-annual emergency communications meeting. The symposium, which originated in the 1980s, is intended to bring the 21 county RACES and ARES officers and the various volunteer liaison organizations (such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the MARS organizations) together to discuss emergency communications procedures and policies. Leaders from the ARRL were also present. Among those was a guest appearance by Dennis Dura, K2DCD, the League's emergency communications coordinator.

What does this mean to you? The good news is that Amateur Radio is alive and well in the state of New Jersey. Dedicated hams are volunteering their time and effort to get trained in emergency communications and participate in drills and real emergencies. No county OEM or liaison agency is turning away qualified operators, so here's your opportunity to participate in a more serious aspect of our hobby.

Here are some of the issues that I captured from the meeting. Amateur Radio emergency communications must continue to work on its "branding". That is to say, what the general public and government officials perceive our mission to be. On a related topic, the ARRL is working diligently to define the difference between "identification" and "credentialing" of ARES volunteers. It gets somewhat confusing, but there is a difference between what constitutes a qualified, trained radio operator and what gives him or her authorization to access an EOC or disaster area. Counties in New Jersey apparently have no trouble in obtaining federal grant money to purchase communications equipment and vehicles. In contrast, some nationally sponsored agencies such as Navy MARS have fallen on hard times when it comes to operational funding. Budgets are being cut everywhere you look and hams are expected to do more with less. Lastly, D-Star is alive and well in New Jersey. Several new D-Star repeaters have come online. I will discuss D-Star and list these repeaters in a future column.

In short, the citizens of New Jersey should be proud of what its Amateur Radio operators are doing. A test of our capabilities may be coming soon as we enter the 2009 hurricane season. The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service is discussed in FCC Part 97. A discussion of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service can be found at the ARRL's web site.

### THE ABCs OF DTV- PART II

On June 12 television as we knew it will become a thing of the past. Except for local translators, analog television broadcasting will cease and a new era of higher quality picture and sound will replace it. A number of you who read my column last month asked me to list some reference material on the subject of digital television. I'm all too happy to oblige. Here are three books that I recommend.

**HDTV and the Transition to Digital Broadcasting**  
**Understanding New Television Technologies**  
Philip J. Cianci, Focal Press, 216 pages

Comment: This book provides a concise explana-

tion of the various digital TV standards and the coding schemes that go into making them. Among the issues that are discussed, the author talks about compression and resistance to noise and signal distortion. There isn't a lot of heavy math or equations, but knowledge of computers is preferred.

**Digital Television  
Satellite, Cable, Terrestrial, IPTV, Mobile TV in  
the DVB Framework, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.**  
Herve Benoit, Focal Press, 289 pages

Comment: This book is similar to the one above in that it discusses coding, packets, and noise immunity. In addition, Benoit talks about the various digital TV standards used around the world including the MPEG which is familiar to most computer users. This is important because there seems to be a convergence toward using the typical computer screen as a multi-purpose one-size-fits-all entertainment display. That is, some people have decided to forego owning a conventional TV set and now watch TV, purchased or rented movies, and do their routine computing on the same LCD computer screen. Conversely, there is another segment of the population who prefer to view their programs, movies, and do their computing on a full-sized HDTV screen instead of a conventional computer monitor.

**Digital Television Fundamentals  
Design and Installation of Video and Audio  
Systems, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.**  
Michael Robin and Michel Poulin, McGraw Hill,  
729 pages

Comment: This book is probably my favorite of the three. As you can surmise from the number of pages, it is not a small volume. I like this book because it is part expository (i.e. explaining things) and part reference book. It has many tables and illustrations which explain the various analog as well as digital television and audio standards. For those who work in the industry, it's a good how-to book.

I purchased these books through the online book store at the Society of Broadcast Engineers web site ([www.sbe.org](http://www.sbe.org)). They are also available via Amazon.com. Why even concern yourself with digital television? For one thing, we're members of a very technical hobby and we had to pass a written exam to do what we do. So it behooves us, at least a little bit, to be curious about this new medium that's going to dominate our entertainment lifestyle in only the next few days. Secondly, the

advent of digital television is going to pervade our hobby in that it will change how we think about amateur television or ATV. Slow scan and quick scan ATV isn't going away any time soon. But who's to say that we won't be playing with HDTV pictures over the amateur bands before too long?

## CIVILITY- A SURVIVAL GUIDE

Want to know some of the things that annoy me? Here are two. How about when you work diligently to apply for a juicy employment opportunity only to find that the job posting was merely a legal formality and that the job has already been filled by some friend of the CEO. Or how about when you write a personal letter to a corporate officer or elected official and get not even so much as an acknowledgement? Not even a quick e-mail. It makes you wonder why some CEOs even bother carrying a Blackberry or hire an executive assistant. All those high-tech gadgets that busy execs carry around to keep themselves connected are only to further their career, not yours.

Over the past few weeks, millions of young people have been graduated from their beloved alma maters, most of them bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, and naive in their expectations for landing gainful employment. Sadly, the vast majority of these kids will have been let down by their institution of higher learning because they were never prepared how to survive in the real, non sugar-coated world. As I reported in a previous column, most of these energetic souls have it in their minds that the only way to get ahead is to emulate some of the business men and women they see on TV or read about in the news. You know the ones I mean- the ones who have gone to jail for fraud or embezzlement. The Kenneth Lays, the Bernard Madoffs, the convicted CEOs from Enron and Arthur Andersen, LLP.

There's a better way to land your dream job other than going to the Dark Side. The book I'm going to recommend was published in 1999, but its principles are still valid. It's entitled, *Power Etiquette- What You Don't Know Can Kill Your Career* by Dana May Casperson. For Baby Boomers like me, this book is about the civil behavior that we either learned in school or from our parents. For us, *Power Etiquette* is just a refresher. But for the Generation [Fill in your favorite letter] kid, this book could be a career saver. There are only two books you need to buy for a teen going off to college. One is a dictionary, and *Power Etiquette* should be the other. Even if one has no aspira-

tions of college, every literate American should own and read these. Remember the old adage, "Cleanliness is next to godliness"? Well, sloppiness is next to joblessness.

All for now.  
Comments invited.

Bob Schroeder, N2HX  
Past President, DVRA

## HIGH SPEED TELEGRAPHY ON THE WORLD STAGE

Forwarded by John Pugh, WJ3P

The October 1936 issue of QST reported on the first official "Amateur Code Speed Contest" ever held. Eugene A. Hubbell, W9ERU, took home the silver trophy with his winning speed of 52.2 words per minute. Held at the ARRL Central Division Convention that year, the contest required operators to decipher plain language text for two minute intervals that ranged in speed from 25 to 52.7 words per minute. "Only bona-fide amateurs, holding at least an amateur operator's license, were eligible"

to compete in the contest, the article stated <<http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=18072&pub=qst>>.

Fast forward to 1995. Competitors from 15 countries on three continents traveled to Siofok, Hungary to show off their CW operating skills in the first IARU High Speed Telegraphy (HST) World Championship. According to Barry Kutner, W2UP, HST has long been considered a sport in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, similar to chess or an Olympic sport. Kutner was the sole US representative at the 2005 HST World Championship in Macedonia. In 2009, he is leading a team of seven this September to Obzor, Bulgaria for the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship <<http://www.hst2009.eu/>>.

Kutner said that most of the participating IARU Member-Societies hold a national competition in their country, seeking members to field and sponsor a team to the World Championship. "In some of the eastern European countries, where they take this very seriously, there are team and/or individual coaches, too," he said. Competitors must be licensed Amateur Radio operators, except entrants in the younger categories may be SWLs. The IARU HST World Championships follow rules

set forth by the IARU Region 1 High Speed Telegraphy Working Group <<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/archives/hstrules.pdf>>.

In the US, Kutner said those who wish to participate in the World Championship do so at their own expense. "In past years, there has either been one -- myself in 2005 and Ilya Kleyman in 2007 -- or no US participants," he told the ARRL. "This year, we have a team!"

The US team consists of shortwave listener Brana Kleyman (category A, women 16 and younger); Kody Low, KB3RUP, and Cal Darula, K0DXC (category B, men 16 and younger); Ilya Kleyman, KE7OPG, and Ken Low, NV1P (category H, men age 40-49), and Gary Schmidt, W5ZL, and Kutner (Category I, men 50 and older). "The 2 OM categories are full," Kutner said. "But we are always looking for younger hams, especially young ladies!" There are nine categories, and each country can only send two competitors per category, for a maximum of 18 competitors.

There are three main competitive events at HST meets: Transmitting, receiving and receiving Amateur Radio call signs via RUFZxp <<http://www.rufzxp.net/>>; the sending and receiving portions of the competition are referred to as the Radioamateur Practicing Tests (RPT). There is also a pileup competition.

In the RPT, random letters and numbers are sent via Morse code -- five characters at a time -- at a high speed. Separate competitions are held for the reception of only the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet, only the 10 Arabic numerals or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation

symbols. Competitors may choose to record the text by hand on paper or by typing on a computer keyboard. The competition starts with one minute of transmission sent at an initial speed defined for the entry category (usually 50 letters per minute for juniors and 80 letters per minute for the other age categories). After each test, the competitors' copy is judged for errors. Subsequent tests are each conducted at an increased speed until no competitor remains who can copy the text without excessive error.

The transmission tests require competitors to send five character groups in Morse code as fast as possible. Competitors send a printed message of five character groups at a specific speed that is judged for its accuracy by a panel of referees. Like the receiving tests, there are separate competitions for sending five character groups of only letters, only numbers or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols.

Kutner noted that 100 letters per minute is equivalent to 25 words per minute and 100 numbers per minute is equal to 36 words per minute. The mixed category of 100 letters, numbers and punctuation is equal to 29 words per minute.

The Amateur Radio Call Sign Receiving Test uses a software program called RufzXP that generates a score for each competitor. Rufz is the abbreviation of the German word Rufzeichen-Horen that means "listening of call signs." In RufzXP, competitors listen to an Amateur Radio call sign sent in Morse code and must enter that call sign with the computer keyboard. If the competitor types in the call sign correctly, their score improves, and the speed at which the program sends subsequent call signs increases. If the competitor types in the call sign incorrectly, the score is penalized and the speed decreases. Only one call sign is sent at a time and the event continues for a fixed number of call signs (usually 50). Competitors can choose the initial speed at which the program sends the Morse code and the winner is the com-

petitor with the highest generated score.

There is also a Pileup Trainer Test that simulates a pileup situation on the air -- numerous stations attempt to establish two-way contact with one particular station at the same time. This competition uses a software program called MorseRunner <<http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>>. In this test, more than one amateur radio call sign is sent at a time via Morse code that is generated at different audio frequencies and speeds, timed to overlap each other. Competitors must record as many of the call signs as they can during a fixed period of time. They may choose to do this either by recording the call signs by hand on paper or by typing them in with a computer keyboard. The winner is the competitor with the most correctly recorded call signs.

Kutner said that each US team member practices on an individual basis, using both on-the-air and computer generated CW. As the team gears up for Bulgaria, "we are in frequent contact via e-mail, exchanging tips and ideas," he said.

HST has definitely come a long way since 1936 when Hubbell dazzled the crowds with 52.2 words per minute; competitors at the IARU HST World Championships consistently have speeds of more than 500 characters per minute -- 100 words per minute. While it's too late to join the 2009 US team, it's not too early to think about upcoming events. If you are able to copy and/or send CW at dizzying speeds, why not think about attending the next IARU HST World Championship? For more information on HST events, contact Kutner via e-mail <[w2up@arrl.net](mailto:w2up@arrl.net)>.

--  
John E. Pugh  
Hopewell, NJ



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