

# Smoke Signals

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The Newsletter of Charles County Amateur Radio Club

## Meetings & Nets

First Friday\_ Monthly meeting at 7:30 PM at LaPlata Train Station

Nets-Tuesdays 8:00 PM on 443.700 MHz, (No PL, TSQL 179.9 Hz)

Once a month social gathering for breakfast –please check the website for schedule

Second Tuesday Commex with the ARES/RACES team Charles County 7:00PM EOC LaPlata

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Smoke Signals is published monthly as the newsletter of the Charles County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Items to be published in the Smoke Signals should be submitted by the Sunday before the first Friday of the month. Email submissions are most efficient send to: [msack@prodigy.net](mailto:msack@prodigy.net) or mail to Michelle Sack PO Box 1182 Waldorf, MD 20604. Permission is granted to reprint.

## CCARC Net Control Schedule for Oct. 2009

<u>Date</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
10/06	Rob (N2OMC)	Art (AA3RT)
10/13	Art (AA3RT)	Joe (KB3HNP)
10/20	Joe (KB3HNP)	Bill (KE3RE)
10/27	Bill (KE3RE)	Bob (KB3KOW)



## Activities:

**Autumn-Great Time for Broadcast Band DXing!!!** Most of you who have known me for any length of time are aware that my interest in radio began in the late 1960's when I acquired an old Zenith AM/Short-wave floor model radio. As the autumn months approach, the days get shorter and the opportunity for receiving AM stations from a long distance away increases. With the cooler weather, the chance for thunderstorms greatly decreases and the attendant atmospheric noise and static crashes is lowered as well, allowing for better reception.

Some things have changed: For instance, when I first started listening, every station was required to give a station ID including call sign and city every half hour, +/- 2 minutes. This was a holdover from the time when pilots would navigate via radio station. Sadly, this is no longer the case and you may spend a goodly amount of time listening to a station only to find that it is fairly local. Another big change is the number of syndicated talk shows that you may pick on multiple stations as you tune through the AM band.

Most of us are familiar with propagation, gray lines, etc but even forearmed with that knowledge there's really no "magic formula" to determine when band conditions for AM DXing will provide for good reception. One indicator for me is by using radio station KYW (1060 AM) in Philadelphia, PA. Although KYW is a fairly high-powered station, not too far away from my QTH in La Plata, it can sometimes be elusive. If KYW comes booming in it is usually a good indication that it will be a good night for DXing.

For an AM DXing primer from Universal Radio, follow the link: <http://www.dxing.com/amband.htm>

73, de AA3RT

Hello K3SMD, On my recent trip to Hawaii, I had the opportunity to try a D-Star QSO with Bob, W1BJC, while he was out and about one day. The island of Oahu has two D-Star repeaters that provide pretty good coverage, depending on where you're located. I found out as long as I was on the balcony of my 8th floor room, I had great access, but once I was in the car, while reception of OK, the transmit side just didn't work due to all the tall buildings.

Using some text chatting, I coordinated with Bob to meet him on the Alexandria repeater. In order to accomplish this, I had to set the D-Star HT I borrowed to recognize the WH6DIG repeater. Since this is an internet capable repeater, my data was piped over the internet and connected to the repeater in VA .Bob and I were able to conduct a great QSO for about 15 minutes and the signal did sound like I was sitting at home. I just wish there wasn't such a big time difference between the two locations!

73 Bob KB3KOW