

DEFOREST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, EST. 1974

DEFOREST A.R.C. NEWS

VOLU 34, ISSUE 6

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2008

OCTOBER 14,
2008 MEETING

By KC8DDY

DeForest Amateur Club met at Dominos Pizza on October 14, 2008. There were 10 people present. Georgetown Hamfest will be November 8, 2008.

Treasurer's Report

Balance

8/12/09 1,464.53

8/14/08 1070 W.U. Post Office Radio Club Postage/Delivery -42.00

Total 8/13/08 - 10/14/08 -42.00

Balance

10/14/08 1,422.53

Total Inflows 00

Total Outflows 42.00

New Total -42.00

\$250 Liability Insurance

\$120 Insurance on Equipment

For Christmas Dinner club will furnish meat. Everyone bring covered dish. We will have election of officers. We will gather at 6p.m. and eat at 6:30 p.m. tentative. The meeting was adjourned.

KC8DDY Lyle

ARRL TEST SESSIONS

On November 6, The ARRL VEC <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/>> announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams' out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep \$6. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

Somma said that the FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. "VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license (FCC Rule 97.527)," she said

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edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.527.pdf.

"These exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its services."

Saying that every examinee at each ARRL coordinated examination session is charged the same fee in accordance with the annually-established fee schedule, "Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at a test sessions, must pay the exam fee applicable for the calendar year," Somma explained. "The ARRL VEC's exam fee for calendar year 2009 is \$15."

Thanks to ARRL Letter/American Radio Relay League

HAM birthdays and Special Events

DECEMBER

2 W8ZFO Richard Sauer

6 KC8OLS Kyle West

7 N8HIA Barbara Lock

9 DeForest ARC

DINNER & meeting

2008 OFFICERS

President:

Edward Lock KE8FK

Vice President:

Ridney Lorenz N8XGP

Secretary:

Lyle Lambert KC8DDY

Treasurer:

Barbara Lock N8HIA

Net controls for 2008

November - Debbie

December - Barb

NEXT MEETING - DECEMBER 9th

Covered dish dinner begins at

6:30 PM — meeting to follow about 7:00 PM. Dinner and meeting at our normal meeting room, the ABCAP Senior Nutrition Center, in West Union, Ohio, across the street from the front steps of the Courthouse.

2009 OFFICERS

Who will be the 2009 officers for the DeForest ARC? It could be anyone who currently holds an amateur radio license and who has been a FULL MEMBER, paid up by the last day of February 2008.

We hope all the members take a turn at the four offices elected each year, the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. It shouldn't be surprising to hear "the same ones are elected year after year." Well, we have a three-year in a row term limit which has been place for a very long time. Often times there might be only one candidate who is willing to take the reins so that person easily gets the job.

Let's face it, none of the four offices is very demanding, and the pay is non-existent. At the December meeting all FULL MEMBERS who are eligible to vote will be asked to secretly nominate (on folded paper) club members who might be willing to hold one of the four offices. It is perfectly acceptable to place your own name on the nomination paper. After making nominations, the papers will be collected and the results will be shortly announced.

The nomination process works this way. Lets say 15 members fill out nomination papers and by whatever method is personally chosen by each member to make their selections there are ten different names for President. When the nominations are announced the total number of nominations per person will not be revealed, only the names. It must be absolutely clear before voting begins that anyone nominated would be willing to serve if elected.

Following the nomination process the voting process begins, also by secret.

It is acceptable to put multiple names on the paper for each office for the nominations and for the actual votes. Following the voting process the winners will be announced.

The following HAMS are eligible to vote for 2009 officers and they are eligible to hold office in 2009.

KC8ULW	Marty Lambert
KB8WGV	Martha King
KK8S	Joe Gardner
KB8RYG	Lawrence Lewis
KB8TJT	Wanda Mangus
KC8LVE	Patricia Ellis
KB8WHF	Lawrence Parks
W8RCB	Richard Burnes
KC8DDY	Lyle Lambert
KE8FK	Edward Lock
KB8UAO	Kelly Boone
N8XGM	Tony Kimmerly
KB8NSJ	Larry Bennington
N8SND	Bill Mangus
W8UJM	Al Norris
WB8IOW	Jerry Paquette
N8XGP	Ridney Lorenz
N8HIA	Barbara Lock
KB8QNP	Richard Stultz
KC8HGA	Helen Paquette
KC8LUH	Jayne Lambert
KC8OLS	Kyle West
KC8CXO	Ray Music
KB8QNT	Debbie Lorenz
KC8LIA	Karen Lambert
KB8LKK	Scott Hardert
N8YWYX	Kim Paquette
KB8OMG	Barry Storer
KA8URK	Jack Bradford
KC8JXE	Marlene Potts
KC8BWJ	Bruce Ashley

OHIO HAMS DISCOVER, FIX "DITTERS" ON 40 METERS

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/2/>> on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina. According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits' so we could get this resolved as soon as possible," Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."

Once the general location had been pinpointed, Skolaut called on ARRL Ohio Section Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O for assistance. Swain immediately alerted his team of Official Observers (OO) to check out the situation. "Neither I nor the OOs could hear the transmitter," Swain said in his report. "In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. At just about the same time, I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] -- just above the noise level -- for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Swain also placed a call to Assistant Section Manager Bill Carpenter, AA8EY. "Bill lives within the target area. I briefed him on the situation and he went right to his station," Swain said. "Bill checked the frequency and told me he was hearing [the 'dits'] at about S9. He said he thought he might know who it could be and that would make some calls."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7. I called Bill's house and left a message telling him I was on my way to Westerville to track down the signal. If he wanted to ride along with me while I looked for it, he was more than welcome to come." Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

When Swain arrived in Westerville, he had a list of the names and addresses of 172 licensees in the area, as well as a general idea of where the signal should be, based on the data from the FCC's HFDFing station. He also had his HF radio, an all-band screwdriver antenna, a GPS receiver and a VHF radio for information and directions.

"I drove around the area checking the signal and noted that it was about S9 and climbing," Swain said. He and Carpenter

met up and continued the search together. About 15 minutes later -- with Swain driving and Carpenter giving directions -- "we noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street, saying that there was an address on the list we should check out. We stopped at that address, but no luck."

Swain said he then injected 30 dB of attenuation and continued to drive in the same direction: "The signal was now reading 20 dB over S9 with the attenuator still on. We turned down the next street and the signal rose another 20 dB. I pulled into a parking lot and made a 360-degree turn as to determine the signal's direction. The turn indicated that we should proceed to a newly constructed housing area adjacent to the parking lot."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to the housing development and found that signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna. We went next door and spoke to the neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do."

With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and

where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter. No other explanation could be possible without the owner hearing the transmit relay clicking."

When Swain and Carpenter left the house, they listened to the receiver and discovered the signal had disappeared.

"This was a great example of coordinated cooperation by the FCC and OOs to resolve a problem in a timely fashion," Skolaut said. "The DFing station told us that hopefully the OOs could handle it as the FCC District Office was unable to work on the case at this time."

Calling this a "splendid example of cooperation," ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, echoed Skolaut's praise: "I believe the response to the situation was as fine an example of symbiotic relationship between member-staff-FCC-staff-field organization as one

might find. Extremely well done by all hands."

Thanks to:

The ARRL Letter and the ARRL.ORG for the previous article.

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**Best Wishes, Danny, serving in Iraq
 as a United States Marine, from your
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2008 DeForest A.R.C. Officers

President—Edward Lock—KE8FK

Vice President—Ridney Lorenz—N8XGP

Secretary—Lyle Lambert—KC8DDY

Treasurer—Barbara Lock—N8HIA

DeForest Amateur Radio Club
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 West Union, OH 45693