



# UP-LiNK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
**THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER  
ASSOCIATION II, INC.**



Board Meeting November 12, 2003

Membership Meeting November 14, 2003

## Club Members Injured

October 2003 turned out to be a rough month for some club members.

Don, KB2EBL suffered a severely broken leg in a fall from the club generator trailer. He was doing some every-other-month maintenance when a gust of wind caught the wooden cover. EBL fell from the trailer to the ground, but his leg remained in the trailer. The bone was shattered just below the knee, and after an operation the Monday after the accident, Don will now set off airport alarms for sure.

For now, EBL is recuperating at home, mostly in his favorite lounge chair. At least we've heard him regularly in the morning and afternoon drive time. His HT from the house gets into the system just fine. We all wish EBL a speedy recovery.

Tim and Cheryl McLaughlin were involved in an altercation with a deer recently. Tim had just picked up Cheryl from work and they were driving on a two-lane road in Liberty Corner, when a car coming in the opposite direction struck a deer, throwing it directly into their path. The deer struck the top of the windshield and crashed through and onto Cheryl's lap, briefly knocking her unconscious. She suffered a concussion, but has recovered fully now. The car, we understand, didn't recover--it was totaled.

It's been a rough month for some of our members for sure.

## Remember the Pause!

Now that our repeater is fully PL'd, operators have to remember not to speak too quickly after pressing the PTT button on their mikes. It takes a few milliseconds to get the transmitter on the air, and often the first word or syllable is lost.

The trick is to remember to press the PTT button, wait a half second then talk. That should avoid a few repeats!

## Cherryville Took Field Day--Again

Well, we did it again! This year we entered the 3A category, that is three transmitters and non-commercial power, and we took the 3A category top honors by a little more than 1,000 QSO's. Our total score of 15,678 points also got us to third place overall! The only two stations that beat us were in the 51A and 17A categories respectively. That's a fantastic showing!



WA2JVK with the extra-point solar panel contacts.

We didn't actually take the record for the 3A category, but when you consider the lousy conditions most of Field Day weekend, that's a great showing. Of course we also took first place in our section, where there were a total of 38 stations participating. Many of the stations in NNJ were 3A or 2A, but there

were a few multiple station setups too, including 10-70 Repeater group operating with 12 transmitters. No one in NNJ even came close to our 15k+ points.



Even our own "EBL", KB2EBL made a very respectable showing from his location in Vermont. He was operating by himself under his call, and came in 10th in the VT section. His category was 1B1, and he even had his satellite equipment operational. I believe that there was at least one satellite contact with our group--read that Nick, N2NV--and Don.

Thanks and congratulations to all who put in a great effort to make the event a success.

Way to Go!

## Awards Banquet Coming Soon

It's that time of year again, time for the Cherryville Awards Dinner. Each year we recognize the time and effort contributed by club members as we fulfill our motto "Public Service Through Communications."

This year's event will again be held at the Sky Manor Airport Restaurant, and is still only \$18.00 per person. The date is Saturday, December 13, and festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. The food is fantastic, and it has become "The" club event to attend. Roberto, K2PA has been making the arrangements, and Donna Somers, XYL of Sandy, WA2JVK is in charge of the setup.

*(DINNER, Continued on page 2)*

(DINNER, Continued from page 1)

Make your reservations and send your check to Bill Greenhalgh, W2NCN at the club's mailing address, P.O. Box 308, Quakertown, NJ 08868. You can also see Bill at the meeting this Friday and save the postage! Make checks payable to "CRA II."

The Awards dinner each year takes the place of the December meeting. It has often been held on the second Friday of December, but last year and this, the Saturday evening time was available for us to take over the restaurant for the event.

Plan to come and have a good time! Questions can be directed to Roberto.

## Hamfest Is A Comin'

It's not too early to start thinking about the Hamfest. This year--2004 that is--it is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, at the usual venue, the North Hunterdon Regional High School.

While other hamfests have been shrinking, ours has been growing each year, due in large measure to the high quality of vendors and buyers from all over, plus the unique location and quality of the facilities. And it's all indoors! If it rains, it doesn't matter.

We have a table chair in Walt O'Brien, W2WJO, and we are looking for a food chairperson. I'll gladly take names of anyone who is willing to chair the other functions too, like Security, Parking, Tickets, etc. It will be discussed at the meeting on Friday, and hopefully a sign-up board will also be available.

Once again we will have VE testing on site and Joe Miketta from Mt. Holly NOAA will be talking about SkyWarn. And of course, our famous W2CRA food will be available. We learned one thing this year: we'll have more food so we don't run out!

We have our ARRL sanction already, and letters to vendors will be going out this month. This is our club's only large fundraiser, and everyone's help is needed. Start thinking about it now, and sign up where you can help. This year will be even bigger.



This was the scene in March of this year as we welcomed vendors and buyers to the North Hunterdon Regional High School. We hope to make this year's event even bigger.

## W2CRA Reflector Alive and Well

It's a great way to get information out to club members easily and quickly. It's the club's email reflector, hosted by QTH.net, part of the QSL.NET operation. Most members know about our website, located on the qsl.net server. The club makes a donation each year to qsl.net to help defray the costs of this huge operation. Al Waller, K3TKJ started and still runs the operation from his home in Delaware. The costs are steep, because there are so many hams participating.

And that's the key. This operation is just for ham radio operators and clubs the world over. Qsl.net, hosting several thousand ham websites has been in operation for several years. A short time ago, Al added QTH.NET, a reflector for clubs and interest groups. Both of these servers are free to hams, but donations are solicited to keep the operation going.

Currently there are 33 members who have logins to receive every message as it is posted, and another 11 members receive a daily digest of messages. All messages are also archived, so they are accessible to members who are signed on.

Before describing the sign on procedure, a brief description of a reflector might be in order. If I have a message I want to get out to all those members who have joined the list server, I need only to create one email message and send it to the server's address. The server then duplicates the message and sends it to every person who has signed up for the W2CRA list. It couldn't be easier or quicker. Anyone who is a member of the list can send a message to all of the other members. There is an administrator, K2BC, to keep tabs of signups so that strangers don't sign up without the club knowing about it, and to post or not post messages that have been incorrectly formatted. But more on that later.

How does one go about signing up to the W2CRA mail list? It's easy. First, go onto the internet. Go to <http://mailman.qth.net/listinfo/w2cra>. On that page you will find information about the list, and under the sub heading "Subscribing to W2CRA" you first fill in your email address, then pick a password and reenter it for verification. They suggest you pick a password that's easy to remember, but not one of your regular valuable passwords, as occasionally a plain-text reminder will be emailed to you with the password you choose exposed.

You then have a choice of receiving each message as it is sent, or a daily digest of all messages sent that day. Since our list is not heavily used, you might want to see each message as it is sent. You can always change to the digest later. Once signed up, you also have access to the full list of members of the list.

Now as to some do's and don'ts. If you regularly send email in html format, that is, using electronic stationary, fancy type with colors, etc. your messages won't be able to be sent on the list. Only text messages are permitted. If you send with HTML regularly, you can change to "text only" for a single message--the one you want to post on the list server.

Secondly, attachments are not permitted. It would be nice if we could distribute the UpLink through the list server, and people would like to send pictures, etc., but because of the proliferation of viruses, the operators have chosen not to permit attachments.

Third, the list is there to bring news and information to members of Cherryville Repeater Association and other interested people. Therefore, the list should not be used to send off-topic messages.

(REFLECTOR, Continued on page 3)

# UO-14 Satellite Declared Dead

From ARRL Bulletin

The sound of Taps on a lonely trumpet can be heard in the distance. The UO-14 satellite has been declared officially dead after nearly 14 years in orbit, the Mission Control Centre at the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) Center for Satellite Engineering Research reported November 11.

AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO, said one of the NiCad battery cells became exhausted, which caused UO-14's transmitter to shut down due to undervoltage.

The popular and heavily used FM satellite quit working in August. Ground controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN, was able to

reset the satellite at one time, but he later determined that UO-14 had suffered a primary power system failure.

Launched in 1990, UoSAT-OSCAR-14 pioneered the PAC-SAT communication concept as the first 9.6 kbps Amateur Radio data communications satellite. It became best known in recent years as an FM "easy sat" repeater. UO-14 completed over 72,000 orbits.

The loss of UO-14 leaves amateurs with SO-41 and SO-50 as the only two LEO FM voice satellites now in operation, although the planned 2004 launches of the OSCAR-ECHO and VUSAT could help fill in the void. ECHO is planned for launch next March 31.

# ARRL Announces Roy Neal, K6DUE, ISS Commemorative Event

From ARRL Bulletin

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRL) international team has announced an on-the-air event to commemorate Roy Neal, K6DUE, who died August 16. ARRL requested that the ISS Expedition 8 crew communicate from space with earthbound radio amateurs during the November 29-30 weekend. Those contacting the ISS by voice (NAISS) or packet (RS0ISS) through the end of December will be eligible for a special anniversary event certificate.

Neal, a noted NBC news correspondent, producer and executive, had the vision to make Amateur Radio a permanent feature on human spaceflight missions. He chaired the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX)/ Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRL) Working Group. Through his extensive NASA contacts, Neal was instrumental in convincing NASA management to fly Amateur Radio onboard the space shuttle.

Human spaceflight took the first step to Neal's vision on November 28, 1983, with the launch of the first Amateur Radio station aboard the space shuttle Columbia. A few days later, astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, became the astronaut to speak from space via ham radio.

ARRL request that participants in the special event (*ROY NEAL SPECIAL EVENT, Continued on page 4*)

(*REFLECTOR Continued from page 2*)

We tend to keep a fairly loose definition of "off topic," but if we start digressing too far from club information, reins will have to be pulled.

Some folks have more than one email address. Maybe one at work and one at home. If you are in that situation, and want to be able to send from either address, you can sign up both addresses. Lots of us do. To eliminate receiving double messages you can go into your account and disable mail delivery to all but one address.

That's it! It's simple to do, and we encourage anyone who has not signed up for the list to do so. If you have questions or are having problems, you can contact Barry, K2BC the list administrator.

## THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II CLUB INFO:

Club Info Line (908) 788-4080	Website www.qsl.net/w2cra	Packet W2CRA 145.51
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### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Pres	NJ3A	Charlie Seymour	(610)	nj3a@arrl.net
VP	N3ODB	Elaine Kita	(610) 252-6193	n3odb@amsat.org
Sec	K2YSY	Pete Sneed	(908) 369-5095	k2ysy@arrl.net
Treas	W2NCN	Bill Greenhalgh	(908) 369-3191	greenhalgh@rcn.com

### MEMBERS AT LARGE:

KA2TOV	Mike Grohol	( )	mgrohol@blast.net
N2RDL	Brian Campbell	(610) 559-1509	lupinus@ptd.net
KC2CMC	Mike Varas	(908) 806-3998	kc2cmc@arrl.net
AB2LW	Tim McLaughlin	(908) 253-8783	tomdeegan@rcn.com
N3MSK	Ed Kita	(908) 252-6193	n3msk@amsat.org

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Public service	WB2NQV		wb2nqv@arrl.net
Technical	N3MSK	(610) 252-6193	n3msk@amsat.org
EmergencyMgmt/	KC2CMC	(908) 806-3998	kc2cmc@arrl.net
RACES	K2PA	(908) 788-8253	k2pa@arrl.net
Education	KB2VCI		ramgl@netcarrier.com
VE Testing	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Field Day			
Holiday Party	K2PA		k2pa@arrl.net
Merchandise	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@epix.net
Traffic net	N2MIF	(908) 638-6172	
Programs	AB2PD	(908) 537-2501	albissed@ptd.net
Refreshment	KB2YJX	(908) 788-9153	
Roster	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Scholarship	N2VF	(908) 479-6346	n2vf@att.net
SkyWarn	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@epix.net

### NET SCHEDULE:

Hunterdon County Traffic and Emergency Net	Thursday, 8:00 PM	147.375
Races Net	1st Thursday, 8:30 PM	147.375
SkyWarn Net	Thursday 9:00 PM	147.015
HF Net	Tuesday 8:15 Meet first on:	147.375 Then to HF

### MAJOR EVENTS:

W2CRA Hamfest	March 13, 2004	Talk-in 147.375 PL 151.4
W2CRA Field Day	June 25/27, 2004	147.375

*Community Service Through Communication*

*(ROY NEAL SPECIAL EVENT, Continued from page 3)*

cial event keep all contacts short. A subsequent announcement will provide details on QSLing and how to obtain certificates.

## S.E.T. A Success

The ARES Simulated Emergency Test was held on Saturday morning, Oct 25th. This was a county-wide drill, and in general went very well, according to Dave Kanitra, WB2AZE, ARES District Emergency Coordinator. Dave indicated there were some problem areas, however, which will be addressed, but overall the test was a success.

Dave will have a report at the upcoming meeting.

**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE AWARDS DINNER  
ONLY \$18 PER PERSON  
DECEMBER 13, 2003 7:00 p.m.  
Reservations through W2NCN**

Cherryville Repeater Association II  
P.O. Box 308  
Quakertown NJ 08868  
*Public Service Through Communications*