



# UP-LiNK

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



Board Meeting September 10, 2003

Membership Meeting September 12, 2003

## .375 Disabled By Lightning N3MSK to the rescue!

When the heavy-duty thunderstorms rolled through our area on Tuesday evening, July 22, one of the bolts of lightning took out the .375 repeater. Ed, N3MSK, technical committee head went to the site to analyze the problem the next night, and found the voter and controller had been disabled. Most of the problem was in the voter, where apparently a batch of IC's were zapped by the lightning.

Over the next few nights Ed was joined by other club members, including Charlie, NJ3A, Barry, W2CGX, and Justin, N2QOR. It took nearly a week to get back on the air, with problem after problem being resolved. Solve one problem, and another showed up. But finally the voter was repaired enough to get the repeater back up on the air with three receivers voting. A bit of quick reprogramming of the controller and .375 was back!

As of Sunday, August 3, Ed had all sites but Kingwood back on line. Kingwood had a power supply problem or it would also have been on line. Linvale also had a minor problem but was quickly resolved. It's great to have .375 back, and a very big, special THANK YOU goes to Ed for all his effort to get us back in business!!!

Once .375 was back up, even minimally, Ed continued to resolve the problems that were left, beginning with Kingwood. After he cleaned out the mouse nest from the power supply, he could--and did determine the faulty component and replaced it. King-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## CRA Gets Great Exposure at 4H Fair

Through the tireless efforts of Louis, KB2VCI, Cherryville made a great showing in the Public Service tent at the Hunterdon 4H Fair recently. Louis headed up the effort, packed up equip-



Lou, KB2VCI demonstrates ham radio to some youngsters visiting the booth, with Pete K2YSY looking on.

ment for safe keeping each night, made the great signs for the booth, and even took three days vacation to make sure it came off.

Lots of visitors came to see the operating special event station, which featured NJ3A's 746Pro transceiver and a portable tower and beam from Leslie, KC2EIN, who just happened to be on a

month-long trip to Europe.

Visitors to the booth got a chance to watch contacts being made around the world, and see a computer screen showing APRS and amateur satellites passing overhead. There was also plenty of handout materials, and club members who helped Lou talked to visitors about how ham radio is available whenever disaster strikes. The ARRL program featuring Walter Cronkite was also shown.

Great job, Lou, and all those who helped make the event a huge success!



Overall picture of the booth with Charlie, NJ3A operating his 746 pro.

## "PL" is coming to .375

After many years of no CTCSS (sub-audible tone), the .375 machine is being converted to sub-audible tone access. All but one of the system's receive sites are already set up, and all sites should be on tone access in a week or two. Members are encouraged to add the CTCSS tone to their transceivers now. The tone frequency is 151.4 Hz, and just about any rig of fairly recent vintage will have the feature built in. The problem for most of us, however, will be a trip back to the instruction manual--provided you can find it--to see how to reprogram the mem-

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Upcoming Public Service Events

September 6, 2003--RACES/ARES/EOC Drill in Flemington  
September 14, 2003--Skylands Triathlon at Spruce Run

(375 hit by Lightning. Continued from page 1)

wood went back on line on August 26, and is also now on "PL." Linvale went online on August 16 (see separate story on page 3).

When .375 went out, most of the club members knew to switch over to .015. Of course it doesn't have quite the coverage of .375 but it did pretty well for a little over a week. Some members just didn't realize that .015 was there to be used. We had a lot more activity there than we've seen--uh heard--for a while.

At the moment there is also no phone patch available, and that means that 911 access via the repeater is also temporarily down.

(Repeater PL. Continued from page 1)  
ory!

Once the system is fully "PL'd" it should eliminate much of the interfering signals that have been plaguing us for a while. With the only receiver the main site, much of the interference we had been experiencing has now subsided. The occasional openings that have allowed Maryland and PA as well as Long Island stations to get into our repeater are still hitting the main receiver occasionally, but with Murray Hill now under "PL" it has to be a pretty good opening to hear them.

Spread the "PL" word. There will be an announcement on the repeater to be sure access is open to all, and the website will be updated too.

## REMEMBER...

**.375 IS NOW ONLY  
ACCESSIBLE USING  
SUBAUDIBLE TONE  
151.4Hz**

## WELL, I NEVER THOUGHT. . .

By Mike Grohl KA2TOV

Recently a very good friend expressed an interest in Amateur Radio. He was interested in obtaining his ticket. During our discussion, I suggested that he might attend a club meeting to get a better idea of what the hobby is all about.

He accompanied me to the August meeting and looked and listened intently during the proceedings. He was taken aback by what he saw. The first surprise was that we had females in our membership and Elaine, you were superb conducting the meeting in Charlie's place. Secondly, he was surprised at the age span of the members, from students to retirees. Third, he was amazed at the range of our activities, from walk-a-thons to participation in disaster drills. You will recall, we met under the stars, conducted a very organized meeting, and generally had a lot of fun.

After the meeting, on the way home, his comments went something like, "Well, I never thought your organization was so

## FROM THE PREZ...

Charlie Seymour, NJ3A



I first want to thank everyone for their support during the early part of my term as president. The help and guidance of past and present club officers and members has made the job of president far more rewarding than I could have ever expected.

The opportunity to participate, in not only the decision making process, but all club activities by all club members is something I'd like the club members to take advantage of.

Participation. The word I'd like all members and friends of the Cherryville Repeater Association to remember. As I started this year as the new club president, I wanted to assure everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion, have their suggestions heard, help where they could and ask for help if they needed it. Without the active participation and cooperation of the group, little would get done. Fortunately, that is not the case, our club's activities and participation this year have been beyond my expectations.

We had a very successful start to the year participation-wise with our Hamfest, the ARRL Field Day 2003, the USET Endurance Ride, Bucks County Horse Park Trials and the 4th of July Lebanon Parade to name a few. More recently our group's members participated in the Hunterdon County 4H Fair, as part of the recognized Community Service Groups. Our display offered many young and not so young potential hams the opportunity to talk around the world, while also getting out the word that the Cherryville Repeater Association was there for the community when it was needed.

Our technical commitment to assuring the repeater is up and running, serving the community, was really tested to the limits with a major lightning strike taking out more equipment than ever before. Once again, club members came together and put forth an effort unselfishly with one goal in mind. Get W2CRA back on the air. Well, as you know, we're up and running. Thanks again to the group.

This is the kind of participation and personal commitment that makes our club unique and a very positive experience for me. When you're down and out, it's good to know someone will be there to

(See *From the Prez...* Continued on page 4)

big," and "I never thought you were included with the local agencies for community services," and "I never thought you covered such a wide range of activities," and "I never for a moment thought you interacted with federal agencies." He provided us with a view of our hobby from a perspective we've lost. We've become complacent because we are good at what we do. We make it look easy -- we are our own worst enemy. We need to market our capability with more verve and splash. This individual was very much impressed with the Cherryville Repeater Assn. and will be attending our class beginning 19 September 2003. Looks like we have another ham on the way.

During our ride to the meeting, my friend listened intently to the conversations in progress. He was pleasantly surprised when I entered the conversations in such a seamless manner. He remarked that he had never seen such a well organized discussion. We are professional!

Just thought you would like to share in his perspective of our club. It reflects why we are the best.

## Linvale Receive Site Gets New House

On Saturday, August 16, a work party of Cherryville members changed the cabinet at the Linvale receive site. The group included Barry, W2CGX; Dick, W2HN; Jay, N3OW; Charlie, NJ3A; Tom, AB2DW and John, N3ZSD. The equipment cabinet sits outside, and over the years has rusted in several spots and has been home to a large variety of hornets, wasps and assorted other flying creatures. A replacement cabinet has been in the main transmitter site for a while now, and this work party set about replacing the old cabinet. And that's exactly what they did.

Once Jay wacked the weeds from in front of the old cabinet, the team set about eliminating the stinging pests. It took some careful aiming and three cans of spray, but they were finally rid of the pests--or so they thought. About an hour after the first batch was eliminated, a bunch of wasps that had apparently been out in the field came buzzing back to try to find their homestead. They weren't happy to see it had been eliminated!

Finally the new cabinet was in place, and the equipment installed into it, and a quick call on .375 verified it was indeed working.

W2CGX went back to the site on Sunday to better secure the cabinet, and to his surprise, several wasps were desperately trying to find a way into the new cabinet! A quick shot from the fourth can of spray eliminated that problem!



The crew that changed the cabinet (l to r) N3OW, NJ3A, N3ZSD, W2HN and AB2DW. W2CGX took the picture.

### 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)	kc2isw@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	WB2NQV		wb2nqv@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*

## Hamfest Calendar

**Sunday, September 14. DVRA and NJARC Hamfest** will be held in Lawrenceville, NJ at the National Guard Armory, 151 Eggerts Crossing Road. Doors open to sellers at 6:00 a.m., and to buyers and lookers at 8:00 a.m. Admission is \$6, there is free parking and children under 12 are admitted free.

Talk-in will be on 146.670 with PL of 131.8 (W2ZQ) and there is tailgating. Indoor vendor spaces with electricity are \$20 (includes one admission), and tailgate vendor spaces are \$10. Indoor vendors must supply their own tables. Information contacts: Glenn Costello, N2RPM, abbott0903@hotmail.com; phone 609-882-2240, or visit the website <http://www.w2zq.com>. Antique radios will be featured with John Dilks, K2TQN on hand with his mobile antique radio museum. Refreshments are available.

**Saturday, September 20. The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Hamfest--W3OK**, will be held at the Schnecksville Fire Department in Schnecksville, PA. Doors open to vendors at 6:00 a.m., and to the public at 7:00 a.m.

Talk-in will be on 51.760MHz, 146.700 MHz, and 444.900 MHz. All require PL of 151.4. Admission is \$5 (unlicensed spouse and children under 12 free). The event is held rain or shine, indoor tables are admission plus \$4, tailgaters are admission plus \$2 per space. Information contacts: <http://www.dlarc.org> or email Susan at kb3idw@arrl.net or you can call 610-797-1437. Breakfast is available.

**Special Emergency  
Drill coming  
September 6!**

## More Pictures...



Even Milt, W2PKE got some operating at the fair!



Visitors check out the satellites.



Roberto, K2PA at his favorite mode!



Dick removes equipment from old Linvale cabinet



Linvale receiver in new cabinet.



All this talk about the tower at W2CGX... Here's what the "hole" looks like before cement is added.

*(From the Prez...Continued from page 2)*

lend a helping hand, offer a suggestion or just plain listen.

We are a diverse group, with many talents and years of experience as hams. Our common interest, passion and expertise are amateur radio communications; with those who we know now and those who we'd like to get to know. Many of these fel-

low hams are in parts of the world we'd never have an opportunity to see or visit. This is what makes every member in our group so successful and amateur radio so much fun.

As the club's president, it is my responsibility to assure all members have an opportunity to participate in club activities in every way possible.

## ARRL seeks clubs' support in BPL campaign

*From the ARRL Letter*

ARRL has asked some 2100 ARRL-affiliated clubs to consider donating to the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Special Spectrum Defense Campaign. "Your ARRL is at the forefront of the campaign to defeat BPL and will continue to work tirelessly to protect your Amateur Radio bands," says ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. Hobart notes that individuals and clubs have responded generously to fund ARRL's efforts to fight BPL and many also have filed comments in response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket 03-104.

"But we still need to raise an additional \$55,000 to fund the field measurements and document filings necessary to defeat this threat," Hobart pointed out in urging clubs to give serious thought to helping out. ARRL has received club contributions ranging from \$50 to \$2000. She promised to post a list of contributing clubs on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org>> this fall "as our way of saying thank you."

More information on BPL is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/BPL>>, including a video--available for

downloading and showing at club meetings--that graphically demonstrates the interference radio amateurs would experience from BPL. There's a PowerPoint presentation too. To help, visit ARRL's secure BPL campaign donation site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>> or mail your contribution to BPL Special Spectrum Defense Campaign, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.

Encouraging Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology puts the FCC at a regulatory crossroad, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) <<http://www.amrad.org>> has suggested. AMRAD's remarks came August 20 in reply comments filed in response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The Washington, DC-based organization's comments also outlined its BPL testing and measurement efforts, which included laboratory and real-world conditions. AMRAD said any departure from the "current baseline" of Part 15 rules that govern unlicensed services would invite "troublesome unintended consequences" that could prove difficult to correct.



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM, INC.

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<http://www.uset.org>

July 16, 2003

Charlie Seymour  
NJ3A  
President, Cherryville Repeater Association II  
C/o 405 Commons Way  
Doylestown, PA 18901

Dear Charlie,

Please express my gratitude to the entire Cherryville Repeater Association amateur radio operators for their help during this year's Festival of Champions Endurance Ride. As you well know, the weather conditions were deplorable and I am convinced that it was due to the communications that your organization provided that it was possible to accurately assess the degrading trail conditions which made it possible for the Organizing Committee and the Veterinary Staff to make the decisions that protected the safety of the horses and riders.

And incredible as it may seem, even with the extraordinary weather conditions, this was one of the smoothest run Endurance Rides we have held at the Festival. Again, your radio operators are to be congratulated and thanked for their efficient, timely processing of information.

You have already expressed your interest in participating in this ride next year. I very much appreciate your concern for our competitors and their equine athletes and look forward to any input you, or any member of your organization, may have on how we can improve safety and communications.

I have sent individual thank you letters to all of the operators who participated on June 21. If you hear of anyone I may have inadvertently missed, please let me know so that I may correct the situation.

Again, please accept my sincere thanks for all that the Cherryville Repeaters did for this event. I very much look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Lutz  
Director, Endurance Activities

Cherryville Repeater Association II  
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*Public Service Through Communications*”