



The

# Blurb



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*

*69 Years of Public Service, 1949-2018*

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[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

April 2018

***General Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>***

Will April Showers Bring May Flowers? We'll see!

**Now for the latest April 1<sup>st</sup> fake news...**

## **Laser Com Announces New HF Antenna System**

**Reported by Woody K3YV**

Laser Com, Inc. of Titusville, Florida recently announced their development of an HF antenna system, that is based on their proprietary laser communications system. Dr. Benjamin Dover, Laser Com's chief engineer, cited their research into laser-based space communications as providing the "happy accident" that led to the discovery of the laser based, HF antenna system. Dr. Dover said that an accidental connection of the wrong cable led to the discovery. A cable that had been carrying HF signals was inadvertently connected to the modulation input of the Laser transmitter that that Ben was testing. "Imagine our surprise," said Dr. Dover, "when we noticed that HF radio frequencies were being radiated all along the laser beam. This is something we never expected. The possibilities are endless." *Continued page*

Greetings my fellow Radio Amateurs. Kim Jong-un here - call sign P5A. That's right, Papa Five ALPHA, because I am the only Radio Amateur in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ... EVER. Actually, rather than P5A, you should address me on-the-air as "Supreme Commander Kim" or "Dear Leader."

I am writing to encourage your participation TODAY, starting 1800 UTC, in the Wisconsin QSO Party. Why? I simply can't resist the combination of ham and cheese! YUM! If you are one of the lucky ones to work me during the Wisconsin QSO Party, you will NOT get any points. Points are an imperialist trick only for running dog lackey dotard capitalists. No. If you work ME, you will win a prestigious award and cheese-shaped medal from the Worked All Central Korea Organization (also known as WACKO). *Cont. page*

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| <p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <b>Copying and quoting</b> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor: <b>Rick DeVigiliis ND3B@ARRL.net</b> <b>Subscriptions</b> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</b></p> <p><b>Submissions deadline:</b> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p> | <p><b>Directors:</b><br/>                 AJ3DI (18)<br/>                 WA3DSP (18)<br/>                 KB2ERL (18)<br/>                 K3RON (19)<br/>                 N3QV (19)<br/>                 WB3DZZ (19)<br/>                 W3AOK (A)<br/>                 W3RM<br/>                 (EMERITUS)</p> | <p><b>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 404 Warminster, PA 18974</b><br/> <a href="http://www.phil-mont.org">http://www.phil-mont.org</a><br/>                 Website: Eric N3QV &amp; Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p><b>For club information:</b> Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p> |  |
| <p><b>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Meter/ 70cm Net</b>..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater</li> <li>• <b>10-on-10 Net</b> ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)</li> <li>• <b>75 meter Net</b> ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB</li> <li>• <b>ARES</b> at 2100L on the W3QV repeater</li> </ul>  |   |   |  |
| <p><b>Committees</b><br/>                 Blurbs folding: KB3IV &amp; N3GLU<br/>                 Directory: KB3IV<br/>                 Field Day: KC2PMW<br/>                 Fusion Coord: NC3U</p>   | <p>Internet: N3QV &amp; KC2PMW<br/>                 Membership: K3HWG<br/>                 Net Control: KB3IV</p>   | <p>Program: W3AOK<br/>                 Publicity: W3RM<br/>                 Refreshments: W3AOK<br/>                 Repeater: W3AOK</p>  | <p>Scholarship: W3RM<br/>                 Sunshine: N3GLU<br/>                 VE Program: NS3K<br/>                 Welcome: N3UBY<br/>                 Youth: KC2PMW</p> |

**All visitors are welcome!**

The club meets at 7:00 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at Giant Supermarket, 315 York Rd, Willow Grove, PA  
 Maps and directions are available at [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org).

**License Examinations** are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or [jmccloskey@msn.com](mailto:jmccloskey@msn.com) for the latest information.

**Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System**  
 Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**  
 147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz C4FM Fusion digital  
 Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R  
**W3AA Trustee: WU3I**  
**W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV**

**The Officers**

**President:** NC3U Sal Marandola [nc3u@verizon.net](mailto:nc3u@verizon.net)  
**Vice President:** WA3GM Greg Malone [wa3gm@yahoo.com](mailto:wa3gm@yahoo.com)  
**Treas:** KB3IV Ed Masarsky [kb3iv@comcast.net](mailto:kb3iv@comcast.net)  
**Secretary:** WU3I Steve Hoch [wu3i@arrl.net](mailto:wu3i@arrl.net)

**The Prez Sez ...**

Hello Phil-Mont,

Its Spring again and almost time for Field Day. I hope everyone can make it out to the field day site. In a later Blurb we will post a map to get you there. If you want to come out and work a station or just hang out with the gang, we want you there!

There will be another Phil-Mont breakfast on April 21 at Andy's Diner in Springhouse. I hope you can make it! Always a great time.

April's meeting will feature a presentation on sending and receiving QSLs. Bob <W3PZO> will give us his expertise. Also an update on 13 Colonies.

Many thanks go out to the repeater team who work hard to keep it up and running. Please remember your repeater etiquette.

If you have worked a contest and scored well please let us know so we can post your progress.

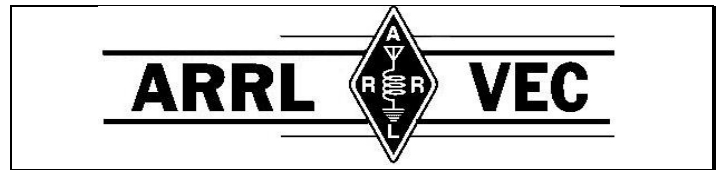
If anyone has an idea please send me an email at [nc3u@arrl.net](mailto:nc3u@arrl.net) or at [nc3u@verizon.net](mailto:nc3u@verizon.net).

Don't forget that Phil-Mont has a Yahoo mailing list. This is one of the best ways to get some up to date news on things going on at the club. Look up philmontmobileradioclub in the Yahoo list and you will find us.

I hope to see everyone at a meeting and have the opportunity to shake your hand.

Remember we are not a club without YOU

*73, Sal NC3U*



*Thursday evening session is  
on the 26<sup>th</sup> this month.*

*As always, many thanks to our VE team!*

### ***Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes***

#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Mark Thomas - KC3DRE
- 05 Rob Moore – N2RM
- 06 Andrew Furlong KC2PMW
- 08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)  
Joe Fitzmyer - KC3ECE  
George Gianios - WB3DZZ
- 10 Michael Elmaleh - K3HIJ
- 12 Larry Bennett - NJ3Z
- 15 Mai-Lin (XYL N3BKR)  
Rosti Grinberg - KC3FQF
- 16 Janet Souza - W3JLS
- 20 Harrison W. Gift-K3HWG
- 21 Michael Vincent N3TOX  
Brad King - WB3BPI
- 22 Susan Hoch (XYL W3UI)  
Jack Livezy - KC3EEO
- 28 Gwen Patton - NG3P
- 30 Al Kaufmann - K3ZMJ

## MEMBERSHIP STATS

112 Full paid Members  
 10 Family Members  
 2 Youth members  
 1 Honorary Member

## New Member Application

Tom Freeman K3TF  
 Norristown, Pa.  
 Extra Class  
 Retired E.E.

*Continued from cover:*

Laser Com plans to market the HF laser antenna not only as a commercial product, but also as a low cost amateur radio antenna. Dr. Dover set up the prototype as a demonstration of the product's simplicity. The secret to the HF laser antenna is in the base unit's modulation transformer that directly modulates the Plessee-Dyminium laser crystal. The user simply places the laser box on the ground and adjusts the laser beam straight up into the air. As the laser beam rises into the sky, the HF signal travels up the laser beam and is radiated all along the length of the optical beam. The laser beam shines nearly a mile into the atmosphere. However, due to path losses along the beam, the actual HF radiation is only transmitted by the first few hundred feet of the laser's beam. The result is an omni-directional vertical HF antenna that is several hundred feet high. Acting like a colinear antenna array, the overall antenna gain is approximately 10 to 15 dB, depending on the actual HF frequency band.

Dr. Dover said, "We are really excited about this product. There are no antenna restrictions on an invisible light beam, no lightning risks, and no damage from wind storms. The only down side is signal attenuation due to heavy fog, which can attenuate the HF signal by as much as 6 dB. Otherwise, this is as near to a perfect antenna as you can hope for."

Laser Com plans to introduce the amateur version of this antenna at the Dayton Hamvention this May.

See the HF Laser Beam antenna at the Laser Com booth # 1418.

*Continued from cover:*

Hey! How about those Olympics! We won the gold medal for every event that we entered - at least that is what I was told. We don't get NBC here in Pyongyang. And how about those cheerleaders! Well ... except for the one who clapped at the wrong time - she has been sent to a work camp for reeducation.

OK, fellow cheese heads, get to your shack (or in my case, my palace) and fire up your rig for the Wisconsin QSO Party. You may be wondering whether I use a Yaesu, Kenwood, or ICOM. Are you kidding? I would never use one of those Japanese rice boxes. My equipment is strictly homebrew, assembled by the hackers of the glorious People's Red Army.

The finals of my linear amplifier are connected to one of my nuclear reactors. When I key down, it makes your hair stand up on end ... which is how I got this cool haircut.

HEY! I'm not the only one with a cool haircut!

This is P5A signing off. Sorry to bail on you early, but I've got an important meeting to prepare for coming up soon. I don't want to be like that Elton John song, Rocket Man, burning out his fuse up here alone! 73, y'all. QRT.

(Passed on to me by KB2ERL - Stephen Hoch WU3I)

**ARRL: How can we help?**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, I received this email from a reader:

“Hi Dan,

“Hope you’re doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I’ve been reading your blog and other sources, and it’s clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there’s really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?”

I replied that it is true that there’s only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they’ve never really taken off. It’s an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you’re not currently a member, join. You’ll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn’t really seem to care about this. In the past, I’ve encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs ([link 1](#), [link 2](#)). I honestly don’t think this is asking too much, and I’ve never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.
- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on “Edit your profile,” then “Edit email subscriptions.”

- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.
- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I’d like to see the “loyal opposition” get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It’s easier to lose bands if we’re not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the “maker” groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer. I’d love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

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When he's not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He's the author of the *No Nonsense* amateur radio license study guides and *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*.

***April at Phil-Mont***

- 1 Sun Easter
- April Fools
- KB3IV
- 8 Sun NC3U
- 11 Wed Club Meeting
- 15 Sun KB3IV
- 23 Sun K3XS
- 26 Thur VE session
- 29 Sun N3QV

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

***For Sale***

***1/8" (290#) & 3/16" (380#) Dark Olive Drab Braided Cord · 100% Polyester/Dacron Knit Braided. Nice stuff! Tough and long lasting · UV Resistant and Low Stretch Proudly Made in the U.S.A.! Contact Steve WU3I at wu3i@arrl.net or 215-605-6074***

**DAIWA CS 201** Two position SO239 Coax Switch  
\$25.00 each. I have 5.  
Bill K3HWG K3HWG@arrl.net

***First Class Mail***

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The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc

