

The *E-VOX*

The Official *On-Line*

Newsletter of the



*Lehigh Valley Amateur
Radio Club - W3OI*



Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA

Officers

President: Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG (rjwolfe@rcn.com)

Vice President: Craig Traverson - N3TSY (cjtraverson@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK (philbert@enter.net)

Treasurer: Paul Ryan - N0KIA (n0kia@arrl.net)

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Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)

147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)

Club Simplex Freq. - 147.420

447.775 (PL 71.9)






RACES NET - Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)

W3OI Home Page: <http://www.w3oi.org>



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Happy 2009 !!!

Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark
(AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.

The January, 2009 LVARC meeting will be held on
January 6, 2009 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

Program: "Getting your first HF digital station setup"
Presenter: Brian (KB3QHA)



LVARC / RACES NET

Don't forget to check into the Monday Night
LC/LVARC/RACES Net on 146.94 (PL 71.9) with an
alternate frequency of 147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)
The Net begins at 7:30 pm local time (ET).

Many club announcements
will be heard there !

Monday Night RACES/ARES Check-In Summary - 2008

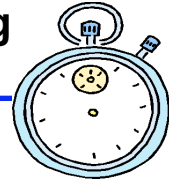
<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets</u>
January	145	4
February	198	5
March	197	5
April	140	4
May	100	3
June	170	5
July	116	4
August	120	4
September	151	4
October	143	4
November	138	4



**"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it
right."** --- Oprah Winfrey (1954 -), O Magazine

Minutes of the December 2, 2008 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1930 Hrs, (EST / EDST).

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, then a moment of silence was observed for Silent Keys.

There were a total of 27 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 3 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod (N3XG), Craig (N3TSY), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (NOKIA), Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU), Larry (KN3L), Robin (KB3GZV) and Walt (KE3SP).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: Corrections noted and corrected

Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

Guests: John Scheirer – KB3RVF
Charles Lear, Jr. – K3IKJ
Kristi Wagner – KB3QVG

Treasurer's Report (Paul – NOKIA)

Starting Balance: \$1615.39

Ending Balance: \$1844.76

Approved by: Larry – KN3L

Second by: Carl – AA3IX

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: The new VHF repeater is up and running. It now has a controller, so you only have to identify with your call sign. The D-Star repeater has been very active. There is a website you can use to see who is using D-Star. It is www.dstarusers.org. Dxr's use it a lot. Lehigh County bought 4 D-Star portables for RACES operations. The county will look into purchasing more portables. The club has numerous repeaters for RACES use.

Program: Phil reports that tonight is the annual "Cookie Cruncher." He is looking for programs for next year. If you have an idea or would like to do one, contact Phil (KB3HMK)

Volunteer Examiners: Three people tested at the November session. They are as follows: **Michael Epting** (KB3RHZ) upgraded to general, **Craig Veasey** (KB3SBI) became a technician and **Jim Archibald** – General. The next test session is December 19. Rod thanked all the V.E. testers who helped out during the year.

Old Business: Operation Ho-Ho will be on December 21. There are two spots open if anyone is interested in going. The club goes to the Lehigh Valley Hospitals children's ward. We let the children talk to Santa thru an ht. **If interested in helping, contact Mark (AK3M) BEFORE the event.** Rod is collecting the fund raising ticket tonight. If you don't have your tickets, get them to him by Friday. Rod believes it will be a good fundraiser. The inkjet recycling program is still going on. If you have any cartridges, you can give them to Frank (W3FTU). Ike (N3IK) is in intensive care at Lehigh Valley Hospital. This is due to an infection he got from back surgery. You can send him a card if you like.

New Business: Tonight's voting is for the 2009 officers. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer were unopposed. The secretary tallied the votes with the help of Dorian (KB3GZW). The following members were elected to the Board of Governors: **Mark** (AK3M), **Larry** (KN3L), **Brian** (KW3K), **Robin** (KB3GZV) and **Frank** (W3FTU). Congratulations to all. Brian had a Skywarn announcement. This Friday and Saturday the NOAA will activate as many offices as possible. Brian would like additional NCS Stuff.

Good of Order: Brian (KW3K) has more portable antenna towers for sale. They are going for \$300. See Brian if interested.

Sick Report: See old business

New Members: John Scheirer – KB3RVF
Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU
Second by: Craig – N3TSY
Carried (Y/N) Y









The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2015 hrs, EST.
Motion by: Craig – N3TSY
Second by: Larry – KN3L
In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance ending November, 2008 - \$ 1,844.76



This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2009				1 AGCW Happy New Year Contest	2 	3 EUCW 160m Contest
4 EUCW 160m Contest	5 ARES RACES Net 7:30 	6 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	7 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	8	9 	10 QRP CW Contest N. Amer. CW QSO Party
11 NRAU Baltic SSB Contest Deadline to schedule test	12  ARES RACES Net 7:30	13	14 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	15 	16 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	17 LZ Open Contest N. Amer. SSB QSO Party
18 N. Amer. SSB QSO Party	19  ARES RACES Net 7:30	20	21 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	22 AQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	23 CQ 160m CW Contest	24 CQ 160m CW Contest UBA SSB DX Contest
25 CQ 160m CW Contest UBA SSB DX Contest	26 ARES RACES Net 7:30	27 	28 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	29 	30	31 SARL Youth Day Sprint

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday January 6 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

Test Session - Friday January 16 - 7:00 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday January 5--- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday January 6 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)

Sunday January 11 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month

Monday January 12 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Friday January 16-- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Monday January 19 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday January 26 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.



By the time you read this, "Operation Ho Ho" will not yet have happened. There are "LVARC Elves," waiting in the wings," for this event. It is our chance, as both LVARC members and personal citizens, to use our hobby for more than public service. You say that we DO participate in many events during the year, but this event is different. There is no Net Control, no script, and no repeater, just the kids! When we arrive at the hospital, we never know what to expect. We do not know how many children we will be seeing, what they will ask and even if they will participate. "Santa" has done a monologue many times for shy children.

The LV hospital staff is wonderful. Although at the last minute, they do provide Santa with a list of the children who want to talk to Santa. This information includes their names and their ages which is helpful. Santa can then call them by name which is always a surprise to the children. If Santa is lucky, there will be a dialogue and the children will share ideas with him.

I have said this in past "Ho Ho," articles, but it bears repeating. I do not actively recruit for volunteers for this event. We are allowed no more than 10 people in the unit and most of the "Elves," eagerly look forward to returning every year!

I will have the results of "Operation Ho Ho," in the February, 2009 issue of the newsletter.

LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

Two tested at the November 21,
2008 LVARC test session.
CONGRATULATIONS to:

Michael Epting (KB3RHZ) - General
Craig Veasey - Technician
Jim Archibald - General



VE's in attendance were Walt (KE3SP), Frank (W3FTU) and Don (W3DLH)

REMEMBER: The LVARC offers amateur radio testing. If you want to obtain your entry level license or if you wish to upgrade, the LVARC can help.

Test sessions are given the 3rd Friday of each month.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!! Registration must be made no later than the Sunday before the Friday test session.



To schedule a test or for more information, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or call 610-865-9183.

Think Out of The Box! Remember the interview question posed in the December, 2008 issue ? Below, is the solution one man offered and got the job!

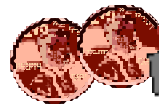
You are driving down the road in your car on a wild, stormy night when you pass by a bus stop and you see three people waiting for the bus. 1. an old lady who looks as if she is about to die, 2. an old friend who once saved your life and 3, the perfect partner you have been dreaming about.



The question: **"Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car?"**

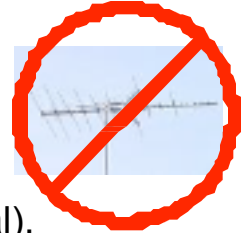
The one who was hired offered the following solution. **I would give the keys to my old friend and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the partner of my dreams.**

Have an article, diagram or an opinion you would like to share with the LVARC members in this newsletter? Send it to Mark (AK3M). You can submit VOX material in any form. Send it via email (AK3M@rcn.com) or US mail (5508 Hale Ave - Bethlehem, PA 18017). You can send pictures, diagrams or text. **The newsletter needs YOUR material to continue!**



New TV Regulations and Ham Radio --- We

all know by now that the new TV regulations will go into effect on February 17, 2009. On that date, you will not be able to receive TV video/audio via your outdoor antenna (analog) unless you have a converter box (digital).

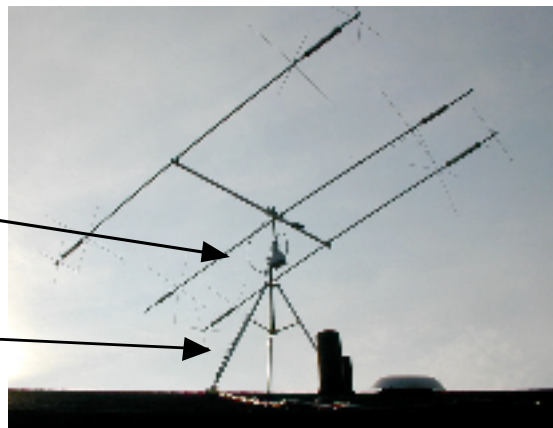


I suspect there are still many antennas in urban areas where TV stations are close to heavily populated areas. Cable signals will still work (digital).

What does this mean for Amateur Radio? Directly, nothing, but, indirectly it could impact those who use TV towers and rotators. Now may be a good time to buy a small TV rotator (I use one to turn my Cushcraft MA5B beam) or a small roof top tower (I also use one on which my beam is mounted). On February 17, when there is little need for TV antennas and TV rotators, the price may skyrocket and/or the availability will be very scarce. I assume that rotators will still be available for amateur radio use but they too, may increase in price as the consumer audience will decrease. You still have time to plan that antenna project and get those parts you need before February, 2009!

Radio Shack
TV rotator

Radio Shack
6 foot roof top
tower



New Basic Antenna Book
Available from ARRL (Nov. 18, 2008)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/11/18/10457/?nc=1>

The LVARC welcomes the following officers for 2009

President – Rod Wolfe (N3XG)

Vice President – Craig Traverson (N3TSY)

Treasurer – Paul Ryan (N0KIA)

Recording Secretary – Phil Bigg (KB3HMK)

Board – Robin Gable (KB3GZV)

Brian Klock (KW3K)

Mark Miller (AK3M)

Larry Snyder (KN3L)

Frank Unger (W3FTU)



CONGRATULATIONS



REMEMBER:

Registration for the
monthly test session,
must be made **NO**
LATER THAN THE
SUNDAY BEFORE
THE TEST!

Contact Mark (AK3M) at
AK3M@rcn.com or call
610-865-9183

The E-VOX

The Official ***On-Line***
Newsletter of the

***Lehigh Valley Amateur
Radio Club - W3OI***

All six years of the EVOX, from 2002 to 2008 are available on CD! All these issues are in a pdf format just as they appeared when you first enjoyed them.



To get your copy,
contact Mark (AK3M). The CD is
free!

"The Thrills Never End" --- by Alfred Gruenke, *KB3JPP*

It started as an ordinary Sunday. The Phillies had won game 2 of the World Series and were ahead in Game 3 all in one day, the Eagles had won in spite of their efforts, and my mind was fading to oblivion. And that's without chemical or libation enhancement. You see, through determination and continual practice, I have programmed my brain to deactivate starting at around four on a Sunday afternoon, and be totally comatose by eight. The feeling of total bliss is hard to describe, but I recommend it for anyone wishing to experience complete contentment with oneself. Hardly a prime time for a cranium-utilizing activity such as Amateur Radio.

But this Sunday was different. The XYL was insisting on watching another Fox News show, with me wanting to watch the Phillies. So I went down to the shack, turned on the TV, and fired up my Small Wonder Lab SW40+ 2 watt QRP rig, shown at right.

No big deal in firing it up. Made sure the battery was charged, turned it on, tuned the BLT Tuner, and listened. My Window to the World is a lowly G5RV Jr., 52 feet long, a balun, and 50 feet of coax. The DX gods must have been smiling that evening, or maybe the solar winds were blowing in the right direction. Near the bottom of my tuning frequency around 7025, I heard a very strong I1MMR. WOW, Italy! If I worked him, my life would take a giant step to Nirvana! I copied the name, Mauro, and the QTH, Genoa. This sounded familiar. I checked my QSL cards and sure enough, I had worked him in April of 2006. He had been running a 200 watt homebrew into a dipole.

I waited for the QSO to end and gave him a call. Instead, he answered a call from someone else. I waited for a while. He finally sent a QRZ, so I called him again. He answered! Oh, for the thrill of it! My body trembled with excitement as I turned off the TV and grabbed a pen. He gave me a 229, his name, and QTH. Not much of a signal, but a signal nonetheless. I responded with a Hello My Friend, and gave him a 579, and that I was QRP running 2 watts. A bit of chit-chat followed.

Fifteen minutes later he could no longer copy me and he had to say 73. I went to my MS Streets and Trips to get the mileage. Four thousand one hundred ten miles! Not too shabby on two watts. That's Two Thousand and Fifty miles per watt.

I intend to apply for the Thousand Miles a Watt award when I receive the QSL card. I had received a Thousand Miles per Watt award previously, 1,611 miles per watt with my 400 milli Watt Rock Mite. I can't say enough about my SW40+. A while ago I had worked 2,030 miles to Phoenix, Arizona and 1,900 miles to Pocatello, Idaho with this rig, but they pale compared to Italy.

***This is as good as it gets. God,
I love Ham Radio!***

READER SUBMISSION



Call Quiz -- de Mark (AK3M)

What suffixes does the FCC NOT issue for amateur radio calls?
(Answer on page 13).



For many years, the dues for membership in the LVARC have NOT increased and remain at **\$17.00 (\$20.00 for a family)**! There are not many things which can make the same claim. There are several ways to pay your 2009 dues:

1. Pay Paul (N0KIA) at a meeting or
2. Send Paul a check via US mail or
3. Pay online at the club's website via PayPal



For the Children:

Track Santa Christmas Eve at:
<http://www.noradsanta.org/>

Hello everyone, I discovered some mistakes I made for the minutes. The first one is that I had Charlie as N3WXO. His callsign should be W3QXI. And the second is I have Dave Shellhamer's last name with 2 M's. There should only be one. I have made the corrections to my copy and will report it at the next meeting. Sorry for any inconvenience I have caused. -- Phil (KB3HMK)

**Corrections to the
December, 2008 EVOX**
de Phil (KB3HMK)

Call Quiz Answer (see p. 12)

As far as I can tell (searching QRZ.com), I can find **NO** calls issued to any US amateur with the suffix **SOS** and **“Q” signals**.

After reading an article about the importance radio played in the Titanic episode (World Radio), I began to wonder about having a call with the suffix “SOS.”

It would be VERY dangerous, especially on CW.



LVARC ARES Operators Receive Recognition

LVARC ARES Operators were listed by name and call in the Lehigh Valley Half Marathon magazine entitled, “Start.” As you know, the LVARC provides communication support for the LV 1/2 Marathon each Spring (April). The “Start” was shown to me recently by NR3R and I wanted all to see that we are indeed, needed and recognized.

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club

Mark Miller (AK3M)
Larry Miller (NR3R)
Mike Gower (KB3KOD)
Charlie Eckhart (KB3FDM)
John Krumenacker (KB3PJO)
Brian Snyder (KB3QHA)
Jeff Willett (KB3OCP)
Fran Carey (KB3HZB)
Jeff Kelly (N3MFI)
Bob House (WB3JSZ)
Ike Kerschner (N3IK)
Larsen Kerschner (KB3QLG)

To the left, is a scanned picture of the “Start cover.” On page 5, was the list of operators who helped with the communications for this event back in April, 2008.

Thanks to Dr. Michael Martinez, medical director, for remembering and including us in the magazine!

- de Mark (AK3M)

New Year's Resolutions ---

Lose weight, quit smoking? Or maybe you want your 2009 resolution(s) to include the LVARC. Perhaps you want to attend more LVARC meetings, participate in an ARES activity, run for office, submit an item for the newsletter or participate in Field Day. Maybe you have a more personal amateur radio goal. You may want to learn CW, participate in a contest, upgrade your license or work toward a certificate (WAS, DXCC, etc.). Amateur radio is a terrific hobby which allows each operator an opportunity to learn something new or expand his interests!



Mark Your Calendars - de Mark (AK3M)

The Lehigh Valley Road Runner's Half-Marathon will be **Sunday May 3, 2009**. I have already been contacted for communications support for this event. If interested in participating, contact me at (AK3M@rcn.com)



From QST

A 67 page booklet, "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur," by John Devoldere, ON4UN and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, is available for **free download** from the ARRL website. (QST, December, 2008, p. 12.).

Pennsylvania Becomes 27th State with PRB-1 Law

On October 8 [2008], Pennsylvania governor, Edward G.

Rendell (D) signed into law a bill that guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet **without** the need for a Special Use Permit. The bill passed in the House with a vote of 196 - 1; it passed in the Senate with a vote of 49-1. The new law is scheduled to go into effect December 8 [2008]. QST, December, 2008, p. 52.



LVARC Shorts



The Monday Night ARES/RACES Net roster is updated monthly. If you do not check into the net for one month, your name is dropped from the list. You simply need to check in to be placed on the roster again. ----- Mark (AK3M)



As of the November 21, 2008 test session, the LVARC has tested **133 people** since the VE program began in April, 2003! --- Mark (AK3M).



CONGRATULATIONS to those who tested on Friday 11/21/08. They received their calls on 11/25/08. **Jim Archibald (KB3SAZ)** and **Craig Veasey (KB3SBI)**.

TNX to Phil (KB3HMK) for collecting pictures throughout the



2008 year which made the "**LVARC 2008 In Review Video**," possible! This video was seen at the December, 2008 meeting. Contact Phil (KB3HMK) or Mark (AK3M) for a copy.

CONGRATULATIONS to John Krumenacker (KB3PJO) on his successful completion of the EmComm (ARECC) Level 1 course!



Amateur Radio Shirts Available

At the December 2, 2008 meeting, Phil (KB3HMK) showed a shirt which says, "**Amateur Radio Operator**," on the back with **YOUR** [first] **NAME** on the left front under a graphic of a tower.

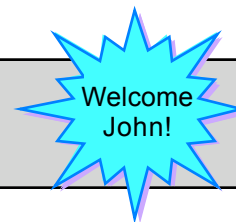


The shirts are about \$10.00 each. If interested, contact Phil (philbert@enter.net). Give him your size and name.



The annual dinner will be held at the Old Country Buffet on **February 17 at 6:30**. Arrival *no later* than 6:00 pm is strongly recommended.

The club welcomes new member, **John Scheirer (KB3RVF)**.



Brian (KW3K) is looking for assistant SkyWarn net control operators. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Brian (brian@stcp.com).



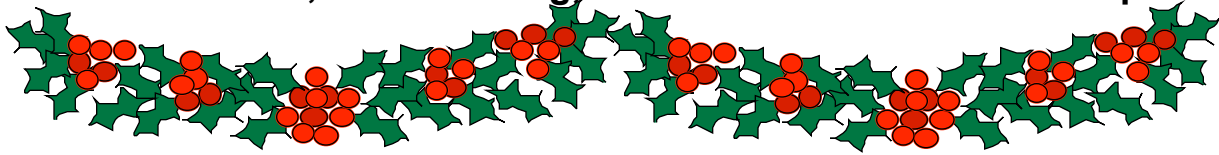
CORRECTION to the December 2008 EVOX --- de Mark (AK3M)

In the December 2008 issue of the newsletter, I incorrectly reported that the LVARC has three repeaters. Rod (N3XG) made the correction to read, W3OI has six repeaters not three. TNX Rod!



Analogue - 146.94, 147.135, 447.775
Digital - 1.2 gig, 445.025, and 147.165

The LVARC holiday party was a big success! Following the December 2, 2008 meeting, there was food and fellowship!



"Santa" Paul



The Pres Schuler Award goes to Brian Klock (KW3K)



A Message From The President

As I start my fourth year as President of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club, I am hopeful that we will witness continued growth and participation, as we have in the past years. I wish that I could say that I have had something to do with any of that, but the real character of an organization is that of its members; and the members hold the future in their actions.

Our members have demonstrated the club's willingness to assist new hams, participate in informational displays, and have gone to work for both planned community events and unplanned emergencies, both of which test the mettle of any organization. We have consistently answered the calls that were put to us, and have done so in a manner that would make anyone proud.

As we look forward to the New Year, we should again prepare for more challenges. As an organization, we double check our equipment, procedures, net rosters, and assist those new to public service in the sometimes overwhelming task of learning how to interface with multiple agencies and provide service above and beyond the task at hand. Individually, we assess our own skills, education, and knowledge level.

Just as we place goals on the growth of an organization, so must the members place goals on their own personal advancement. Life has been described as a journey and so is education. There is never a final destination; only small resting places where we can turn around to view the long, often arduous path that has brought us to various points of reference in our lives. Our views, assumptions, and opinions are often shaped by our own point of intellectual reference, and that point of view is ever changing, even if only slightly.

Recently, I had the most incredible opportunity to care for a gentleman who was 102 years old. He had a very sharp mind, and when asked what he felt was his greatest experience in over a century of life; he replied that it was not a single experience, but rather a litany of events. He explained that his greatest gift was education, because that was something that was always with you, always at your disposal, and no matter where you went, or what you did, no one could take it from you.

In that lesson of life there is both a challenge and a truth. The challenge is to learn things that not only interest us, but to take an active role in the advancements that are occurring around us. The truth is that in our tool kit of life, our most valuable asset is our education. It is how we view and respond to problems, both concrete and conceptual. It is this toolkit that should always contain both the cool new tools of the day, and the reliable tools that are in the bottom of the bag, that have proved to work in years past.

This is so the case in amateur radio, and the reason that we separate ourselves from just ordinary radio users. We as a group have a thirst for the knowledge of new technology and the advancement and experimentation of the unknown. We push the limits of current technology through trial and error, and often not only re-invent the wheel, we put it to use on a vehicle that may have otherwise sat parked on the road. We also strive to understand the basic building blocks of our hobby. And it is that, the simple and trusted tool in the bottom of the bag that does give us the edge over others. If you understand the principle, the mechanics, or the nature of your task, you can improvise and adapt in nearly any situation.

For the New Year, the challenge of the club and of the individual is the same. Learn something new, adapt a different way of operating, and not only deploy that knowledge but teach it to another, so it will always be there.... [de Rod (N3XG)]

