



The **E-VOX**

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



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI / KB3SYV
Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA

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LVARC Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)
147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)
447.775 (PL 71.9)
Club Simplex Freq. - 147.420

LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)
146.940 (PL 71.9)

D-Star







W3OI Dstar repeaters are now on W3OI at
147.165, W3EPE at 445.225 and W3OK at
145.110

Join us for a Mid-Atlantic regional net Tuesdays
on the 147.165 port

To register for the Gateway or need information
on setting up the radio, please visit
<http://www.epaares.org/dstar/>

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

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**The First Field Day Contest
was held in 1933**

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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The March, 2010 LVARC meeting will be held
on March 2, 2010 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

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 - 2010

Month

January



Number of
Check-In's

137



Number of
Nets

4



New ARRL Web Site Coming Soon! (Jan 19, 2010) -- It's almost
here! After more than two years of planning, designing and
writing, the ARRL is anxiously awaiting the launch of the new
ARRL Web site. (from the ARRL web site).



REMEMBER:

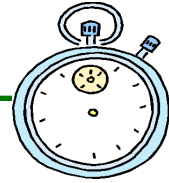
Registration for the monthly test session, must be
made **NO LATER THAN THE**
SUNDAY BEFORE THE TEST!



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

Minutes of the February, 2010 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1936 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 22 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 3 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod (N3XG), Phil (KB3HMK), Dorian (KB3GZW), Robin (KB3GZV), Walt (KE3SP) and Brian (KW3K).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Motion by: Gary – KB3SFJ

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report: (Walt – KE3SP)

Starting Balance: \$2833.62

Ending Balance: \$3316.94

Approved by: Brent – KB3QER

Second by: Bruce – KB3FIH

Carried: (Y/N) Y

The club received a thank you note from Concordia Lutheran Church for the donation in memory of Margaret Buchin.

Committee Reports:

Repeater: No problems noted

Program: Phil reports that tonight is Rod (N3XG). He will be doing a review of the RACES / ARES Guidelines that were adopted last year. Phil is in need of a program for March. If you would like to do one or have an idea, please let him know.

Volunteer Examiners: At the January 15, 2010, test session, 3 tested and 3 passed. Congratulations to: Bob Williams (KB3TKQ) - General
Dwayne Hanson (KB3QEY) - General and Samuel Anauo -- Technician

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

There was a special test session on Saturday January 30, 2010. Ten people tested and nine passed. The test session was held at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Whitehall. VE's in attendance included, Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU), Walt (KE3SP), John (WF3K) and Don (W3DLH). The technician pool is good till the end of June this year. The new pool will start the beginning of July, 2010. The general pool is good till June, 2011 and the extra pool is good till June, 2012.

Old Business: The annual dinner get together will be February 23 at the Old Country Buffet at 6 PM. It's on the grounds of the Whitehall Mall. This does not replace the monthly meeting. It was brought up at another meeting about a new ID badge. Brian (KW3K) designed a new one. Rod will ask for a vote on it under new business. The club was contacted by the DLARC club for having a mutual agreement to use the 135 repeater as a back up. This is in case the 70 repeater failed. Rod presented the board a memorandum spelling out the details. The board approved it. Rod will meet there president later in the week.

New Business: Craig Veasey (KB3SBI) was voted in as a new member. Rod presented the members with the new logo and badge. The design can be sized to whatever we want and it will not be distorted. Dave (K3GMT) made the motion to accept the new logo and badge. Charlie (W3QXI) seconded it. The motion passed.

Good of Order: P.E.M.A. ACS document was added to the resource guide that we adopted last year. The cell phone ban in Pennsylvania was discussed.

New Members: Craig Veasey – KB3SBI

Motion by: Bill – KA3RBH

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2003 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Brian – KW3K

Second by: Dave W3AMC

In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.



This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ARES RACES Net 7:30	2 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	3 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	4	5	6
7	8 ARES RACES Net 7:30	9	10 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	11	12	13
14 Deadline to schedule test DST Begins Turn clocks AHEAD 1 hour	15 ARES RACES Net 7:30	16	17  Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	18	19 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	20
21	22 ARES RACES Net 7:30	23	24 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	25	26	27
28	29 ARES RACES Net 7:30	30	31 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	<div>March 2010</div>		

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday March 2 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

Test Session - Friday March 19 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Building

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday March 1 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday March 2 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday March 8 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday March 14 -- Deadline to Schedule test session for this month
Monday March 15 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Friday March 19 -- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
Monday March 22 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Monday March 29 --- 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.

LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

At the January 15, 2010, test session,
3 tested and 3 passed.

Congratulations to:

Bob Williams (KB3TKQ) - General
Dwayne Hanson (KB3QEY) - General
Samuel Anaao -- Technician

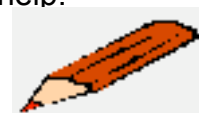


Ve's in attendance included **Walt** (KE3SP), **Frank** (W3FTU), and **Mark** (AK3M).

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.

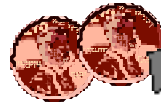
Test sessions are given the 3rd Friday of each month.

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.

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!**



Mobile Cell Phone Ban vs. Mobile Amateur Radio Ban

The past few years has seen state(s) and city(ies) ban on cell phone use while driving. The most recent that comes to mind is the state of New Jersey and the city of Philadelphia. New Jersey has seen fit to exclude mobile amateur radio from their ban but Philadelphia has not. I will not discuss whether these bans are appropriate or not, rather, I want to offer a reason why amateur radio *should be excluded* from these bans,

The audio output of cell phones (including the speaker phone feature) is low and does not compare to the audio output of both HT's and mobile radios. It seems obvious to me that the distraction of talking while driving is not the issue but the ability to hear the output of the device. When using a cell phone, one needs to hold the phone close to his ear, thus rendering only one hand useful for driving/steering. When operating an HT or a mobile radio, the audio output is sufficient to allow the operator to hear while still using two hands to drive. This should be clear to any legislator and should exclude amateur radio from any mobile communication ban. **Ham radios are NOT cell phones.**

ARRL News

Submitted by Bob (WB3W)



Kay Craigie who used to be EPA Section Manager and then Atlantic division director has just been elected the new ARRL President. see story at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/01/16/11292/>

I think March is the last month to pay the LVARC dues for 2010!

It is!

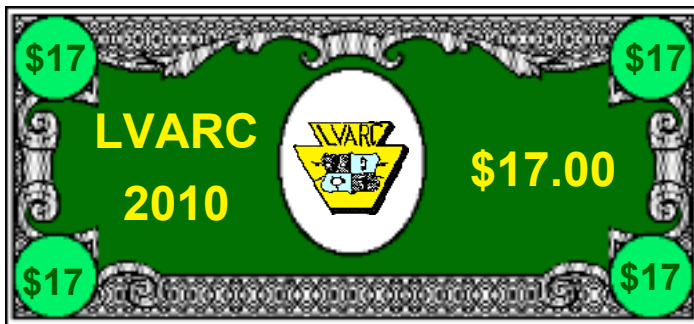




Mid Winter Dinner



The "Mid Winter" dinner will be held at the **Old Country Buffet** on **Tuesday February 23, 2010**. Plan to meet LVARC members for dinner at **6:00 pm**. This is a terrific event and always packed with hams. Please note that this event does NOT replace the regular February business meeting which will be held at the Tr-Clover FC on February 2, 2010.



2010 Dues are Due

2010 Dues are due and once again, there is **NO** increase from previous years! **Last month to pay 2010 dues**

The dues for 2010 remain at \$17.00 for an individual and \$3 additional for each family member. You can send your dues to Paul (N0KIA) via US mail, pay him at a meeting or pay from the club's web site via PayPal (Go to: <http://www.w3oi.org/paypal/membdues.htm>)

Net Control Ops Needed

If you are interested in becoming an NCS for the Monday Night ARES/RACES/LVARC Net, contact Jeff (N3MFT) or Mark (AK3M).

The newsletter editor apologizes for the incorrect listing of the LVARC board for 2010 in the January and February issues of the EVOX. It has been corrected and the current LVARC officers and board are listed correctly on the cover page of this newsletter.

---- de Mark (AK3M) [ed].





The hobby of amateur radio offers many aspects. Some hams enjoy experimentation while others chase DX. Some enjoy CW operation, satellite and digital communications while some don't. In this editorial to new hams, I want to address the hams' role in public service (ARES). ARES is an acronym for **A**mateur **R**adio **E**mergency **S**ervices and includes the ham's role as it relates to serving his community.

The Lehigh Valley amateur Radio Club offers the services of its members to several local nonprofit organizations during the year. Some of these are "Walk-A-Thons," and marathons. When the event coordinator contacts the LVARC for help, the ARES coordinator is then responsible for recruiting enough hams to fulfill the request of the event staff. Hams have skills and equipment that make our services unique. Hams can offer communications support unmatched by cell phones or CB communications. Due to our repeaters, these services can be accomplished, in most cases, with only your hand-held radio.

As you begin your amateur radio hobby, please include community service and consider helping with an ARES event(s) when asked. Notification and solicitation of ARES events are made through the Monday RACES/ARES nets, at meetings and in the newsletter. ARES participation is an aspect of amateur radio that a new ham must experience. Unlike RACES activities, no ICS certification is necessary. You simply need to **volunteer your time and equipment.**

ARRL News

This past year (2009) was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "

(Jan. 2009 Letter)

NEW FCC LICENSES ISSUED 2005 THROUGH 2009					
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jan	876	1,274	1,647	1,755	1,960
Feb	1,357	1,605	2,435	2,998	2,263
Mar	1,705	2,531	3,478	2,816	3,463
Apr	1,486	1,728	2,673	3,090	3,430
May	1,651	2,283	2,607	2,562	2,717
Jun	1,493	1,967	2,281	2,402	3,011
Jul	906	1,401	1,786	2,077	2,220
Aug	1,500	1,623	2,183	2,084	2,102
Sep	1,139	1,357	1,462	1,763	2,116
Oct	1,385	1,781	2,109	2,303	2,404
Nov	1,540	1,993	2,132	2,197	2,344
Dec	1,330	1,569	1,935	2,019	2,114
Totals	16,368	21,112	26,728	28,066	30,144



Local Ham Has Review on Chameleon Antenna Published

At the request of the president, Larry (NR3R) has a review of his Chameleon antenna on the company's website. He was also asked to post a review on the e-ham website.



To see his pictures, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChameleonAntenna/photos/album/0/list>.

To see his review on e-ham, go to: <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/7950>.



CONGRATULATIONS to **Samuel Anaao** who tested at the January 15, 2010 test session. Samuel received his Technician call **KB3TWU** on January 20, 2010, even with the MLK Monday holiday.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the **Lehigh Valley 1/2 Marathon** --- Many volunteers are needed to provide communications support for the 1/2 marathon to be held on Sunday **April 25, 2010**. If you are free to help, contact Mark (AK3M).



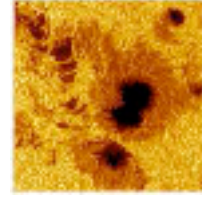
DST Begins March 14, 2010.
Turn clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour



Even though the communications infrastructure in earthquake-ravaged Haiti is being rebuilt, there is still need for Amateur Radio communications. To assist in this effort, the ARRL's Ham-Aid program is providing equipment for local amateurs to use.

Sunspot Cycle? What Sunspot Cycle?

DXCC in one year, more or less



de Alfred Gruenke, KB3JPP

In the fall of 2008, I decided to upgrade my station, and my activities. Since receiving my license in 2003, I've spent most of my operating time with my IC-736PRO and G5RV Jr., mostly CW. I've dabbled with QRP, with great satisfaction, but now I decided to move things up a notch.

First, I bought 1,000 QSL cards. I tried printing my own cards on USPS stock cards, but this was a hit or miss proposition. I wasted a good percentage of cards, offsetting any savings I may have had by not buying professionally printed cards.

Second, I bought the RigBlaster rig control. Just plug one end into your computer's USB port, the other end into your radio. Download HamRadio Deluxe (free) and walá ! You can control most radio functions from your computer. Some better, in fact.

An added feature of HamRadio Deluxe is the DX Cluster feature. It lets you know what DX stations are heard around the world, and the frequency. Click on the station, and the radio will switch you to that frequency. Now that's cool!

Next, I bought CW Skinner. This may be appalling to you purists out there, but I did it, and I'm not ashamed. I can copy code pretty good at 15-20 wpm, and copy call signs at a bit more than that, but it's nice to have assurance that that's a YU call sign, not a YV. And those DX stations often zip along at better than 35 wpm! CW Skimmer is not perfect, but it's a pretty good crutch.

Coupled with the Signalink sound card interface as an audio frequency spectrum analyzer, I was ready to enter the fray. I set my objective to obtain the DXCC certificate in one year. Now, this was going to be a challenge, since the sunspot activity is at an all time low. There have been so many articles predicting how good the next cycle was going to be once we finally get it, it's starting to sound like the joke about a salesman who married this woman who had been married three times before but still inexperienced! But that's for another day. But, when you're 65 years old, waiting for the sunspots to finally fulfill the prophecy was not an option.

With so many high powered rigs out there, with huge antenna farms and IR Steppers, my mere IC-746PRO at 100 watts and G5RV Jr. antenna seems miniscule. But, CW is The Great Equalizer. Going by the premise that "A faint heart never won a fair lady", I jumped in.

I learned quickly that DX QSO's are short, with no chit-chat. Tuning across the band, if I heard a "599" followed by "TU", there was a good likelihood that this was a DX station working a pileup. Then, listen close, determine where he is listening, and his pattern. UP usually means one kHz, but not necessarily. This is where DX clusters come in handy. Many observers will state the frequency "UP" the DX station is responding to.

Working DX opened a new world of understanding to me. I discovered DXpeditions. Not only the big ones such as K5D, Desecheo Island or D44TXS, Cape Verde Islands, but mini-DXpeditions, to places as Turks & Caicos, or to Belize. These are usually one person operations. Some ham going on vacation to some tropical isle, sets up his station, then gets his jollies giving every ham in the world an opportunity to get his jollies. Life is good!

PJ2T is a permanent station on the island of Curacao, just off the coast of Venezuela. It has quite a write up on QRZ.COM, inviting operators to the station, and to the resort next door. So, while the ham plays, the spouse also plays. Pretty attractive arrangement.

Another surprise. The number of European hams operating from Caribbean Islands. For some reason, I've associated the Caribbean as in our back yard, yet people come from across the pond to vacation and operate from there. Good for them! Also, hams from Europe operating from Crete, Senegal, and Nigeria. There is one ham from Switzerland, Bodo Fritsche, 5N0OCH, who has a job assembling and testing short wave radio antennas around the world. So, he hooks up his rig, and has a ball! Check it out on QRZ.com. Pictured is not an antenna farm; its an antenna territory. This has to be Ham Radio Heaven!

I also got a geography lesson. Who would have guessed there are so many countries in the Caribbean? And did you know that there are a couple of islands, St. Pierre & Miquelon, off the coast of Newfoundland, that are French possessions? And two cities on the Northern coast of Morocco, Ceuta & Melilla, are Spanish enclaves? Who knew?

I send my card, a personalized one page letter thanking the ham for the QSO, and a self addressed envelope. I also send two Green Stamps (\$2.00).

Sending out a few cards now and then is a minimal expense, but to someone from Gibraltar or Moldova who receives hundreds of requests for QSL cards, this can be an enormous expense. So, I send a couple of bucks to offset this expense.

Starting with a few cards I've accumulated over the years, I proceeded with my quest.

So it went. I awaited each day's mail with the excitement of a kid waiting for a Ranger Rick Secret Decoder Ring. As soon as I received one, I entered it into a spreadsheet to keep track of how many I have.

I estimate that less than half of my requests resulted in a return card. I'm sure the reasons are varied, but I'm guessing that in many cases the postman enriched himself with my Green Stamps. In a couple of countries, the write-up in QRZ.com specifically states that this can happen. For Tajikistan, I was requested to send a registered letter to ensure delivery. Cost me \$14.50, and it took about two months to get that card.

Some cards were accompanied by nice letters, some asked for presents. I probably handled the latter badly. I never sent the asked-for gifts.

I worked the usual countries easily enough, but I also worked a couple of what I consider rare ones. San Marino, Gibraltar, Desecheo Island, Market Reef, Aland Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Asiatic Russia. Working Australia on 40 meters was pretty thrilling. One ham, Doug Wooley, ZP6CW is an interesting person. I worked him three times. He was recently featured in an article in CQ magazine. I received a very nice letter from him with his QSL card. Then, you have the Special Event cards. The accordion festival in France, a university club in Ukraine deciding to operate the Biryuchi Island Lighthouse. The Ile Verte Lighthouse in Canada celebrating its 200th anniversary. Lots of good natured fun!

So, ten months after I started on my mission, I received confirmation from the one-hundredth country. Fittingly enough, it was from EY7AD, Tajikistan. I sorted and cataloged the cards, and sent 108 to the ARRL. A bit of overkill, but I expected that they might not approve some of them, for whatever reason. Three months later, I'm still waiting for my certificate.

So, what's next? I intend to continue my DX quest, but not quite with the same fervor. Recently I put my Elecraft K-1 into operation, so my new goal is WAS-QRP. This might be more difficult, but what the heck, why not?

Reader Mail de Bob Wiseman (WB3W) EPA SEC

Please see the email below that I received from Gary Wilson, the SNJ SEC.

I thought it important enough to pass on.

We and the other member organizations have been asked by NJ NVOAD to publicize this story:



Uninvited volunteers, useless donations can cost money, time — and lives.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34958965/ns/world_news-haiti_earthquake/

If you've been involved in disaster relief for any time, you know the problems created by well-meaning but unsolicited spontaneous volunteers, collections of cast-off clothes from folk's closets, and poorly packed and un-palletized random boxes of household-sized food items. It should be obvious that trained and experienced folks are needed in the first weeks and months after a disaster and that money is lot easier and cheaper to transport. Money can be used to buy precisely what the victims need on scene.

Please let you family and friends *gently* know this for this disaster and others.

Also, the ARRL is working daily with the IARU and the ITU to ensure that any communication needs for this international disaster that might be filled by the Amateur Radio community are addressed. At this time there is no need for direct need for our services from here in the US. Continue to watch www.arrl.org for updates and give cash to reputable agencies such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc, if you can.

Thanks & 73

Gary Wilson, K2GW
ARRL SNJ SEC

More Reader Mail Regarding Haiti (de Larry - NR3R) Steve Brickman, VFC (Vice Flotilla Commander) *Coast Guard Auxiliary* /FSO-CM-10-01 (Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications Officer), responded that he was in route to Haiti as a member of the DMAT-NJ-1 team. (Disaster Medical Assistance Team).

Members of all Disaster Teams are multi-talented. Steve is no exception. As a LTC US Army Retired, he brings leadership. As a Medical Professional he brings much needed professional skill. **As a USCG-Aux CM-Officer and Ham, KC2CEO brings communications expertise.**



We can be proud that Steve Brickman, Semper Paratus, is in Haiti. Our thoughts and prayers are with him, his team and the people in Haiti. -- **Follow up** (1/30/10): Hello All Stations I am happy to report FSO-CM-10-01 Steve Brickman is safely home from HATI.

He's looking forward to decompressing after a 2 week plus stint in the earthquake zone serving as a member of Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT-NJ-1).

I have relayed to him how proud we are of his team's efforts on our behalf and that of our country.

Just for Laughs

===== WANTED =====



A REWARD OF 500 MICROFARADS IS OFFERED FOR THE INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF HOP-A-LONG CAPACITY. THIS UNRECTIFIE CRIMINAL ESCAPED FROM A WESTERN PRIMARY CELL WHERE HE HAD BEEN CLAMPED IN IONS AWAITING THE GAUSS CHAMBER..

HE IS CHARGED WITH THE INDUCTION OF AN 18 TURN COIL NAMED MILLI HENRY WHO WAS FOUND CHOKED AND ROBBED OF VALUABLE JOULES. HE IS ARMED WITH A CARBON ROD AND IS A POTENTIAL KILLER. CAPACITY IS ALSO CHARGED WITH DRIVING DC MOTOR OVER A WHEATSTONE BRIDGE AND REFUSING TO LET THE BAND-PASS.

IF ENCOUNTERED, HE MAY OFFER SERIES OF RESISTANCE. THE ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE SPENT THE NIGHT SEARCHING FOR HIM IN A MAGNETIC FIELD, WHERE HE HAD GONE TO EARTH. THEY HAD NO SUCCESS AND BELIEVED HE HAD RETURNED OHM VIA A SHORT CIRCUIT.

HE WAS LAST SEEN RIDING A KILOCYCLE WITH HIS FRIEND EDDY CURRENT WHO WAS PLAYING A HARMONIC.

LVARC 2010 ARES Activities

(Specific dates to be announced when available)

April 25 ----- Lehigh Valley Road Runner's 1/2 marathon

May 15----- St. Joseph the Worker's 5K

June 26-27 --- Field Day

September --- LVH / VIA marathon

October --- Women's 5K Classic



Special Test Session

- There was a special test session on Saturday January 30, 2010. Ten people tested and nine passed. The test session was held at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Whitehall. VE's in attendance included, **Mark** (AK3M), **Frank** (W3FTU), **Walt** (KE3SP), **John** (WF3K) and **Don** (W3DLH).

