



The VOX

The Official *On-Line*
Newsletter of the



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



Officers

President: Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG (n3xg.radio@gmail.com)
Vice President: Brian Klock - KW3K (KW3K@kw3k.com)
Secretary: John Bartos - AB3LZ (jab.2@rcn.com)
Treasurer: Brian Snyder - KB3QHA (brian@teamsnyder.net)



2014
Field Day
Edition

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VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M) ---- AK3M@rcn.com

Webmaster - Paul Ryan (N0KIA) ----- (paul.f.ryan@gmail.com)

Look for the
red circle
for FD info.

Field
Day
2014

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

To register for the Gateway or need information
on setting up the radio, please visit
<https://24.229.28.14/Dstar.do>

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



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LVARC TEST SESSIONS



Due to the school being unavailable, there will be **no test sessions in June and July, 2014**. The August test session will be moved to August 29 (the 5th Friday) for that month only.

There will be **Walk-in Testing** at the LVARC Field Day site for two hours on **Saturday June 28 (2-4 pm)**. The test fee is **\$15.00 EXACT CASH**. If upgrading, you MUST take a **COPY** of your **HAM** license.

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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The June, 2014 LVARC meeting will be held on
June 3, 2014 at the Tri-Clover Fire Company at 7:30



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 - 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets/Mondays</u>
January	131	4
February	128	4
March	162	5
April	121	4
May		3



Amateur License - KE6PZH

[New Search](#) [Refine Search](#) [Return to Results](#)

MAIN	ADMIN
Call Sign	KE6PZH
Status	Expired
Dates	
Grant	01/17/1995
Effective	01/17/1995
Licensee Information	
PRN	
Licensee Name	
BRANDEAUX, MARTIN	
12900 MULHOLLAND DR	
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210	
Amateur Data	
Operator Class	General
Group	D

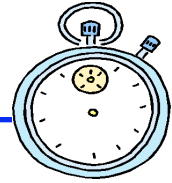
Famous Hams

Do you know this famous ham?
(see page 8 for answer)



**Martin Brandeaux
KE6PZH**

Minutes of the May, 2014 LVARC Meeting de - John (AB3LZ)



President Wolfe called the meeting to order at 1930 Hrs, (EST).

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

There were a total of 22 members in attendance and one guest joined the club. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, Brian – KW3K, John – AB3LZ, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA, Robin – KB3GZV, Scott – KB3YOT and Gary – W3GRD.

Guests: Steve Levine

Corrections additions to the minutes: None

Approved by: Tony – KC3AMC
Second by: Dave - W3AMC
Carried (Y)

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$4071.57

Ending Balance: \$4252.09

Approved by: Brian – KW3K
Second by: Gary – W3GRD
Carried: (Y)

Committee Reports: Repeater: 146.094 is still having light volume problems. The county owns this repeater and a work order has been placed to trouble shoot the issue. As long as the repeater is functional it probably will not have a high priority with the county.

Club Station: Rod will ask the board members to form a committee to work with Chief Johnson. They will work with Chief Johnson to develop the station. Rod will contact Board Member by email.

Program:: The program for tonight will be Net Operations and Public Service events. The subject for the hands on night will be Go Kits and Portable Setup. Next month the program topic will be Field Day. Field Day will be the last weekend of June (June 28 & 29).

Volunteer Examiners: Due to Good Friday, there was no testing conducted in April. The next test session will be May 16, 2014. Mark (AK3M) reported to Rod that there are 3 individuals signed up for that test. Due to school closures in June and July there will be tests at the Hanover Elementary site. We will be conducting walk-in testing during field day on June 28 from 2 PM to 4 PM. Individuals need to bring a copy of ID for new licenses and a copy of their existing license for license upgrades. The August test session will be held at the Hanover elementary school and the date will be moved to the fifth Friday in August (August 29). The remainder of the test schedules will be in the club newsletter. The Technician question pool will expire on June 30 and a new question pool will be in effect as of July 1.

ARES: On Sunday April 27 there were 14 LVARC members that turned out to support the Lehigh Valley Road Runner/Saint Luke's half marathon. The next ARES event will be the Girls on the Run on June 5 in the Lehigh Parkway. Rod needs volunteers to support the event. Please contact Rod (N3XG). On June 7 we will be supporting the Hanover Township 5 K run. Mark (AK3M) is coordinating that event.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Old Business: The equipment from the Eastern PA EMS has been listed in the News Letter. We have made \$80 from the scrap metal and \$85 from the sale of one power supply and power amplifier. The equipment will be available for the rest of May at the prices in the newsletter. After May the equipment will be offered for sale at Ham Fests or on line. The Club picnic will be on July 19 at the Upper Macungie Park on Rt. 100.

New Business:

We will be doing a joint raffle with the North Catasauqua Fire Department. Tickets will be available for sale at the June meeting and throughout the month of June. The drawing is July 4.

John (AB3LZ) was contacted by the QSL Card Bureau and informed that the club had numerous QSL card on file. John has sent them 3 envelopes and we have received past QSL cards back to 1997. Rod noted that the club does not have QSL cards. We should be responding to QSL's. Scott (KB3YOT) placed a motion to purchase QSL cards. A \$100 limit was placed on the purchase. John (AB3LZ) volunteered to coordinate the card design. Gary (N3GRD) seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous Yes vote.

Rod discussed that at the last two Field Days we used an OCF antenna supplied by club members. It was suggested that the Club should purchase an OCF for field use and as a back-up antenna when we establish a club station. Robin placed a motion to purchase an 80 meter OCF antenna from Hy Power in Bethlehem. The antenna will be kept with the clubs HF rig. Scott (KB3YOT) seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous Yes vote.

Good of the Order:

Scott (KB3YOT) plans to participate in SOTA (Summits on the Air) this summer. Scott is looking for interested parties to participate with him. Scott will work on an article for the new letter describing SOTA. There are a number of SOTA peaks in Eastern PA. Dates when Scott plans hikes to SOTA summits will be published in the newsletter. The SOTA web site is <http://www.sota.org.uk/>.

Paul distributed two club pens to each member in attendance. One pen is for the member and the other is to be given away. The intent is to spread knowledge and interest in the club in the Lehigh Valley. The club web site address is on the pens.

There will be two drawing at tonight's meeting. One drawing is a radio drawing consisting of 3 HT radios and a digital multi-meter. The second is the 50/50 drawing.

Paul distributed cheat sheets (reference manual) on the UV-5R HT. There was to have been hands on presentation on the radio this winter but it was canceled due to bad weather. These were to be handouts at that presentation.

Brian (KW3K) reported that there is on-line Sky Warn training. Mark (AK3M) will put the link in the next newsletter.

Sick Report: There were no reports of sick members.

New member applicants: There were no new applications for membership.

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2022 hrs, (EST.)

Motion by: Tony (KC3AMC)

Second by: Matthew (KB3UZE)

In favor: YES

Respectfully Submitted de AB3LZ, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$	
Balance ending April, 2014 - \$4,252.09	

This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Paul - N0KIA	3 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	4 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	5	6	7 Maritimes QSO Party Alabama QSO Party
8 Maritimes QSO Party Alabama QSO Party	9 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Bruce KB3FIH	10	11 NAQCC Straight key/bug sprint Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	12	13	14 Asia- Pacific Sprint SSB Portugal Day Contest
15	16 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Rod - N3XG	17 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	18 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	19	20 LVARC Test Session 8:30 pm NO test session this month	21 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest Kids Day Contest
22	23 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Matt KB3UZE	24	25 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	26	27	28 FIELD DAY  Wk-In testing 2-4pm at FD site. See page 9
29 FIELD DAY 	30 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Robin KB3GZV	 <div> <h2>June 2014</h2>  </div>				

LVARC meeting - Tuesday June 3 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC

Walk-In Test session - June 28 at the Field Day site 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday June 2 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday June 3 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)

Saturday June 7 --- Hanover Township Spring 5K

Monday June 9 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday June 16 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday June 17 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)

Monday June 23 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

June 28 - 29 --- Field Day

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

2014

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)

Due to the school schedule
and Good Friday, there was
no test session in April, 2014.

See page 9 for a revised list of
the remaining 2014 test dates.

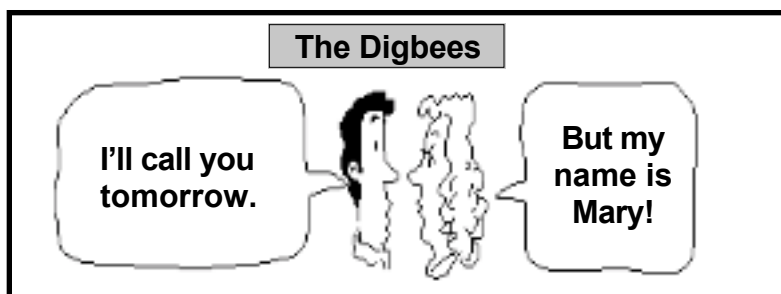
LVARC
VE
Program



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 held monthly if not in conflict with the school calendar. See page 9 for dates. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!!** 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!**



Field Day this month!
June 28-29

2014 LVARC & ARES Events

Below, are tentative 2014 LVARC / ARES events. **Mark your calendar and volunteer to participate!!!**

June 7 --- Hanover Township Spring 5K
June date June 5 --- "Girl's On The Run" 5K
June 28-29 --- Field Day

July 19 --- LVARC picnic

September 7 --- LVHN / VIA Marathon

October 18 --- Women's 5K Classic

November 2 --- D&L Rail Trail 1/2 marathon

November 8 --- Hanover Township "Fall 5K"



Hanover Township

"Spring 5K" will be held on
Saturday June 7, 2014.

Volunteers are needed! Contact
Mark (AK3M) if you can help
(AK3M@rcn.com).



Famous Hams

(answer from p. 3)



Martin Brandeaux
a.k.a. **Marlon Brando**

KE6PZH



There will be **Walk-In license testing** at the LVARC Field Day site on **Saturday June 28, 2014 for 2 hours (2-4 pm)**.

Fee: **\$15.00 EXACT CASH**. If upgrading, you need to take a **COPY** of your current **AMATEUR** license and a photo ID.



The first ARRL Field Day was held in 1933 (81 years ago)!



READER SUBMISSION

de - Larry (NR3R)

With Field Day coming up this is a **great portable power site**. <http://www.portableuniversalpower.com/>

Hardened Power Systems has a variety of portable power sources. Watch them on You Tube.



LVARC 2014 Test Session Dates --- Due to the school's Summer schedule, the following testing schedule is in effect.



June 28 --- Walk-In testing at the LVARC field Day site (2:00 - 4:00 pm).

June --- No regular test session at Hanover School

July --- No regular test session at Hanover School

August --- Aug. 29 (moved to 5th Friday for Aug. **ONLY**)

September --- September 19

October --- October 17

November --- November 21

December --- December 19



Remember --- Participation in LVARC Field Day will earn you incentive tickets.



LVARC Presents Amateur Radio to Community



Whitehall Township Public Library

3700 Mechanicsville Road, Whitehall, PA 18052 | 610-432-4339

- April 8 (6:30 p.m.): Rodney Wolfe, Jr (President : Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club) will provide a presentation and demonstration of Amateur Radio. If you are interested in learning what "Ham Radio" involves, come out to the library! --- (from the Whitehall library website ----) <http://whitehall.lib.pa.us/>

On Tuesday April 8, 2014, **Rod** (N3XG) and **Mark** (AK3M), presented *Amateur Radio* to the Whitehall community. The presentation was held at the Whitehall Public Library and the topic was simply, "Amateur Radio." Rod had a terrific power point presentation which covered all aspects of the hobby.



ARRL 100th Anniversary Trip

Doreen (K3PDL) from the DLARC, wants to know if there is any interest from LVARC members to join in a **carpool** trip to the ARRL on **June 9th** for the ARRL 100th anniversary celebration. Anyone interested **should contact her directly at 610-923-7934.**



"Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN!" (Source: The ARRL website).



2014 Field Day Supplies

(from the ARRL store)

Field
Day
2014



\$12.95



\$9.95



Pin - 5.00



\$10.00



Patch - \$3.00

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/Field-Day-Supplies-2014/>

What IS Field Day?

de Mark (AK3M)

Field
Day
2014

Field **D**ay is perhaps the biggest event in an amateur radio operator's year but what exactly **IS** Field Day? Well, some say it is an emergency preparedness event, as operators are encouraged to operate under emergency conditions where generators, coolers, portable antennas and grills are used. Others say it is a contest, as operators and clubs are encouraged to log their contacts and submit their scores to the ARRL, hopeful for recognition. Field Day is also an event that challenges and sharpens the operator's skills during often difficult HF operation (phone and CW). I personally think Field Day is **ALL** of these as well as a great time to be outdoors on a Summer weekend with friends while participating in the the best event of the year! However you decide to describe Field Day, don't forget to enjoy the outdoors, weather and companionship of the event!

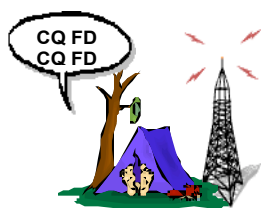


Field Day Objective

(Source: ARRL website)

Field
Day
2014

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries



Field Day 2014

June 28-29



Suggested Field Day Gear

(Use this checklist as a guide. Check items (✓) as they are prepared/packed.)

Amateur Radio

- _____ HF radio
- _____ AC Outlet strip(s)
- _____ spare fuses
- _____ power supply
- _____ key (telegraph)
- _____ headphones
- _____ antenna(s)
- _____ appropriate RF connectors
- _____ tools
- _____ HT
- _____ spare batteries
- _____ AC extension cord(s)
- _____ antenna tuner

General Supplies

- _____ flashlight/lantern
- _____ paper (pads)/logs
- _____ clock/watch
- _____ pencils/pens
- _____ AC desk lamp for night operation
- _____ First aid kit

Personal Gear

- _____ folding chair
- _____ sleeping bag
- _____ pillow
- _____ sunglasses
- _____ appropriate clothing
- _____ snacks
- _____ books/magazines
- _____ personal toilet items
- _____ cell phone
- _____ eating utensils/cup
- _____ tent
- _____ duct tape
- _____ bug spray



Note: The above items are suggested items only. They are not required but depending on your length of stay, they may make you more comfortable.

Notes

2014 LVARC Field Day Information - de Rod (N3XG)

June 28 and 29, 2014

We need help with set up, and with take down as we will again be hoisting antennas high into the air, don't forget Field Day is the best time to learn to operate HF, no matter what your license class, there are many activities and coaches available to help learn new modes, or just refine some old ones. Microphone shy? Try PSK.

Directions to the Field Day site from Allentown

- (1) From route 22, take Rte. 309 North to Huckleberry Rd.
- (2) Right on Huckleberry Rd to Brickyard Rd.
- (3) Drive to the end of Brickyard Rd.

Please remember that the railroad tracks are active and unguarded, so Stop, Look, and Listen.

Field
Day
2014



Also, observe the speed limit on Brickyard Road. The houses on that road are occupied and just experience the most traffic on Field Day. We want to be good temporary neighbors. Come out to enjoy the weekend!



WANTED SkyWarn Assistant

The responsibilities include helping Brian (KW3K) now and likely assuming the coordinator position in the near future. Applicants **must have a current SkyWarn certificate(s)**. To learn more about SkyWarn, see the SkyWarn website at: <http://skywarn.org/>.

For the **FREE** On-Line SkyWarn course, go to:

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23



If you have a current SkyWarn certificate, please let me know along with the current date. I have started a list. --- Mark (AK3M)

[Amateur Radio] "plays a vital public safety communications service...[with]...tremendous potential...when all other forms of radio communication fail, especially during emergencies."

The Hon. Greg Walden
Member, U.S. Congress



Test Question Pool UpDate

(Source: The ARRL VEC)



CURRENT Technician class (Element 2) Pool is effective July 1, 2010 and is only valid until June 30, 2014. **NEW Technician class (Element 2) Pool released December 12, 2013 will become effective July 1, 2014 and is valid until June 30, 2018.**

General class (Element 3) Pool is effective July 1, 2011 and is valid until June 30, 2015

Extra class (Element 4) Pool is effective July 1, 2012 and is valid until June 30, 2016.

Each question pool is reviewed and updated on a four year rotation. The current Question Pools can be viewed or printed from the ARRL Web at <http://www.arrl.org/question-pools>.

2014 FCC Licensing Statistics

(Source: The ARRL VEC)

The below chart shows first quarter results for FCC license activity over the past few years. **The number of new US Amateurs in the database continues to grow each year** while upgraded license transactions remains fairly steady.

During the first quarter of 2014, the FCC issued 8,943 new licenses, a 16% gain in new Amateurs over the same period last year.

As of March 31, 2014, 2,719 Amateurs upgraded their licenses during the same time period, resulting in a 13% gain over 2013.

We are seeing outstanding results so far this year!

NEW and UPGRADED FCC LICENSES ISSUED BY YEAR FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

FCC License Action	2011	2012	2013	2014
New Licenses	5,809	7,532	7,732	8,943
Upgraded Licenses	2,656	2,824	2,414	2,719
Total Issued	8,465	10,365	10,146	11,662



A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months



SkyWarn Training Certificates - de Mark (AK3M)



"Role of the SkyWarn Spotter"



"SkyWarn Spotter Convective Basics"

I decided that since it was in the newsletter, I would try the SkyWarn training at the URL listed on page 13.

I selected SkyWarn (there are many training modules) and started with *SkyWarn Spotter Training*.



The training module was not too technical or complicated and after registering, it didn't take more than 60 minutes to complete.

After receiving my certificate for, "**The Role of the Spotter**," I took another module. The presentation was similar as the first one, as was the time it took to complete that module. I then received my certificate for, "**The Spotter Convective Basics**."

I strongly recommend these two FREE courses to anyone who wants to participate in the LVARC SkyWarn program. **If you do get a SkyWarn certificate(s), let Brian (KW3K) know** (KW3K@kw3k.com). **Also, please let me know.** I have started and will maintain a list (AK3M@rcn.com). If you have a current certificate, I can add that to the list too.



Rohn Tower for Sale

I have Rohn 45, 45 foot tower for sale in great shape! I have pictures if anyone would like to see or you can do a drive by. Contact Jeff Kelly (N3MFT): kellyj@ptd.net or call **610 972-1043** (cell).



actual photo

First ARES Event of 2014 Very Successful!

de Mark (AK3M)



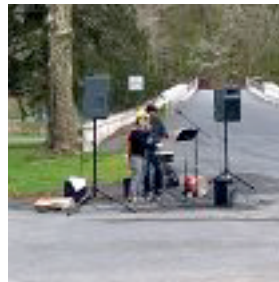
On a very overcast, breezy, cold morning on April 27, 2014, fourteen LVARC members turned out to provide communications support for the first ARES event of 2014. The event was the **St. Luke's Half Marathon** sponsored and organized by the Lehigh Valley Road Runners.

Almost 4,000 runners participated in both the 5K and half marathon held that Sunday morning. LVARC operators were all at their assigned site much in advance of the event start and were able to adapt to situations that arose early.

A directed net was opened at 0755 and closed at 1140. The old adage of, "Anything can (and will) happen," came true. The selection of the event or primary repeater was changed several time before the start of the run. All operators were able to adapt and communications went smoothly. Although very cool to those not running, the weather was perfect for an event like this. I was told by the event medical staff that cooler weather reduces their cases of heat exhaustion and dehydration. With more than 4,000 runners, our operators handled only 3 cases where attention was necessary. Communications in an event like this, can vary from needing more cups at a water station, to medical emergencies. All LVARC operators handled traffic in a manner as professionally as an amateur can!

Participating in the event included, **Mark** (AK3M) and **Larry** (NR3R) at Net Control, **Scott** (KB3YOT), **Judy** (KB3YOS), **John** (KB3VNS), **Jack** (KC9DQV), **Rex** (KC1WE), **Mike** (KC3BLF), **John** (AB3LZ), **Don** (W3DLH), **Kenny** (KC3BLE), **Bob** (WB3JSZ), **Don** (N0VGA), and **Dave** (W3AMC).

A BIG TNX to all who woke up early on that Sunday and showed the communication skills of the LVARC ARES volunteers! Below and on page 17 are some pictures of the event.



Photos courtesy of Mike (KC3BLF)

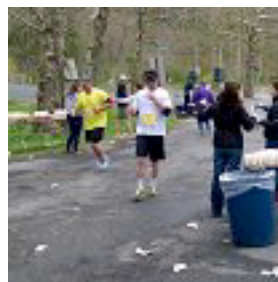


Photo courtesy of Larry (NR3R)

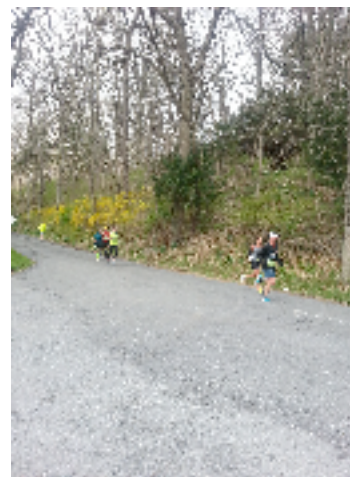
(St. Luke's half marathon pictures cont. from page 16)



St Luke's
HALF MARATHON



Photos
courtesy
of
John (AB3LZ)



Photos courtesy of Bob (WB3JSZ)

Two mobile 2-meter antennas for sale. They are MFJ-1412s with triple mag mounts MFJ-336S. Asking \$50 contact **Contact Charlie Royer (K3BCV) at 484-274-6604.**



As some of you know, I'm involved in assisting a well-known radio amateur in a **significant amateur radio antenna zoning battle** in the greater Philadelphia area. Time and space here does not permit me to detail all that has occurred in the past few months. However, to those of you that are aware and have shown support for the amateur involved, WN3A, I wish to thank you on behalf of Jeff and his family for your kind words of encouragement.

The zoning board hearings, being conducted in a formal trial-like setting, began April 30 at 7 PM and ran until 10 PM as we offered at least 40 exhibits for the record so far. We expect several more evenings of hearing time, but I write to inform those coming back to view the next session on Monday, May 5, the hearing location was just changed at the last minute. It is no longer at the township building as announced, but has been moved to the large meeting room at the Tredyffrin Public Library, 582 Upper Gulph Rd, Strafford, Chester County, Pennsylvania at 7 PM because of the need for a larger room given the number of people from the neighborhood that wish to attend and oppose the amateur radio tower. Many of you sent representatives from your club's from many miles away, but I did not keep a list of those of you who introduced yourself before or after the first hearing.

Please pass the word, as those traveling down to the township building in Chester County to see the next session will be met with a poster on the door indicating a hearing has been moved to a location several miles away. Maybe I can save you some trouble.

Those of you not aware of Jeff's predicament, I posted a letter I sent to all the hams we could identify as living in either Tredyffrin and Schuylkill Townships in the download section of the ARRL web page for EPA. The letter explains more about this matter. Both of these townships as well as the neighbors are separately opposing Jeff's application for a 180- foot Rohn self-supporting tower on his approximately 233 foot by 660 foot, 3 acre wooded lot next to his home.

Jeff is a serious VHF, UHF and microwave operator and most of the antennas will be small in that regard, not larger HF arrays that you might find at say a contest station. The almost 100 foot trees plus the 70 foot rise at the ridge in front of him require this height, which we can surely prove. This case will likely end up in the courts for some years and will have a significant effect, in my view, on amateur radio towers in the various states which comprise the Third Circuit Court of the United States.

The opposition raised by very competent Township and other opposing lawyers who clearly studied PRB-1 cases include reference to the cell phone laws supposedly requiring the amateur to make his tower available to cell phone carriers for co-location if they demand it, (I can't make this stuff up), and the fact that Jeff can simply

increase his power to get through all the foliage attenuation, as well as suggesting the ham should be satisfied with talking locally through repeaters. Jeff does maintain repeaters but he is personally a weak signal 50 MHz and above operator. Opponents presented that he can use long wire antennas and "loops" (we don't know what they mean here either) even at VHF and UHF to work effectively. They have also raised an interesting argument that a 180-foot Rohn self-supporting tower is commonly and universally found in industrial or factory settings as there are very few, if any, radio amateurs in the area that have or need such a tower.

Therefore, they argue no exemption under PRB-1 and state law applies. Also, one of Jeff's repeater on the tower if used by others is not for Jeff's own use and therefor is not subject to exemptions. This is a short list of the many arguments the opponents have and we expect a long line of opponent expert witnesses arguing against the tower on numerous grounds as well.

Please be assured that we know how to meet all these objections but the decision on the facts, of course, remains with the many panel members who will render a written decision for the zoning Board of appeals. They are the jury on the facts and apply the applicable law as well. Some radio amateur with professional engineering and emergency response credentials have stepped up to help.

They may make all the difference. By the way, if you are a real estate appraiser with experience in such matters as cell phone and other tower effects on property values, we desperately need to speak with you.

I appeared at a very well attended public meeting on April 21 in Tredyffrin Township to address the Board of Supervisors of that township who voted to oppose amateur radio antennas not just in the present case, but resolved to oppose them anywhere in the Township. The meeting was recorded in video and is available at the Tredyffrin Township Board of Supervisors web page. Two and 1/2 hours into the meeting Jeff's amateur radio antenna was raised under new business to pass a resolution opposing Jeff and other radio amateurs. I was given the opportunity to speak for 10 minutes over the jeering of the neighbors who were anything but friendly as you can imagine. "We don't love towers and we don't love hams" an opponent placed on the record at that earlier meeting.

If you're with one of the clubs who sent representatives, please pass the word that, because of the neighbors outcries, the next hearing is moved to a new larger location to accommodate what I believe will be a hostile crowd. If you're coming down again, and all are welcome, drop me a note so I can keep you on a list to inform you of developments. We expect the hearings to be completed by July and no decision until as late as August. Keep the faith.

And both Jeff and I will see you on the radio.

Bob Famiglio, K3RF
EPA Section Manager
Legal Counsel for WN3A