



# The VOX

The Official *On-Line*  
Newsletter of the



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



## Officers

*President:* John Bartos - AB3LZ (jab.2@rcn.com)  
*Vice President:* Chuck Ballard - WB6CDY (chballard@compuserve.com)  
*Secretary:* Mike Mandell - KC3BLF (mikemandell@hotmail.com)  
*Treasurer:* Brian Snyder - KB3QHA (brian@teamsnyder.net)



## Board of Governors

Rod Wolfe (N3XG) (n3xg.radio@gmail.com)  
Gary Decker - W3GRD (SCOUTIH79@YAHOO.COM)  
Robin Gable - KB3GZV (cardinalcreek4852@gmail.com)  
Scott Leichssenring - KB3YOT (scott.leichssenring@verizon.net)  
Paul Ryan - N0KIA (paul.f.ryan@gmail.com)



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

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

## LVARC Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)  
147.735/147.135 (DCS - 315)  
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>

# Contents for May 2015



Meeting Information .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 3
L.C. RACES Net Information .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 3
Minutes of the <b>April</b> 2015 Meeting .....		pages 4-5
This Month In Ham Radio .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 6
LVARC VE Report .....		page 7
First ARES Event of 2015 .....	 	page 8
Memorial Day .....		page 9
What's in <i>YOUR</i> "Go Bag?" .....		page 10
Warning / ID light .....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	page 11
2015 first quarter review of the LVARC testing program .....		page 12
Central Elementary 5K .....		page 13
Initiative to new ARRL members .....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	page 14
A Memorial Day Salute .....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	page 15
Section Level Net Information .....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	page 16
A good way to coil coax cable.....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	page 16

## LVARC TEST SESSIONS

The LVARC test sessions are held the third Friday of every month. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** no later than the Sunday before the test session.

Test sessions are held at the Hanover Elementary School in Bethlehem, PA (3890 Jacksonville Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017) beginning at 6:30 pm.

Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark  
(AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The May, 2015 LVARC meeting will be held on  
**May 5**, 2015 at the Tri-Clover Fire Company at **7:30 pm**.

## LVARC/RACES/ARES 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 (DCS 315)  
The Net begins at 7:30 pm local time (ET).

**Many club announcements  
will be heard there !**

### Monday Night RACES/ARES Check-In Summary - 2015

Month

Number of  
Check-In's

Number of  
Nets/Mondays

January  
February  
March



132  
128  
153



4  
4  
5

**The LVARC's 147.135 repeater now requires DCS 315**

*Remember Memorial Day*  
(May 25, 2015)



**The General class (Element 3) Pool was effective July 1, 2011 and is valid until June 30, 2015. You have until the end of June 2015 to take the General test using the current question pool and study guides.**

## Minutes of the April, 2015 LVARC Meeting

de - Mike (KC3BLF)



### Opening:

The regular meeting of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Bartos.

There were a total of 19 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 3 guests.

**Guests:** Stan Mockus from Easton, Howard Shere, from Bethlehem, and Andy Koslap from Bethlehem.

The following Board Members were present at the meeting: John Bartos, Brian Snyder, Chuck Ballard, Gary Decker, Rod Wolfe, Mike Mandell, and Paul Ryan

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Moved: Rod, N3XG,

Second: Chuck, WB6CDY

Carried

### Treasurer's Report (Brian-KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$5,789.28 Ending Balance: \$4,925.22

Motion to approve: Myles, KB3ZMA

Second: Rex, KC1WE

Motion carried

### Committee Reports

**Repeater:** New Yaesu repeater expected this month. The 94 repeater is still very low on audio.

**Program:** Hands on meeting is at 7:00 PM and is a tour of the EOC in Allentown. This is April 21. Next month will be cross-band operations.

**Communications:** Chuck, WB6CDY asked members to form an organizational meeting after the business meeting.

**Volunteer Examiners:** At the March 27th VE session, 5 tested and 3 passed. The one new ham was Jeffrey Minton, KC3ERH. The next session will be on April 17th.

**Ares Report:** ARES events upcoming are; April 26th, St. Luke's Half Marathon; TBA, Girls on the Run; September 13th, VIA Marathon; September 27th, Harvest 5K; October 17 Women's 5K Classic; November 1, D&L Rail Trail Half Marathon.

**Club Station:** Rod has not heard from the chief for some time. No other report on club station.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

**Old Business:** The tower that had been stored at Paul's house is now at its new owner's location.

Mark, AK3M, has sent Bethlehem School District our EIN so they don't bill us, but they have never billed us in the past.

**New Business:** Yaesu is going to have a webinar regarding system Fusion this Sunday. Yaesu has not provided any details yet, but promised them by this Thursday.

Rod, N3XG said he has been asked by North Catty if we again want to participate in their raffle. It was agreed that we will.

**Good of the Order:** John, AB3LZ said he got a postcard for the Warminster Ham Fest on May 3rd. John also announced there are now 380 System Fusion Repeaters, 291 in the US.

Paul, N0KIA said he got a letter from an older ham looking to dispose of his station and equipment. A National HRO-7, a Harvey-Wells TBS=50D Bandmaster, a Gonset G28.

Myles, KB3ZMA is selling some equipment, and also announced a listing of local hamfests.

John, AB3LZ said 10M has been OK, and also he had a QSO with Andorra. Myles reported afternoon openings on 20M.

**Sick Report:** Rod, N3XG, asked that we keep Bruce KB3FIH and family in our prayers

**New Member Applicants:** Andy Koslap, KC3EKA

Motion to accept: Ken, KC3BLE Second: Chuck, WB6CDY  
Carried

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at [20:07].

Moved: Chuck, WB6CDY

Seconded: Gary, W3GRD

Carried


Minutes submitted by: Mike, KC3BLF

**\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$**

**Balance ending March, 2015 - \$4,925.22**



# This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>May</i>					1 AGCW QRP party	2 ARI Int. DX contest 7th call area QSO party IN, DE, New. Eng QSO party
3	4 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark- AK3M	5 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	6 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	7	8	9 CQ-M Int. DX contest FISTS Spring sprint
10 Mother's Day Deadline to schedule test	11 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff - N3MFT	12	13 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	14	15 LVARC Test Session 6:30 pm Hanover Elem.	16 His Maj. King of Spain CW contest
17	18 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Brian- KW3K	19 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	20 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	21	22	23 Baltic contest
24	25  No Net Memorial Day	26	27 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	28	29	30 CQ WW WPX CW contest
31	<i>2015</i>					

**LVARC meeting - Tuesday May 5 (7:30 pm) - Tri - Clover FC**

**LVARC test session - Friday May 15 (6:30 pm) - Hanover Elem. Sch.**

## LVARC Activities/Events

### Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday May 4 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Tuesday May 5 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)  
Sunday May 10 --- Deadline to schedule for test session  
Monday May 11 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Friday May 15 --- LVARC Test Session - (6:30 pm - Hanover Elem.)  
Monday May 18 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Tuesday May 19 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 pm - Tri Clover FC)

2015

### LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)



The March 20, 2015 test session, was postponed until March 27 because of WX. At that session, 5 tested and 3 passed.

#### CONGRATULATIONS to:

George Hebel (KB3TUQ) -- Extra  
John Shoher (KC3CJT) -- Extra  
Jeffrey Minton -- Technician

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M), Don (N0VGA), Mike (KC3BLF) and Walt (KE3SP)

**LVARC 2015 Test Session Dates** --- Test sessions are held at the Hanover Elementary School (3890 Jacksonville Road ) in Bethlehem, Pa., the 3rd Friday of the month at 6:30 pm. **REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY.** Contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com).

April --- April 17

May --- May 15

June --- Testing at LVARC Field  
Day site ONLY

July --- **NO TEST SESSION THIS MONTH.**

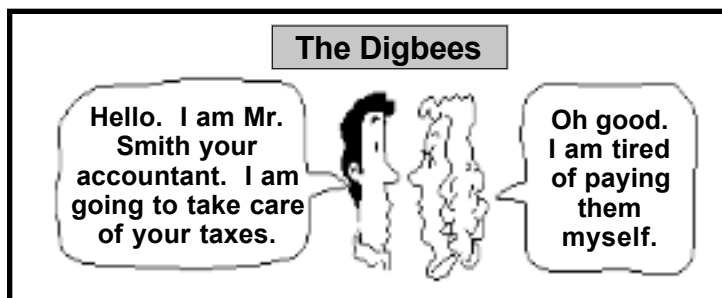
August --- TBA

September --- September 18

October --- October 16



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](mailto: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!**



## 2015 LVARC/ARES Events



**April 26 --- St. Luke's Half Marathon**

**May 28 --- Girls On the Run 5K**

**June 6 --- First Strides/Hanover Township 5K**

**June 27 & 28 --- Field Day**

**July 25 --- LVARC Picnic**

**September 13 --- VIA Marathon**

**September 27 --- Harvest 5K**

**October 17 --- Women's 5K Classic**

**November 1 --- D&L Rail Trail Half Marathon**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**  
Mark your calendar and  
volunteer to help!

***Watch the VOX and listen to the Monday Night Net for details.***

The second ARES event for 2015 is the **First Strides/Hanover Township 5K**. The date for this event is **Saturday June 6, 2015**. The event coordinator has contacted me and is requesting communications support again for this year. This is a short event and a wonderful opportunity for those new to ARES. If you can offer a few hours to help with this event, contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com).



**Memorial Day**, observed every year on the last Monday of May, was formerly known as Decoration Day and originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the war. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.



***The current General question pool will expire on June 30, 2015.***



## **2015 Field Day logo**

The ARRL has a new logo for Field Day 2015.



Please be sure the LVARC's 2 meter **SIMPLEX** frequency is programmed in your HT(s) and mobile radios. It may be used during an ARES event.

That frequency is **147.420 MHz** (NO offset and PL).

**S**pring is a good time to check your antennas and feedlines. The nice weather will allow you to inspect the toll Winter took on your outdoor gear.



**The LVARC's 147.135 repeater now requires Digital Coded Squelch. The frequency is 315.**





## What's In YOUR "Go Bag" - *Simplified?*

This is an individual and ongoing topic. Programs about the, "Go Bag," have been presented at the LVARC meetings.

As a review or new information for new hams, this will inform and/or remind us what to include. **Remember that whatever you pack in your, "Go Bag," you must be able to carry it all.** *My, "Go Bag," as described here, is NOT meant to be a standard for what you should have in your bag.* It is merely what I can pack and carry myself. Also, the items I have in my bag are designed for VHF/UHF and to keep me on the air for several hours, not days. My feeling is that after a few hours, events would have settled down enough to allow for my relief. Remember, should we be called out to an emergency (RACES), we would not be, "First Responders." We would most likely not be called out for communications support until several hours after an event began. I am also assuming that there would be amateurs I could contact via VHF/UHF for HF support should it be necessary. For that reason, I have decided not to include HF gear in my bag.

Ok, then, what do I have in my bag? Here is a list of items I feel necessary to pack for a rapid response for deployment, should I decide to be pressed into service.

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. 2 HT's                       | 11. small flashing red light      |
| 2. 2 extra charged HT batteries | 12. LVARC/ARES/RACES ID           |
| 3. extra antennas               | 13. Swiss Army knife / multi tool |
| 4. RF connectors                | 14. digital clock                 |
| 5. flashlight(s)                | 15. poncho                        |
| 6. pad and pencil/pen           | 16. garbage bag(s) (protect gear) |
| 7. extra AA/AAA batteries       | 17. ear buds / headphones         |
| 8. DC HT chargers               | 18. USB phone charger             |
| 9. AC to DC adapters            | 19. pair FRS radios               |
| 10. external HT microphone(s)   | 20. small length of coax          |

Again, my bag is packed based on two assumptions. The first is that I will be deployed to a building (shelter) and be inside and second, I will be on the air for a few hours only.

**Whether a short or long term deployment in mind, please share what you keep in your, "Go Bag."** Send your suggestions to me (Mark - AK3M). I will include in future submissions of the VOX.

**Put your "Go Bag" to good use this Spring, Summer and Fall, 2015 and volunteer for the many ARES activities for which the LVARC provides communications support!**

## New Addition to My “Go Bag”

### READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)



I recently bought a few flashing red warning lights for my cars and I bought an extra one to put in my, “Go Bag.” This light doubles as a flashlight using white LED’s or as a warning light, using flashing red LED’s. I thought it would be a good light to use at an ARES/RACES station for easy identification by event participants. The light is available at Harbor Freight for \$3.99. The AAA batteries are included and last a long time.



## June ARES Events



**June 6 --- First Strides / Hanover Township 5K**

**Date TBA - “Girls On the Run” 5K**

**June 27 - 28 --- Field Day**



**Mark your calendar and volunteer to help** For the 5K, contact Mark (AK3M), to volunteer for the “Girls On The Run” 5K, contact Rod (N3XG) and to help with Field Day, contact John (AB3LZ).



### READER SUBMISSION

de Walt (KE3SP)



**The LVARC's 147.135 repeater now requires DCS 315**



The LVARC will again participate in **Field Day, 2015** on **June 27-28, 2015**. The location will be at, "The Brickyard," as in the past. More information and directions will be in the June issue of the VOX.



**License testing will be available on Saturday June 27 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.**



**READER SUBMISSION** de John (AB3LZ) after receiving input from Mark (AK3M)

## 2015 First Quarter Review of the LVARC VE/Testing Program



The LVARC VE team has been busy in the first quarter of 2015. In the face of bad weather and the resulting need to reschedule test sessions, the team has tested 25 aspiring new and current hams. Since the first test session in 2003 and including March 2015, the LVARC has **held 103 test sessions and 376 have been tested (average 28.9 per year)**. The LVARC VE team is led by AK3M and KE3SP. The large pool of VE's in the LVARC provides additional VE's for test sessions.

The test sessions are conducted at the Hanover Elementary School in Hanover Township. Test sessions are scheduled the third Friday of the month (unless there is a conflict with the school's calendar) and test sessions are held for one or more applicants. Test sessions have also been, and will continue to be offered at the LVARC's Field Day site. Test sessions are listed on the ARRL's website.

As three VE's are needed at each test session, registration is necessary. That registration and a deadline of the Sunday before the test, gives the VE team an idea of how many will be attending a test session. For additional information, please contact Mark (AK3M) at ([AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)).



## HR-1301

**The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R.1301** -- has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. **The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions.** US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle -- seven Republicans and five Democrats. (Source: ARRL)

## How to print your license (a Reference Copy)

1. Go to <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>
2. Search for your call sign.
3. Click on your call sign
4. Click on the ADMIN tab
5. Click on "Authorization -- Licensee"
6. Your reference copy license will open in a PDF file for printing or saving.

**READER SUBMISSION**

de Mark (AK3M)



**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Jeffrey Minton** who tested at the LVARC's March 27, 2015 test session and earned his Technician license! Jeff received his call **KC3ERH** on April 1, 2015.



**Harvest 5K**  
(to benefit Central  
Elementary School)

**READER SUBMISSION**

de Mark (AK3M)



I have recently (March 26) been asked for the LVARC to provide communications support for a new event in Allentown. The event is the **Harvest 5K**, a fundraiser to benefit Central Elementary School in Allentown. The date of this event is **Sunday September 27, 2015** and will be held in the Lehigh Parkway. About 100 or more participants are expected to attend. I have told the event coordinator that I will solicit LVARC volunteers to provide communications support for this event. We will need about 9 operators to operate in this event. ***If you can help with this new event, contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com).***

**The LVARC's 147.135 repeater now requires DCS 315**

# Exciting Initiative to Welcome New ARRL Members

**READER SUBMISSION**

forwarded by Chuck (WB6CDY)

Follow us on Twitter @EpaARRL and on the web at [www.epa-arrl.org](http://www.epa-arrl.org)

We are preparing an exciting initiative to welcome new ARRL members into our local amateur community, the "Welcome Wagon Project". We hope to start this summer and need your help to do it.

Starting this summer, each month, "Welcome to the ARRL" Radiogram messages will be sent to new League members in eastern Pennsylvania.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We need you -- and your club or ARES unit -- for local delivery of these Radiograms, as a neighbor welcoming them to the League and make new friends. It's also the perfect time to invite them to your next meeting and meet the whole gang.

## **HOW IT'S DONE**

Welcome Wagon Radiograms are sent using the National Traffic System, so participation in this program requires liaison with one of the several NTS nets active in EPA on HF fone, HF cw, VHF, even by Echolink. New to Radiograms? Don't worry, we'll teach you everything you need to know.

Digital operators with HF Pactor (Winlink or Airmail) may take advantage of the Digital NTS network's W3JY 3RN MBO operation. Packet and WL2K ops along Philadelphia's Main Line can access W3JY-1 by VHF.

## **VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

People love getting a Radiogram. There is nothing else like it. The personal touch makes it an experience to remember and it's an amateur radio tradition, a cherished part of our American heritage.

Excited? Volunteer today!

VY 73 DE W3JY  
Joe SM/EPA

## **TO SIGN UP and LEARN MORE:**

(1) Check into any of the EPA traffic nets listed at:

<http://www.epa-arrl.org/nts-net-schedules/>

and ask for Scott N3SW (our traffic manager) or Tom AF4NC (our net manager).

(2) ARES members should connect with Walt WN3LIF (our EPA emergency coordinator).

(3) You can also email [w3jy@arrl.org](mailto:w3jy@arrl.org).

Be sure to tell us your organization and the delivery region you have in mind. New to Radiograms? We'll teach you how to do it, including the best, most effective ways to deliver these messages.

# A Graveside Memorial Day Salute

**READER SUBMISSION**

by Kenny Bass (KC3BLE)



Look over yonder and what do you see -  
Those who have died for liberty.

He was only 17, in 1962-  
A Christian, a Catholic, or maybe a Jew.

And let's not forget the brave women too -  
Who bled, suffered and died for me and for you.

So, listen to me and hear what I say -  
The American flag still flies today.

Remember those who went to their grave -  
For the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Specific 2015 LVARC Field Day information (location, directions and times), will be published in the June, issue of the VOX.



**Mother's Day is Sunday May 10!**



**L.C. EOC tour and meeting with the EMA director** will be held on the LVARC's April activity night (**April 21**). There is a time change to **1900 (7:00 pm)**. The EOC is in Allentown at 7th and Hamilton, in the 600 block of Hamilton street.

**READER SUBMISSION**

de Rod (N3XG)

## Schedules and Net Manager Information for Section-Level Nets:

EPA Emergency Phone & Traffic Net (EPAEPTN)  
3917kHz, 6:00pm daily  
Manager: Tom Mills [af4nc@arrl.net](mailto:af4nc@arrl.net)

**READER SUBMISSION**  
de Chuck (WB6CDY)

EPA Echolink Traffic Net AA3RG (FN10tm)  
146.640- PL 82.5, 8:00pm Thursday  
Echolink node AA3RG-R  
Manager: Scott Walker [n3sw@arrl.net](mailto:n3sw@arrl.net)

Pennsylvania Traffic Net (Formerly EPA)  
3585kHz, 7:00pm and 10:00pm daily  
K3MIY Net Manager  
Manager: Ron Zond K3MIY [rzond9@comcast.net](mailto:rzond9@comcast.net)

NTSD 3RN MBO W3JY (FN20fa)  
HF Pactor center frequencies (kHz)  
MBO/BBS 3591.9; 7091.4; 10142.9; 14112.4  
Sysop: Joe Ames [w3jy@arrl.org](mailto:w3jy@arrl.org)

WINLINK RMS -- TARGET STATION W3JY (FN20fa)  
HF Pactor center frequencies (kHz)  
RMS 3593.9; 7102.4; 14112.4  
Sysop: Joe Ames [w3jy@arrl.org](mailto:w3jy@arrl.org)

NTSD 3RN VHF Packet Node (Southeastern Penna.): 145.010  
MBO/BBS W3JY-1  
RMS W3JY-10  
Sysop: Joe Ames [w3jy@arrl.org](mailto:w3jy@arrl.org)

NOTE: ARES/RACES stations may send Radiogram formatted email traffic to [W3JY@WINLINK.ORG](mailto:W3JY@WINLINK.ORG) for injection to the international NTS Digital Network with outlets in all ARRL Sections in US and Canada, also Great Britain, Germany and all EU states per international agreement. Contact [w3jy@arrl.org](mailto:w3jy@arrl.org) for detailed instructions.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Doug McNair (N3WGH) who earned his VE certification!! Welcome to the LVARC VE team, Doug!

## A Good Way to Coil Coax Cable

**READER SUBMISSION**

de Myles (KB3ZMA)

I needed to roll up around ten pieces of RG 213 this past weekend. I wanted all the rolls to be the same size. For 20 minutes I walked around the garage, trying to find something to wrap it around and, then neatly remove it. I came up with this idea.



It worked great. It works with 4 stakes but, 8 makes a much nicer circle.