



# The VOX



The Official *On-Line* Newsletter of the  
**L**ehigh **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **C**lub - W3OI / KB3SYV  
Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA

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## 2020 Officers

President: **Myles Bodisch** - KB3ZMA (KB3ZMA@gmail.com)  
Vice President: **Jeff Bauer** - WA3PNY (BAUERJV@MAC.COM)  
Secretary: **Phillip Bigg** - KB3HMK (philbert17@ptd.net)  
Treasurer: **Paul Ryan** - N0KIA (paul.f.ryan@gmail.com)

## 2020 Board of Governors

**John Bartos** - AB3LZ (e03145jab@gmail.com)  
**Mark Miller** - AK3M (AK3M@rcn.com)  
**Steve Olock** - KS3RO (solock@gmail.com)  
**Rick Pearce** - KC3EXO (rickp.127@gmail.com)  
**Rod Wolfe** - N3XG (n3xg.radio@gmail.com)

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

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## LVARC Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)  
147.735/147.135 (DCS 315)\*  
147.420 (Club Simplex Freq.)  
445.025 W3OI D-Star "B" module  
147.165 W3OI D-Star "C" module

## LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

**Every Monday at 7:30p (ET)**  
**on the 94 repeater.**

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* 147.735/147.135 (DCS 315)</li><li>Automatic Mode Select. Analog</li><li>* FM or YSF, Yaesu System Fusion,</li></ul> |
|---|

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

The **March** LVARC meeting will be on **Tuesday March 3** , 2020 at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield at **7:30p** (local time).

The scheduled program is a Skype Presentation with Gordon West  
*“Tropospheric Ducting”*

**Plan to attend!**

The LVARC holds it's monthly meetings on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of every month at the **Tri-Clover Fire Company** in Orefield, Pennsylvania at 7:30p Eastern time.

### **LVARC TEST SESSIONS**

The LVARC holds monthly test sessions on the third Friday of every month. The test is held at **Hanover Elementary School** at **3890 Jacksonville Road** in **Bethlehem, PA** at **6:30p**.

### **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

To register, contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)  
NO later than the Sunday **BEFORE** the session.

## **\*NOTICE\***

The LVARC radio shack is open for use on the evening of the third Tuesday of the month BUT you **MUST CONTACT Myles** (KB3ZMA) **FIRST**. Myles can be contacted at ([KB3ZMA@gmail.com](mailto:KB3ZMA@gmail.com)).



### **March 2020 LVARC Program**

**March** - Gordon West - Via Skype - *“Tropospheric Ducting”*

**Note:** — Programs or topics are subject to change. Listen to the Monday Night Net for changes.

# The LVARC 2020 Activity Calendar

## March 2020

March 2 - Monday Night LVARC Net - 7:30p 146.940

March 3 - LVARC meeting at 7:30p at the Tri-Clover F.C.

March 9 - Monday Night LVARC Net - 7:30p 146.940

March 15 - Deadline to register for March 20 test session

March 16 - Monday Night LVARC Net - 7:30p 146.940

March 17 - Field Day software

March 20 - LVARC test session - 6:30p

March 23 - Monday Night LVARC Net - 7:30p 146.940

March 30 - Monday Night LVARC Net - 7:30p 146.940

\* The LVARC radio shack is open on the third Tuesday of the month **ONLY AFTER CONTACTING Myles (KB3ZMA) at (KB3ZMA@gmail.com).**

**NOTE** — The doors to the Tri-Clover Fire Company (LVARC meeting location) will now be open at 6:30p on meeting nights! This will allow members and guests to use the radio shack and/or interact with other members before the meeting starts at 7:30p.



**Keep an eye on your license. Don't let it expire!** You can apply for a renewal no sooner than 90 days prior to its expiration.



**ICS/NIMS  
Update**

In an effort to keep up to date, I am asking those who have ICS certificates to send me: (1) the name off the course and (2) a copy of the certificate. I am trying to keep this list as current as possible. If you are in doubt if you sent it/them to me, send anyway. If they are a duplicate, I will edit appropriately. Send to Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.cmom](mailto:AK3M@rcn.cmom). EC001 and EC 002 are obsolete but those with those certificates are grandfathered.

## Spring ....

**W**ith Spring weather rapidly approaching, not only sitting by a lake drinking lemonade comes to mind but also ARES events. The LVARC provides communications support for 5 community events. These events not only allow us to use our hobby to serve the public but also allows us to practice message handling.

**Volunteers are needed! *Even if you are new to participation in an ARES event, your help is needed.*** Contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com) to volunteer for Upcoming ARES events.

Following is a list of 2020 ARES events. Listen to the Monday Night Net for details of each event.

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### 2020 ARES Events

**April 26 (Sunday) -- St. Luke's/Lehigh Valley Road Runner's Half Marathon - On site time: 0700**

**June 6 (Saturday) -- Hanover Township Spring 5K - On site time: - 0830**

**September 13 (Sunday) -- VIA Marathon - On site time: 0630**

**October 3 (Saturday) -- Women's 5K Classic - On site time: 0800**

**November 1 (Sunday) -- Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Half Marathon Run/Walk -- On site time: 0800 . Rod will have that information**



***“Spring is nature’s way of saying, Let’s Party!”***

***— Robin Williams***



## LVIA (ABE) Emergency Exercise

There will be an emergency drill at the LVIA (ABE) airport on April 18. Volunteer "victims" are needed. Communications support is yet to be determined. Listen to the Monday Night Net for more information.

### Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) Triennial Full Scale Emergency Exercise



#### Volunteers Needed

**Where:** Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE)  
3311 Airport Road, Allentown PA 18109

**When:** Saturday, April 18, 2020 (Rain or Shine)  
6:00 a.m. (Volunteer Arrival) to approximately 1:00 p.m.\*

\*Volunteers applying make-up/"moulage" to players are not required to stay for the entire exercise

If interested, respond via this web link:


[https:// www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020ExerciseVolunteer](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020ExerciseVolunteer), no later than Friday, March 6, 2020.

For questions, contact Jennifer Bogari, Emergency Management Specialist, via email at [jbogari@lnaa.com](mailto:jbogari@lnaa.com).



## Planned LVARC 2020 Programs

March	Gordon West (WB6NOA)	Tropospheric Ducting
April	George Miller (W3GWM)	ARRL EPA Section Manager
May	Regina Monaco (N2RNA)	Packet Radio
June	Myles Bodisch (KB3ZMA)	Field Day
July	Jeff Bauer (WA3PNY)	Satellite Communication
August	Myles Bodisch (KB3ZMA)	SDR
September	Robert James (AB3RC)	Radio Pioneers
October	Paul Ryan (N0KIA)	Baofeng Family
November	Mike Mandel (KC3BLF)	DRATS
December	John Bartos (AB3LZ)	Wire Antennas





## The Current Extra Class Questions will Expire on June 30, 2020

New Amateur Extra class (Element 4) pool will take effect on July 1, 2020 and will be valid until June 30, 2024

The new Amateur Extra class question pool was released to the public by the NCVEC question pool committee and is available on the NCVEC website at [2020 – 2024 Extra class pool](#).

**This pool will take effect for all Element 4 Extra class license written examinations on July 1, 2020.**

*That means, the current Extra questions remain unchanged until the last day in June, 2020.*



**The St. Luke's Half-Marathon will be held on Sunday April 26, 2020.**

**Your help is needed!** The *St. Luke's Half Marathon* will be held on **Sunday April 26**. The LVARC provides communications support for this event. If you are an experienced operator or new to an ARES event, you are needed for this event. Don't wait. Volunteer early.

Contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com) to volunteer.



The LVARC radio shack is open on the evening of the third Tuesday of the month **ONLY AFTER CONTACTING Myles** (KB3ZMA) at [KB3ZMA@gmail.com](mailto:KB3ZMA@gmail.com).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 LVARC Net 7:30p	3 LVARC Meeting 7:30p Doors open at 6:30p	4	5 D-Star Net 7:00p	6	7 Turn clocks <b>forward</b> one hour (0200) 
8	9 LVARC Net 7:30p	10	11	12 D-Star Net 7:00p	13	14
15 Deadline to register for test session	16 LVARC Net 7:30p	17 LVARC Activity Night  St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 D-Star Net 7:00p	20 First day of Spring  LVARC Test Session 6:30p	21
22	23 LVARC Net 7:30p	24	25	26 D-Star Net 7:00p	27	28
29	30 LVARC Net 7:30p	31	March 2020			



## ***“I want to volunteer for an ARES event but I don’t know what to do or expect?”***



de Mark (AK3M)

As you know, the LVARC will provide communication support for five community events during 2020. This cannot happen without the commitment of LVARC members.

The LVARC has a strong community service program and those volunteers have been fantastic in the past and no event has had to be cancelled due to lack of ARES volunteers.

### **What Will I Need to Do If I Volunteer?**

The responsibility of the ARES operator is to pass traffic to and from the Net Control Station (NCS). A modified National Traffic System (NTS) format is used. Messages are put in order of Routine to Priority. Messages are handled in order of importance.

*You will NOT be used to handle vehicular traffic or act as medical personnel.*

### **What Do I Need to Know Before the Event?**

The first step is to check the date(s) and be sure you have nothing scheduled for that day. Volunteers are assigned a location from which to operate. If he cannot be there, it leaves an empty position that needs communications.

You will need to pre-program your radio(s) before the event to include the event frequencies.

You will need to know that ARES events are held rain or shine. That means appropriate WX gear may be needed.

You will also need to know the time to arrive on scene at your assigned position. That will be included in an email from NCS before the event.

Contact Mark (AK3M) [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com) to volunteer and also register on **ARES CONNECT**.

Scheduled operator positions are assigned well in advance of the event. That will give you the opportunity to drive to your station days before the event to become familiar with where you will be stationed. Some volunteers MAY be asked if they want to operate from a, “Sag Wagon.”

### **What Do I Need to Do Upon My Arrival at My Assigned Position?**

Upon your arrival, you should introduce yourself to any event officials or other volunteers at your site. Tell them who you are and what you can do for them. You can tell them that you have communications with event personnel and in most cases, EMS services should that be needed.



## **What Will I Need to Take to the Event?**

The scheduled LVARC ARES events use the LVARC repeater(s). As a result, an HT or mobile rig are needed. An **HT** is preferable as you may not be able to be in or near your car to use a mobile radio. Along with your HT(s), you should take a **spare battery** and/or antenna(s). Plan to stay the air for about 4-5 hours.

**“Creature comforts,”** are advisable in order to make your stay at your position more comfortable. These include a folding **chair**, **beverages**, **sunglasses**, any medication(s) you may need, **paper tablet**, **pen/pencil**, **headphones** or **earbuds**, speaker **microphone**, etc. Pack your gear in a manner that you can carry as you may not be able to operate from your car.

A **reflective vest** will help you be seen and identified as a source for assistance or information by event officials and event participants. Reflective vests can be purchased from many sources from Harbor Freight to the ARRL website. Vests can be “decorated” with your name and call as you see fit.

**Your LVARC ID is essential** and will often allow you access to areas perhaps not allowed to the general public.

The most important asset to take with you is the knowledge that you are helping your community with the equipment and communication skills you have.

***Remember to have fun and enjoy the event!***



**LVARC  
Activity  
Night**

The March 17 2020 LVARC Activity Night topic is, **“Field Day Logging Software.”** Activity night is held at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield and begins at 7:30p on the third Tuesday of the month.

## ***Want to be published?***

Send your VOX submissions to Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)



# Making a Coax “Jumper” Cable

READER SUBMISSION

de Tom Gyory WW3TRG

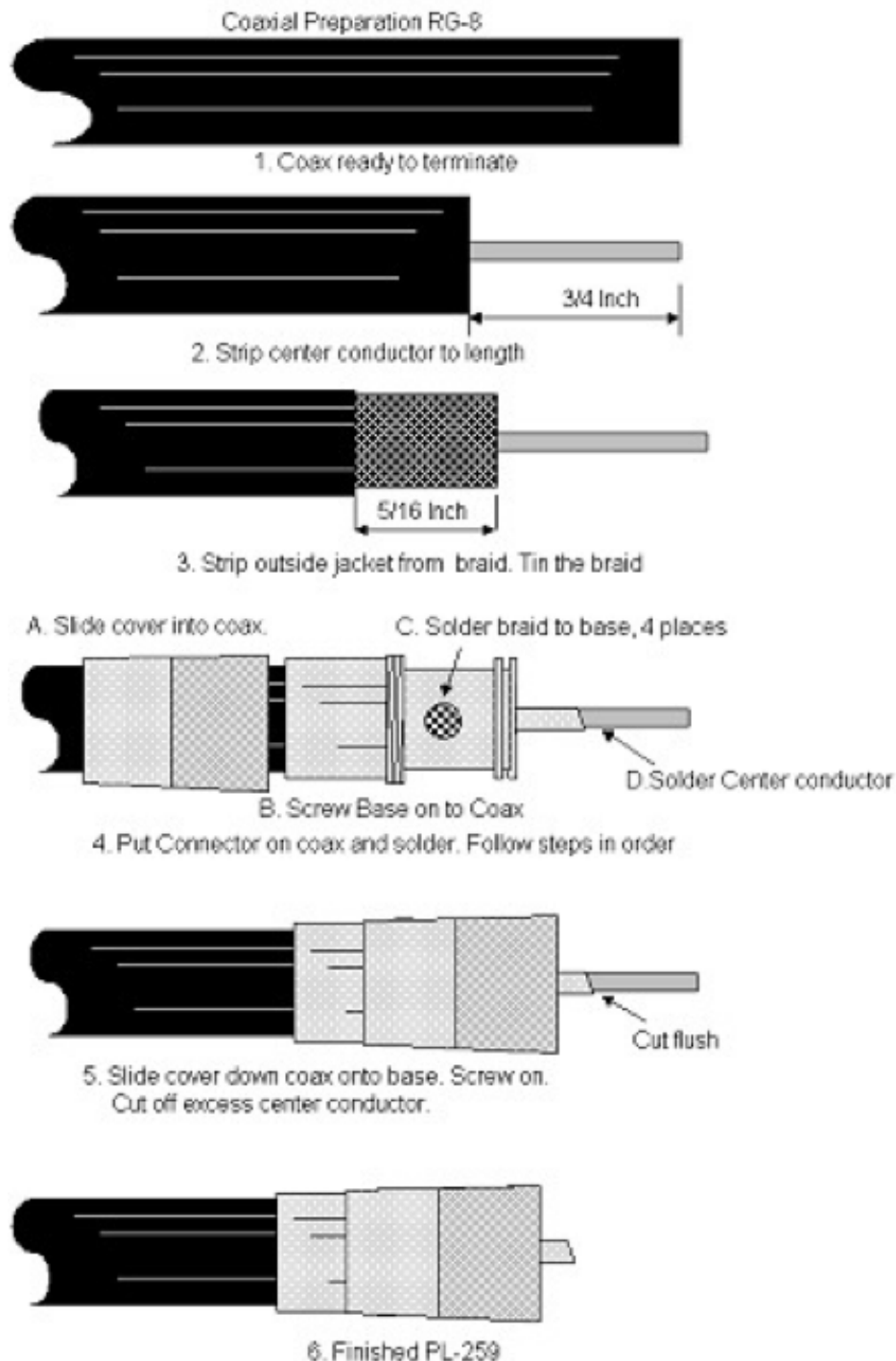
Short coaxial cables or “Jumpers” are very useful in Amateur Radio. They are used to make connections from radios to amplifiers to antennas, to antenna tuners to swr/power meters to antenna analyzers and more. They are easy to make if you have the components and a few simple tools: coaxial cable (RG-8/LMR400), screw on connectors (PL-259/uhf-male), pen, ruler, large and small wire cutter, utility knife, or coax stripping tool, pliers, soldering iron, tin-lead rosin core solder, fine sand paper, electric tape or shrink wrap tubes, heat gun, and a multi-meter.

Coaxial Preparation Steps: See diagrams below.

1. Coax ready to terminate: Cut coaxial cable with large wire cutter to desired length, 2-3 foot is common. Circumferentially mark each end with a pen, first at 3/4” and then 5/16” from the first mark. If using a utility knife proceed to step #2. If using a coax stripping tool place coax in the tool on the cut mark and rotate several times around and remove outer materials, then skip to step #4.
2. Strip center conductor: Use a utility knife to cut through the outer cover of the coax at the 3/4” mark. Use very light pressure to keep knife edge on the mark. Add more pressure and cut several more times around through the braided shield and dielectric insulator staying on the mark. Be careful not to cut into the center conductor. Twist and remove outer materials with pliers if needed, leaving the center conductor exposed.
3. Strip outer jacket from braid: Use utility knife to cut very lightly, at the 5/16” mark, around the outer jacket being careful not to cut into braid. Remove outer jacket, leaving the braid exposed. If you are going to use the soldering technique, tin the braid by adding a layer of solder, all the way around the braid, with the soldering iron. Remember to heat the braid first and add solder to the hot braid. If you are using the solderless technique, peel the braid back over the outer jacket.
4. Put connector on coax and solder, following these steps:
  - A. Unscrew the two parts of the connector and slide connector cover onto coax in the proper orientation.
  - B. Screw the base onto the coax tightly by using the pliers. Be careful not to damage coax outer cover or the threads on the base with the pliers.
  - C. If using the solder technique, solder the braid to the base in the holes in the base. Remember to heat the base and braid first and then add the solder to the heated components. The base requires a lot of heat, however try not to melt the dielectric insulation.
  - D. Solder the center conductor. The center conductor must be soldered in both techniques.

5. Slide the connector cover down the coax onto the base. Reconnect the two connector parts by screwing the cover onto the base. Cut off excess center conductor with wire cutters. Smooth with fine sandpaper to ensure easy fit into equipment. Seal with electric tape or shrink wrap.

6. Finished PL – 259. Test conductivity and possible short circuits with multi-meter.



## **ARES CONNECT** - de Mark (AK3M)

Since ARES season is rapidly approaching, this is a good time to remind you all about ARES Connect.



ARES CONNECT is a way for you to volunteer and get credit for LVARC ARES events.

Go to: <https://arrr.volunteerhub.com> and create a username and password. Log into the activity in which you want to get credit for participating in.

You can get credit for all 2020 ARES events **AND** the LVARC Monday Night Nets.



## **“Event Vests”** - de Mark (AK3M)

Reference to a vest during the operation of an ARES event was made in text above. Since ARES season is coming, this is a good time to talk about these vests.



**Note that a vest is NOT required for your participation in an ARES event.** A vest, however, allows event participants to easily recognize you as a source for assistance. It also allows event officials to identify you as being with the event. Many vests have pockets that will allow you to easily carry your radio (HT). Finally, although you will not be responsible to direct vehicular traffic, your vest will offer a level of safety for you.

Vests can be purchased from many different sources depending on how sophisticated you want it to be and much you want to spend. The ARRL store sells vests which include **COMMUNICATIONS** on it or something similar. Harbor freight also sells reflective vests (with no pockets) or you can simply do an internet search for *reflective* or *safety* vests. Adhesive letters can be purchased at many stores which you can use to add your call or anything else you want.



## **VOLUNTEER NOW !**

**Join the LVARC ARES team and provide communication support for the St. Luke's Half Marathon Sunday April 26, 2020.**

To volunteer, email Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)

### **10 “Take Aways” from this issue of the VOX:**

1. Information about the LVARC March meeting - time , date and program topic.
2. 2020 LVARC March events.
3. 2020 ARES events.
4. 2020 LVARC programs.
5. Extra class question pool expiration with date for new questions.
6. **Call for volunteers for April 26 St. Luke's Half Marathon.**
7. What to expect/do during an ARES event.
8. Making a coax jumper cable.
9. What is and how do I use ARES Connect?
10. ARES vest information.



*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;  
they just have the heart.” ~ Elizabeth Andrew*

# Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI)

## Meeting Minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting



The meeting was called to order by President Bodisch at 1928 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 20 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 2 guests.

The following Board Members were present at the meeting:

President – Myles Bodisch	Present
Vice President – Jeff Bauer	Present
Treasurer - Paul Ryan	Present
Secretary - Phil Bigg	Present
Board Members: John Bartos	Present
Mark Miller	Present
Rick Pearce	Present
Steve Olock	Present
Rod Wolfe	Present

**Guests:** Bridgette and Lou Spikol (KC3OSZ)

**Corrections additions to the minutes:** None Noted

Motion to accept made by: Chuck – W3CDY

Seconded by: Steve – K2OPD

Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

**Treasurer's Report** (Paul - N0KIA)

The report was presented

Motion to accept made by: Rod – N3XG

Seconded by: Dan – KC3HWD

Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

**Committee Reports:**

Repeater: Nothing to report. D-Star repeater working. There have been a lot of keying up and not identified. Please give your callsign if you key up to see if you're making the repeater.

**Program:** Rod (N3XG) will be presenting the program tonight. He will be talking about repeaters. March will be a skype presentation by Gordon West

(WB6NOA). April will be a skype presentation by George Miller (W3GWM). He is the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager.

**Volunteer Examiners:** Those who tested at the January 17, 2020 test session, received their calls on Thursday January 23, 2020

**Congratulations to:**

Lou Spikol – KC3OSZ (T)  
Mike Brubaker – KC3OTA (T)  
David Gable – KC3OTB (T)  
Chris Josack – KC3OTC (T)  
Sean Moyer – KC3OTD (G)

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M), Mike (KC3BLF), Doug (N3WGH) and Carl (AA3IX).

The next test session is scheduled for Friday February 21, 2020.

**ARES / RACES:** The St. Luke's half marathon is scheduled for April 26. Volunteers are needed. Contact Mark ([AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)) to volunteer.

**Club Station / Trailer:** No report

**Communications:** No report

**Old Business:** The annual dinner get together will be on February 18 at 6:30 PM. It will be held at the Golden Corral in Whitehall.

The club had many members attend the Makers Movement tour. They made a couple of 2 meter tape measure yagi antennas. Thursday nights are open nights. Membership is \$20.

March 17 will be the monthly activity night. We will be going over the logging software that are loaded on the laptops. This is to make sure they are good for field day.

**New Business:** The board had a meeting on January 21. Many items were discussed. Two items discussed were sending flowers in lieu of a donation and revising the by-laws. If a member passes away, the club will send a donation to a specified organization. If the family doesn't specify a donation, the club will send flowers. The allotted amount to spend is \$50. It was recommended that we up it to \$80 given the going rate for flowers.

The next item is Myles would like to revise the by-laws. He is looking for 2 members and one board member. If you have any concerns or suggestions, e-mail Myles.



The field day site has been reserved for this year.

Paul reports that laptop #4 is not working. Most likely it's the mother board. He will start looking for a possible replacement for it. Carl (AA3IX) said he might have laptop that the club can have. Paul will keep #4 for parts.

Myles posed the question of whether to have the club station open for contests. There was a show of interest. He will have a list of the contests at the March meeting.

**Good of the Order:** The W3OK club will be having technician classes starting on March 3. Anyone interested, go to their website for more info.

Paul showcased a multi-meter he found on the internet. If you would like more info, please contact him.

Dan (KC3HWD) volunteered to bring the snacks for the March meeting.

The following is from George Miller (W3GWM). He is the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager - Contact your State Representative and State Senator and ask them to support the amendment to HB37 exempting Amateur Radio Operators.

When Chuck did his presentation on radiation, hams were responsible for any RF interference they were causing. If it was under a certain wattage and frequency, you didn't have to worry about it. The FCC is now changing that and saying it's your responsibility to take care of the problem. Could be a problem for us.

**New member applicants:**

Name: Mike Brubaker  
Callsign: KC3OTA

Name: Louis Spikol  
Callsign: KC3OSZ

New Members motion to accept made by: Carl – AA3IX  
Seconded by: Chuck – W3CDY  
Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2012 hrs. (EST.)  
Motion to accept made by: Chuck – W3CDY  
Seconded by: Dan – KC3HWD  
Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

*Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.*

From: **March 2020 issue of the American Legion Magazine**

Submitted by Rod (N3XG)

**READER SUBMISSION**

#### **AMATEUR RADIO**

### Join an American Legion ham radio net

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) conducts monthly network operations, or nets, run by officers' and members' net control stations from National Headquarters in Indianapolis and homes across the nation.

Amateur radio nets are conducted for purposes formal and informal, ranging from facilitating emergency operations in disaster situations to discussing specific items of interest to a variety of operators. TALARC monthly nets are a regular gathering of American Legion Family hams for conversation and information-sharing over the airwaves. With more than 4,100 TALARC members across the country, the

nets are an opportunity to learn what other members are doing in different parts of the country and world.

A schedule of regular TALARC events is posted online at [legion.org/hamradio/monthly-net-schedule](http://legion.org/hamradio/monthly-net-schedule). Current formats include both traditional radio bandwidths and digital ones via the internet.

An FCC license is required to access most nets, but the TALARC page on the national website ([legion.org/hamradio](http://legion.org/hamradio)) has links to help interested American Legion Family members take the first steps to getting a license – and then, hopefully, joining the club.

– Marty Justis, TALARC president



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### February 2020 VE Report

At the February 21, 2020 test session, 4 tested and 4 passed.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Christopher Jostack (G), Michael Hoppes (G), Michael Velders (T), Steven Small (G). The next scheduled test session is March 20, 2020.

VE's in attendance included **Mark** (AK3M), **Walt** (KE3SP) **Mike** (KC3BLF) and **John** (AB3LZ).

*Thirteen muscles are used  
to make a person smile.*



## The Mid-Winter dinner at the Golden Corral was a Big Success!

The 2020 LVARC Mid-Winter dinner was well attended and all had a great time! About 24 LVARC members met at the Golden Corral in Whitehall and shared ham radio and personal experiences between bites of the restaurant's buffet. TNX to Phil (KB3HMK) for putting this together each year!



Photos courtesy of Phil (KB3HMK)



Field Day 2020 is not that far in the future. Attend the **March 17, 2020 LVARC activity night** to learn about Field Day logging software.

Make your own FD plans and save the dates **June 27 - 28**.

