

The VOX

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club June 2026 Newsletter



2026 Officers

President: Dan Longo – KC3HWD
Vice President: John Bartos – AB3LZ
Treasurer: Paul Ryan – N0KIA
Secretary: Phil Bigg – KB3HMK

2026 Board

Eric Hagan – N3EJH
Scott Redfield – W3SGT
Mike Salvaggio – KC3UCX
Matt Vanderhoff – N3VAN
Rodney Wolfe – N3XG



“Hello” from AC3OT - Mike Tyniec (mtyniec@gmail.com or 646.483.8232)

Mike - KC3UCX - has provided us with upcoming [Hamfests](#), Jeff - WA3PNY - and Terry - KC3BEG - are back with the fourth installment of [Mesh Talk!](#). Let's get ready for [ARRL Field Day 2026](#). The VE Team will be offering walk-in license testing at Field Day, Saturday 6/27, 9AM-1PM.

[⇒Click Here for May Meeting Minutes⇐](#)

IMPORTANT - Net control operators are needed for the Monday night net, please contact Rod, N3XG if you're willing to learn and help out the running of the net.

Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Club Meeting - June 2nd - 7:30PM - Tri-clover Fire Company
Discussion - Field Day 2026
- Hands on Night - June 16th - 7PM - Tri-clover Fire Company - To Be Determined
- [ARRL Field Day 2026](#) - June 27 - 28 at the [Brickyard](#)

LVARC Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)
147.420 (Club Simplex Freq.)
445.025 W3OI D-Star “B” module
147.165 W3OI D-Star “C” module

147.735/147.135 (DCS 315)*
*Automatic Mode Select Analog
*FM or Yaesu System Fusion

LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

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

Many club announcements will be heard on the Monday Night Net!

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Calendar:

June 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Splitrock Amateur Radio Association Hamfest	1	2 Club Meeting @ 7:30PM	3 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	4 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	5	6
7	8 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	9 Tesla Tuesday @ 8:00	10 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	11 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	12	13 Bloomsburg Hamfest 7AM-1PM
14	15 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	16 Hands on Night @ 7PM	17 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	18 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	19 LVARC VE Test Session	20 Raritan Valley - W2QW Hamfest 8AM to Noon
21	22 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	23 Tesla Tuesday @ 8:00	24 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	25 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	26	27 ARRL Field Day 2026
28 ARRL Field Day 2026	29 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	30 Tesla Tuesday @ 8:00				

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Meet Your Club Vice-President:

From Call Signs to Connections...



John Bartos
AB3LZ
Vice-President

- 1. Why did you become a Ham and how long have you been licensed?** My father was always interested in getting a Ham license. The code requirement kept him from getting a license. In his later years when he found out the code requirement was removed, he started to prepare for the test. I helped him study and put together practice tests for him. After becoming familiar with the material, I decided to take the test myself. I have been licensed for 16 years. (PS: My Dad passed his Tech test at the age of 90.)
- 2. How long have you been a LVARC member?** I joined LVARC after obtaining my license. I have been a member for 16 years.
- 3. Which parts of the hobby do you enjoy most?** The thing I enjoy the most is working on projects with other club members. Some of my favorite projects were turning a donated trailer into a mobile comms center, converting the 147.135 repeater into a Fusion/Wires-X capable repeater, and converting the fire station's old beer cooler into a club facility.
- 4. What else should we know about you?** After graduating from college, I worked on the team that designed the engine room for the Los Angeles Class nuclear attack submarine. I also helped construct three of that class of submarine.

ARRL Field Day 2026 - June 27th-28th



AMATEUR RADIO
FD★26
A NATIONAL RESOURCE

Field Day 2026 takes place June 27–28.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the ARRL Year of the Club, it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

LVARC will be having Field Day at the [Brickyard](#) as in years past - please mark your calendars. We will provide more info as the day approaches.

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May 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Month General Meeting DATE May 5, 2026

Combo Local and Remote via Zoom

The Meeting was called to order by Dan Longo @ 7:30 PM

Secret Word is Jungle and needs to be emailed to Phil @ philbert17@ptd.net to show attendance for online participants.

Dan covered hybrid zoom meeting procedures, zoom will be an active participant in the meeting

Remotes will raise hand to signify a nay vote otherwise no indication will be considered a yes vote

Online was interactive with full communications for both local and remotes

ATTENDEES

There was a total of 37 members in attendance with 3 remote members (as per the email method) and 34 local attendees. Also in attendance was 3 guests.

The following Board Members were present at the meeting:

President – Dan Longo KC3HWD Present

Vice President – John Bartos AB3LZ Present

Treasurer - Paul Ryan N0KIA Present

Secretary - Phil Bigg KB3HMK Present

Board of Governors:

Rod Wolfe N3XG Present

Mike Salvaggio KC3UCX Present

Eric Hagan N3EJH Present

Scotty Scott Redfield Present

Matthew Vanderhoff Present

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Guests and Attendees of Note:

Al – N3OTP

Tim – KC3WMT

Jim – WA3WIJ

1 - Proceedings:

A motion was made to approve the April Meeting minutes as published in the May VOX newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Scott (N3PVA) and 2nd by Matt N3VAN

Motion Passed = Y

Program for tonight:

Rod will be doing a presentation on Jungle Antennas.

The Hands On Night will be a Jungle Antenna build.

2 - Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Paul presented the monthly financial report for the month of April

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Rick (KC3EXO) and 2nd by Rod (N3XG)

Motion Passed = Y

3 - ARES & VE Report

VE Report:

The VE team had a test session on April 17th. They had a total of five testers. One passed the technician test, one passed the general test, one passed the extra test and two passed all three tests.

The VE team will look at doing testing at Field Day. More info to follow.

ARES Report:

Rod reports that the St. Luke's Half Marathon was a great success. Rod thanked everyone who helped out.

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The Quadzilla event is on July 19th. Rod has not heard anything from the event coordinators. That's not to say they won't contact us right before the event for help.

The St. Luke's Women's 5k Run will be October 3rd. Rod will be looking for help when the event gets closer.

The D & L Marathon will be November 15th. Rod will be looking for help when the event gets closer.

4 - Communications:

Website: Matt updated the website for Field Day.

5 - Repeater report: by Rod N3XG.

No issues reported.

6 - Club Station / Trailer:

There is nothing to report for the club station.

The club trailer was worked on. The mast was cycled. It worked well. The generator was checked and works well. The trailer needs some cleaning.

7 - Old Business:

Net control operators are needed for Monday night net, please contact Rod, N3XG if you're willing to learn and help out the running of the net.

8 - New Business:

There was an issue with the calendar on the website. To use the current one, we needed to pay a subscription fee. Matt (N3VAN) will switch it to a simple calendar.

The next POTA event will be on May 16th. It will be held at Bake Oven Knob. We will meet before the event at a local diner for breakfast.

Mike (AC3OT) is looking for articles for the VOX. If you would like to put an article in, please contact him.

Mike Lathwood (N3MFL) is a friend of Matt (N3VAN). He donated a walk-in tent to the club for events and other times when needed.

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There was discussion on what equipment was needed for the upcoming Field Day event. John (AB3LZ) recommended purchasing some band pass filters, an RFI kit for the flex Radio, and two 100' coax cables. John stated that it would cost around \$1200. A motion was made by Scott (KB3YOT) to make the purchase of the necessary equipment not to exceed \$1500. The motion was seconded by Rick (KC3EXO). The motion passed.

There was a discussion on doing CW practice sessions. The club will look into it. More info to follow.

8a - New Members:

Emily Shively – W3MLY

Ethan Johnson – KD3CYR

Harry Snodgrass – KC3NOX

Craig Seidle – W3KDB

Paige Campbell – AC3QR

Tim Stoudt – KC3WMT

John Pavlik – No Callsign / Associate Member

A motion was made by Scott (KB3YOT) and seconded by Scotty (W3SGT) to accept the new members.

Motion Passed: Y

9 - Sick Call

No Report

10 - Good of the Order:

The DLARC Radio Club (W3OK) made an invite to our members to join them on a round table net on Thursday nights, excluding the first Thursday of the month. That is when they have their Monthly meeting. It will be held on the W3OK repeater (146.70). All are welcome.

It was noted at a previous meeting that some of the members did well for the PA QSO Party. Someone noted that Doug (N3WGH) also placed second in one of the categories. Congratulations to Doug.

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Jeff (WA3PNY) has set up a Meshcore for the club. Right now, it's only five feet off the ground. If a member knows of a higher spot to put it, please let him know. The frequency is 910.875 and you want it set to USA / CANADA. Contact Jeff for more info.

At the hands-on night, a member showed Jeff (WA3PNY) an LTEPOC which is a network terminal. They are not amateur radio related. All you need is a cell tower. For more info, contact Jeff.

Mike (KC3UCX) reported the upcoming hamfests. They are:

May 8th & 9th – Kutztown Radio Show

May 31st – Splitrock ARC

June 13th – Bloomsburg

June 20th – Raritan Valley ARC

July 4th – Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club

July 5th – Murgas Arc

July 12th – Sussex County ARC

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt (N3VAN) and 2nd by Scott (KB3YOT)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted Phillip Bigg KB3HMK, Secretary

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Welcome to Mesh Talk!

Greetings, I hope everyone had a good Memorial Day weekend. In a previous installment I mentioned protocol stacks and that we would talk about them some other time. Today is the day! Well, actually I want to just talk about protocols this time, stacks can come later. Here is what Wikipedia says about communication protocols:

“A communication protocol is a system of rules that allows two or more entities of a communications system to transmit information. The protocol defines the rules, syntax, semantics, and synchronization of communication and possible error recovery methods. Protocols may be implemented by hardware, software, or a combination of both.”

People use communication protocols all the time. One is a common informal greeting that we can use as an analogy. Let's look at an example from a communication protocol point of view:

“Hi, Jeff, how are you?” – Sending a message that is expecting a response.

“Oh, Hi Terry” – Acknowledging the message was heard.

“I am good, how are you?” – Answering the question and sending a new message that is expecting a response.

“I am good, thanks” – Acknowledging and answering.

If you were at a loud party, the other person might not hear you, so what would you do? You might repeat yourself. What if they still didn't hear you? You might try a couple of times and then give up and go get more food.

As described last time, MeshCore has two ways to route messages: source routing and flood routing. Let's talk about source routing as it is more

analogous to our informal greeting. So what happens when you send a message directly to a Contact? The firmware follows its predefined protocol. It builds the packet using the known path, adds your message, and transmits it over the air. This is the “Hi, Jeff, how are you” part. Then it waits for an acknowledgment packet to be received back from the node the message was sent to. This is the “Oh, Hi Terry” part. If it doesn't receive the acknowledgement within a certain amount of time it will re-send the message. After a certain amount of retries it will give up and go get some food.

Practical application:

Using the MeshCore app you may have noticed that when you send a message directly to a Contact you will see a status under to your message. First it will say "Sending" when it first sends your message. If it doesn't get an acknowledgement back, it will say something like "Sending (attempt 2/3)" and re-send the message. Ultimately, it will say "Delivered" or "Failed." This is all based on the underlying MeshCore communication protocol being used.

Please feel free to email me: kd3beg@oakastir.com



This is KD3BEG, over to WA3PNY...

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Welcome to Mesh Talk! (continued)



Thanks Terry,

I came across a new module for MeshCore, an "Observer Module." This module is officially listed as an experimental module, which means it requires a custom firmware download. It also

depends on some advanced capabilities that are only included in a couple manufacturer's MeshCore products.

The Observer Module does what it is named, it observes and reports data to the Internet via Wifi. That last part requires the radio to have LoRa (900 MHz), BlueTooth, and Wifi connectivity. Heltec V3 and V4 boards offer this advanced capability. They are rapidly becoming one of my favorite radios for MeshCore.

You might ask, why we need observers? Well, an Observer Module just sits on the Mesh Network, and keeps track of all the traffic on the mesh. It keeps track of who has transmitted, what route the data traveled, how much data was transmitted, the signal quality, and all network health data.

This data is then bundled up and sent to a MQTT Broker at "LetsMesh.net" on the Internet. The MQTT Broker is set-up to serve the data to other LetsMesh

apps, which display the data and helps interpret it in many different ways.

It can be helpful to have at least one Observer Node in an area where there is activity being generated, just to keep track of what is happening there. Some of the things that observers enable are: Mapping the Coverage Area, Troubleshooting and Diagnostics, Monitoring Performance, and Identifying where Repeaters are needed.

If all this has got you interested in Observer Modules, and you would like to have more information, The Letsmesh.net forum information is available at the link below:

<https://forum.letsmesh.net/t/meshcore-firmware-with-wifi-ntp-and-packet-logging-to-the-meshcore-packet-analyzer/124>

If you would like to have more information in general about Observers, including how to flash it on your Heltec V3 or V4 radio, I recommend the YouTube video that I watched to prepare this article, which is available at :

<https://youtu.be/Vq86mr8kTR0>

See you next month

Jeff - WA3PNY

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“POTA Adventures” - May 16th

Hey POTA Enthusiasts!

On Saturday, May 16th a group of club members (Scott KB3YOT, Scotty W3SGT, Doug N3WGH, Phil KB3HMK, Dan KB3HWD, Eric N3EJH, Ethan, KD3CYR, Matt KB3UZE, Harold KD3BFDU and Matt N3VAN) met at Bake Oven Knob Parking lot to enjoy a Parks on the Air activation!



Prior to heading to Bake Oven Knob we had a very nice breakfast at the 873 Country View Diner.



This was a special Parks on the Air activation where we had two parks; US-8914 and US-4556. While band conditions were a challenge we still activated with 14 QSO's. With the poor band conditions a lot of POTA activators were extremely happy that we saved the day with multiple operators.



Look forward to the next POTA adventure in July after Field Day 2026!

73 Matt N3VAN

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2026 Club Presentations:

Would you like to share your enthusiasm for a specific facet of amateur radio? Is there something you would like the club to explore / present? If you have suggestions for programs for 2026 or would like to share your passion with the club, please contact Dan KC3HWD.

Weekly Nets:

Monday 7:30pm – ARES / ACS Net – 146.94
Monday 8:15pm – 2m SSB – 144.255 USB
2nd and 4th Tuesday 8pm – Tesla Tuesday Chat – 146.94
Wednesday 7:00pm – Digital Mode Net – 145.550 [Contact KB3YOT for Mode]
Thursday 8:00pm – 2m FM Simplex – 147.42

Monthly Net Report

Monday Night ARES / ACS Net:

4/6 - 60
4/13 - 54
4/20 - 61
4/27 - 55
Total April: 230

Monday Night 2m SSB:

4/6 - 8
4/13 - 9
4/20 - 6
4/27 - 7
Total April: 30

Tesla Tuesday:

4/15 - 8
4/28 - 8
Total April - 16

Wednesday Digital

4/8
4/15
4/22 - 4
4/29 - 3
Total April - 7

Thursday 2m FM Simplex

04/02 - 1
4/9 - 4
4/16 - 6
4/23 - 4
4/30 - 5
Total April - 20

Net Manager wishes to thank all of the help while I was on vacation. We could not have quality nets without net control stations and the participation of our membership.

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Shop & Swap:

Bob Bury - W3ZG

Two Butternut Verticals (HF9V and HV6V) available for free - will need to be refurbished.

One MFJ 50 ft. Push up mast for \$50.00.

rhbury2947@gmail.com

DLARC - Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Roundtable Net Most Thursdays @ 7PM


The airwaves are about to get a little more lively—and a lot more welcoming.

The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club (DLARC) is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new weekly roundtable net, designed to bring more voices, more ideas, and more activity to their repeater - W3OK - info is as follows:

W3OK 51.760, Linked 146.700, Linked 444.900 (all PL 151.4)

W3OK DSTAR 145.110 (-.6 MHZ)


This isn't your typical tightly scripted net. Think of it as a radio campfire 🔥—a place where operators can gather, share, learn, and just enjoy the magic of making contacts.

 Hosted By Familiar Voices - your hosts for the net will be:

Tom, KD3BZF

Aiden, KD3BHM

They'll guide the conversation, keep things moving, and make sure everyone has a chance to jump in.

 What to Expect

Open-format, roundtable-style discussion

Topics can range from technical to tactical... or just plain fun

A relaxed environment where everyone is encouraged to participate

Whether you want to talk antennas, radios, propagation, or your latest shack project—or just say hello—you'll have a seat at the table.

The Mark Miller Education Fund

This fund was created by the generosity of Chris (N3RPV) and Jeff (N3MFT) Kelly with a \$500 donation. Rod (N3XG) stated that the purpose is to go for licensing fees or upgrade fees, training materials and reimbursement fees for people looking to get their license. A motion was made by Chuck (W3CDY) for the club to donate \$100 to the Mark Miller Education. The motion was seconded by Mark (W3BQD). The motion passed. If any member would like to donate to the fund, please write a check to the club with a note at the bottom stating what the money is for and then send it to Paul (N0KIA).

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Trivia/Tech Net

Some of us passed these tests years ago and some are still studying. Give it a try and see how much you remember! [Answers at the end of the VOX.](#)

Technician (Question Expires June 30, 2026):

Which of the following is good practice when installing ground wires on a tower for lightning protection?

- A. Put a drip loop in the ground connection to prevent water damage to the ground system
- B. Make sure all ground wire bends are right angles
- C. Ensure that connections are short and direct
- D. All these choices are correct

General:

Which wire or wires in a four-conductor 240 VAC circuit should be attached to fuses or circuit breakers?

- A. Only the hot wires
- B. Only the neutral wire
- C. Only the ground wire
- D. All wires

Amateur Extra:

Why is it not legal to transmit a 3 kHz bandwidth USB signal with a carrier frequency of 14.348 MHz?

- A. USB is not used on 20-meter phone
- B. The lower 1 kHz of the signal is outside the 20-meter band
- C. 14.348 MHz is outside the 20-meter band
- D. The upper 1 kHz of the signal is outside the 20-meter band

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LVARC VE Test Sessions

***** Walk-in license testing at Field Day, Saturday 6/27, 9AM-1PM *****

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (LVARC) holds test sessions every **other month** at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield, PA.

Test sessions are listed on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Test sessions begin at **6:30pm** (local time) or as notified by Rich.

**** Preregistered Applicants ONLY! ****
2026 Testing Dates

Click on a date below to register through HamStudy. This is the preferred way to register.
To register by email contact Rich Taylor (NC3RT) at rolyat.drahcir@me.com.

June 19th 2026, August 21st 2026, October 16th 2026, December 18th 2026

You **MUST pre-register** at least 2 days before the session. The deadline for registering for the test is the **Wednesday BEFORE the scheduled Friday test date**.

Before the test:

You will need to get an FRN **BEFORE** the test session. You will need to take that number to the session. To get an FRN, go to <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>

At the Test Session:

You will need to pay \$15.00 (EXACT CASH) at the test session AND then the \$35.00 FCC fee when your paperwork is received by the ARRL.

- Two forms of ID – If you are a student and do not have a driver's license, a student ID is appropriate.
- Blank sheet of paper and a pen or pencil
- A COPY of your amateur license (if you have one) which will not be returned
- **\$15.00** Testing Fee (**EXACT CASH** Only). Should you not pass, another version of the test may be taken at the same sitting for an additional \$15.00 fee.

Candidates take all tests using a tablet computer provided by the VE Team. The tablet has a calculator app for candidate use during exams.

******* If you cannot attend one of our sessions, you can find other options and locations using the using the ARRL Test Finder Page *******

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Hamfests

[Bloomsburg Hamfest](#)

Lime Ridge Community Center

[Sponsored by the Columbia - Montour Amateur Radio Club](#)

[6405 4th St. Bloomsburg, PA 17815](#)

Saturday June 13th - 7AM-1PM

Latitude: N41.02588 | Longitude: W76.34254

Gate opens at 7AM (6AM for Vendors)

Talk-in 147.225+600 (PL 85.4)

- Gate Admission: \$5/person
- Spouses & under 12 free
- Breakfast and Lunch Available
- Indoor Restrooms
- New & Used Ham Radio & PC Equipment
- ARRL Amateur Radio License Testing @9AM
- No Advanced Registration for Testing
- Walk-Ins welcome

[Raritan Valley - W2QW Hamfest](#)

Piscataway High School

Saturday June 20th

[100 Behmer Rd. Piscataway, NJ 08854](#)

Open to Sellers @ 6AM - Buyers at 8AM

- General Admission - \$7/person
- XYL's & Kids Free
- Large Outdoor Area
- Ample Parking
- Ham, SWL, & Computer Equipment Dealers
- New & Used Computer Equipment Dealers
- 146.625 – pl 141.3
- 442.250 – pl 141.3
- 146.520 Simplex
- VE Testing at Hamfest
- Please Notify Marv - K2VHW
 - 732-887-0875
 - K2VHW@ARRL.NET

Splitrock Amateur Radio Association

[Horseshoe Lake Recreation Complex](#)
[72 Eyland Ave. Succasunna, NJ 07876](#)

[2026 North Jersey Tailgate Hamfest](#)

Sunday May 31

GPS Location: N40.86076, W74.63266

Vendors: 6:00AM Buyers: 8:00AM

- Admission Buyers/Sellers \$8.00
- Tailgating \$20.00 up to 5 spaces
- Tailgate purchase includes ONE admission
- Non-Ham YL's and Harmonics Free
- Pavillion spots First come, First served
- Electricity under and next to pavilion, \$5.00 bring your own extension cords
- Plenty of Parking

[Harrisburg Hamfest](#)

Saturday July 4th - 7AM-1PM

[Sussex Hamfest](#)

Sunday July 12th - 8AM

[Murgas ARC Hamfest and Computerfest](#)

Sunday July 5th

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Trivia/Tech Net - Answers

Tech: C. Ensure that connections are short and direct
General: A. Only the hot wires
Extra: D. The upper 1 kHz of the signal is outside the 20-meter band