



# ***THE FEEDBACK***

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*THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER*

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Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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## Upcoming Events:

Day	Date	Time	Freq	Event
Wed	01/05	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	01/12	1900		Social Gathering at Sullivan's Steak & Beverage
Wed	01/19	2030	147.225+ PL156.7	On-the-Air Net
Wed	01/26	1930		Monthly Meeting @ Woman's Club of Laurel
All		2100	147.540 simplex	Informal Net / Rag-Chew

## Repeaters:

VHF: 147.225+ PL 156.7  
UHF: 442.500+ PL 156.7

## Simplex:

VHF: 147.540  
UHF: 445.975

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> <b>January 26, 2005 1930 EST</b></p>
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## President's Rumbblings

Happy New Year to all from your president.

This year will start with very good prospects for the club. Arrangements have been made to use the quarters in the City Hall building for our shack.

When we have our first meeting of the New Year I will ask everyone who can get there to be at the meeting, and to be prepared to help with the things we have to do this year. We have to move our shack, including the antennas, and then we will have to arrange to do more things for the good and interest of the club members. We have plans to make and to put to work for our mutual benefit.

We have much to learn and friendships to be made. Please get ready to help as much as you can!

73,  
Joe, N3TZA

## A New Club Shack is Here!

On December 13, 2004, a number of Club members attended the Laurel City Council meeting. The first order of business was a tour of the area for the new shack. Here are a few photos courtesy of Dennis, KT3D.



This is the EOC. We are hoping to have access to this area through the door marked with the "Exit" sign in the center of the picture.



This is a view from the same location as the previous photo but looking a bit to the left. Look the TV on the wall between the windows in each of the photos to get a feel for how these line up. Our area is just through the wall behind the large white board.



We take a step or two to the left and we see our very own little area. We will be supplied with a computer even though it is not shown in this photo. There is a coffee room behind the wall to the left of the photo.



This is a picture looking to the left of our area. The doorway center right in the picture opens to the coffee room. Note the TV on the wall. Our area is out of the photo to the right.



This is a view from the area of the exit door in the first photo. The man with the white shirt is standing in the doorway that leads to our little area. The other smaller doorway leads to a hallway to the main building. Look at those hats!

We will be able to use most of the area shown in these photos when we are contesting, etc. The only time the area will be unavailable is during emergencies. After we had completed our tour the Council session began. The first event of the meeting was the signing of our lease for the new shack by Joe, N3TZA and Jim, WI3N. Maybe we'll have that photo next time!

## LARC VEC 2004 – The Year in Review

LARC VEC is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest VEC, measured in numbers of people tested during the year. Each year, we close the gap between us and number three (West Carolina Amateur Radio Society VEC, or WCARS VEC.) We find out our relative standings at the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators held in July. To give us something to ponder until then, here is the year in review for LARC VEC, including some statistics of which we can be very proud.

During 2004, fifteen LARC VE teams held 118 sessions. The teams administered 1342 elements to 986 people.

Numbers of people tested and numbers of elements administered have been dropping for all VECs over the past several years. There are different hypotheses for this. Some say that a surge of activity in 2000, with people taking advantage of license class restructuring, led to a decline in later activity. Others say that competing activities such as the Internet and video gaming have led people away from our hobby. LARC VEC testing activity has decreased from 2003.

The most active LARC VE team is the Laurel Amateur Radio Club VE Team under the leadership of John Creel, WB3GXW. This team held 16 sessions during the year. Eleven were regular monthly sessions, two were special sessions held for graduating classes, and three were Hamfests. This team administered 174 elements to 142 people.

While the Laurel club team was tops for number of sessions held, the team that tested the most people and administered the most exams during the year was the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club VE team, under John Forrest WZ4A, which tested 222 people and administered 389 elements.

The team that made the news is the Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club VE Team under the leadership of George Burkett, N3YB. This team was mentioned on the ARRL web site and on Amateur Radio Newline for their role in testing the 65 Trinity School students who tested and passed in November.

Two hundred amateur radio operators worked as LARC VE's during the year. The most active LARC VE by far is Les Jamison, WR3X, who worked 18 sessions. Les was a VE with four different teams during the year.

The most active LARC VE's during the year were, in descending order:

VE	Call	Sessions Worked
Jamison Jr., Les	WR3X	18
Lempicki, Francis	AA4ZS	14
Forrest, John	WZ4A	14
Cimbala, Michele	WK3X	14
Thompson, Ellen	N3EMI	12
Diamond-Rose, Brenda	KB3ATI	12
Creel, John	WB3GXW	12
Anderson, Robert	AF3D	12
Rose, Robert	AA3RR	11
May, Mary Ellen	W3VY	11
Mantich, Matt	N3JMK	11

Corron, George	AF4JH	11
Bevan, Holly	N3MB	11
Zimmerman, Diane	AA3OF	10
Wiles, Dale	KA3SVF	10
Schaefer, Rusty	N3WKE	10
Scarborough, Robert	KC3EV	10
Queen, Ken	K3EQ	10
May, Charles	AA3WC	10
David Jr., C. T.	K3GXF	10
Cutchall Sr., Carol	WA4GFW	10

Two new teams joined the VEC during 2004. They are the Palm Beach Amateur Radio Council, with Team Leader Jeff Beals, WA4AW, and the Clearwater Amateur Radio Society, with Team Leader Dan Hawthorne, AI4ET. Neither team tested during 2004; I am looking forward to adding their totals to our 2005 activity.

The VEC lost several teams this year due to retirement of a Team Leader with no new leader stepping up to take over the team or due to team inactivity.

John Johnston, W3BE, the LARC representative to the NCVEC Question Pool Committee, resigned. John had seen the question pool revisions through one complete cycle (Technician, General and Extra pools.) We were not able to get a new QPC member. However, the new QPC Chairman instituted a system of formal liaisons from the VEC's. LARC VEC appointed Rol Anders, K3RA who tests with the HEMARC team as our liaison.

Bob Rose AA3RR resigned as Webmaster. Bob was responsible for developing and maintaining the VEC's web site. Bob did a great job and will be missed. Ed Herbrechtsmeier K3QX, Webmaster for the Laurel Amateur Club's web site, is the new Webmaster.

Tests were released for the new General Class question pool, which became effective as of July 1, 2004. Howard Lenhart, K3IOG and Diane Zimmerman AA3OF, prepared the tests.

My dream is to become the number three VEC. While I don't expect ever to surpass number one (ARRL VEC, testing 20,242 people in 2003) or number two (W5YI-VEC, testing 6,778 people), I believe it possible and probable that we can surpass WCARS VEC (1,180 people tested in 2003.) LARC's 2003 testing total was 1,056 people. I'll keep you informed about our relative status for 2004. I'm proud of the good work done by everyone associated with the VEC during the year, and am looking forward to many more years of VE testing.

Diane Zimmerman, AA3OF

## Maryland Mobileers Hamfest

The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club (MMARC) will sponsor a Post Holiday HAMFEST on Jan 30th 8am to Noon at the Odenton Vol. Fire Dept. Hall, 1425 Annapolis Road (Route 175) -- 9 miles east of I-95 --Indoor Hamfest for the first time tailgating, refreshments Free Amateur Radio VE Testing Free Parking.

For more information please contact Frank Winner, E-mail N3SE@aol.com or 410-647-3335.

## Foundation For Amateur Radio Announces Scholarships

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-five (55) scholarships for the academic year 2005 - 2006 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Ten are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-two (42) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in **Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin**, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2005 from:

FAR Scholarships  
Post Office Box 831  
Riverdale, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

## THE LAUREL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

<b>Officers:</b>	President:	Joe Craven	N3TZA	301-776-6398	n3tza@rcn.com
	Vice-President:	Kevin Craven	WV3D	301-773-0155	kevinc@erols.com
	Secretary:	Ed Herbrechtsmeier	K3QX	301-871-2698	ed2000@gmail.com
	Treasurer:	Dennis Fitzgerald	KT3D	301-459-1247	dennis@dkf-naf.com
	Past President:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com

### Other LARC Positions and Contacts:

FAR Representative:	Dan Blasberg	KA8YPY	301-345-7381	ka8ypy@arrl.net
PVRC Representative:	Bill Smith	N3XL	301-805-4211	n3xl@arrl.net
Laurel VEC:	Diane Zimmerman	AA3OF	301-937-0394	aa3of@arrl.net
LARC VE Testing:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
AutoCall Reporter:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@earthlink.net
T-MARC/D-MARC Rep:	OPEN			
Public Information Officer:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@earthlink.net
Youth Programs:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Education and Training:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@earthlink.net
Technical Specialist:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	w3dad@amsat.org
ARES/RACES Coordinators:	Jim Cross	WI3N	301-725-6829	jcross3@juno.com
Official Emergency Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	
Official Bulletin Station:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
Official Bulletin Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@earthlink.net
Official Bulletin Station:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net
Official Relay Station:	Pat Gormley	KK3F	301-864-4694	
Official Relay Station:	Pud Reaver	W3YD	301-498-6293	preaver@earthlink.net

### LARC Special Interest Groups and Mentors:

Antennas:	Kevin Arber	W3DAD	301-725-0038	w3dad@amsat.org
Packet Radio/APRS:	Mark Doore	K3RAM	301-572-2385	k3ram@arrl.net
Repeaters:	John Creel	WB3GXW	301-572-5124	wb3gxw@arrl.net
Satellite/EME:	OPEN			

### ARRL Field Organization:

Atlantic Division Director:	Bernie Fuller	N3EFN	814-763-1529	n3efn@arrl.org
Atlantic Division Vice Director:	William C. Edgar	N3LLR	814-362-1250	n3llr@arrl.org
MDC Section Manager:	Tom Abernethy	W3TOM	301-292-6263	w3tom@arrl.org
MDC Emergency Coord:	Mike Carr	WA1QAA	410-799-0403	bamcc@erols.com
Affiliated Club Coordinator:	Tony Young	WA3YLO	301-262-1917	tonyy@juno.com
MDC Section Bulletin Manager:	Al Brown	KZ3AB	301-490-3188	kz3ab@arrl.net

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