



# E-VOX

The official ***On-Line***  
newsletter of the



***Lehigh Valley Amateur***

***Radio Club - W3OI***

Allentown, Pennsylvania  
USA



## **Officers**

**President:** Mark S. Miller - WA3KIF (wa3kif@rcn.com or WA3KIF@arrl.net)

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**Secretary/Treasurer:** Paul Ryan - NOKIA (nokia@arrl.net)

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Barry Mitchneck - KB3FMI (barrym@ptd.net)

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## **Repeater**

146.340/146.940 (PL 71.9)

147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)

## **RACES NET**

Every Monday at 7:30 (Local Time) - 146.940



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



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The October meeting will be at  
the Red Cross Building on  
Tuesday October 1, 2002 at 7:30 pm



## **LVARC / RACES NET**

Don't forget to check into the Monday Night  
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.

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

### **Monday Night RACES/ARES Check In Summary 2002**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number Mondays</u>
January	83	4
February	73	4
March	80	4
April	81	5
May	78	4
June	74	4
July	82	5
August	72	4
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>77.9</b>	



**Discussed at the September, 2002 Meeting**  
***Not the minutes ..... Just a Review***

The September meeting of the LVARC was held at the Red Cross Building on Tuesday September 3 ,2002. The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 pm

1. There were 18 members present
2. Paul (NOKIA) reported a balance in the treasury of \$648.35 as of August 30.
3. TNX to AI3D, the 135 machine is up and running!!!
4. Greg (KB3CKD) reported more than 1,500 point to the ARRL for Field Day.
5. Paul will post members' pictures and pictures of Field Day on the web site.
6. The second reading of the LVARC Constitution & By-Laws was approved.
7. The reflective vests purchased by the county for RACES activities are stored on the mobile van.
8. The PA QSO party will be on October 5 & 6, 2002. If anyone is interested in working the event as a club or group, contact any club officer.
9. The LVARC is still looking for a Program Director (*DON'T make me appoint someone!*).
10. The possibility of having a VE program at the LVARC was discussed.
11. Amber "warning lights" for RACES activities was discussed. Members may wish to purchase one on their own (see page 21).
12. A place for a dinner meeting was discussed. Mark (WA3KIF) will look into some suggested places.
13. Rod's (KB3HFZ) upgrade to General Class was acknowledged.
14. The ARRL has reflective vests on sale for \$9.95 each. Members wishing to buy one to keep with their Immediate response gear, may contact Paul or see the link on the web site. We will putting in a group order.
15. The LVARC welcomes Walter Speck III (WB3JXI) as a new member.
16. Pizza will be served at the November meeting.
17. Carl(AA3IX) made a 5.00 donation to the club treasury.
18. The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.
19. The 50/50 drawing was won by Rod (KB3HFZ) for a total of \$9.00.

**\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$**  
**Balance as of 08/30/02 \$648.35**





## This Month in Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <b>W3OI</b>	<b>LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30</b>				Oceania DX Contest EU Autumn Sprint SSB CA QSO Party <b>SET</b>
Oceania DX Contest EU Autumn Sprint SSB CA QSO Party <b>SET</b>	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>	YLRL CW Party	YLRL CW Party	YLRL CW Party		PA QSO Party Oceania DX Contest
PA QSO Party Oceania DX Contest	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>		YLRL SSB Party	YLRL SSB Party	YLRL SSB Party	ARCI Fall QSO Party Worked All Germany Contest
ARCI Fall QSO Party Worked All Germany Contest Asia-Pacific Sprint CW	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>					CQ Worldwide SSB Contest
CQ Worldwide SSB Contest	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>			<b>Halloween</b>		



**Don't Forget**

**Up-coming LVARC Events**



..... clip and save



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**Tuesday October 1 - LVARC Meeting. Red Cross - 7:30 pm. Constitution**

Monday October 7 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

Monday October 14 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

Monday October 21 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

Monday October 28 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

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Monday November 4 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

**Tuesday November 5 - LVARC Meeting. Red Cross - 7:30 pm. PIZZA and  
Nomination of Officers**

Monday November 11 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

Monday November 18 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

Monday November 25 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

**Thursday November 28 - Thanksgiving Day**

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Monday December 2 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

**Tuesday December 3 - LVARC Meeting. Red Cross - 7:30 pm. Election of  
Officers /Annual Holiday Party**

Monday December 9 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

Monday December 16 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

Monday December 23 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

**Wednesday December 25 - Christmas Day**

Monday December 30 - Monday RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm

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**Wednesday January 1 - New Year's Day - 2003**

## Chris is Back at the South Pole

de **WA3KIF**

On August 15, 2002, Chris (N3SIG) left for his second tour of the South Pole. He has many of our email addresses and you may be receiving pictures and text from him as I am. In case you are not, I will include some of his adventures and pictures in the newsletter.



Natural Hot Springs  
in New Zealand  
before going on to  
Antarctica  
(left)

On the plane  
to the pole  
(right)





Hello All i made it to Christchurch, Landed here 9AM and was greeted to a warm NZ welcome by a cold rainy day.

Today the weather is a bit better, sunny and a bit warmer but still in the middle of their winter season...

Yesterday i spent the cold winter day swimming at Hanmer Springs, just 2 hours north of Christchurch in the mountains lies Hanmer Springs... a geothermal playground for tourists and kiwis filled with hot springs and mineral pools..what a fun way to spend a crapy rainy day but still be outdoors..!.

Needles to say i had a great time in the +110F waters in the 20F rainy NZ day.. Here are some pictures...!!!

I get fitted for my cold weather gear today, then leave for the ice tomorrow.!!

See ya

Chris

On the plane  
to the pole  
(right)







Subject: Antarctica, I am here !!!

Date: Mon, 19 Aug 2002 20:26:41 +1200

Organization: Lehigh County Emergency Management - USAP McMurdo

X-Priority: 3

Well i made it to the ice today again for the second time.  
I feel like an old explorer on my return trip to the vast wilderness that makes Antarctica what it is..

The flight from Christchurch to McMurdo was on a new Air Force C-17 Cargo plane, it was fast and roomy, the 1st pic shows how they pack us in, it was a good flight either way.

We landed at Pegasus Field around 8PM eastern time, and the weather quickly turned sour. I managed to get on a quick van ride back to town and then had to wait for my luggage to arrive. Once i got my bags it was time to unpack, make my bed and grab a shower, well to my discovery the shampoo bottle that i packed was on the outer part of my luggage and was exposed to the -50F temps today (-78F wind-chill) so needless to say i had to wait a bit to shower till my shampoo thawed out.. the sink full of hot water helped!!

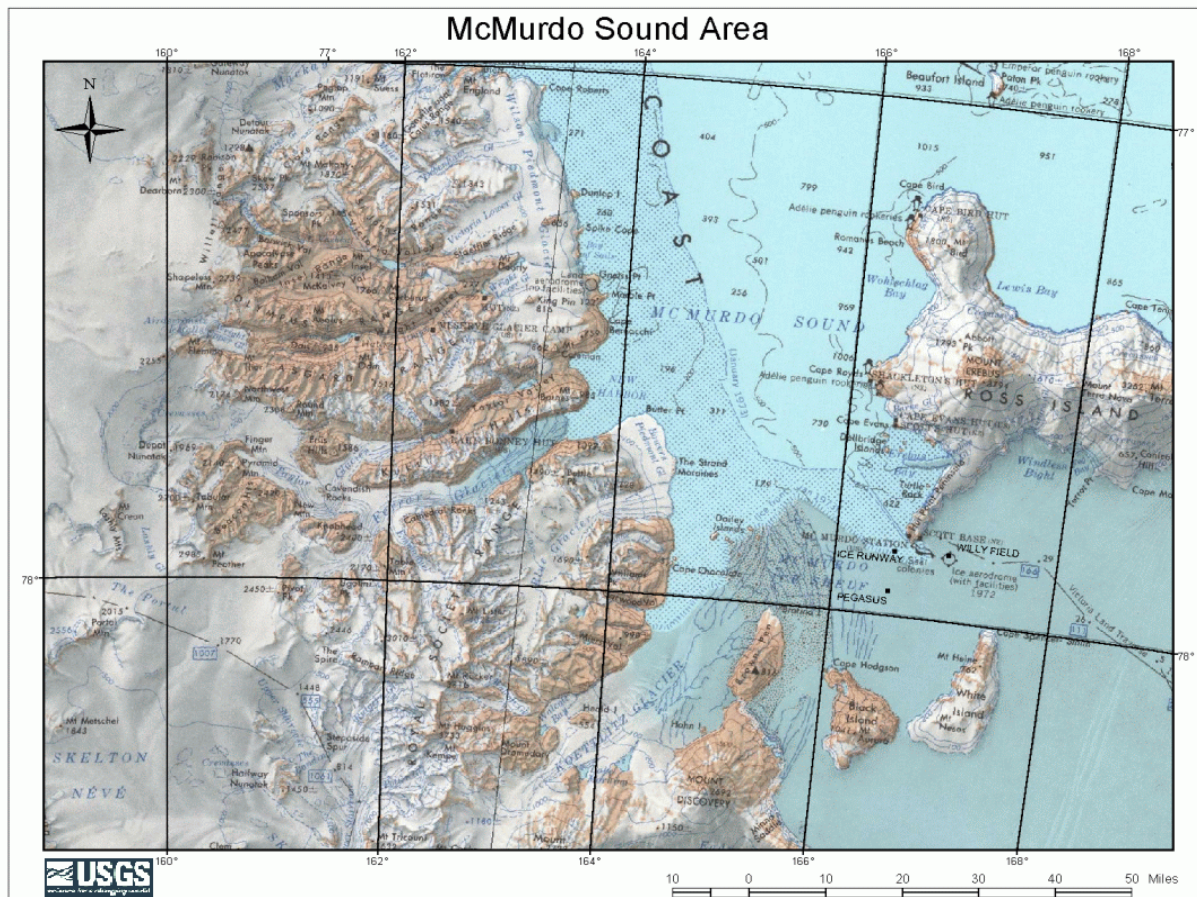
Arriving at  
the pole  
(right)





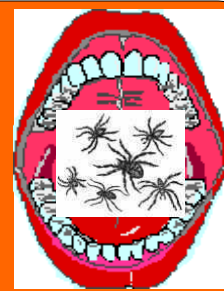
# Where Exactly *IS* Chris?

Below is a map of McMurdo Station



**Did you know .....**

***The average human eats  
8 spiders in his/her  
lifetime while sleeping.***





## THE LVARC NEEDS YOU!

The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club needs someone to coordinate activities and/or programs. He may not need to plan an activity of every month, perhaps just some special events such as a *Fox Hunt*, *Field Day*, *Fishing Trip* or whatever he can imagine. The planning can be shared by several people if desired.

If you have a favorite or special event or activity, feel free to coordinate its development! Contact any club officer with your suggestions.

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**The LVARC is also looking for articles pictures, member news or articles for sale or for the newsletter.**

Any items will be accepted. Articles need NOT be radio related. Anything you feel will be of interest to members. Pictures will be returned intact!



Send any E-VOX submissions to:

**WA3KIF**  
**Mark S. Miller**  
**5508 Hale Avenue**  
**Bethlehem, PA 18017-9035**  
**E-Mail: wa3kif@rcn.com**

**Articles and pix are welcome via e-mail**





## KENWOOD HIGH FREQUENCY PRIVILEGES CHART

LICENSE CLASS	28000 kHz	28100	28200	28300	28500	29300	29600	29700	
EXTRA	CW	Data	CW Beacons	Phone	SSB Phone	SATS	FM		
★ ADVANCED	CW	Data	CW Beacons	Phone	SSB Phone	SATS	FM		
GENERAL	CW	Data	CW Beacons	Phone	SSB Phone	SATS	FM		
★ NOVICE/TECHNICIAN	.....	Data	CW Beacons	Phone	.....	.....	.....		
	24890 kHz								
EXTRA									
★ ADVANCED		CW		Data		Phone			
GENERAL									
	21000 kHz								
EXTRA	CW	CW	Data	CW	DX Phone	SSB Phone	SSB Phone		
★ ADVANCED		CW	Data	CW		SSB Phone	SSB Phone		
GENERAL		CW	Data	CW			SSB Phone		
★ NOVICE/TECHNICIAN				Nov/Tech CW					
	18068 kHz								
EXTRA									
★ ADVANCED	CW	CW	Data	Phone					
GENERAL									
	14000 kHz								
EXTRA	CW	CW Data			DX Phone	SSB Phone			
★ ADVANCED		CW Data				SSB Phone			
GENERAL		CW Data				SSB Phone			
	10100 kHz								
EXTRA									
★ ADVANCED		CW	CW	CW Data	CW Data	CW Phone			
GENERAL									
	7000 kHz								
EXTRA	CW	CW	Data	CW	SSB Phone	Phone			
★ ADVANCED		CW	Data	CW	SSB Phone	Phone			
GENERAL		CW	Data	CW		Phone			
★ NOVICE/TECHNICIAN				Nov/Tech CW					
	3500 kHz								
EXTRA	CW	CW	Data	CW	Phone DX	SSTV	Phone		
★ ADVANCED		CW	Data	CW		SSTV	Phone		
GENERAL		CW	Data	CW			Phone		
★ NOVICE/TECHNICIAN				Nov/Tech CW					
	1800 kHz								
EXTRA									
★ ADVANCED	CW	RTTY	CW DX	Phone DX					
GENERAL									

5 WPM  
CODE TEST  
FOR ALL THESE  
BANDS!  
EFFECTIVE APRIL  
15, 2000

**10  
METERS**  
Best Days

**12  
METERS**  
Best Days

**15  
METERS**  
Best Days

**17  
METERS**  
Best Days & Evenings

**20  
METERS**  
Best Days & Nights

**30  
METERS**  
CW & Data

**40  
METERS**  
Best Days & Evenings

**80  
METERS**  
Best Evenings & Nights

**160  
METERS**  
Night Owl  
Band

★ = GRANDFATHERED PRIVILEGES

By Gordon West For Kenwood Communications  
# 062200

Maximum Power  
200 Watts on  
Novice/Tech+ Subbands

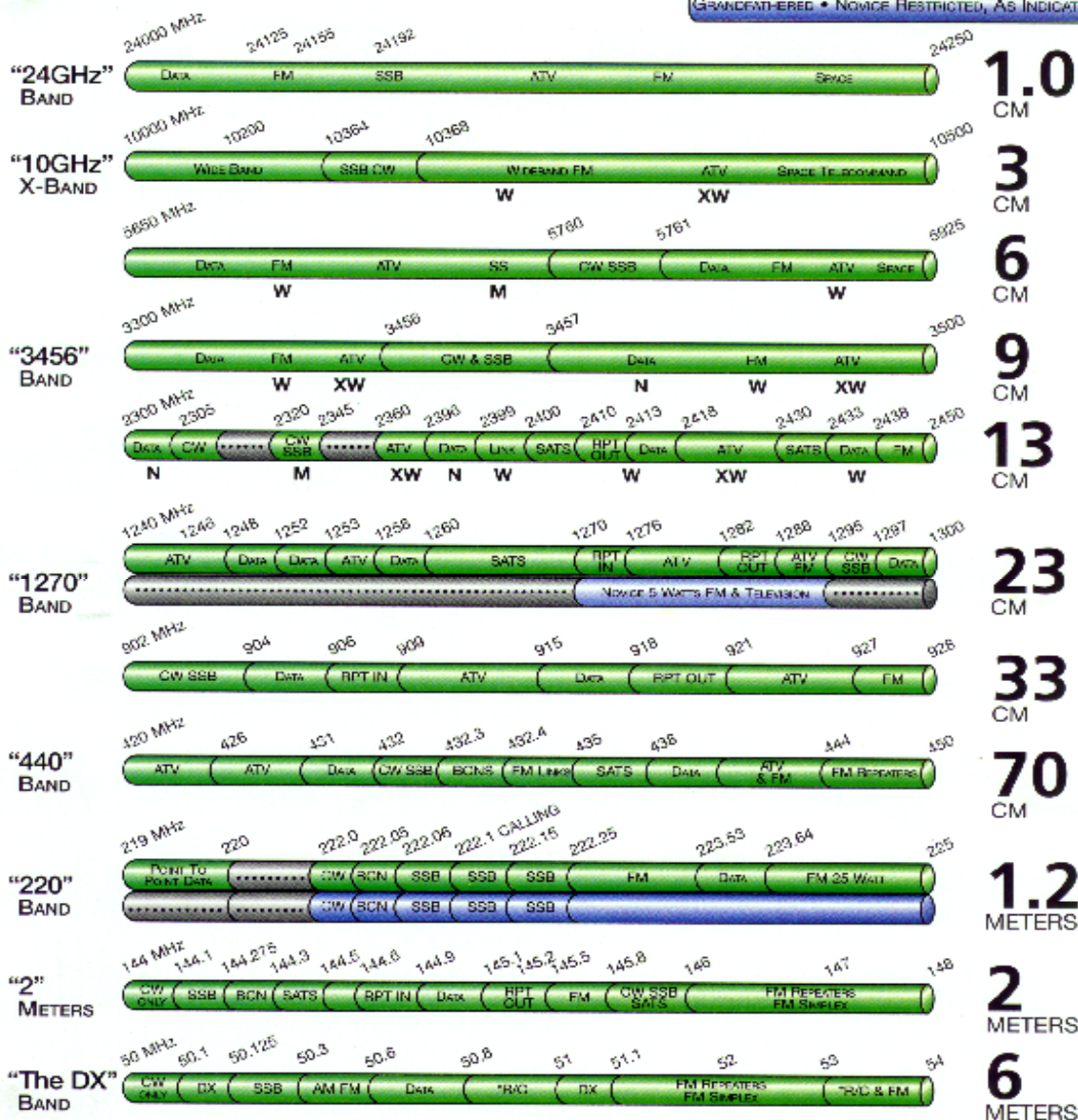
1000kHz = 1MHz (ie 7225kHz = 7.225MHz)  
..... = No Privileges Until Upgrade!



## KENWOOD VHF/UHF/Microwave Band Plan

EXTRA • ADVANCED • GENERAL  
TECHNICIAN No. CODE & TECH. 1 CW

GRANDFATHERED • NOVICE RESTRICTED, AS INDICATED



**BANDWIDTH**  
XW = 6MHz + BW  
W = 1MHz BW  
M = 100kHz BW  
N = 50kHz BW

AM - Amplitude Modulation  
ATV - Amateur Television  
BCNS - Automatic Propagation Transmitter/Receiver  
CW - Morse Code  
Data - packet, RTTY, AFSK  
DX - Distant station contacts  
FM - Frequency Modulation  
FM Links - FM relay from one repeater to another

FM Repeaters - FM relay stations  
FM Simplex - FM direct contacts  
Link - relay stations for data & voice  
Phone DX - long distance voice transmission  
Point to Point Data - automatic packet radio transfer stations  
RAC - radio control models  
RPT IN - your transmit frequency to a repeater  
RPT OUT - output side of FM repeaters

SATS - Satellite & Space Shuttle Communication  
Space - Satellite Operation  
Reverse Telecommand - uplinks to control satellites  
SSB - Single Sideband  
SSB/CW - both SSB and CW  
SSB TV - slow scan TV  
Wide Band FM - television audio  
Wide Band - FM, AM, SSB, SSB, Television





## **Ed Romig (KD3NH) Third Recipient of the Pres Schuler Award**



Ed Romig (KD3NH) became the third LVARC member to receive the Pres Schuler award (since it was reinstated in 2001)!! The plaque reads, "*Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club W3OI Proudly Presents to Ed Romig KD3NH The Pres Schuler Award For Excellence In Service - September, 2002.*" In June, 2002, Ed was unanimously selected by the members to as the LVARC member to receive this award ! Ed has been a member of the LVARC for many years.



He has always been available for RACES activities, drill or real, and is always been willing to go to a remote site when RACES is activated. He has almost perfect attendance for checking into the Monday Night ARES/RACES Net! He participates in Field Days and other LVARC activities and submits pictures/articles for the newsletter. Ed presently serves as a club officer, on the Board of Governors.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE  
TO THE CLUB, ED !!!**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



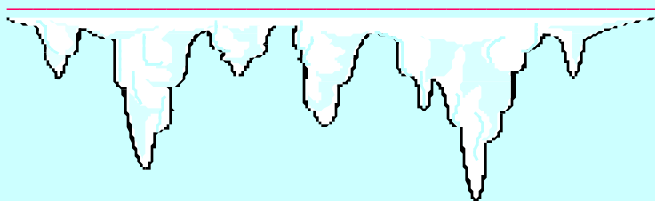
## Tired of Phone Solicitors?



Pennsylvania governor Mark Schweiker, has instituted a program which is designed to reduce the number of telephone solicitations each of us frequently receive. If you wish to enroll in this program, you can log on at:

**<http://www.nocallsplease.com/index.cfm?page=form>**

## A Tip From Ima Lid



Summer is over and the Fall and Winter weather is near. It is time to check those antennas, cables and connections before the snow and frigid weather visit the Lehigh Valley.



## **AMATEURS' NON-STOP FIRE DUTY DOES SECTION MANAGER PROUD**



de Jim Kelly (KA3UQP)

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NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 28, 2002--Amateur Radio Emergency Service members in the San Diego, California, area spent two weeks assisting the American Red Cross and the California Division of Forestry during the so-called Pines Fire. ARRL San Diego Section Manager Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, says dozens of ARES members responded July 30 to a full callout. The fire started a day earlier after the blade of an Army National Guard helicopter on drug patrol struck the ground near Volcan Mountain. More than 300 residents had to be evacuated as the fast-moving wildfire some 60 miles northeast of San Diego threatened homes.

"AMATEUR Radio played a major role in the safe evacuation of residents from their homes to Red Cross-maintained shelters," Tiburski said. "Hams manned several shelters including one at Julian High School." The high school served as the primary shelter as well as the California Division of Forestry's field operations center. ARES members also were detailed to other shelters in Shelter Valley and Ramona. Hams later assisted the Red Cross in damage assessment.

"THE fire early on had destroyed power and telephone lines, leaving the east county towns without telephone and cellular service," Tiburski said. "Hams utilized numerous repeaters during the fire to cover the rugged back country of San Diego County." Radio operators quickly set up vital communication links between the Red Cross emergency operations center and workers in the field, earning later praise from Red Cross officials.

"AS the fire lines quickly changed, radio operators stayed one step ahead of the fire, radioing information necessary to assure an appropriate Red Cross disaster response," said Red Cross Public Information Officer Jay Esper. "Without the quality service from the ARES radio operators, the American Red Cross could not maintain the high quality of service to its clients."

**TNX Jim !!**





## **ARRL DIRECTOR, VICE DIRECTOR RACES SET IN FOUR DIVISIONS**

ARRL members in the Atlantic and Great Lakes divisions will cast ballots this fall in contests to pick directors, while members in the Delta and Midwest divisions will have a choice of candidates for vice director. Six other incumbents--including both the Director and Vice Director in the Dakota Division--avoided challenges in the current election cycle to choose directors and vice directors for the 2003-2005 term.



Two directors face opposition. In the Atlantic Division, incumbent Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, of Saegertown, Pennsylvania, will face Anthony Gargano, N2SS, of Sewell, New Jersey. Vice Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, is among those facing no opposition. In the Great Lakes Division, Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, Kentucky, is in a three-way race with Paul Daley, WT8S, of Canal Winchester, Ohio, and Jim Weaver, K8JE, of Mason, Ohio. Johnston only recently took over the top spot from George Race, WB8BGY, who, in a surprise move, resigned during the July Board of Directors' meeting. Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT--who was Michigan Section Manager before his appointment in the wake of Johnston's accession--is unopposed for election.

Incumbent vice directors in two divisions will compete for their seats. In the Delta Division, incumbent Henry R. Leggette, WD4Q, of Memphis, Tennessee, faces a challenge from Nicholas R. Smith, W4GKM, of Crossville, Tennessee. Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, has no opposition. In the Midwest Division, incumbent Vice Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, of Colby, Kansas, has competition from Bill Wheeler, K0DEW, of Lebanon, Missouri. Midwest Division Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, is unopposed.

Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, and Vice Director Twila Greenheck, N0JPH, also face no opposition in their bids for re-election.

In the divisions where there is competition for director or vice director, ballots will go out to all ARRL members on record in the division as of September 10, 2002. Ballots will be mailed by October 1 and must be received back at ARRL Headquarters (via the ARRL's auditor) by noon on November 15, when they will be counted and the successful candidates announced. Candidates running unopposed are declared elected. New terms of office begin January 1, 2003.



## Tony Gargano (N2SS) Announces Candidacy For ARRL Atlantic Division

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Dear LVARC/W3OI Members,

I received an e-mail from Tony Gargano (N2SS) and thought I would pass it along. It is too late to make the September issue of the newsletter. I will have hard copies of this e-mail available at the meeting on Tuesday September 3, 2002 at the Red Cross Building at 7:30 pm.

Tony is running for the Atlantic Division Director of the ARRL. Please note that i am NOT ENDORSING Tony, I am merely passing along his e-mail to LVARC members.

*Mark*

=====

X-Sent: 30 Aug 2002 13:10:54 GMT  
X-Sender: n2ss@mail.n2ss.com  
Date: Fri, 30 Aug 2002 09:11:51 -0400  
To: wa3kif@arrl.net  
From: Anthony R Gargano <n2ss@n2ss.com>  
Subject: Atlantic Division Director's Race  
Cc: paul.ryan@usa.net

Hi Mark,

By way of introduction, I am Tony Gargano, N2SS, a resident of the Southern NJ Section and a candidate for Atlantic Division Director. I am reaching out personally to each of the 215 affiliated ARRL clubs in the Division to solicit membership support.

Towards the end of September each Atlantic Division member will be receiving a ballot in the mail from ARRL. The ballot mailing will also contain the statements of the candidates, I have inserted a copy of mine below. I would like to ask that you and the membership at the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club read it and vote to allow me to represent you.

---



I would very much appreciate you conveying this request to your membership in your club newsletter and at your next club meeting. Many thanks. 73, Tony N2SS

My amateur radio, professional experience and education cover a broad spectrum including executive positions in the corporate world, local community, and industry and charitable organizations. I wish to apply my extensive experience to representing the amateurs of the Atlantic Division and contributing to the governance of ARRL with the highest level of professionalism and expertise.

Licensed in 1958 at age 15 and having an Extra Class license for 30+ years, I am a 40+ year member of ARRL and hold membership in the RSGB, Frankford Radio Club, Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club and ARES/RACES of Gloucester County, was a founding member of two local repeaters and have been the Atlantic Division representative to ARRL's DX Advisory Committee for over 15 years. My recent professional positions include, President & CEO, AgileVision and Senior Vice-President, Sony Electronics.

I have served on corporate and association boards including ITCA, Webb Foundation, the Vision Fund of America (fund raising arm of the Lighthouse Foundation serving the visually impaired), and five years as Chairman of the Washington Township Zoning Board.

I hold an MBA from St. Joseph's University and over my career have completed executive development programs at Babson College at Wellesley; the Tuck School at Dartmouth College and the Tokyo Management Seminar in Japan.

I view the Director's position with two broad sets of responsibilities: internal (organizational governance, oversight and strategic direction) and external (promoting the League, both to amateurs on the benefits of membership and to government and society on the benefits of Amateur Radio in general). This clearly all needs to be done within the context of understanding the needs and desires of the Atlantic Division constituency and solid communication with you on the issues we face. I solicit your vote and will serve with pride to represent you.

----- Tony (N2SS)



**Mark S. Miller**

**WA3KIF**

*District 2 Emergency Coordinator  
President, Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI)*

**5508 Hale Avenue  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18017-9035  
Phone: 610-865-9183  
E-Mail: wa3kif@rcn.com**



August 30, 2002

Mr. John Conklin  
Director, Lehigh County EMA  
Lehigh County Courthouse  
455 West Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101

Dear Mr. Conklin,

On behalf of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) and LC RACES members, I wish to express our thanks for the purchase of vests for LC RACES members.

These vests will be invaluable during a RACES event. They will allow easy identification of volunteers who will be handling communications. This is essential if communications are to be effective.

I understand that these vests are stored on the county's mobile van which will allow efficient distribution at the scene of a RACES event.

It is reassuring to know that the LVARC has your support.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Mark S. Miller  
WA3KIF  
President, LVARC





## **Amber Warning Lights For RACES/ARES Activities**



The idea of amber flashing/warning lights for RACES/ARES activities was discussed at the September, 2002 meeting. **Phil (KB3HMK)** looked into the legality of members using lights of this kind and found it allowable for the purposes of parades, walks etc. Phil reports that there are many kinds ranging from about \$20.00 (at automotive stores) up to \$50 or more (purchased at specialty stores like D&A). The purchase of these lights is an individual decision. Members may choose to purchase a light from any source they desire or you may see Phil for more details. **TNX Phil !!**

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## **Communications Vests Available From ARRL**

Although the Lehigh County EMA purchased reflective vests for RACES members, these vests are to remain on the mobile van. Many LVARC/RACES members have expressed the desire to have vests of their own to keep in their car or with their Immediate Response Gear. The ARRL has reflective vests available for \$9.95 per vest. Paul has put a link on the LVARC website to the company that makes these vests. The LVARC will be ordering these vests as a group.

**If you are interested in ordering a vest, please contact Paul as he will be taking orders.**

Paul can be contacted at **n0kia@arrl.net** or on the **Monday Night Net**. You need no money (now) but you will need to pay at the November meeting. **ORDERS MUST BE PLACED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16 !**





## New Member

The LVARC is pleased to announce Walter R Speck, III (WB3JXI) from Center Valley as the club's newest member.

***Welcome to the LVARC, Walter !!!!!***

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## Operation Ho Ho

*de WA3KIF*

**Its NOT TOO EARLY** to plan for Operation Ho-Ho !!!

Last year marked what I hope to be the first in many years of service to the children at the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center!



Several LVARC members took their HT's to the children's ward and let the children talk to Santa!! It was a huge success for the hospital staff, parents, LVARC "elves" and of course, the children.

We will soon be in touch with the the hospital's children's coordinator and arrange for another "Operation Ho Ho."

Help was sparse last year as many members were involved with the RACES activity; the evacuation of Cedarbrook. **Please plan to help this year!!** You won't be disappointed! Details will be announced.





## NTIA throws ARRL's 5-MHz proposal a curve



The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has recommended that the FCC not grant an ARRL petition for a domestic-only, secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government. The last-minute recommendation followed hundreds of largely favorable comments and reply comments from organizations--including the ARRL--and from individuals.

In an August 21 letter, the NTIA's Fredrick R. Wentland said federal agencies are making extensive use of HF for emergency services, including communications support for the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and Department of Justice law enforcement activities. "NTIA believes the Commission's current proposal does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations primary in the band," said Wentland, who is NTIA's acting associate administrator for spectrum management.

In its recent comments, the ARRL called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service" and asked that the proceeding to grant it be expedited. Wentland's letter arrived at the FCC beyond the cut-off date for reply comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 02-98.

Wentland said that without a more complete understanding of the interference potential to federal operations, the NTIA believes the secondary amateur allocation would be "premature." But he said that NTIA would work with the federal agencies, the FCC and the amateur community to determine whether "some future accommodation" for amateurs at 5 MHz would be possible. That could include limitations on power or emission types, a reduction in the size of the proposed band, the use of discrete frequencies or geographical restrictions, he suggested.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that while he and the ARRL Board of Directors have been long aware of the concerns registered by the US Coast Guard and the US Department of Justice with the NTIA's Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC), he was surprised by the tone of the NTIA letter.

"This is a lot worse than we were told to expect," he said, noting that the FCC had cancelled a meeting to discuss issues expressed by the NTIA several months ago and went forward with its proposal despite the NTIA's concerns.

"We don't know how seriously the FCC will take NTIA's comments," Imlay added. "We're in the process of expediting coordination arrangements and other means to identify and satisfy NTIA's legitimate concerns."



On May 2, the FCC proposed granting the ARRL's requests for new amateur allocations at 5250 to 5400 kHz and 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and to elevate the Amateur Radio allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary and to create a primary Amateur-Satellite allocation there. Imlay said the 5250 to 5400 kHz segment was proposed because it appeared to have the fewest US government assignments.

Ironically, the ARRL's own timely filed comments and reply comments in late July and mid-August noted that the eagerly anticipated 5-MHz allocation request was "essentially uncontested" and enjoyed "extensive support" within the amateur community."

The FCC went along with ARRL's proposal to permit amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes or to break the band down into mode-specific subbands. In its comments, the ARRL said that the band should be open to General and Extra class licensees and that band planning was sufficient to maintain order among modes.

Two non-amateur organizations commented negatively. The HomePlug Powerline Alliance (HPPA), while not opposing the allocation, suggested that its Part 15 home wiring telecommunication devices operating in the 5 MHz range be presumed to not cause interference to amateur operations and not have to cease operation if interference is alleged. The ARRL called HPPA's request "absurd."

The Power Line Communications Association (PLCA) said the FCC should not grant the 5-MHz band request because amateurs could interfere with its planned deployment of Part 15 broadband devices operating in the same region. "No Part 15 device manufacturer is entitled to oppose an allocation to a licensed radio service based on future deployment of an unlicensed device, period," the League said in its reply comments.

Many more negative comments were received regarding the proposed 136-kHz low-frequency allocation, most of them from utilities that employ unlicensed Part 15 power line communication (PLC) systems. The ARRL reiterated its request for 200 W PEP power-output limitation but in no case greater than 2 W equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) on 136 kHz. The League also asked the FCC to reconsider granting an amateur allocation at 160 to 190 kHz as it had requested in its initial petition.

The League also took a dim view of a suggestion by the IEEE Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee that Part 15 devices operating in the 2.4 GHz region enjoy a "safe harbor" of operation. The ARRL reminded the FCC that such Part 15 devices have "no allocation status at all."

The ARRL's comments and reply comments urged the FCC to immediately implement the three proposals. "The Commission cannot make allocation decisions based on non-technical assertions of Part 15 users or user groups or manufacturers of such devices," the ARRL said. "ARRL contends that compatibility between amateur uses in the subject bands and those of incumbents is not a substantial concern in any of the three cases."