

The ***E-VOX***

The Official ***On-Line*** Newsletter of the



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI



Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - **USA**

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President: Mark S. Miller - AK3M (AK3M@rcn.com or AK3M@arrl.net)

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Repeaters

146.340/146.940 (PL 71.9)

147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)

Simplex: 147.420

RACES NET

Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)

All are welcome !



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



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Happy Thanksgiving





**The November Meeting will be held at
the Red Cross Building on
Tuesday November 4, 2003 at 7:30 pm.**

Program: RCN LVARC Video AND Pizza



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 !**


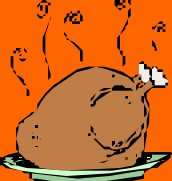
Monday Night RACES/ARES Check In Summary 2003

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Mondays</u>
January	86	4
February	94	4
March	85	5
April	81	4
May	80	4
June	112	5
July	88	4
August	86	4
September	109	5
Average number check-ins per month ---- 91.2		





This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>November 2003</h1> 						Ukrainian DX Contest ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest ₁
ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest 2	ARES RACES Net 7:30 3	LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30 4	5	6	7	IPA SSB Contest All Austrian 160-meter Contest ₈
Japan Int. DX Contest Phone 9	ARES RACES Net 7:30 10	11	12	13	14	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Contest 15
ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Contest 16	ARES RACES Net 7:30 17	LIMERICK DRILL  18	19	20	LVARC VE Test Session 7:00 pm 21	22
CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW 23	ARES RACES Net 7:30 24	25	26	Thanksgiving Day  27	28	29
30	 <h1>Happy Thanksgiving</h1> 					

LVARC Meeting -Tuesday November 4, 2003 7:30 pm
LVARC VE Test Session - Friday November 21, 2003 7:00 pm



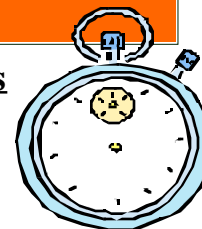
Minutes of the October, 2003 Meeting de Rod (KB3HFZ), Secretary - LVARC

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes

Date: October 7, 2003

Meeting Called to Order by President Miller at 1930 Hrs, EDST.

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were held in observance of silent keys.



Sign-in Sheet Circulated, with 16 members and 1 guest in attendance.

No corrections/additions of minutes as printed in E-VOX.

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Paul reports that the balance at the end of September was \$698.87.

Committee Reports:

Repeater

No problems reported.

Program

Lou KF2WO will present tonight's program. Lou will feature vintage tubes. Next month videos and Pizza, and the closing of the nominations.

Web Site (Paul)

Running fine. Paul N0KIA reports that there was a problem earlier in the month that had to do with FTP server pointers. This has been fixed and everything is back on line. Paul also noted that a member expressed interest in putting a W3OI forum on Yahoo Groups. Bruce KB3FIH questioned the choice of Yahoo over QSL.NET. Paul explained that QSL.NET requests a "donation" for that service; in addition the member that will be providing the forum favors the Yahoo site.

OLD Business

1. President Miller reminded the membership that the Emmaus Halloween parade is this month, and although it is a DLARC event, he does encourage any LVARC member that is interested in the parade to contact Bob Green KE3AW for more information, and to sign up.

2. The club patch project was discussed and Robin KB3GZV will provide the final draft and prices to the club body at the November meeting.

New Business

1. President Miller reminded the club that Operation HOHO was right around the corner. For the benefit of new members and guests in attendance, President Miller explained that interested club members would organize a visit to the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center Pediatric Floor in December. This will be the third annual visit. The visiting club members provide the kids an opportunity to speak to Santa Claus on ham radio. This event is always successful no matter how many, or how few children there are on the floor.

2. President Miller shared his recent experience at the Hanover Township Board Meeting. President Miller, and another local ham operator attended the meeting and spoke to the Hanover Township Board of Supervisors in an effort to educate them about the importance of amateur radio and the potential interference that will be caused by Broad-Band Over Power Lines (BPL). President Miller reported that although the board members were attentive and receptive, the representative from PPL countered the protest and convinced the board members to support a test of BPL in Hanover Township.



3. Frank W3FTU provided an audiotape of actual BPL interference on 24.890 MHz. All members in attendance could clearly note a very distinctive thrashing noise. Frank noted that the noise was over an S4. Frank lives within the Hanover Township BPL "test" zone. Frank reported that noise to PPL and states that PPL did respond to his complaint and within a week the noise was absent again from the 12-meter band, but interestingly enough it had reappeared in the middle of the 15 meter band. Frank states that he believes the test has been stopped by PPL because at the time of the meeting he has not noticed any interference on either band.

4. Paul N0KIA made the club members aware of the ARRL special fund that is in place to fight BPL. MOTION by Greg KB3CKD to donate \$75.00 to the ARRL for the defense of the HF Spectrum. All were in favor, none opposed.... Motion carried.

5. Paul N0KIA noted for the good of the order and as general information that the PA QSO Party is the weekend of October 11 and 12.

6. President Miller declared that nominations for club officers for the year of 2004 were officially open.

7. Bruce KB3FIH nominated Barry KB3FMI for the office of President. Barry was not present to accept the nomination. The nomination stands and remains open.

8. Walt KE3SP nominated all current club officers for their same positions. The following club officers were in attendance without voiced opposition to the nomination: President Miller, Secretary Wolfe, Treasurer Ryan, Board Member Bobo, Board Member Miller. The following club officers were absent and will need to indicate if they accept or decline the nomination before the close of nominations in November: Vice President Mitchneck, Board Member C. Kelly, Board Member J. Kelly, Board Member Seier. Those club officers that wish to decline nominations must appear at November's meeting, or contact President Miller.

New members/Guests

President Miller and club members welcomed Joe to the meeting.

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2039 hrs, EDST.

Motion by: Paul N0KIA

Second by: Greg KB3CKD

In favor: All

Nightly Program:

After the conclusion of the business meeting, Lou provided a very fascinating look into the history of the design and use of amplifier tubes. Pumpkin pie was provided by Robin's XYL.

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HFZ, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance as of 9/30/2003 \$698.87





HAM RADIO KEPT BERMUDA CONNECTED WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED

Amateur Radio became a primary means of contact between Bermuda and the rest of the world as Hurricane Fabian swept across the island September 5, claiming at least four lives and causing extensive property damage in some areas. Authorities in Bermuda this week were assessing its extent. A dangerous category 3 storm, Fabian took out power to some 25,000

homes--about two-thirds of the island--as well as all radio and TV stations. Additionally, generator problems took the government's emergency FM station off the air for a time. Tony Siese, VP9HK, reports the police operations center was evacuated after the 120-MPH winds took off part of its roof.

Siese said the only contact with the outside world for a couple of hours was via hams like himself relaying information on 2 meters to HF operators and getting weather reports from the National Hurricane Center via the Hurricane Watch Net <<http://www.hwn.org/> on 20 meters. He said that when the government emergency station returned to the air, amateurs provided it with updated National Hurricane Center reports from the HWN.

Hurricane Watch Net Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, reports his net on 14.325 MHz secured operations September 6 at 0300 UTC "after a very long and busy day." Participating HWN volunteers feed ground-level weather data to forecasters via WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/> at the National Hurricane Center. WX4NHC also operates with a volunteer staff. The weather data and information help meteorologists to develop more accurate storm forecasts.

"We had excellent assistance and vital communications from five VP9 hams who, unfortunately, had to resort to makeshift antennas and back-up battery power as the storm approached their locations," Pilgrim said. WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, said that while news reporters on Bermuda found themselves uncharacteristically out of touch, "old-fashioned" ham radio HF technology got through. As he put it, "brave Bermuda hams, using car batteries, basic wire antennas and only 50 W of power, were able to send those valued 'surface reports' and receive vital hurricane advisories." Decent conditions on 20 meters also helped.

Also pitching in were Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) volunteers. "The SATERN Net stood by two days at full alert monitoring for information from Bermuda as Hurricane Fabian raged through the island," said National SATERN Coordinator Pat McPherson, WW9E. SATERN Territorial Coordinator Rick Shirran, VE3NUZ/VP9, said that with power and telephone service down, "the only communication that held up during the event was that of the members of the Radio Society of Bermuda via 2 meters, and HF on the Hurricane Watch Net and the SATERN Net." Shirran lost part of his own roof and the driven element to his antenna. He got back on the air using a makeshift antenna and power from a car battery.

(continued on page 8)



(continued from page 7)

Shirran said it could take more than two weeks to restore power to Bermuda. Telephone service "remains tentative," he said at week's end. The airport was only open to daylight flights as of September 11.

Amateur Radio reports gathered September 7 by Dick Montgomery, N3DV, on the 20-meter Bermuda Net indicated many trees down, damage to docked boats and amateur antennas blown away, but power slowly being restored.

National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield expressed his sincere thanks to amateurs who supplied critical information during Fabian. "We never would have known what was going on in Bermuda without your help," he said. "You are a part of the hurricane team, and it is a pleasure to work with you." anada (RAC) sections as part of the exchange.

The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 36
September 12, 2003

**Remember, the LVARC VE Test Sessions are held the
*third Friday of each month at 7:00 pm. at the Red
Cross building.***

REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY! NO WALK-IN'S.

**To register, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@RCN.COM
or call 610 - 856 - 9183**

Looking for call sign mugs, belt buckles and other
unusual ham radio items? Visit the following site.





LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday November 3 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday November 4 --- LVARC Meeting -7:30 pm - Red Cross

Thursday November 6 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 pm (146.94)

Monday November 10 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday November 13 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 pm (146.94)

Monday November 17 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday November 20 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 pm (146.94)

Friday November 21--- LVARC ARRL VE Test Session - 7:00 pm

Monday November 24 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday November 27 ---- Thanksgiving Day

Thursday November 27 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 pm (146.94)

Monday November 30 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

There will be additions and deletions to the above dates.
Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and
announcements at meetings for changes.



What's Happening at the LVARC Meetings?

November 4, 2003 meeting

- (1) PIZZA
- (2) RCN's videotape presentation featuring the LVARC!
- (3) NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR 2004
- (4) Recruitment for "Operation Ho-Ho"

December 2, 2003 meeting

- (1) Election of 2004 Officers
- (2) Annual Holiday Party





The Lehigh County Mobile Command Post

Pictures, courtesy of LC
EC, Jeff Kelly (N3MFT)



**The LC Mobile
Command Post
(left)**

**The Back-Up
EOC Staff
(right)**

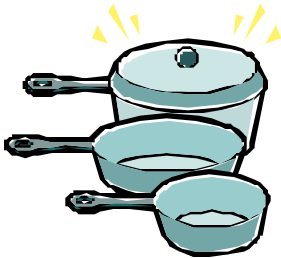




Coded Quote

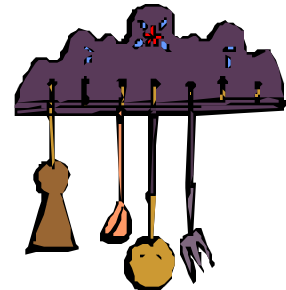
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(See page 12 for answer)



**A BIG TNX to “Mrs. KB3GZV”
 and mom to KB3GZW for all the
 baking she does for each meeting!!!**

TNX Teresa!



The OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

What Is In Store for Winter, 2003-2004 ?

The Farmer's Almanac (<http://www.almanac.com/weather/region2.php>) for this area promises the following:

The first half of the winter will be exceptionally cold, and the second half will have above-normal temperatures. Expect persistent cold from mid-November through early January, with other cold spells in late January and mid-February. Precipitation will be below normal, with near-normal snowfall. Snowy periods will occur in early December and mid- to late January. A northeaster in early March will bring heavy snow inland and mostly rain near the coast.

After wet snow in early April, spring will come quickly, with temperatures in April and May averaging about three degrees above normal.

Overall, the summer will be hot and wet, despite a dry June with near-normal temperatures. Temperatures will continue near normal in July, but heavy thunderstorms will bring double the normal rainfall. After thunderstorms in early August, expect the worst heat wave in several years, with oppressive heat and humidity into midmonth.

September will be delightful, with warm days, comfortably cool nights, and plenty of sunshine. October will be warmer and wetter than normal.



Answer to Coded Quote

(See page 11)

“If an army of monkeys were strumming on typewriters they might write all the books in the British Museum.” *(Could they write the E-VOX?)*

ARTHUR S. EDDINGTON, *The Nature of the Physical World*, chapter 4, p. 72 (1928). Eddington calls this “a rather classical illustration” of chance.

Do you Believe this?

From Bob Green (KE3AW)





ON BECOMING A HAM FOR THE THIRD TIME

de Alfred Gruenke, KB3JPP

My interest in radio communications and amateur radio dates to the late 50's. I bought my first shortwave radio, an AR-3 (Knight Kit? Lafayette Radio?) from Al Weis, a local ham operator for \$20 when I was 15 years old. It was my first exposure to the world of international and amateur radio.

As a teenager, every Friday night revolved around the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club at the Civil Defense Headquarters, 12th and Sumner Ave., in Allentown, where we were regaled by Pres Schuler, Hank Mohr, Al Keiper, Al Zimmerman, Chick Dressel, and the like.

My buddies, Mike Feit, Ron Kapo, Bill Blackstone, and Mike Chuburka, all received their tickets, but I could not, because one had to be a US citizen in order to have a ham license.

Shortly after I passed the US citizen test, I got my license, K3RYK. I purchased a Hallicrafter SX111 and HT37, and was off and running.

Shortly thereafter, I decided to get married. I had to sell my ham gear to pay for the adult refreshments for my wedding. Money well spent, both times. But I was out of the ham business for a while.

By the mid 70's I got the urge again, and again got a license, same call as I had 15 years earlier. I bought a Heathkit Apache transmitter for 50 cents a pound, a Heathkit SB300 at the W3OI hamfest for \$150.00, and was back on the air. I even got my two sons, age 10 and 13, taking code and theory courses given by W3OI. The club house at that time was the second floor of a building on Vultee Street, next to the Queen City Airport. My older son even passed his Novice, but never received a license because the FCC was overwhelmed by Citizen Band application and lost the paper work. I often wonder how his life today would be different if he had received his license. His interest may very well have remained technical, and he might have become a useful member of society instead of a lawyer.

Anyway, shortly thereafter I changed jobs, moved around a bit, and lost interest in amateur radio.

The ham bug (sic) bit me again this year. By this time I had achieved the level of Elder Statesman (60 years old), but was determined to pass the tests the third time.

So I studied a bit, and managed to pass the Technician, General, and Extra class in short order and received my ticket, KB3JPP. I did not have to take the code again because of something called the Grandfather clause. I'm not sure what having seven grandchildren has to do with Amateur radio, but I was grateful.

(continued on page 14)



(continued from page 13)

Amateur radio is a lot different today than it was 50 or even 25 years ago. Back in the mid 70's, it was sideband, cw, repeaters were coming into their own, and some real tech types had old teletype printers connected to their rigs. It was just called radio teletype back then. The term digital communication had not been invented. Most hams had at least one major piece of equipment in their shack that was home brew.

Today's equipment has more computing power than the Apollo moon missions. The knobs got smaller and the meters (screens) got bigger. I don't believe it's possible to purchase a transceiver today with an analog frequency scale. Reading QST and CQ, it appears that homebrew is more often the peripheral instead of major equipment. Digital communication is quite common today, but was virtually unheard of in the 70's.

With license in hand, I now had to purchase a rig. I had two obstacles; my wife, and a notice from the IRS that I was being audited. I decided to tackle the difficult one first and leave the IRS for later.

The arguments I used for purchasing my rig were eloquent, and far-reaching. I touched on the Venetian slave trade in the ninth century, the destruction of the original Prussians by Teutonic invaders, the true source of syphilis, the monotonous diet of the Donner party, plus a few arguments having nothing to do with amateur radio. Using skill and wit, I managed to convince her of the necessity of my endeavor. I'm not proud of what I did, but a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do.

The IRS audit was a piece of cake. They owed me \$1200.00 more than I had claimed.

I'm now the proud owner of an IC-746PRO which is connected to a G5RV Junior antenna. This combination has been rather successful. In three months of operation I have worked around 40 countries, mostly 20 meters sideband. I also purchased a Tigertronics Model SL-1+ sound card interface, and have been operating PSK31 around 14071. Now, that's exciting!

Amateur radio is a life-long hobby. It's technically challenging, so it keeps the mind active and healthy. A lot of hams are up in the years, but are far from senile. Hams tend to be more interested, and interesting, than most people. I attribute this to the rigorous mental gymnastics required. I'm proud to be a ham, and expect to remain active for a long time.

It is essential that we get more young people involved in the hobby. I'm sure that the internet and video games are drawing talent, so the trick is to demonstrate the unique magic of our hobby. I admit that I remain in awe that a little box on my desk, and a simple wire tied to a tree, can communicate halfway around the world. Our challenge is to convey this magic and awe to others.



No More Extended Receive on HT's ?????

From Jim Kelly (KA3UQP)

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554
PR Docket 91-36

In the Matter of Federal Preemption of State and Local Laws Concerning Amateur Operator Use of Transceivers Capable of Reception Beyond Amateur Service Frequency Allocations

Memorandum Opinion and Order
Adopted: August 20, 1993;
By the Commission:
Released: September 3, 1993

I. INTRODUCTION



1. On November 14, 1989, the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated (ARRL), filed a *Motion for a Declaratory Ruling* [1](#) requesting that the Commission preempt certain state statutes and local ordinances affecting transceivers [2](#) used by Amateur Radio Service Licensees. The laws referenced by the ARRL prohibit the possession of such transceivers if they are capable of the reception of communications on certain frequencies other than amateur service frequencies. On March 15, 1990, we released a public notice [3](#) inviting comment on ARRL's request. In addition, on February 28, 1991, we released a *Notice of Inquiry* [4](#) that solicited additional comment to assist us in making a decision in this matter. This Memorandum Opinion and Order grants the request to the extent indicated herein.

Go to the following URL for more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/pr91-36/pr91-36.html>



Thanks for all the Support !!

de Chris Kelly (N3RPV)

Even though this seems to go around every year I still always like to pass it along. It sums up a lot that most of us involved with fire and EMS will never say. Thanks for all the support.

Lieutenant Christopher M. Kelly
Greenawalds Fire/Rescue
Fire Departments of South Whitehall Township

610.432.0065 station11
610.841.0376 home
ckelly@ckelly.tv
AIM CKelly1106

From: "Adam Spencer"
Subject: Firefighters Dedication - From Adam
Date: Tue, 09 Sep 2003 22:19:45 -0500

I Wish You Could Know...

I wish you could know what it's like to search a burning bedroom for trapped children at 3a.m., flames rolling above your head, your palms and knees burning as you crawl, the floor sagging under your weight as the kitchen below you burns.

I wish you could comprehend a wife's horror at 6 in the morning as I check her husband of 40 years for a pulse and find none. I start CPR anyway, hoping to bring him back, knowing intuitively it is too late. But wanting his wife and family to know that everything possible was done to try to save his life.

I wish you knew the unique smell of burning insulation, the taste of soot filled mucus, the feeling of intense heat through your turnout gear, the sounds of flames crackling, the eeriness of being able to see absolutely nothing in dense smoke situations that I've become too familiar with.

I wish you could read my mind as I respond to a building fire, "Is this a false alarm or a working fire? How is the building constructed? What hazards await me? Is anyone trapped? Or to call, "What is wrong with the patient? Is it minor or life threatening? Is the caller really in distress or is he waiting for us with a 2x4 or a gun?"

(continued on page 17)



(continued from page 16)

I wish you could be in the emergency room as a doctor pronounces dead the beautiful 5 year old girl that I have been trying to save during the past 25 minutes. Who will never go on her first date or say the words, "I love you mommy" again.

I wish you could know the frustration I feel in the cab of the engine, squad, or my personal vehicle, the driver with his foot pressing down hard on the pedal, my arm tugging again and again at the air horn chain, as you fail to yield the right-of-way at an intersection or in traffic.

When you need us however, your first comment upon our arrival will be, "It took you forever to get here!"

I wish you could know my thoughts as I help extricate a girl of teenage years from the remains of her car. While seeing the empty bottles of alcoholic beverages in the rear seat. "What if this was my daughter, sister, my girlfriend, or a friend? What were her parents reaction going to be when they opened the door to find a police officer with hat in hand?"

I wish you could know how it feels to walk in the back door and greet my parents and family, not having the heart to tell them that I nearly did not come back from the last call.

I wish you could know how it feels dispatching officers, firefighters, and EMT's out and when we call for them our heart drops because no one answers back or to hear a bone chilling 911 call of a child or wife needing assistance.

I wish you could feel the hurt as people verbally, and sometimes physically, abuse us or belittle what I do, or as they express their attitudes of, "It will never happen to me!"

I wish you could realize the physical, emotional, and mental drain or missed meals, lost sleep or forgone social activities, in addition to all the tragedy my eyes have seen.

I wish you could know the brotherhood and self- satisfaction of helping save a life or preserving someone's property, or being able to be there in time of crisis, or creating order from total chaos.

I wish you could understand what it feels like to have a little boy tugging at your arm and asking, "Is mommy O.K.?" Not even being able to look into his eyes without tears from your own and not knowing what to say.

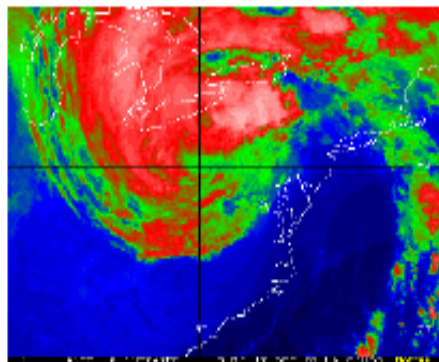
Or to have to hold back a long time friend who watches his buddy have C.P.R. done on him as they take him away in the Medic Unit. You know all along he did not have his seat belt on. A sensation that I have become too familiar with.

Unless you have lived this kind of life, you will never truly understand or appreciate who I am, we are, or what our job really means to us... I wish you could though.

PLEASE, KEEP SENDING THIS ON. PLEASE APPRECIATE AND SUPPORT THE LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS, EMS WORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND 911 DISPATCHERS IN YOUR AREA. ONE DAY THEY MAY BE SAVING YOUR OWN LIFE OR PROPERTY. WHEN YOU SEE THEM COMING WITH LIGHTS FLASHING, AND HORNS BLARING, PLEASE MOVE OUT OF THE WAY QUICKLY AND SAFELY, AND PRAY FOR THEM, THEY WILL NEED IT



HURRICANE ISABEL VISITS THE LEHIGH VALLEY



The Lehigh County EMA opened the EOC and activated RACES. The following is from the LC EC, Jeff Kelly (N3MFT) who did an outstanding job during the hurricane (September 18, 2003).

[To Eric Olena-WB3FPL]

Eric:

Lehigh county RACES Stated operations at 17:00 Hrs. on Sept 18 2003 at the Main EOC and the back up EOC and Comm. center. A total of 10 Amateur radio operators help out during the storm. No traffic was passed other than checking with the state RACES net control. The back up EOC was staffed with a total of 5 RACES members and a County EMA part time paid staff .

Jeff Kelly
Lehigh County ARES\RACES

Great job again by Lehigh County RACES members. Keep up the great work.

Jeff



From: Carl Held (September 19, 2003)

As the newly appointed Acting Director of Lehigh County Emergency Management, I would like to extend to all EMA, Fire, EMS, Police and other governmental agencies and volunteers for their diligence in preparing for Hurricane Isabel and the potential disaster that could have befallen our county. Your professionalism may not have been seen and appreciated by the general public that you serve, but it has been duly noted and appreciated by me and the staff of the Lehigh County EMA. Our jobs were made a little easier because you took the time to prepare. I thank you for the cooperation you have given our staff and hope we will continue to work efficiently as a TEAM for any future emergencies that may come our way. The citizens of Lehigh County can be proud of the efforts that were, and always have been taken by you and your organizations. Congratulations on a JOB WELL DONE!!!

Corky Held
Acting Director
Lehigh County EMA





Looking for Filmstrips

Tom Braun (KB3IYB) is looking for a few old filmstrips to use in his classroom. He would like to show his students what "old time" technology was like. ANY topic is appropriate.

If you have a few filmstrips you no longer use, contact Tom.

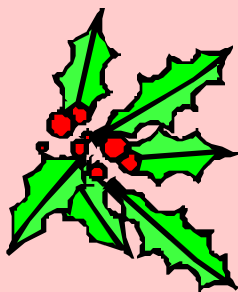
braun@fast.net

A Page from the Carbon
County Club's Web site
de Bob (WB3W)

Got to:

http://www.qrps.org/~k3ng/ham_wisp.html

**Don't Forget to
volunteer
for "Operation
Ho-Ho, 2003!"**



**Listen to the Monday
Night Net for details!**

DON'T FORGET

The LVARC VE program. If you know someone who would like to become a ham or if you want to upgrade your license, the LVARC can help!

Contact Mark (AK3M) for details
(AK3M@rcn.com)





[Blair (K3YD) and I (AK3M) attended the Hanover Township (Northampton County) meeting on September 9, 2003 to protest the installation/activation of PLC in our township. The following article appeared in the Express-Times on September 11, 2003.]

Shortwave Operators Fear Effects of Test

Thursday, September 11, 2003

By NICK FALSONE
The Express-Times

The Express-Times

Exclusively On PennLive.com

HANOVER TWP [NC]. -- Blair Bates will be the first to complain if a new technology designed to bring broadband Internet service to homes through radio signals hinders his hobby.

The amateur shortwave radio operator suspects it will, and has made strides to block PPL Corp. of Allentown from launching a 90-day trial run of the service in the township.

Township supervisors have listened to the concerns of Bates and other residents who operate shortwave radios. They opted Tuesday night to allow the trial run, provided PPL addresses any problems that shortwave radio operators might encounter because of the service.

PPL officials said the shortwave operators shouldn't be affected. If there was the potential for a problem, the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates radio frequencies, wouldn't have given the company the green light on commercializing the service, they said.

The technology is relatively new, and PPL is at the forefront. Dubbed "power line communications," it aims to bring high-speed Internet services to residents who can't get the services because their homes aren't properly equipped. A majority of homes nationwide fall into this category.

Power lines are used to transmit Internet signals. Those signals are then sent down to homes near the power lines through high radio frequency.

Bates said that method interferes with shortwave radio. He said it could also interfere with AM radio and some network television stations that can be received using an antenna.

"It is my opinion that the citizens of Hanover Township should not have to endure this virtual radio jamming," he said.

Township Supervisor Frank Colon said there have been a lot of residents commenting on the effects the service would have on shortwave radio since PPL first came to the township with the proposal last month. Bates and Mark S. Miller, another shortwave operator, were the only residents who offered comments during Tuesday night's meeting.

Miller said the interference shortwave radio operators are anticipating will have an impact on more than just a hobby. Many of the operators serve as members of emergency communications groups, and are included in emergency management plans in Northampton and Lehigh counties. Shortwave operators also pitched in for emergency services following the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. their hobby, I'm sure they would've let us know," he said.

(continued on page 21)



(continued from page 20)

Bates said he won't hesitate to let them know. He said he'll accept the township supervisors' decision for the time being.

"I hear all the assurances," he said. "For the good of all concerned, I'm willing to be a guinea pig and have it in my back yard. But if there are any problems, you'll certainly hear from me."

Richenbacher said the trial run is expected to start next month. It will be offered to residents in the southern portion of the township. Depending on the reaction of the residents who try the service, the company might attempt to make it a permanent service in the township, he said.

If PPL wants to make it permanent, township supervisors would address the issue again, James Broughal, the township's solicitor, said.

"It's only 90 days," Broughal said. "They may come back to us and say they're not going to stick around."

More from Jeff (N3MFT) Regarding Isabel

The following RACES members were on stand by or offer to help. N0KIA, N3SIG, AK3M; KB3GZV; KB3GZ. W,KBFDL: KB3FIH; KB3FMI; N3RPV; KB3CKD; W3FTU; KB3HMK; KA3RBH; KA3UQP; KA3ZAT; N3MFT; WX3W

AT 3:00 PM Sept 16 2003 I received a County ALPHA page about a Planning meeting for the impending Hurricane. At Trexlertown Fire Dept at 7:30 pm. I notified my deputies Chris {N3RPV } Jim {KA3UQP}; Mark {AK3M} and Bruce {KB3FIH} about the Meeting. Corky Held the acting EMA director went over the counties plan for the upcoming storm and ARES/ RACES was to be a big part of them as always.

Director Held wanted to have the main EOC and the Backup EOC 5299 at Savercool staffed incase of failure of the main comm. center and EOC. On Tuesday the county stationed 5299 at Savercool over the Next few days we installed phone lines,internet,and hookup the backup fire altering transmitter to the 300 ft tower at Savercool . By 7:30 pm Sept 18 2003 10:00 am all systems were tested and ready to go. The BACKUP EOC was staffed by 5 RACES members and a county employee. The main EOC was staffed by county employees and 2 RACES members By 8:00 am on Friday the storm passed and RACES was given a all clear. Thanks to all who helped out with our First Hurricane of 2003 that came inland

.{ Foot notes 5299 is Lehigh County's 32 ft long mobile command center. with communications and command gear. Lehigh County installed a county owned ALPHA paging system after Hurricane Floyd in Sept 1999. They could not get a page out for 15-20 minutes because of all the extra traffic created by the Storm on the common carrier system that the county rented air time from. The new system worked flawless even with all of the increased paging traffic. Lehigh County issues an ALPHA pager to all local police Fire and EMS Officers and to the county and local EMA staff including RACES}

de N3MFT



During Crisis, Ham radio Operators are Always There **(The TIMES NEWS - Lehighton, Pa.18235)** reprinted from an email from Bob (KE3AW)

FROM OUR READERS - Sept. 22 ,2003

Dear Editor:

Your Thursday editorial was full of good advice, with one exception, advising people to make sure their cell phones are charged.

It's not bad advice, but it may lead people to believe they will be able to use their cell phone to call for help during a major storm/emergency.

If history continues to repeat itself, and we know it will, we should know that the communications infrastructure is as fragile as the power distribution infrastructure, and when the power system fails, it's only a matter of time before the landline, and cell phone systems fail.

But rest assured, there is a back up system in place, it's the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Ham Radio Operators have been serving this country for nearly a century, providing this important service to the nation.

So, yes, go ahead and charge your cell phone batteries, and while you are waiting for them to charge, take a walk around your neighborhood.

Find the guy or gal that has an antenna tower in their backyard, or six antennas on the roof of his/her car, and get to know them. We can communicate with the rest of the world in the most adverse conditions imaginable. We train for it.

We can originate, and delivery messages across the country, free of charge, as a public service to our communities. In fact, it is our reason for being, as outlined in FCC. rules and regulations, and more recently, the Dept. of Homeland Security.

So, take the time to introduce yourself to your friendly local Ham Radio Operator, and learn what he/she can do for you, whether it's an emergency or not.

Darryl Gibson
Amateur Radio Station N2DIY.
Vice President, Tamaqua Wireless Association.
Secretary, Schuylkill Amateur Repeater Association
Secretary, Carbon (County) Amateur Radio Club.
201 E. Kline Ave., #6
Lansford, Pa. 18232
570-645-5364 anytime.





**The Following Article Appeared In The Morning Call
on Sunday September 28, 2003.**

Short wave, power line Net at odds New technology could disrupt high frequency radio — and lose out.

By Sam Kennedy
Of The Morning Call

Power line communications, which promises to deliver high-speed Internet through household electrical outlets, is wired with a potentially fatal flaw.

The experimental technology could disrupt the high frequency radio transmissions used for everything from national security and emergency response to overseas air travel and space research, according to critics.

"That's scary stuff," said Jim Haynie, president of the Amateur Radio Relay League, which represents 163,000 members. "Somebody has to blow the whistle."

PPL Corp. of Allentown and roughly a dozen other American electric utilities involved in power line communications argue they have found ways around such problems.

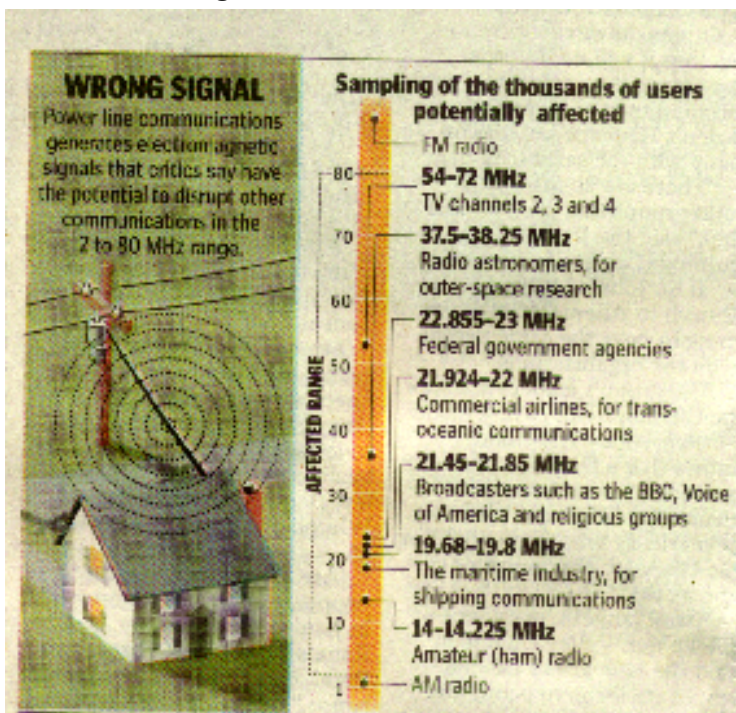
They hail the technology as a way to expand high-speed Internet service, or broadband, to millions of homes and businesses, especially those in rural areas. And industry analysts say it could spur competition among all Internet service providers, ultimately leading to savings for consumers.

The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates use of the airwaves, has signalled initial support for power line communications.

Chairman Michael Powell has said the technology could soon compete with existing sources of high-speed Internet, such as cable modem and DSL offered by phone companies.

In April, he described it as "within striking distance of becoming the third major broadband pipe into the home."

Left unreported, however, is the threat this high-tech invention poses to a low-tech means of communicating that, although a century old, remains a critical piece of the modern world's communication infrastructure.





High frequency radio, also known as shortwave, occupies a relatively small part of the frequency spectrum between AM radio and VHF television. But it's the only part that reliably carries around the globe — enabling someone in Allentown, for example, to broadcast to the Midwest, Baghdad or Beijing.

The Amateur Radio Relay League is leading the charge against power line communications, which is also referred to as broadband over power lines, or BPL.

When the FCC held a public inquiry on power line communications this summer, amateur radio operators, called hams, submitted roughly two-thirds of the 4,600 comments. But the hams are not alone in their alarm.

The National Telecommunications and Information Agency, which represents other federal agencies from the National Weather Service to the FBI that use more than 18,000 high frequency channels, also submitted comments to the FCC. The NTIA asked the FCC to withhold judgement on power line communications until the completion of its own, ongoing research on the new technology.

"The federal government has extensive operations that potentially could be affected," the NTIA wrote.

Aeronautical Radio Inc., which facilitates high-frequency radio transmissions by airplanes on trans-oceanic flights, told the FCC that power line communications "has potential greatly to exacerbate interference."

"Any noise increase would inevitably diminish the ability of aviation to maintain communications with aircraft operating over oceans and in remote areas of the world," the company concluded.

Space exploration, too, is at risk, according to the National Academy of Sciences. Astrophysicists have discovered planets beyond our solar system and the birth sites of stars by measuring subtle, naturally occurring radio signals from outer space. But such work, the academy warned in its comments to the FCC, is "particularly vulnerable to interference."

"This is all coming to a head," said Robert Olsen, a professor of electrical engineering at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash. Concern about high-frequency radio interference has derailed power line communications in Europe, which experimented with the technology in the 1990s, Olsen said.

Of roughly a dozen European companies that tried to offer commercial power line communications service in the 1990s, all but a few have now abandoned the technology, he said. Japan has effectively banned power line communications.

"It's a real thing," Olsen said of the threat radio interference poses to the future of power line communications.

Why power lines radiate 'noise'

When power lines are used to transmit radio signals that are to be converted into Web pages and e-mail, they radiate electromagnetic noise that can drown out high-frequency radio transmissions. If power line communications were widely deployed, the radio interference would be all the greater, according to the Amateur Radio Relay League.

Power lines radiate electromagnetic noise for two reasons, according to Ed Hare, a researcher for the Relay League.



First, power lines are not shielded. The coaxial cable used for cable modems, by contrast, consists of wire enclosed in a metal tube. And the twisted wire used for DSL is, because of the twist in its two strands, naturally efficient: the strands are so close they basically negate each other's radiation.

Secondly, power lines can act like giant antennas capable of inadvertently sending and receiving signals from afar because of the sheer distance they cover while stretching between homes and utility poles.

"It's no surprise there are problems," Hare said. "Electrical wiring was designed to conduct power. It was not designed to conduct signals."

PPL and its counterparts, however, say they've devised ways to minimize, if not eliminate, the problematic electromagnetic noise. They accuse the hams of fear-mongering that could undercut the best hope yet of expanding high-speed Internet access.

A national focus on trial in Emmaus

Emmaus, where PPL is conducting one of the largest power line communication trials in the country, is Exhibit A in the debate on the technology. Hundreds of Emmaus residents and businesses log onto the Web and send e-mails by plugging into PPL's test system.

The Amateur Radio Relay League based its comments to the FCC, in part, on tests conducted in Emmaus. And the NTIA visited the borough for two days earlier this month to perform its own research.

One day last week, Carl Stevenson, a member of the Amateur Radio Relay League, demonstrated how power line communications in Emmaus affect high frequency radio transmissions.

First, Stevenson tested a portable ham radio in neighborhoods without power line communications. He moved the dial across the band, stopping to listen to the conversations of hams in California and beyond.

Next, he drove into one of the neighborhoods where PPL is testing power line communications. He stood next to a telephone pole with power line communications equipment. Entire swaths of the radio spectrum crackled and hissed.

"It's like a major disaster — spectrum pollution of the worst kind," said Stevenson, a radio engineer who works on federal regulatory issues for Agere Systems of Allentown.

A PPL official said later the static could have been caused by something other than the power line communications, such as neon signs.

'Where's the outcry?'

"If this is a huge problem, where's the outcry?" asked Alan Richenbacher, an engineer at PPL.



PPL, a leader in power line communications development, has been testing the technology in the Allentown area for a year and a half. To date, the company has received only one complaint about radio interference, he said. "Doesn't that tell you something?"

Should problems arise, he said, the technology offers numerous solutions: PPL, for example, could reduce the strength of signals traveling across power lines, switch frequencies or relocate its equipment.

"We believe we can coexist in the spectrum," said Jeff Norman, a vice president at Main.Net Communications of Kfar Saba, Israel, PPL's partner in the Emmaus trial.

The Amateur Radio Relay League, however, says the interference problems are occurring at numerous trials, including those performed by other electric utilities.

The spokesman for the United Power Line Council, which represents companies involved in power line communications, accused the Amateur Radio Relay League of exaggerating the problems caused by interference to generate interest in its fund-raising efforts.

"This is an enormous money maker for them," Brett Kilbourne said, because many hams will be more willing to donate if they believe their hobby is in peril. "There is certainly a financial incentive."

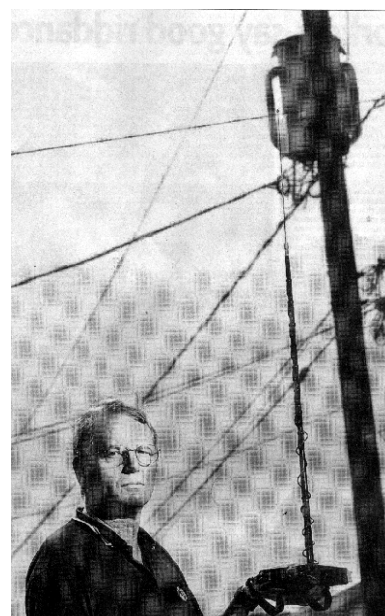
Each side of the debate on power line communications cites arguments steeped in science. The hams and other critics argue the accumulated effect of widespread power line communications would pollute high-frequency radio waves. PPL and its counterparts deny that it would.

The federal government is the arbiter that will decide whose science is right. The FCC is expected to propose rules for power line communications early next year.

=====

sam.kennedy@mcall.com
610-820-6517

LVARC's Own
Carl Stevenson (WK3C)





So You Want HF Mobile?

<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/search/frame/Framelt.cgi?Url=http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/search/jump.cgi?ID=1751&ID=1751>



At the exact moment the rare DX station returns his call, Eugene enters the two-mile long mountain tunnel.

Limerick Drill to be Held November 18, 2003

Details to be announced. Listen to the net for details.



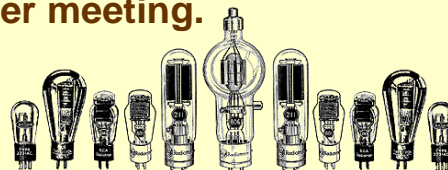
I am pleased to announce that I have completed the first **ARRL Level 1 Emergency Communications Class (ECC001)**.

I recommend it to anyone involved with Emergency Communications (RACES)!

de Mark (AK3M)



A BIG TNX to Lou (KF2WO) for an excellent presentation on "Classic Amplifier Tubes" at the October meeting. Lou promises another program on microwave tubes in the future.





Nominations for LVARC Officers Accepted at October, 2003 Meeting

Nominations for LVARC officers for 2004 were taken at the October, 2003 meeting.

A motion was made by Walt (KE3SP) to keep the present officers in place for the 2004 year. In addition to Mark's (AK3M) acceptance for nomination, Bruce (KB3FIH) nominated Barry Mitchneck (KB3FMI) for president.

The nominations for LVARC officers for 2004 include:

President

1. Mark Miller (AK3M)
2. Barry Mitchneck (KB3FMI) *

Vice President

1. Barry Mitchneck (KB3FMI) *

Secretary

1. Rod Wolfe, Jr. (KB3HFZ)

Treasurer

1. Paul Ryan (N0KIA)

Board of Governors (need 5)

- Chris Kelly (N3RPV) *
- Larry Miller (NR3R)
- Carl Seier (AA3IX) *
- Bruce Bobo (KB3FIH)
- Jim Kelly (KA3UQP) *
- Phillip W. Bigg (KB3HMK)
- Frank T. Unger (W3FTU)

Those indicated by a red asterisk (*) were not present at the October 7, 2003 meeting. They will be notified and be allowed to accept or decline their nomination.

The nominations for officers **will close at the November meeting and elections will be held at the December meeting.**

**GET INVOLVED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF YOUR CLUB. COME TO THE
DECEMBER MEETING AND VOTE!**