

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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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>



October, 2003 Contents

Meeting Information	page 3
L.C. RACES Net Information	page 3
This Month In Ham Radio	page 4
Minutes of the September, 2003 Meeting	pages 5 - 6
HAMS A Bright Spot During Power Blackout	page 7
No More Code Requirement	page 8
LVARC Activities	page 9
VE Report	page 10
Repeater Map	pages 11-12
LC RACES / JOTA	page 13
Boroughs and Townships in Lehigh County Map	page 14
Hams Help In Blackout (from W3PYF)	page 15
"Are You Ready For A Power Outage?"	pages 16-18
Up-Coming LVARC Meeting Topics	page 19
Conklin Leaving LC EMA Position	pages 20-21
LVARC News	page 22
Do Not Call List	page 23
LVARC Program Director Needed	page 24
Special Events Stations / Parade	page 25
Reader's Comments	page 26
Frank (W3FTU) in Alaska	page 27
FCC Puts NO-CODE International's Morse Petition On Public Notice	page 28
The Battle Over BPL Hits Home	pages 29-32





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

Program: Classic Power Amplifier Tubes - Louis Poli, KF2WO



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





This Month In Ham Radio

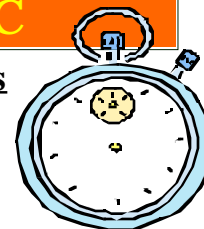
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 October 2003				SARL 80-meter WSO Party		Oceania DX Contest Phone California QSO Party
			1	2	3	4
Oceania DX Contest Phone California QSO Party	ARES RACES Net 7:30	LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30				PA QSO Party Oceania DX Contest CW
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PA QSO Party	ARES RACES Net 7:30				LVARC VE Test Session 7:00 pm	JOTA Worked All Germany Contest Emmaus Halloween Parade
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
JOTA Worked All Germany Contest	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Halloween Parade Rain Date					CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB	ARES RACES Net 7:30					 Worked All Germany Contest
26	27	28	29	30	31	

LVARC Meeting -Tuesday October 7, 2003 7:30 pm
LVARC VE Test Session - Friday October 17, 2003 7:00 pm



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

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes



Date: September 2, 2003

Meeting Called to Order by President Miller at 1936 Hrs, EDT.

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

Sign-in Sheet Circulated, with 15 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Corrections/additions of minutes as printed in E-VOX.
None

Treasurer's Report (Paul - NOKIA)
Paul reported that as of August 31 the balance was \$701.92.

Committee Reports:

Program

Next month Lou KF2WO will provide a look at classic amplifier tubes, nominations also begin in October and continue into November. The November meeting will be pre-empted by pizza and the RCN video that was produced to spotlight local amateur radio will be viewed. December is election month and holiday party after the meeting. During December we expect to conduct operation HO HO again.

VE Report

August VE session tested two and one passed. Frank W3FTU, Rod KB3HFZ, and Mark AK3M were the VE's.

Web Site (Paul)

If anyone would like to add anything to the website please contact Paul NOKIA.



(Minutes - cont. on page 6)



(Minutes - cont. from page 5)

OLD Business

No old business.

New Business

1. President Miller passed a get-well card for Bruce KA3ONZ.
2. President Miller reports that Paul N0KIA passed his ECC Level 3 Course. Paul recommends those interested in RACES / ARES take the course.
3. Chris N3SIG reported that Lehigh County has training funds available for those types of courses (referring to the Emergency Communications Courses).
4. Some discussion about the Red Cross Building antennas. There is a standing agreement with the Red Cross and the ARRL, wherein the ARRL provides communication for the Red Cross above and beyond their normal scope.
5. Chris N3SIG reports that John Conklin, EMA director of Lehigh County has resigned his position and will be taking a position in Florida. The group wishes John all our best.
6. President Miller received a phone call from a person that recently bought a house and found old radio gear in his basement. The person would like to know if anyone would wish to purchase the gear from him. Any member wishing to know more about this should contact Mark AK3M.
7. The DLAC club will be using the 94 machine for the Emmaus Halloween parade as they have done in the past. This was granted by the board of directors meeting that was held prior to the main meeting.
8. President Miller asked for a Field Day Chairperson for Field Day 2004. Greg KB3CKD said the he would tentatively take the position. Rod KB3HFZ also expressed interest.
9. Carl Stevenson provided the club with information on No Code International's efforts to petition the FCC to take immediate action to drop code requirements in light of the recent decision at the ITU conference. Carl's group has asked that all Technician Class operators be granted the privileges of a Technician Plus.
10. Greg KB3CKD provided a web site that is maintained by the FCC and contains manuals for radios that are FCC type approved. All you need to have is the FCC ID number of the radio in question and you can find the manual. www.fcc.gov/oet/fccid.

New members/Guests

Mike KB3KEJ and his wife Holly were in attendance.

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2016 hrs, EDT.

Motion by: Malcolm N3XRL

Second by: Greg KB3CKD

In favor: ALL

Opposed: None

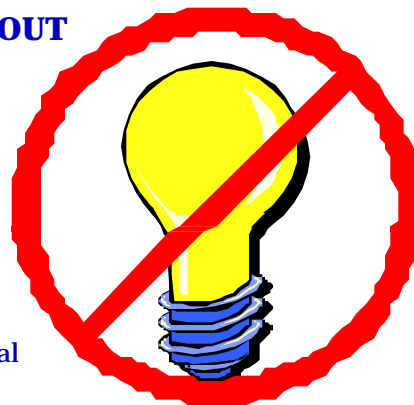
\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance as of 9/30/2003 \$763.92





HAMS A BRIGHT SPOT DURING POWER BLACKOUT

When a power blackout struck at least a half dozen eastern states August 14, many Amateur Radio operators were ready and able to provide whatever assistance they could. Hardest hit were metropolitan areas like New York City, Detroit and Cleveland. In New York, residents and commuters found themselves stranded in electricity-dependent elevators and subway or rail cars while visitors ended up stuck at airports, which were forced to shut down. With the cellular systems overloaded or out altogether, the incident turned into a test of Amateur Radio's capabilities to operate without commercial power.



"It was a good drill," said New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D. But, he adds, it was a cautionary tale too. "The lesson is that everybody gets a little complacent," he said. "Have emergency power backup and make sure it's working!"

By and large, Carrubba said, ARES members did what they were trained to do. "It's going to show the worth of Amateur Radio," he said of the blackout response. "There were people on the air immediately."

Diane Ortiz, K2DO, the Public Information Coordinator for NYC-Long Island was one of them. When power went down in her Suffolk County community, she started up an informal VHF net. Over the next 20 hours or so, it passed some 500 pieces of what Ortiz described as largely "health-and-welfare traffic."

"People are getting on and helping," she said. In addition to handling messages for people stranded in the city, amateurs also relayed useful information, such as which stores or filling stations were open and operating. With many radio and TV stations dark, and hams were able to help fill the information void, Ortiz said.

In the Big Apple itself, ARES teams provided communication support for Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) set up at main transportation centers in Manhattan. ARES members also accompanied ERVs on fire calls.

RACES activated in most Greater New York City area counties after a state of emergency was declared. Some ARES teams--including a few across the Hudson River in New Jersey--activated or remained on standby to help if called upon. In New Jersey, a net linked the Red Cross lead chapter's N2ARC in Princeton with other New Jersey ARC chapters.

Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK, reports scattered ARES activations. Williams, who lives in Dundee south of Detroit, was without power August 15 and relying on his emergency generator. Some Michigan ARES teams assisted emergency operations centers and the Red Cross.



In Ohio, Section Emergency Coordinator Larry Rain, WD8IHP, reports that all ARES organizations in northern Ohio were activated after the power grid went down. Still going strong at week's end were ARES teams in Cleveland and Akron. "ARES is handling communication support for Ohio Emergency Management in the affected cities and communities," Rain said. Ohio VHF and UHF nets and the Ohio SSB net on HF have been handling blackout-related traffic.

Nancy Hall, KC4IYD--who lives 20 miles west of Cleveland--said she's glad she'd taken the ARRL Emergency Communications Level I class. "I have to say that being a ham and knowing about emergency preparedness did make life easier for me and my family," said Hall, who's now signed up for the Level II class.

New England states were far less affected by the blackout. ARES/RACES operators in the region were on standby after the blackout. Only Connecticut and sections of Western Massachusetts reported significant outages, and ARES nets activated in both states.

Bill Sexton, N1IN/AAR1FP, an Army MARS member, said his emergency power capability permitted him to check into the Northeast SHARES (National Communications System HF Shared Resources Program) net and maintain e-mail contact after Berkshire County lost power.

"The experience proved once gain the great strength of ham radio in an emergency," Sexton said. "It is self-starting, and it is everywhere."

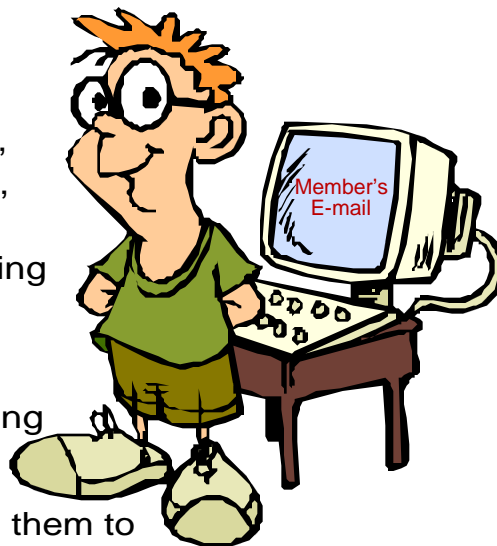
Dear fellow LVARC members,

No Code International filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the FCC on Wed., Aug. 13, seeking the end of all Morse testing ASAP, now that the WRC eliminated the ITU requirement and many countries are starting to drop Morse testing.

The Petition may be found on the NCI website at: <http://nocode.org> buy clicking on the "Articles" link at the upper left.

If you have comments for me, please send them to my MAIN e-mail address wk3c@wk3c.com (available on the NCI website, too) and NOT to this address.

73, ----- Carl R. Stevenson - wk3c





LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday October 6 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday October 7 --- LVARC Meeting -7:30 pm - Red Cross

Thursday October 9 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 pm (146.94)

Monday October 13 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday October 16 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 pm (146.94)

Friday October 17 --- LVARC ARRL VE Test Session - 7:00 pm

Saturday October 18 --- Emmaus Halloween Parade

Monday October 20 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday October 23 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 pm (146.94)

Monday October 27 ---- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday October 30 --- Night Owl Net - 10:00 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.

Local Hamfest Calendar

October 19

Sellersville, PA

October 25

Carlisle, PA

October 26

Westminster, MD

TNX to Bill (K3ANS)

Member's Birthdays

In order to recognize our members, you can e-mail the month of your birthday to me (AK3M@rcn.com) and I will include it on the "This Month In Ham Radio" calendar which is printed each month in the E-VOX.

Please include your name, call, month and day of your birthday (ie. Mark (AK3M) - January 16). You need NOT include the year of your birth. Please send to me in time to publish on the calendar!





LVARC ARRL VE Test Session Report

LVARC VE Program



One Tested at the August 15, 2003
LVARC VE Test Session



Michael Van Poots
passed his No Code
Technician exam !

CONGRATULATIONS
Mike !!!!!

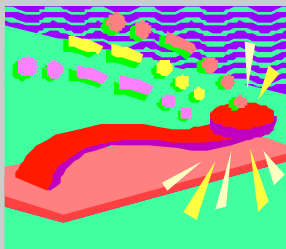


TNX to LVARC VE's **Rod** (KB3HFZ) and **Frank**
(W3FTU) for their support at the session!

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

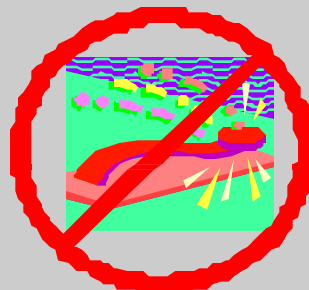
REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY! NO WALK-IN'S.

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



**CW or
No CW ?**

de Mark (AK3M)



There seems to be a lot of interest in the petition to eliminate the CW requirement for obtaining an amateur radio license beyond the "No Code" Technician class. Let's hear **YOUR** opinion.

Send your thoughts to me at **AK3M@rcn.com** and I will publish the members' opinions in the newsletter.

Repeater Map

Robin (KB3GZV) had a suggestion about creating **Repeater Map** for our area. I have been working on such a map which is pictured below (page 12). There are many repeaters which are not included. If you know of any repeaters that should be on this map, please let me know. Please be sure to include input and output frequencies and PL if applicable.

This is a work in progress. When completed, this map can be posted on the club's web site for easy retrieval.

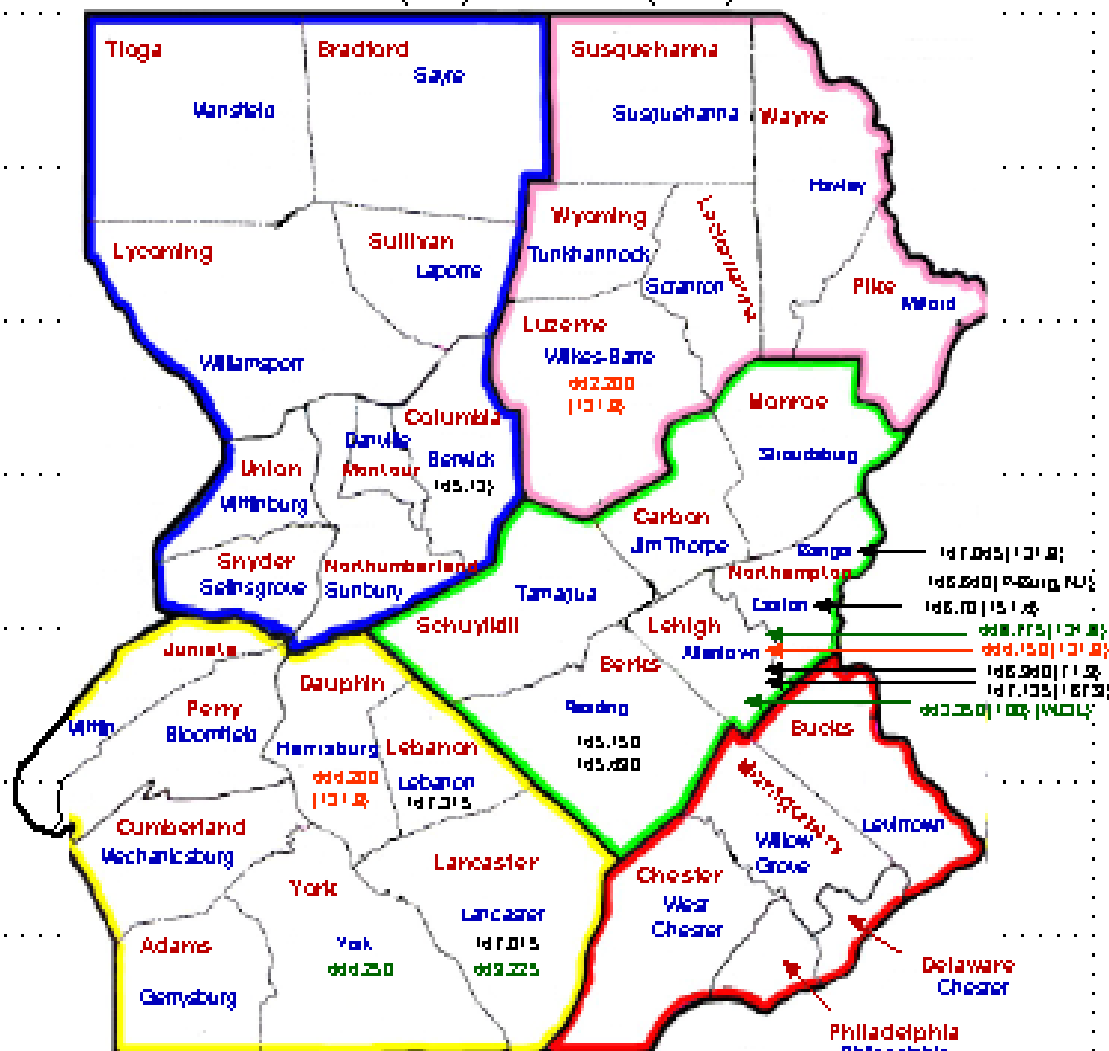


Eastern Pennsylvania Repeater Map

Courtesy of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI)

<http://www.w3oi.org>

146.940 (71.9) and 147.135 (167.9)



Key

- Red - Counties
- Blue - Major cities
- Black - VHF repeaters
- Green - UHF repeaters
- Orange - U of PA Link System
- Purple - 6-meter repeaters



Lehigh County RACES



Are You A Member? ... Are You **Sure**?

Are you a LC RACES member? Are you sure? **Just because you check into the Monday Night RACES/ARES Net does NOT mean that you are registered with Lehigh County Emergency Management. If you do not have a RACES card issued by the county, you are not registered. YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED RACES MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN RACES ACTIVITIES.** To be a registered member of Lehigh County RACES, contact Jeff (N3MFT) or download a RACES membership form found on the club's web site (<http://www.w3oi.org>). Complete the form and mail to Jeff.



JOTA, 2003 - The Jamboree On The Air will be held on **October 18-19, 2003**. Help the scouts by contacting them during their special weekend!

Suggested Worldwide Scout Frequencies

<u>Band</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>CW</u>
80	3.740	3.590
40	7.270	7.030
20	14.290	14.070
17	18.140	18.080
15	21.360	21.140
12	24.960	24.910
10	28.390	28.190

(See QST - Sept, 2003, p. 46)

CQ JOTA
CQ JOTA

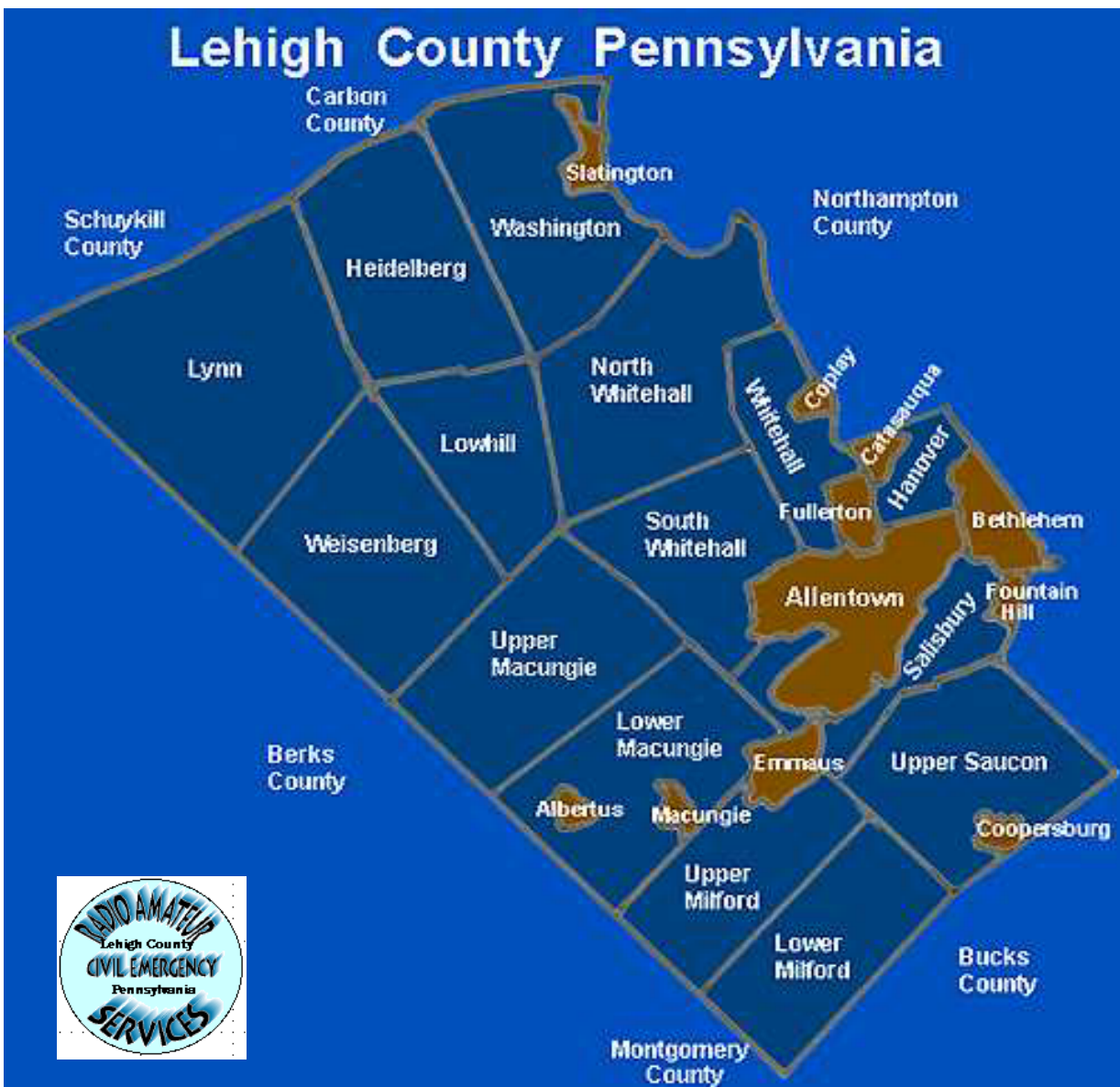




Townships and Boroughs in Lehigh County Pennsylvania

Courtesy of:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/pa/county/lehigh/usgs/>





**** When Things Fail, Ham Radios Step Up ****

From an e-mail from Clarence (W3PYF)

When other communication resources failed during the blackout, the ham radio operators helped emergency personnel connect with one another.



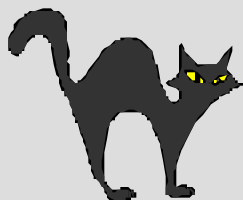
http://www.msnbc.com/modules/exports/ct_email.asp?/news/954512.asp

**THIS DAY
IN HISTORY**

October 31



HISTORYCHANNEL.COM



(From <http://www.historychannel.com>)



HOUDINI IS DEAD

Harry Houdini, the most celebrated magician and escape artist of the 20th century, dies of peritonitis in a Detroit hospital. Twelve days before, Houdini had been talking to a group of students after a lecture in Montreal when he commented on the strength of his stomach muscles and their ability to withstand hard blows. Suddenly, one of the students punched Houdini twice in the stomach. The magician hadn't had time to prepare, and the blows ruptured his appendix. He fell ill on the train to Detroit, and, after performing one last time, was hospitalized. Doctors operated on him, but to no avail. The burst appendix poisoned his system, and on **October 31, 1926** he died.

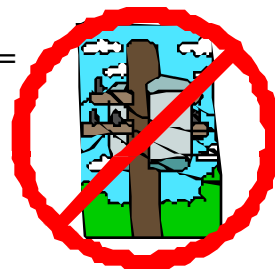


No Power - Are You Ready?

The following was circulated via e-mail. Although it arrived shortly after the power outage, it is also pertinent to severe weather and winter storms we see in our area. (de AK3M)

=====

From: "Rick Harrison" <radio62@idirect.com>
Subject: Info from the EMCOMMWEST BULLETIN - No.
172 - 19 AUGUST 2003



GUIDELINES AND A "GENERIC" PLAN FOR ARES TEAMS DURING WIDESPREAD AND/OR EXTENDED POWER OUTAGES AND TELEPHONE SYSTEM FAILURES

- D. W. Thorne, K6SOJ

BEFORE THE POWER OUTAGE

1 - MAINTAIN your radios, accessories, lighting, and other gear in a "state of readiness." Keep your batteries charged, your generator serviced, and enough fresh fuel (safely stored) to keep it running at least 24 hours. Always keep the fuel tank in your vehicle(s) at least 1/2 full. (When the power is out...service stations cannot pump fuel.)

2 - PARTICIPATE in daily and weekly nets, drills, and training. Get to know your EC, AEC, and other members of your ARES team. Keep familiar with your local and regional emergency plan.

3 - CULTIVATE good public relations on a daily basis. Let your friends, neighbors, and local community leaders know what amateur radio is and what it is capable (and not capable) of doing.



DURING A POWER OUTAGE AND/OR TELEPHONE SYSTEM FAILURE

- 1 - CHECK ON your family and neighbors.** Especially any elderly, disabled, or infirm persons you know. If assistance is needed summon help as appropriate.
- 2 - ACTIVATE your station by connecting to your auxiliary power source.** Monitor designated local and section EMCOMM frequencies. **Keep an accurate log of pertinent information and traffic.**
- 3 - CONSERVE power (and help keep the frequencies clear) by not transmitting unless you have traffic or useful information.** When you do transmit use the lowest power output that will provide communications.
- 4 - AS SOON AS a net has been activated,** check in when your area is called. **Advise the NCS of your availability** for assignment(s).
- 5 - YOU MAY BE asked to stay at home and serve as a relief NCS or a relay station.** ARES stations (fixed or mobile) with both VHF and HF are of special value.
- 6 - IF YOU GO MOBILE, travel self-contained.** Appropriate clothing, food and drink. First Aid Kit. Tool Kit. A good flashlight or two plus extra batteries are essential...as is a clipboard, notepad, pens and pencils, and local maps. Carry an adequate supply of blank RADIOGRAMS.
- 7 - RESPOND as directed by your NCS. OR, go to the nearest location where people congregate during an emergency.** This may be a local fire station, community hall, school, church, general store, or even an intersection. When surveying an affected area, **be alert for people who may have an immediate need for communications or other special needs. Obey all laws, stay out of the way of emergency vehicles, and periodically keep the NCS station informed of your location.**



8 - IDENTIFY yourself as an emergency communications unit. Wear your ARES cap, jacket, or other ID materials. On vehicles, the magnetic ARES signs are nice. Or, you can make placards and place them on your dashboard or sun visor.

9 - INTRODUCE yourself to local officials. Briefly tell them who you are, what you can do, where you will be located, and that they may refer persons with emergency, priority, or health and welfare messages to you. Remain polite, but DO NOT initiate or accept ROUTINE traffic until the NCS gives the "OK."

10 - THE NCS (at the direction of the EC or acting EC) **may ask you to move to other locations** (such as a hospital, clinic, utility office or city hall).

11 - IF YOU MUST leave your post or assignment notify the NCS. Allow enough time to find a replacement.

12 - KNOW your own limitations. Do not try to be a "marathon operator." When your relief arrives, give him / her a brief report, and go get some rest. You may be needed tomorrow!

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)





Up-Coming LVARC Proposed Meeting Topics

(PLAN TO ATTEND and support YOUR club!)

Nominations and Election of 2004 Field Day Chairman
(September, 2003)

Classic Amplifier Tubes (Lou Poli-KF2WO)
(October, 2003)

Video tape presentation of RCN's *Community Spotlight* program featuring the LVARC

Nominations for LVARC Officers for 2004

Recruitment for "Operation Ho Ho - 2003"
(November, 2003)



Election of LVARC Officers for 2004

Annual Holiday Party
(December, 2003)



LVARC VE REPORT

Since our first test session on April 25, 2003, the LVARC has had 9 persons take advantage of the test sessions. We have had at least one person every session!

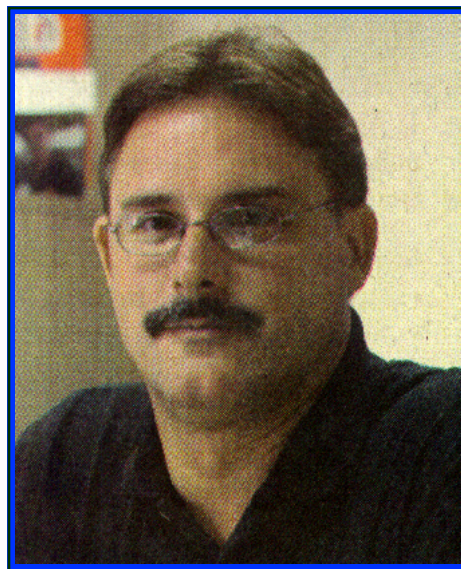
CONKLIN LEAVING CRISIS MANAGEMENT POST

After nearly five years, he's leaving Lehigh for a similar job in Florida.

By Dan Hartzell of the Morning Call
From the Morning Call - August 21, 2003

As Lehigh County's new emergency management director in November 1998, John R. Conklin said one of his priorities would be counterterrorism, which he called "a hot emergency-management issue" at the time.

Less than three years later, when the nation tragically discovered just how hot an issue terrorism truly was, Conklin was among the first responders, driving to New York on Sept. 11 and spending eight days there helping co-ordinate rescue and recovery efforts as part of the federal Urban Search and Rescue Team from Pennsylvania.



Conklin, who will leave his Lehigh County job to be emergency program manager in Broward County, Fla. next month, said Wednesday the 9-11 experience was among the most vivid of his five years in Allentown, where he has offices in the county courthouse.

But a more immediate challenge faced the Johnstown, Cambria County native only months after arriving in the Lehigh Valley, when a chemical explosion at the Concept Sciences Inc. plant in Hanover Township demanded one of the biggest local emergency-response efforts in years.

Conklin's performance during that February 1999 incident, which left five dead, gained the respect of many area firefighters, emergency-medical personnel and other first responders.

"That was his initiation," said Rusty Held, chief of Woodlawn Fire Co. in South Whitehall Township. "He had his hands full over there, and he did fine."



Conklin said he surely ruffled some feathers during his tenure, making changes he felt necessary, but said some disagreement is unavoidable.

"I didn't make everyone happy," he said. "But I think most of the people that cared" understood that upgrades needed to be made in the emergency-radio system and other areas. "We were really behind the times here," Conklin said. Held agreed.

"Some of the guys didn't like the changes to the radio system," Held said. "But I think he's pretty much respected ... John came in here and had 20 years behind."

Conklin will be working in a county which has 1.8 million residents, about six times Lehigh County's population. About 200,000 people live in Fort Lauderdale, double Allentown's total. Broward's emergency-management agency has 20 employees; Lehigh's has five.

Because of the hurricane potential, as well as the presence of international airports, cruise-ship ports and other factors, "Florida is probably the mecca of emergency management," Conklin said.

Conklin, 43, will get a boost in salary, from about \$53,000 to \$58,000, and said there's more potential for career growth.

On a personal note, he and his wife, Jane, are fond of the southern weather.

"Jane loves the climate and the beach," he said.

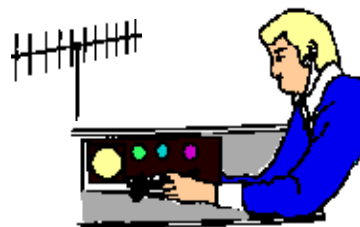
County Executive Jane R. Ervin said Wednesday the county would advertise for candidates to fill Conklin's position. His last work day in Allentown will be Sept. 5, and he'll start the new job three days later.

Editor's Note (AK3M): I am sure I speak for all LVARC members when I say that John will be missed as LC Director of Emergency Management. He has been an excellent supporter of amateur radio and its role in the Lehigh County Emergency Management's plan (RACES).

We wish John the best of luck in his new position in Florida! "Keep in touch John and don't forget to read the "hometown" newsletter (E-VOX) on line."



The LVARC proudly announces a new member to the Amateur Radio Community. **Michael Van Poots**, who tested at the LVARC August 15, 2003 VE session, received his call on Thursday August 21, 2003. Listen for **KB3KEJ** and welcome him on the air. **CONGRATULATIONS Mike!**



Silent Key

John H. Stahl Jr. (WD8SCX)



John H. Stahl Jr., 54, of 3690 Canella Drive, Northampton, died Aug. 23 in his home. He was a salesman for Gordon's Book Store, Whitehall Township, before retiring in 1995. Previously, he was a draftsman for General Motors in Michigan for more than 20 years before retiring. Born in Allentown, he was a son of Emma E. (Palansky) Stahl of Northampton and the late John H. Stahl Sr. He was a Lutheran. He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Bacchi Club and Rose Bowl Lanes Men's Bowling League, both of Allentown. Survivors: Mother. Services: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Schisler Funeral Home, 2119 Washington Ave., Northampton. Call 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Contributions: Good Shepard Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

Don't forget to check into the "Night Owl Net" every Thursday night at 10:00. The net meets on the "94" machine with Mark (N3ULR) as the net control.





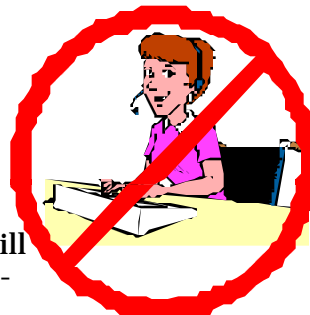
Do Not Call List ---- If you have not yet taken advantage of registering for the "Do Not Call List," which eliminates those pesky telephone solicitors, read the following:

How to Register

Consumers can register on-line for the national do-not-call registry beginning June 27, 2003. Telephone registration will open for consumers in states west of the Mississippi River - including Minnesota and Louisiana - on the same date.

Telephone registration will be available July 7 in the entire country. To register, consumers may call 1-888-382-1222: for TTY call 1-866-290-4236. You must call from the phone number you wish to register. The registry will become effective on October 1, 2003.

Subscribers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless numbers, on the national Do-Not-Call registry by telephone or by Internet at no cost. The federal Do-Not-Call registry will be effective October 1, 2003.



Coded Quote

Letters are converted into symbols. This is a famous quote. Can you decode it?

“✂❄▼▼❄□ ▼□ □❄○❄❄■ ▲❄●❄■▼ ❄■❄
 ❄❄ ▼❄❄❄❄❄❄ ❄❄❄□❄● ▼❄❄❄■ ▼□
 ▲□❄❄❄ □❄▼ ❄■❄ □❄○□❄❄❄ ❄●❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄”
 --- Abraham Lincoln (Answer on page 24)



&



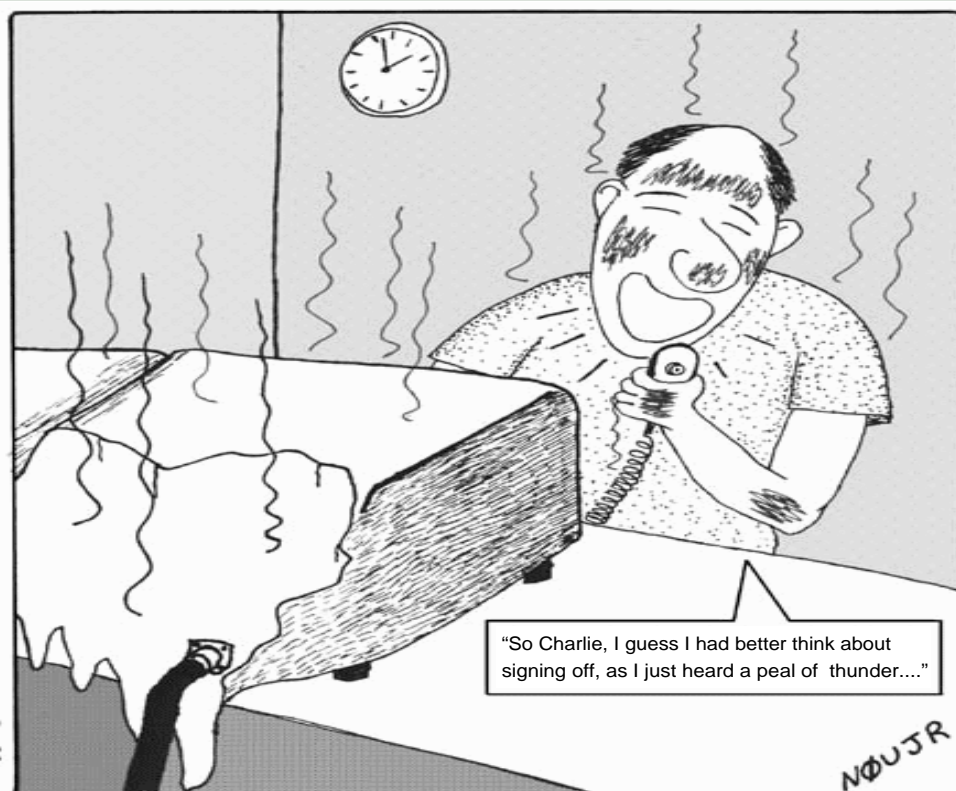
FCC Invites Comments on Six Morse Code-Related Petitions (Aug 29, 2003) -- Let the games begin! The FCC has invited public comments on six separate Morse code-related petitions for rule making, some of which would altogether eliminate Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse signals to operate below 30 MHz. Two other more recently filed petitions--one from No Code International and another from two amateur licensees--are expected to be put on public notice in the near future. Go to: <http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/29/2/?nc=1> for full story.



**The LVARC is still looking for a
program director. CAN BE A
TEAM EFFORT! Contact Mark (AK3M)**

Answer to Coded Quote (see page 23)

**“Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out
and remove all doubt” ---Abraham Lincoln**



<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/n0ujr/lightningdenialcomp.gif>



SPECIAL EVENTS

(From *WorldRadio* - September, 2003 - Year 33, Issue 3)

USCG Auxiliary Birthday

K8G from Marquette, MI, will be commemorating the 64th anniversary of the USCG Auxiliary 27 Sept. 2003. 7.285, 14.285, 21.370, 28.370. 1300-2359 UTC. May also operate CW and PKS31 and may be on the air some the 26th and 28th. QSL with SASE to Greg Hanson, KI8AF, 624 W. Hampton St., Marquette, MI 49855. Contact Greg Hanson, 906/225-1594, ki8af@arri.net

Lewis & Clark Expedition

W7PX celebrates the 198th Anniversary of The Lewis and Clark Expedition at Lolo Pass, Idaho County, ID. 1500Z 13 Sept. to 0200Z 15 Sept., operating on 7.265, 14.265, 21.365 and 28.365 MHz. Send \$2 and SASE to HARC, POB 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811. Details at www.riversdreams.com/k7vk Contact Bob Henderson; 406/251-4148; e-mail slvrtip@bigsky.net



The Emmaus Halloween Parade is scheduled for Saturday October 18 with a rain date of Monday October 20. If you would like to help, contact Bob Green (KE3AW) on the "70" machine or bobgre@fast.net.

More On BPL - de Jeff (N3MFT)

NAB, MSTV CONCERNED ABOUT BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE
The National Association of Broadcasters and the Association of Maximum Service Television, Inc. (NAB and MSTV) filed reply comments in the FCC Notice of Inquiry on carrier current systems and broadband over power line (BPL). <http://www.tvtechnology.com/dlrf/one.php?id=142>



Reader's Comments

Have a comment? Want to unload? Want to express your opinions? Feel free to use the E-VOX as your personal forum.



Let the member's know how you feel about amateur radio issues and hot topics. Submissions must be tasteful and no personal attacks will be printed. E-mail your comments or opinions to Mark at **AK3M@rcn.com**.

Want to See and Hear What BPL Can Do for You?

**Blair (K3YD) offers the following web sites.
Its worth the look and listen !!!**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/21/4/?nc=1>

and

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video>

Is Your E-mail Address Current ?

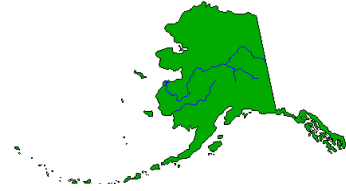
(de AK3M) ----- I have sent out a few e-mails to members only to have some returned. I DELETE all returned emails from my address book. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you send me your current e-mail address.





Frank (W3FTU) & XYL signing KL7!!!!

In August 2003, Frank (W3FTU) and his XYL cruised to Alaska.
Frank took his 2-meter HT along.



I am posing with my trusty
HT by the Hubbard Glacier (right)



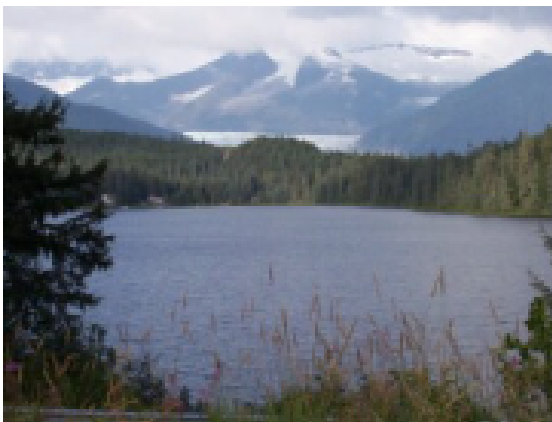
Jamie (XYL) is attacking a
bear in Juneau (left)



The Mendenhall Glacier (right)



A great lake/ mountain view from the
little Presbyterian Church in Juneau
(left)





FCC PUTS NO-CODE INTERNATIONAL'S MORSE PETITION ON PUBLIC NOTICE

The FCC has invited public comments on another Morse code-related petition for rule making--this one from No-Code International (NCI) <http://www.nocode.org/>. It's designated RM-10786. When the FCC put six other Morse-related petitions in the sequence RM-10781 through RM-10787 on public notice, RM-10786 failed to show up on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. It remained missing through September 2. NCI calls on the FCC to delete Element 1--the 5 WPM Morse code exam--"totally" from the Amateur Service rules and grant "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technicians. It also wants the FCC to act on the matter as soon as possible, preferably in a separate rule making and without further ado.

"[T]he Commission clearly has the authority to modify its rules on its own initiative and without further public notice or comment," NCI asserted in its 20-page petition.

NCI notes that World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse signals to operate below 30 MHz. As a result, "the Commission is no longer bound to maintain any Morse proficiency requirement." The Morse requirement, NCI contends, is keeping newcomers away from Amateur Radio.

Comments poured in this week from members of the amateur community on all seven petitions. Clearly ahead in the comment-collection race is the petition filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10787, which had collected more than 350 comments by week's end. The other petitions each have garnered more than 100 comments apiece.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all petitions now on public notice <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-238494A1.pdf> by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The ECFS also permits users to view all comments on file. There is a 30-day comment window.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number. You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

To view any comments already submitted for each petition, click on "Search for Filed Comments" under "ECFS Main Links" and type in the complete RM number, including the hyphen, in the "Proceeding" field. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number.

Several countries--including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands--already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria, New Zealand and Australia are expected to do so soon.

<p>The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 35 September 5, 2003</p>
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The Battle Against BPL or PLC Hits Home

de Mark (AK3M)

The following text was written as a hand-out to the Hanover Township (NC) board at the September 9, 2003 township meeting. in an effort to discourage the installation of PLC in the township as a "pilot" program. Blair Bates (K3YD) and I developed this text and presented it to the township board.

The Other Side To PLC

As noted in the PPL Telcom proposal submitted to Hanover Township on August 11, 2003, Power Line Communications of Broadband, or high-speed, internet service, has been deployed in Emmaus, PA. I'd like you to hear what a radio listener hears when he turns on his radio in Emmaus.

(Play CD) *[The audio CD contained samples of normal SSB abs SSB with PLC inyerference]*

This is a recording made in Emmaus on an amateur radio short-wave radio frequency in late July 2003. However **the same electronic hash you are hearing will interfere with your radio reception if you are trying to listen to news on KYW, or listen to a Yankees game on your AM radio, or listen to a foreign language broadcast on short-wave to practice your language skills.**

The proposal by PPL Telcom is incomplete. It discusses delivery of a broadband (internet) signal to homes using Ultra High Frequency (UHF) radio signals from small transmitters on lamp-poles. It says nothing about how the broadband signals get to those little transmitters. PPL wants to send broadband signals into our neighborhood along power lines using Medium Wave and Short-wave radio frequencies. As we all know, there are many overhead power lines in Hanover Township. **At those frequencies, power lines act like radio antennas and radiate signals.** The hash you heard a few minutes ago, is radio signal radiation from power lines interfering with radio reception.

What I'm talking about isn't wild theory. I've driven through Emmaus, unable to hear anything but the strongest local stations on the AM broadcast band, and virtually nothing on short-wave frequencies except electronic hash. The "testing" in Emmaus has been the source of several complaints and filings with the FCC.

(continued on page 30)



(continued from page 29)

Power Line Communications has been considered, but not implemented, in Finland and Japan. **It has been implemented, to some degree, in Austria, Germany and Holland where there are now widespread problems** like I described to you tonight. A current FCC proposal to expand Power Line Communications of Broadband service has been opposed by organizations as diverse as the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), part of the executive branch of the US government.

It is my opinion that the citizens of **Hanover Township should not have to endure the virtual radio jamming that the PPL Telcom, PLC "test deployment" would bring to our neighborhood.**

The Necessity of Maintaining Amateur Radio Communications

Amateur radio operators must pass a series of tests in order to be granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission. The tests are progressively harder with more privileges granted as more proficiency is demonstrated. Tests include skill in Morse code. As a result of this educational commitment, and the knowledge which they have acquired, amateur radio operators take their activities very seriously.

Most operators use their skills for far more than personal communication.

(1) The role of **emergency communications** is a large part of amateur radio activities.

Amateur radio operators have the ability to communicate from virtually any location using several modes. Morse code, voice, digital (over the air - not through utility lines), and even TV are some of these modes. Using these communication capabilities, local amateur operators have been involved with medical and assistance communications with boats at sea and into disaster areas where conventional communication means have failed.

Most licensed amateur radio operators in the Lehigh Valley are members of emergency communications groups.

(2) The **American Radio Relay League (ARRL)** is the national organization of amateur radio operators. The ARRL has agreements with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army in times of emergency. Local governmental agencies also rely on the skills of the hams. Amateur radio communications are a vital part of local (County EMA), state (PEMA) and federal (FEMA) emergency communication plans.

(3) The importance of amateur radio communications is also recognized by the US military. A program called **MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System)** allow interoperability among military bases and units and amateur radio operators. Amateur MARS operators provide morale communications into remote areas (IE Southwest Asia) and assist the National Guard and Army Reserve with disaster communications and communications training.

(continued on page 31)



(continued from page 30)

(4) **RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services)** is organized at the county level. All counties in the US have RACES included in their emergency plans. Lehigh and Northampton counties include and rely on amateur radio operators in their emergency management plans. Amateur radio operators provide communications when ordinary frequencies (police and fire) become overloaded in the event of a major incident. Cell phones often become ineffective, as happened after the September 11 attack or recent August 14th blackout.

(5) Since the 9-11 attack, the **office of Homeland Security**, (a cabinet level governmental office) has included amateur radio in their "War on Terrorism" plans. Since most amateur radio operators have alternative supplies of power and operate as independent stations, this arrangement is excellent for backup communications in emergency situations.

(6) Where ever they have been installed, power line communications systems, such as that proposed by PPL TELCO, have seriously degraded or totally precluded communications by licensed amateur radio operators. **We are respectfully requesting that the PCL not be allowed to be tested in Hanover Township.**

References

Comparison of Normal SSB TO SSB WITH BPL INTERFERENCE

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/08/2/>

Video Clip of BPL Interference

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video>

American Radio Relay League

<http://www.arrl.org>

Prepared and respectfully submitted by :

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September 9, 2003



Review of the Meeting with the Hanover Township (NC) Supervisors

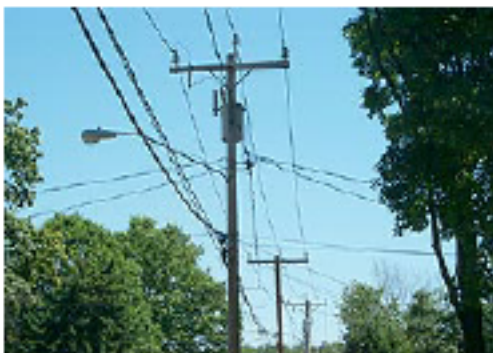
de Blair Bates (K3YD)

I/we attended the Hanover Township (NHA) supervisors meeting last evening. It was apparent that PPL Telcom had "done their homework" ahead of time and the supervisors were planning to authorize BPL. After our presentation they authorized only a "90 day test" of the technology.

IMPORTANT POINT: We learned that politicians talk to and trust politicians. They had spoken to other municipalities where BPL (sometimes called PLC- Power Line Communications) has been installed and learned that these communities had received NO INTERFERENCE COMPLAINTS. Based on the "positive experience" the test was authorized.

So, guys and gals, this is a lesson. If you are in, or near, a BPL area and you are experiencing interference, complain to your local government, as well as to the power company, and to the FCC. Go to your local government meeting and send a certified letter besides. Without a record of complaints, the politicians think there's nothing wrong with BPL.

73, Blair K3YD



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