

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 !

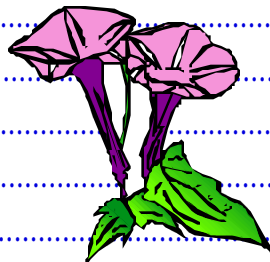
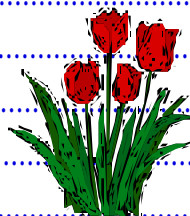


W3OI Home Page: <http://www.w3oi.org>



May, 2004 Contents

Meeting Information	page 3
L.C. RACES Net Information	page 3
This Month In Ham Radio	page 4
Minutes of the April, 2004 Meeting	pages 5 - 6
MS Walk Information/Upgrade	page 7
LVARC Activities	pages 8
Field Day Information	page 9
WD-40 History	page 10
VHF/UHV vs. HF Procedures	page 11
LVARC Hot Dog Sale ??	page 12
Odds & Ends	page 13
LVARC Field Days of Old	page 14
Who Invented the Paper Shredder?	page 15
Hospital Turns to Ham Radio	pages 16-17
Ham Radio Crossword	page 18
Suggested Field Day Gear	page 19
Answers to Trivia and Crossword	page 20
Ham Radio Cartoon	page 21
Tornado Strikes Northampton County	pages 22-23
Saturday Mornings	pages 24-25
LVARC Data Base Now On-line	page 25
Chris Takes Search and Rescue Class	page 26
International Lighthouse Weekend	page 27
Minutes of the April, 2004 Meeting (cont.)	pages 28-29
Silent Key	page 29





The May Meeting will be held on May 4, 2004
at the Red Cross Building at 7:30.

Program: **Old Radio Restoration** (Frank - W3FTU)



LVARC / RACES NET

Don't forget to check into the Monday Night
LC/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 (ET).

Many club announcements
will be heard there !

Monday Night RACES/ARES Check In Summary 2004

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Mondays</u>
January	86	4
February	100	4
March	134 (record high!)	5





This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						UBA Welcome to Europe Union Contest Tech Class #2 1
MS Walk Allentown Tech Class #3 and Test 2	ARES RACES Net 7:30 KB3CKD 3	LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30 4	5	6	7	Nevada QSO Party Oregon QSO Party 8
Nevada QSO Party Oregon QSO Party Mother's Day 9	ARES RACES Net 7:30 KA3UQP 10	11	12	13	14	15
16	ARES RACES Net 7:30 KB3GZW KB3GZV 17	18	19	20	LVARC VE Test Session 7:00 pm 21	22
23	ARES RACES Net 7:30 N3MFT 24	25	26	27	28	Great lakes QSO Party 29
Great lakes QSO Party 30	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Memorial Day AK3M 31					

LVARC Meeting -Tuesday May 4, 2004
7:30 pm at the Red Cross Building

LVARC VE Test Session - Friday May 21, 2004 7:00 pm



Minutes of the April, 2004 Meeting de Rod (KB3HFZ), - Secretary - LVARC

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes



Date: April 6, 2004

Meeting Called to Order by President Miller at 1932 Hrs, EDST.

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

A sign-in Sheet was circulated, with 17 members and 3 guests in attendance. The following Board Members were in attendance: President Miller, Vice President Snyder, Treasurer Ryan, Secretary Wolfe, Board Member Gable, and Board Member Miller.

No corrections or additions to the minutes as published in the EVOX, minutes stand approved as published.

Treasurer's Report (Paul - NOKIA)

Paul Reports that the balance at the end of March 2004 is \$796.66.

Paul reported that 6 members renewed in March. By renewing in March they were removed from the membership roles. Paul made a motion to accept the 6 previous members that renewed late, as current members. Walt KE3SP provided a second to the motion; there was no discussion on the motion and the motion passed with all in favor and none against.

Committee Reports:

Repeater

The membership noted that the 135 machine was down again, and no one had any indication as to what the problem may be. There was discussion on the poor in-service time of that repeater over the past two years.

***At this point in the meeting, the meeting was adjourned for the purpose of moving into another room. The normal room was not available due to a schedule conflict, so the meeting was started on the 3rd floor of the Red Cross Building. A representative then notified the President that the normal room was now available, and they requested that we move. The meeting was adjourned at 1940 and was called back to order in the normal room at 1945.**

Program

Phil KB3HMK reports that tonight's program will be HF Tubes presented by Lou KF2WO. Next month, Frank W3FTU will present on "Old Radio Restoration". June will be preparation for Field Day.

(Minutes continued on page 6)



(Minutes continued from page 5)

Volunteer Examiners

President Miller reported that no one scheduled to test during the month of March.

Field Day

Lou KF2WO reports that this year's event will be held at Camp Seranova. Lou explained that the caretaker of the camp contacted President Miller, and out of good faith, President Miller made the decision to return to Camp Seranova. Lou will be sending out email to all club members to find out when they are available to operate, and what they are most interested in. Lou suggests that we work in groups of like-minded people, for instance, a group that will set up antennas, a group that will set up the stations, and those that are primary operators.

Web Site

Paul reports that the site has a "members only" access to the membership database and that this now works with several members in attendance having already accessed the site.

Education

Rod N3XG reports that the class is materializing, and as of the end of the meeting, there were three enrolled in the class. Rod also asked for any additional instructor help for those class dates of April 30, May 1, and May 2.

(Minutes continued on page 28)

\$\$\$	W3OI Finances	\$\$\$	
Balance as of	3/30/04	\$796.60	



MARK YOUR CALENDAR and
come out to help the MS Society with their
annual MS Walks!

Lets put our hobby to good use and help the local community. Operators are needed to help with the Multiple Sclerosis Society to provide communications support for several walks in the area. Below, are the dates and locations of these walks.

Sunday May 2 - Allentown (Rose Gardens - **Allentown**)

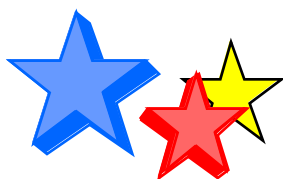
Saturday & Sunday June 12 & 13 - the MS 150 Bike tour. It will start in Trexlertown and over night in Kutztown (just like the last couple of years).

TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT:

Bryan (AA3WM)
sbw1@enter.net
610-258-9470

or

Charles (W3DEA)
w3dea@snycomp.com
610-954-5285



**License Upgrade
and Call Changes**



Congratulations to Willie Robertson (KB3KQG) who passed his **Extra** exam at the DLARC VE test session on March 5, 2004 !!

Willie has changed his call and is now **AB3BS**

After passing his **Extra** test in February, 2004, Rod has changed his call from KB3HFZ to **N3XG**.



LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Saturday May 1 --- LVARC Tech Class #2

Sunday May 2 --- LVARC Tech Class #3 and Test

Sunday May 2, 2004 --- MS Walk (Allentown)

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

Tuesday May 4--- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 PM (Red Cross Bldg)

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

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

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

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

Monday 31 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94) - MEMORIAL DAY

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

Proposed LVARC 2004 Programs/Activities

(This is only a PROJECTION of activities-subject to change)

May - Frank (W3FTU) - Old Radio Restoration

June

1. Preparation for Field Day - at the business meeting
2. Field Day - June 26 & 27, 2004 (Camp Serranova)

July - Paul (N0KIA) and Robin (KB3GZV) - Aviation Communications

August - Bob (N3QZR) - Echolink

September - Phil (KB3HMK) - Geocaching

October

1. Nomination of officers for 2005

November - Close nominations for officers

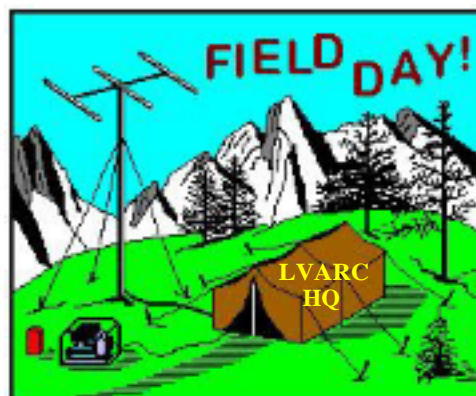
December

1. Election of officers for 2005
2. Operation "Ho Ho"
3. Annual Holiday Party, 2004



Field Day 2004

**Don't forget Field Day 2004!!
The dates are June 26 & 27,
2004.**



Field Day, 2004 will be held at Camp Serranova. Mark your calendar, pack your folding chair, overnight gear and get ready for a great time of 24-hour radio operation! (see page 19 for "Suggested FD Gear")

Directions to the Field Day Site - 2004 *Camp Serranova*

- (1) Cedar Crest Blvd. South to " T "
- (2) Turn right on Route 29 in Emmaus (South)
- (3) Proceed up Shimerville Hill thru blinking light to next light.
- (4) Turn right on St. Peters road
- (5) Go about 4 1/2 miles and turn left into a small road (looks like a driveway) to the camp, see signs for camp (if you get to the fire station or the intersection you missed the turn).

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
(610-865-9183 or AK3M@rcn.com)





WD-40 -----History and Uses (de Bob - KE3AW)

The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and de-greaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. It's name comes from the project that was to find a "water displacement" compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40.



The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their Atlas missile parts. The workers were so pleased with the product, they began smuggling (also known as "shrinkage" or "stealing") it out to use at home. The executives decided there might be a consumer market for it and put it in aerosol cans. The rest, as they say, is history.

It is a carefully guarded recipe known only to four people. Only one of them is the "brew master." There are about 2.5 million gallons of the stuff manufactured each year. It gets its distinctive smell from a fragrance that is added to the brew. Ken East says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

Here are some of the uses:

- Protects silver from tarnishing
- Cleans and lubricates guitar strings
- Gets oil spots off concrete driveways
- Gives floors that 'just-waxed' sheen without making it slippery
- Keeps flies off cows
- Restores and cleans chalkboards
- Removes lipstick stains
- Loosens stubborn zippers
- Untangles jewelry chains
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill
- Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing
- Removes tomato stains from clothing
- Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots
- Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors
- Keeps scissors working smoothly
- Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes
- Gives a children's play gym slide a shine for a super fast slide
- Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers
- Rids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises
- Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open
- Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close
- Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers
- Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles
- Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans



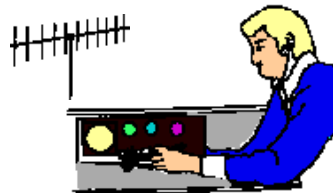
See <http://www.twbc.org/wd40.htm> for 2000 more uses for WD-40

Hank in Bull Hampshire



VHF/UHF Operational Procedures vs. HF Operational Procedures

de Mark (AK3M)



As more amateurs upgrade to General and Extra, they will be experiencing the thrill of working HF and DX stations! Most, having “cut their teeth” on VHF/UHF, will be surprised to learn the procedures are much different when working the HF bands. I offer some of the following contrasts between VHF/UHF and HF operational procedures.

VHF/UHF	HF
Do not call CQ	Calling CQ acceptable
Phonetics <u>NOT</u> used (under normal conversation)	Phonetics frequently necessary
“You’re signal is fluttering” or “You’re not making the machine”	R (readability) x S (strength) signal report preferred (RST on CW)
“Q” Signals NOT used	“Q” signals acceptable
Generally, “Rag Chewing” is expected	NOT always the case (ie. contesting, net operations)
Can “Time Out” the repeater	No repeater to “Time Out”
Log not mandatory	Log required



LVARC to Sell Hot Dogs ?!?!



You read that right! Tom (KB3IYB) has come up with a terrific idea which was very well received at the March, 2004 meeting. Tom proposed that the LVARC rent a "hot dog wagon" from the Coca-Cola company and sell hot dogs and Coke at a local business. Tom has been looking into the arrangements, which he has done before, and will report the details as he gets them. Many members indicated that they would be willing to assist in this endeavor! The time line is uncertain at this writing, but clear your calendar for sometime in July, 2004 to help with the sales.

LVARC Celebrates Anniversary

de Mark (AK3M)

The LVARC'S VE program celebrated its first anniversary in APRIL, 2004. It was one year ago on April 25, 2003 that the LVARC held its first VE TEST session. We have administered 16 tests for all levels of license class including CW.



Memorial Day

May 31, 2004

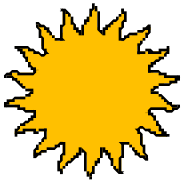
In Memory of our Honored Dead



Who invented the "Paper Shredder?"

- (a) Richard Nixon
- (b) Adolph Hitler
- (c) Benjamin Franklin
- (d) Admiral Chester Nimitz

(Answer on page 15)



**Been Thinkin'
About the
Beach?**



Its been a long cold Winter and Spring and warmer weather is on the way, but in the mean time, if you have been longing for those days of bathing suits, swimming and can't wait to feel the sand in your trunks, now you can! From the comfort of your home, you can see **beach cams** from around the world! Get out your beach chair, umbrella and favorite drink and go to; <http://www.beachcam.com/> and enjoy!



**I am looking for
newsletter material**

de Mark (AK3M)



Send your submissions for the newsletter to me at (AK3M@rcn.com). Pictures, diagrams and text are all acceptable.



LVARC/W3OI Field Days of Old! - de Mark (AK3M)

The following pictures were sent to me by my "elmer/instructor," Woody (W4EB). Woody and I hooked up last month after many years (see April E-VOX, page 20). **The pictures are of the LVARC's 1968 Field Day!**



LC loaned W3OI a truck for its FD HQ located at the Queen City airport!



The set up inside the truck



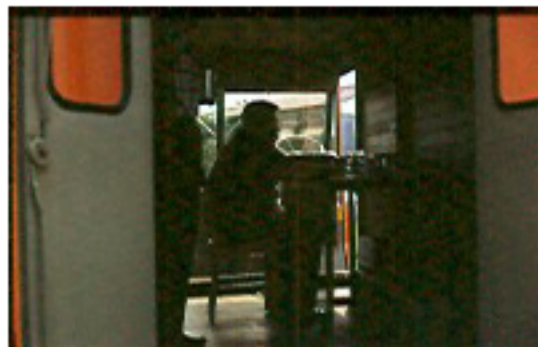
Elsie Oberdoester (W3ICQ)



Operating FD from the truck



Henry Mohr (W3NCX) outside the Queen City site



Pres Schuler (W3VQ - SK) operating CW - as always!



Who invented the "Paper Shredder?"

- (a) Richard Nixon
- (b) Adolph Hitler
- (c) Benjamin Franklin
- (d) Admiral Chester Nimitz

(From page 13)

ANSWER: (b) - Adolph Hitler!

Editor's Note: Personal shredders are very inexpensive and an excellent way to deter Identity Theft!"



Help Our School de Mark (AK3M)

One of the schools at which I service, sent an email to all the teachers about a PTA fundraiser. It seems that the PTA is collecting empty printer ink cartridges which they can turn in for cash. If you have any empty cartridges, please collect and give to me and I will see that they are given to the PTA. --- TNX! Mark (AK3M)



Do You Have a Fire Extinguisher In YOUR Shack?

With all the electronic equipment in your shack, isn't it a good idea to have a fire extinguisher too?

Fire extinguishers can be purchased at almost any discount, auto or marine store. They are inexpensive

and can be mounted or stored easily in a convenient place in your shack. Be sure that it is rated as ABC which means it will be effective on electrical fires.

Some homeowner's insurance policies even offer a discount on annual premiums for homes with extinguishers!!

Class A: Ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, and paper.



Class B: Flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, and oil-based paint.



Class C: Energized electrical equipment - including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, and appliances.





Hospitals Turn to Ham Radio

<http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2004/03/06hospitalsturnto.html>

By SEAN O'SULLIVAN
Staff reporter
03/06/2004



To prepare for potential terrorist threats and other emergencies, Christiana Care has turned to technology from the dawn of the 20th century.

The health-care system is using shortwave radio, also known as ham radio, as an alternative communication system.

"If our usual routes of communication are damaged or inoperable for any reason, the amateur radio offers a backup method for maintaining contact with emergency management agencies, public health and other hospitals," said Dr. Robert A. Rosenbaum, chairman of the emergency management committee for Christiana Care.

Shortwave refers to radio signals 30 megahertz and below that have been popular with radio hobbyists for decades. The systems are in place at Christiana Hospital and Wilmington Hospital.

Interest in amateur radio as an emergency communication system has surged since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, experts said. New York City's communication system, including police and fire radios, and land-line and cell phones, was nearly shut down by the loss of a transmitter on the World Trade Center and the volume of calls that followed.

That has given new life to a technology many thought would be eclipsed by e-mail and cell phones.

John DiGiovanni, a Christiana Care employee and licensed ham radio operator, proposed they install the system. He said he has been fascinated by ham radio since he was a child. During Hurricane Andrew, DiGiovanni said he helped pass a message from a woman in a Red Cross shelter in Florida to relatives in Lancaster, Pa., to let them know she was OK.

"I have a radio room in my basement. When I'm not doing things for Christiana Care, I talk to people all over the world. I talk to people in countries you've never heard of, on remote islands and people just driving back from work," he said.

(continued on page 17)



(continued from page 16)

Ross Merlin, telecommunications manager with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said the agency recommends amateur radio because it is a cheap, dependable, low-tech backup to modern communication systems.

A December report for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said shortwave radio is an effective alternative. During a terrorism disaster drill involving 64 hospitals in Illinois, federal officials found the phone system was nearly overwhelmed by the demand for voice and data transmission and failed in at least one hospital. Ham radio was the only way one hospital was able to communicate.

The national association for amateur radio, ARRL, said its online training classes for emergency use of amateur radio have been filled to capacity, with up to 1,800 people a year completing the course since 2001.

Nationally, there are more than 637,400 licensed amateur radio operators, including nearly 1,300 in Delaware, spokesman Dan Miller said.

More than 20 amateur radio operators in the region have volunteered to be part of Christiana Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The hospital is looking for more volunteers.

Reach Sean O'Sullivan at 324-2777 or sosullivan@delawareonline.com.

TNX to **Tom** (KB3IYB) for arranging to have the LVARC Technician class notice posted on RCN's *Community Bulletin Board* (ch 4)!



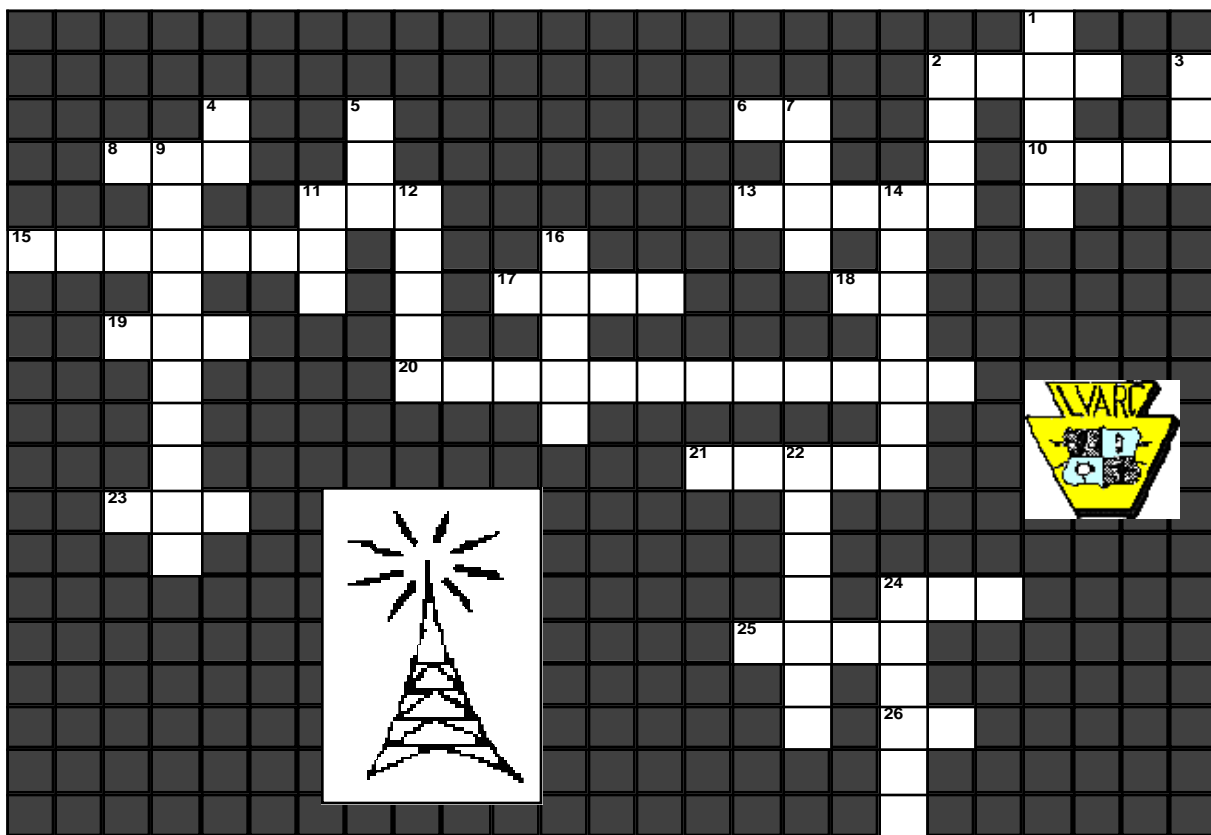
• Where does the term "DX" originate?

1	Required by the ARRL
2	Adopted by the National DX Association
3	Early telephone term for distant exchange
4	First used by the RSGB

From QRZ.com
Answer on page 20



Ham Radio Crossword



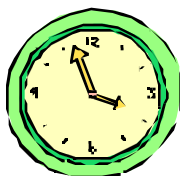
ACROSS

- 2 Lives in "RF Gulch."
- 6 Morse Code
- 8 70 cm
- 10 LVARC On-Line newsletter
- 11 "Roger" on HF
- 13 "A" phonetic.
- 15 Turn that beam with this.
- 17 Man's name or hole for speaker
- 18 Hand-held radio
- 19 Power utility which causes HF interference.
- 20 LVARC governing document.
- 21 L,C emergency group.
- 23 Abbreviation for the ARRL testing coordination group.
- 24 Popular ham manufacturer and seller.
- 25 USA emergency group.

DOWN

- 1 Antenna-to-rig matcher.
- 2 PA emergency group.
- 3 Transmitter voice controller.
- 4 Below 50 MhZ
- 5 Digital "compass."
- 7 Current VP of the LVARC.
- 9 Individual listening device.
- 11 5 watts on HF
- 12 W3OI
- 14 What the LVARC will be selling (2 words)
- 16 Mark V manufacturer.
- 22 Popular weekend HF event.
- 24 Verbal SOS.

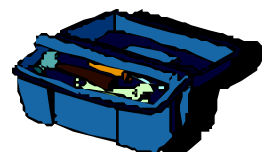
Answers on page 20



Suggested Field Day Gear



Below is a checklist of some *suggested* items for you to take to Field Day. Please note that these are suggestions only. Your list may include more or less items. If you plan to stay overnight, you may want to add items.



Amateur Radio



- _____ HF radio
- _____ AC Outlet strip(s)
- _____ spare fuses
- _____ power supply
- _____ key (telegraph)
- _____ headphones
- _____ antenna(s)
- _____ appropriate RF connectors
- _____ tools
- _____ HT
- _____ spare batteries
- _____ AC extension cord(s)
- _____ antenna tuner

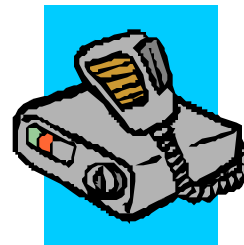


Personal Gear

- _____ folding chair
- _____ sleeping bag
- _____ pillow
- _____ sunglasses
- _____ appropriate clothing
- _____ snacks
- _____ book/magazine
- _____ personal toilet items
- _____ cell phone
- _____ eating utensils/cup
- _____ tent
- _____ duct tape
- _____ bug spray
- _____ cell phone

General Supplies

- _____ flashlight/lantern
- _____ paper (pads)
- _____ clock/watch
- _____ pencils/pens
- _____ AC desk lamp for night operation

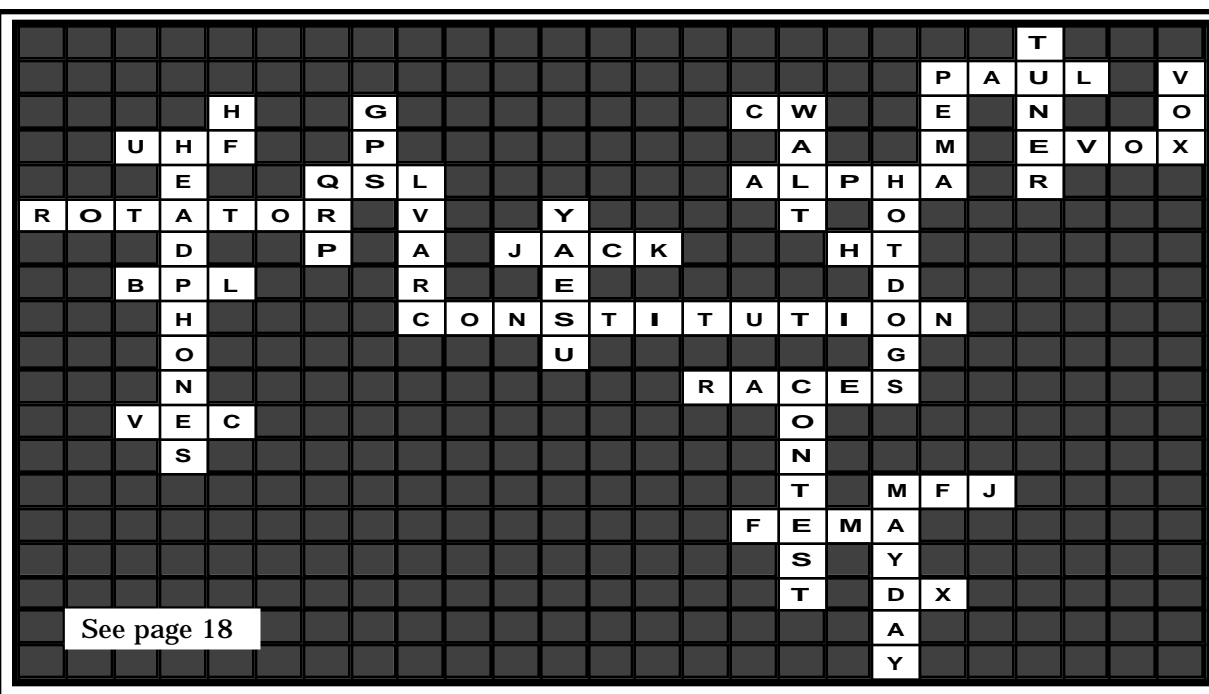




• Where does the term "DX" originate?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Required by the ARRL |
| 2 | Adopted by the National DX Association |
| 3 | Early telephone term for distant exchange |
| 4 | First used by the RSGB |

From QRZ.com
See page 17



See page 18

Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

Henry James (1843-1916), U.S. author. Quoted in *A Backward Glance*, ch. 10, Edith Wharton (1934).







“Tornado” Strikes Northampton County! de Paul (NOKIA)

On Tuesday, March 2nd, I had the privilege of representing the amateur radio community at the Red Cross Tabletop Exercise. This drill simulated a emergency response from the Red Cross and their partners who would be working along with them such as the county emergency management team and the county's ARES/RACES groups.

The drill simulated a response to a tornado which had destroyed part of a high rise assisted living facility and also damaged surrounding single family units in the downtown Bethlehem area. Since it was a Northampton area event, we would probably have passed the wand to the Northampton area ARES/RACES group. They would be local to the scene and possibly quicker to respond and would probably work better with their local EMA organization. As the amateur radio representative, I took this into account when assigning resources and using callsigns.

The drill started on Monday evening with the Red Cross doing an actual telephone poll of resources to determine which volunteers would be available to assist in the disaster response. The drill resumed on Tuesday morning at 0830 when I arrived along with the other external agency players. The simulated event time at the Tuesday morning start was 7 PM on Monday. Locations, such as incident command post, hospitals, shelters, etc., were represented by poster boards on the walls around the room. Resources (for the managerially challenged, that's "PEOPLE") were represented by colored Post-Its, purple being the color for volunteer resources, such as hams.

I simulated a ARES net activation at 2030 hours Monday evening. For checkins, I used the names of amateurs who usually check into the ARES/RACES evening nets. Our original simulated net size was 10 checkins. I completed a purple post-it for each ham noting time of checkin and availability status. I won't go into who was dispatched where, but we had 1 ham originally sent to the Red Cross center, one to the incident command post. Shortly thereafter, one ham was dispatched to the shelter for the displaced victims of the tornado. During the next few (simulated) hours I worked on a rotation schedule for getting a second ham at each site, with a maximum of 6 hours on site for any ham and two hams on site at all times.

(Continued on page 23)



(Continued from page 22)

I was the simulated and "real" ham assigned to the Red Cross center. I handled communications from Red Cross personnel to intra-agency offices as well as Red Cross center to disaster sites. By 11 PM Monday evening (simulated time) we had increased the size of our resource pool to over thirty hams. I felt this would accurately reflect an incident response where most of the activity was concentrated in a single county. Other ENC's might have played it differently.

The drill continued for over 6 hours, with yours truly marshalling resources (Post-Its), handling messages and in general observing the activity that the Red Cross has to handle to accomplish their mission. You can imagine what the room looked like after about five hours of operation, Since we had pink, yellow, green and purple sticky notes plastered all about the room, it looked like an explosion in a paint factory or a rainbow run amuck! However, it was a eye-opening and useful experience for me. I had a chance to see what the Red Cross communication needs were and what they might be in a future disaster response. I also has a chance to place faces with names that I had worked with over the phone and by mail in the past twelve years.

As hams, we responded to the simulated emergency by supplying full-time communication support to five locations for an extended period with coverage when and where it was requested. The drill closed on Wednesday evening (simulated) when the net was deactivated. I can say, since I was net control on the opening and closing segments, that you all did yourselves and the amateur community proud!

73,
Paul (NOKIA)

Lessons Learned:

- The Red Cross and each county EC network needs a list of top level ARES/RACES contacts from each surrounding county.
- We need better clarification between ARES and RACES deployment criteria
- The Red Cross provides a good lunch!



Saturday Mornings - from an e-mail from Jeff (N3QZT)

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement ham-shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it. I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital" he continued. "Let me tell you something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities."

And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years. "Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part. It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail", he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays."

"I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear."

"Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 Year old Man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

(continued on page 25)



(continued from page 24)

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles...

A friend sent this to me, so I to you, my friend. And so, as one smart bear once said...

"If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you." - Winnie the Pooh.

Pass this on to all of your FRIENDS, even if it means sending it to the person that sent it to you. And if you receive this e-mail many times from many different people, it only means that you have many FRIENDS.

And if you get it but once, do not be discouraged for you will know that you have at least one good friend... And that would be ME.

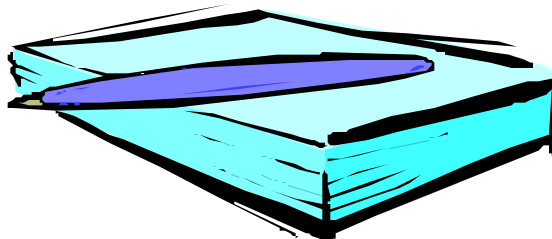
LVARC Membership Data Base Now Available to LVARC Members

TNX to Paul (NOKIA) for making the LVARC Membership Data Base available to all LVARC members. Information about each member (address and phone number) is available at the club's web site. You will need a username and password which Paul sent to all members via e-mail.

Next LVARC Test Session

The next LVARC VE Test session will be Friday May 21, 2004.

The test sessions are given at the Red Cross building at 7:00 pm.
To register, call Mark (AK3M) at 610-865-9183.



Chris (N3SIG) Attends Practice Search & Rescue at “The Vet”



Chris (N3SIG) completed a search and rescue exercise at *Veteran's Stadium*, or what was left of it after its implosion.

Chris (N3SIG) at the ruins of the “Old Vet.” (right)



Searching with dogs. (left)



INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2004

This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships (369 in 48 countries for the 2003 weekend)world-wide. It is organized by Mike, GM4SUC, and Kevin, VK2CE is the web-master. This year the period of the event is from 0001 UTC on Saturday 21 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 22 August 2004.

The event is NOT a contest. It is a special event weekend when amateur radio stations are established at lighthouses or lightships, they do not have to be adjacent to salt water, and each group decides how it will operate the station with regard to modes and bands. Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period - operate as much as you can. There are no restrictions on aerials or power. We wish operators to enjoy themselves and have fun while making contact with as many stations as possible whilst giving priority to other lighthouse/lightship stations. Please take some time to work the slow operator, the newly licensed and QRP stations.

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend is used to obtain maximum exposure for our hobby. We invite the press and, QTH permitting, also the public and try to underline the parallel between the international aspects in lighthouses, lightships, and amateur radio. We use the event segment of the 5 Classic bands, consider the following as a range of suggested frequencies.

CW

80m: 3.510 - 3.540 kHz
40m: 7.005 - 7.035 kHz
20m: 14.010 - 14.040 kHz
15m: 21.010 - 21.040 kHz
10m: 28.010 - 28.040 kHz

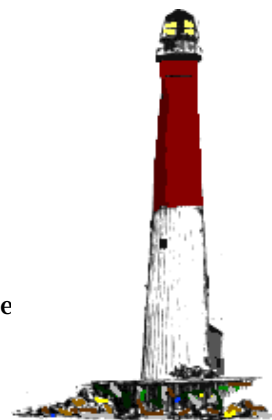
PHONE

*80m: 3.650 - 3.750 kHz
*40m: 7.040 - 7.100 kHz
20m: 14.150 - 14.290 kHz
15m: 21.150 - 21.250 kHz
10m: 28.300 - 28.400 kHz

* Some of the frequency ranges listed above are NOT legal in the United States of America. As a substitute, USA operators should consider these alternatives.

USA PHONE

80m: 3.950 - 3.990 kHz
40m: 7.250 - 7.290 kHz



A list of the lighthouses/lightships of the world, currently 10,624 in 208 DXCC countries, with their Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) Number can be found at <http://arlhs.com/awards/arlhs-numbers.html> The list is constantly being updating and added to as more data become available. You can help: If you see a correction or an addition needs to be made, please send an e-mail with the information to K2JXW@arrl.net

73 Mike GM4SUC
gm4suc@compuserve.com
gm4suc@btinternet.com



(Minutes continued from page 6)

OLD Business

1. The second reading of the proposed constitution change was held. Paul N0KIA made the motion to change the constitution Article VI, Section 6 as proposed last month and as published in the EVOX. Larry NR3R made a second to the motion. Discussion on the motion was held. Walt KE3SP wanted clarification on why the motion was needed and why November 15th was the date for final acceptance or to decline a nomination, and if that was enough time to fill a vacancy before the nomination. President Miller expressed his desire to have some reflection that the nominated party must be present at either the October or November meeting to accept in person. After more discussion the change stood as originally submitted, and published and a vote was called. All were in favor and the motion carried.
2. Tom KB3IYB brought the membership up to date on the hot dog wagon. Tom reports that Coke has no problem with the rental of the wagon, and Tom has found a Wal-Mart that was willing to allow the club to have a fundraiser on their property. The only problem with the Wal-Mart is that they need the club to furnish proof that we have tax-exempt status prior to the event. The tax-exempt paperwork is believed to be with a former club president, and President Miller has been in contact with the former member and President to try to secure the documents. Tom will continue to find alternative areas to hold the event if the tax-exempt papers are not readily available. Tom also would like any club member with an idea for a high traffic area location to contact him.

New Business

1. Rod N3XG made a motion to resolve the 5013C Tax Exempt status problem by allowing the President of the club to pursue a 5013C if the original cannot be located. Robin KB3GZV made a second to the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.
2. Rod N3XG made a motion to discontinue phone line service to the 135 machine. The reason cited was that the club is paying for a phone patch access point that is not operational most of the time. Club members agreed that the paying for something that is not available to use is not prudent and this can be re-established in the future if the means and interest are both present. Lou KF2WO made a second to the motion and the motion carried with all in favor.
3. Paul N0KIA noted that he received a phone call from the son of a previous member, who was now SK. Paul states that the son of the previous member wanted his father's gear to go to someone that could really use the equipment, Paul asked for someone that could inventory the gear, collect it, and then distribute it to those that really need the equipment. Lou KF2WO volunteered to do that task.

(Minutes continued on page 29)



(Minutes continued from page 28)

4. Rod N3XG made a motion to accept the membership application of Mike Hood N3TNN. Walt provided a second to the motion and all were in favor. Welcome Mike!

The club welcomed Allen Button and Ron Gates to the meeting. Both Allen and Ron are interested in obtaining their first licenses and have received information on the up coming class.

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2043 hrs, EDST.

Motion by: Walt KE3SP

Second by: Larrie KC2KQC

All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted de N3XG, Secretary.



Silent Key



Bartholomew Check
(N3KEC)

May 5, 1926 - April 8, 2004



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of one of LVARC's members. On Thursday April 8, 2004, **Bart Check (N3KEC)** became a Silent Key. Bart was a regular check in for the Monday Night RACES/ARES/LVARC net.

Bart was employed in the iron foundry of the Bethlehem Steel Corp. for 44 years. He was a member of the LVARC and DLARC. Survivors include son, Dennis Check (N3HKX), past president of the LVARC.

