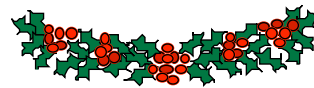


# The **E-VOX**



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



**Lehigh Valley Amateur  
Radio Club - W3OI**



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

## Officers

**President:** Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG (rjwolfe@rcn.com)  
**Vice President:** Walt Snyder - KE3SP (SBWALLY@aol.com)  
**Secretary:** Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK (philbert@enter.net)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Ryan - N0KIA (n0kia@arrl.net)

## Board of Governors



**Robin Gable - KB3GZV** (kb3gzw@arrl.net)  
**Jim Kelly - KA3UQP** (kellyj6@ptd.net)  
**Mark S. Miller - AK3M** (AK3M@rcn.com)  
**Willie Robertson - AB3BS** (WILLIETR@BELLATLANTIC.NET)  
**Frank Unger - W3FTU** (funger@ptd.net)



**E-VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M)** (AK3M@rcn.com) or (AK3M@arrl.net)  
**Webmaster- Paul Ryan (N0KIA)** (n0kia@arrl.net)

## Repeaters

**146.340/146.940 (PL 71.9)**  
**147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)**

## 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  
Holidays!*





The December LVARC meeting will be held on  
December 6, 2005 at the Red Cross Building at 7:30 pm.

**Program:** (1) Election of Officers (2) Presentation of the  
Pres Schuler Award and (3) the Annual holiday Party



## **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 - 2005**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Check-In's</b>	<b>Number of Mondays</b>
January	169	5
February	130	4
March	126	4
April	131	4
May	128	4
June	117	4
July	121	4
August	99	4
September	109	3
October	180	5



## Minutes of the November 1, 2005 Meeting

de Phil (KB3HMK), - Secretary - LVARC

### Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes



**TNX to Robin (KB3GZV) for taking the minutes in Phil's (KB3HMK) absence.**

The meeting began at 1930 hrs. There were no corrections to the minutes as stated in the November, 2005 issue of the newsletter

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of October, 2005 is \$1290.46. Dues are due. They are payable at a meeting, US mail or PayPal from the club's web site.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Repeater:** 94 repeater to get three voters soon. They will be at Savercool, Bi Rock and LVHC. At the EmComm conference, Rod received a report that Chester County was getting interference from our 94 repeater. Rod suggested that they keep a record of the interference and tell him when it happens. The 135 repeater is operational. No problems.

**Program:** Bob (WB3W) had to be out of town and could not present his program on APRS. Phil was absent for the meeting. Frank (W3FTU) filled in for a program presenting three of his old restored radios.

**VE Report:** Mark (AK3M) reported that three tested at the October test session. He has already been contacted for a candidate for the November test session. The VE program is going very well.

**Web Site:** No report. All OK.

**Field Day:** Rod is looking into possibilities for a Field Day Site for 2006.

**Correspondence:** Rod sent a letter to the ARRL regarding Carl's candidacy (see page 17).

**Em Comm Conference:** Topics presented included preparation, organization and planning. NIMS certification was discussed.

#### **Nominations for Officers for 2006:**

**President:** Rod Wolfe (N3XG)

**Vice President:** Craig Traverson (N3TSY)

**Secretary:** Phil Bigg (KB3HMK)

**Treasurer:** Paul Ryan (N0KIA)

#### **Board of Governors (vote for 5)**

Carl Stevenson (WK3C)

Robin Gable (KB3GZV)

Larry Snyder (KB3MHT)

Willie Robertson (AB3BS)

Frank Unger (W3FTU)

Mark Miller (AK3M)



**Operation Ho Ho** will be Sunday December 18, 2005. Mark (AK3M) is looking for volunteers.

**Fox Hunt:** Larry (KB3MHT) was the first to find the fox with his "Lufkin" tape measure special antenna!

**New Business:** The Limerick drill will be November 15 & 16. The drill will start about 6:30 pm (local time). The drill on the 15th will be about an hour. The drill on the 16th will require deployment. Jeff (N3MFT) advised that should a federal observer ask you a question that you do not know the answer to, to be honest and say you will find the answer.

The county put up an 80 meter antenna at the EOC. A new EOC is planned.

The Thursday Night LVARC Net will be held on the 135 repeater at 7:30 (local time).

The members approved an expense of \$100 for "Operation Ho Ho."

An update to the 135 repeater was discussed to include expandable capabilities.

Rod was contacted by a member of the DLARC for possible collaboration on a hamfest.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio has 54 scholarships available for college bound hams (see page 16).

Guests to the meeting included Larry , Anthony Benner and Matt, a new member.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Larry (KB3MHT) and seconded by Dave (W3AMC).



A big TNX to Frank (W3FTU) for "pinch-hitting" and showing some of his beautiful radios he restored for the November, 2005 program. Bob (WB3W) was scheduled to present APRS but needed to be out of town on the night of the meeting.

\$\$\$ **W3OI Finances** \$\$\$

**Balance as of October, 2005 - \$1,290.46**





## THIS MONTH IN HAM RADIO

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER 2005</b>				1 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	2 	3 Wake Up QRP Sprint
					<b>ARRL 160m Contest</b>	
4 <b>ARRL 160m Contest</b>	5 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> Paul (N0KIA)	6 <b>LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30</b>	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	9 	10 <b>ARRL 10m Contest</b>
11 Deadline to schedule test <b>ARRL 10m Contest</b>	12 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> Robin (KB3GZV)	13 	14 	15 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	16 <b>Russian 160m Contest</b> <b>LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm</b>	17 <b>RAC Winter Contest</b> Croatian CW Contest
18 <b>OPERATION HO HO</b>	19 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> Dorian (KB3GZW)	20 	21 Winter begins	22 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	23 	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>
25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 <b>DARC XMas Contest</b> <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> Jeff (N3MFT)	27 	28 	29 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	30 	31 
<b>Hanukkah</b>						

**LVARC Meeting - Tuesday December 6 - 7:30 pm - Red Cross Bldg.**

**Test Session - Friday December 16- 7:00 pm - Red Cross Bldg.**



## LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



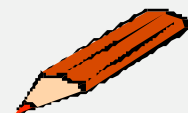
Thursday December 1 --- LVARCS Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Monday December 5 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Tuesday December 6 --- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 PM (Red Cross Bldg.)  
 Thursday December 8 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Sunday December 11 - Deadline to Schedule Test  
 Monday December 12 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Thursday December 15 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Friday December 16 --- VE Test Session (7:00 pm Red Cross Bldg.)  
**Sunday December 18 --- Operation Ho Ho - 9:30 am**  
 Monday December 19 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Thursday December 22 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Monday December 26 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

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

**REMEMBER:** The LVARC offers all levels of amateur radio testing. If you want to obtain your entry level license or if you wish to upgrade, the LVARC can help.

Test sessions are given the 3rd Friday of each month.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!!** Registration must be made no later than the Sunday before the Friday test session.



To schedule a test or for more information, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or call 610-865-9183.

## Monday Night RACES/ARES Net Control Operators



December 5  
 December 12  
 December 19  
 December 26

### December, 2005

N0KIA  
 KB3GZV  
 KB3GZW  
 N3MFT

Paul  
 Robin  
 Dorian  
 Jeff







## OPERATION HO HO

will be held on  
Sunday December 18, 2005

de Mark (AK3M)



For those not familiar with this annual event, let me explain. The purpose of those event is to let the children talk to santa via ham radio!

Members of the LVARC or “elves,” meet at the Lehigh Valley Hospital on Cedar Crest Boulevard with HT's. They visit the children's rooms where they offer their microphones, to the children who then speak to Santa, who is in another room in the unit.

Coached by the elves, Santa receives many unusual questions. Some include, “Where is Mrs. Claus,” and, “Why is Rudolph's nose red?”

After their conversation with Santa, the elves give a present, donated by the club.



We will meet in the lobby of the hospital at 9:15 am and end before lunch is served. Afterwards, members usually gather at a local restaurant for brunch.

The hospital limits us to 10 persons so if you wish to participate, contact Mark (AK3M) without delay. Consideration will first be given to those who participated in the past.

This event is enjoyed by all, children, parents and especially, he members !







## Answers to November's Quizzes

### Lehigh Valley Memories

The year of the postcard of the Allentown-Bethlehem Airport from Frank (W3FTU) in the November issue was **1946!**



### RACES/ARES Net QUIZ!

Which month in 2005, to date (do NOT include October), had the most check-ins? Include the month and number.

Answer: **January, 2005 with 169 check-ins.** (See page 3.)  
*Congratulations to Tom (K3ARI) for the correct answer!*

## Christmas Trivia

In the Ukraine, what does it mean if you find a spider web in the house on Christmas morning?

- A) Good luck
- B) Misfortune will strike in the coming year
- C) The winter will be unusually cold
- D) Your house needs cleaning!

(See page 11)



## LOTS TO DO AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

In addition to Operation Ho Ho in December, there is much to do at the December, 2005 LVARC meeting and we need your help by attending and participating. First, the regular **business meeting**. We then will be **electing officers** for 2006, presenting the **Pres Schuler Award** and finally, the **Annual Holiday Party** (see below). **SUPPORT YOUR CLUB !**

**Bells** - An early pagan winter celebration of ringing of bells to drive out evil spirits. Later the tradition began to ring bells on Christmas Eve to welcome in the spirit of Christmas with joyful noise. In Norway bells are still rang through out the country on Christmas Eve at 5pm. In Yorkshire, England on Christmas Eve, the bell is rung once for each year that has passed since the birth of Christ. In Medieval times, people believed that ringing church bells would get rid of lightning during thunderstorms. It was an unfortunate superstition for bell ringers. In 33 years, lightning stuck 386 church steeples and 103 bell ringers died.

# LVARC'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club's annual Holiday Party will be held on the night of the December meeting (Tuesday December 6, 2005) immediately following the December business meeting.

The party consists of food, food and more food accompanied by plenty of conversation which quickly turns to topics related to ham radio.



If you plan to attend the meeting and the party, please bring something to share with the group. Your contribution can be cookies, something to drink, something hot or anything you like. Remember to include all the necessary accessories like plates, napkins, spoons etc.



## Dues Are Due

Dues keep the LVARC strong and allow us to contribute to Operation Ho Ho and the ARRL, buy pizza and finance Field Day and more. Dues are one way the LVARC stays "afloat." The good news, is that **dues will REMAIN THE SAME AS LAST YEAR!**

**Regular Dues** (includes autopatch) ..... **\$17.00**

**Family Dues** ..... **\$3.00**

**Associate  
(non-ham)** ..... **\$5.00**

Send your dues to:

**Paul Ryan (N0KIA)**  
5814 Lindbergh Street  
Orefield, PA 18069-2250

or pay Paul at a meeting

or pay at the club's web site.

**Make checks payable to: *The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club***

**Please notify Paul of change of address, email or phone number(s).**

## Christmas Trivia

(see page 9)

### A) Good luck

There once lived a woman so poor, says a Ukrainian folk tale, that she could not afford Christmas decorations for her family. One Christmas morning, she awoke to find that spiders had trimmed her children's tree with their webs. When the morning sun shone on them, the webs turned to silver and gold. An artificial spider and web are often included in the decorations on Ukrainian Christmas trees.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to Larry Snyder (KB3MHT) who passed the emcomm level I course.



**Mark (AK3M) is looking for net control operators for the LVARC Thursday Night Net.**



**REMEMBER: Registration for the monthly VE test session, must be made NO LATER THAN THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE TEST!**

**Contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com) or call 610-865-9183**

## **What Will Winter, 2005-2006 Be Like? as indicated by:**

### **The OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC**

Temperatures will be one degree below normal, on average, with above normal precipitation in most of the region. Snowfall will be much greater than normal just about everywhere. The biggest snowfalls will be early in December [2005] and the second half of January [2006], with other snowy periods in late December [2005] and early February [2006]. Temperatures will be relatively mild in November [2005], the first half of January [2006] and February [2006] but colder than normal in December [2005] and exceptionally cold in the second half of January [2006].

April [2006] and May [2006] will be cooler than normal on average, although there will be warm temperatures in mid-April and early and late May [2006]. Rainfall will be above normal.

*(Print and keep this to see if the predictions are true)*

## **Where Are All The Hams ?**

**A "Must see," site!!**

**<http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php>**



## Operation Ho Ho Press Release



### Kids Talk to Santa Via Ham Radio

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The **L**ehigh **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **C**lub again plans to conduct "Operation Ho Ho." For the fifth year, members of the LVARC will visit the children at the Lehigh Valley Hospital at Cedar Crest Blvd. Armed with their radios and the holiday spirit, they let the children talk to Santa via amateur (ham) radio. The children are then given gifts, donated by the radio club.

The response to this program has been sensational! Many parents have expressed their thanks for this opportunity as their children would not have had the chance to see or talk to Santa due to their stay in the hospital during the holiday season. Even older children are interested in the radio communications when the "elves" arrive.

For more information about "Operation Ho Ho," the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club or amateur radio in general, contact Mark Miller (AK3M) at 610-865-9183 or email (AK3M@rcn.com).



## Tom Braun (K3ARI) On The (commercial) Air !!



**LVARC member, Tom Braun (K3ARI) hosts a Fantasy Football show along with two others on WPEN AM 950. Listen to Tom as he broadcasts live from Bala Cynwyd every Friday night from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm !**



## LVARC's Own Chris Kelly (N3RPV) Gets Recognized In QST

Chris was able to take time off from his work at Service Electric and offer his services in Mississippi. To the right is a picture which appeared in QST (November, 2005. page 45). The caption reads, "Chris Kelly (N3RPV) from Allentown, Pennsylvania, operates from outside a Red Cross shelter in a high



school in Jackson County, Mississippi. Some of the volunteers slept on the floor in classrooms or on cots, others between vehicles outside."



## Emmaus Halloween Parade No Hitches ... Just Witches



The Emmaus Halloween Parade (October 15, 2005) was filled with ghosts, goblins and of course, amateur radio operators?!? Lehigh Valley hams, once again, provided communications support for the parade. The weather was cool but fitting for an October night. After the parade, all met for a Dutch treat at Bennigan's for food and conversation. Congratulations to all, especially, **Bob** (KE3AW), for coordinating the event. Participating in the parade were **Bob** (KE3AW) and **XYL**, **Bill** (N2DH) and **Thalia** (KB3CSR), **Mark** (AK3M) and **Larry** (NR3R), **Bob** (N3OLH), **Al** (W3CE), **Earl** (KB3MHY), **Joe** (KE3DZ), **Lamar** (N3AT), **Jeff** (N3QZT), **Charlie** (N3VUO), **Greg** (K3ZPF), **Jack** (KB3HDJ), **Paul** (N0KIA), **Jeff** (N3RVH), **Bob** (KB3MHZ), A special TNX to **George** (N3SQD) for acting as net control!





## Limerick Drill Scheduled for November

The Limerick drill will be held on Tuesday **November 15** and **Wednesday November 16, 2005**. Listen to the Monday and Thursday Night Nets and at the meeting for details.



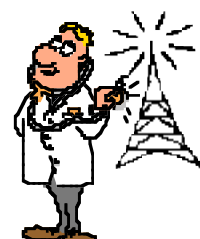
**Congratulations to Larry (KB3MHT) for being the first to find the fox on October 16, 2005 !**



## WINTER ANTENNA CHECK UP

Its not too late to check your antennas before winter weather arrives in the Lehigh Valley.

Don't forget connections, rotors, guy wires and caulk those holes where wires enter the house.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mark (AK3M) for successfully passing the NIMS course offered on-line from the FEMA website.



Mark (AK3M) is looking for net control operators for the LVARC Thursday Night Net. If interested, contact him.

**NOTE: THE LVARC THURSDAY NIGHT NET WILL MEET AT 7:30 pm ON THE 135 REPEATER.**

## FOR SALE

### 1996 Buick Century

Power Windows - Power Seats - AC  
AM/FM Cassette - Keyless entry  
24,000 Original Miles - Price - \$3,200

(Contact Frank Unger (W3FTU))



Actual color: **Gold**





## Scholarships for Licensed Amateur Radio Operators



Diane Zimmerman AA3OF  
4708 Montgomery Place  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-937-0394

Chairman, Laurel Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner Coordinator  
Chairman, Foundation For Amateur Radio Scholarship Committee

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to **administer fifty-four (54) scholarships for the academic year 2006 - 2007 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs.** The Foundation, composed of over seventy - five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Ten are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-one (41) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

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

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2006 from:

Diane Zimmerman, AA3OF  
Chairman Scholarship Committee  
FAR Scholarships  
Post Office Box 831  
Riverdale, MD 20738





**This is the letter that has been sent to the ARRL President and CEO offices. I do not expect the requested result from the letter, only a response. I believe a dramatic request usually delivers a simple, non-block letter response. Thanks for your time.**

**PS. This was the letter that was agreed upon by the general membership at the October meeting and will be presented into the minutes at the November meeting. --- Rod (N3XG)**

October 25, 2005

Mr. Haynie,

I am writing on behalf of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club, W3OI, in Allentown, PA. I am the President of that club and represent 78 licensed amateurs. Close to half of the members are also members of the ARRL.

The membership has expressed their concern and displeasure with the current state of the electoral process as it pertains to the office of the Mid-Atlantic Director. Apparently, the Election Committee has disqualified Carl Stevenson, WK3C. The Committee made its decision based on speculative supposition. The Committee believed in formal response, that Carl might, at some time in the future, enter into a business relationship that would present a conflict of interest to his duties and obligations to the ARRL. Carl, in response, assured the Committee that he did not presently have any such pecuniary interest. In fact, Carl provided a sworn affidavit stating that he would not.

The membership of the W3OI club is concerned. How can a candidate that has been endorsed by ARRL members and has garnered more than enough support to meet the requirements set forth under the ARRL By-Laws be excluded for something that may happen in the future? This is quite possibly the most ridiculous reason for exclusion that I have ever heard from an organization that is regarded as professional. The reason elections are held and democratic process is revered is the majority will dictate the need to change or to remain on the current course.

The opinions, views, and organizational ties of Carl Stevenson were not of concern during the W3OI monthly meeting. The actions of the ARRL were of utmost concern. It is difficult to solicit new ARRL members when most of the information they hear is in the negative. Our hope is that you look into this situation and have the procedure declared invalid.

Thank you for your time, leadership and trust.

Rodney Wolfe Jr, N3XG  
Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club, W3OI  
President

CC: David Sumner, K1ZZ  
Carl Stevenson, WK3C  
LVARC Board Members





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**Second Annual EPA EMCOMM Conference - de Rodney N3XG**

As the rain fell in Pennsylvania for the third straight weekend, a small contingent from the Lehigh Valley made their way to Snyder County for the second annual Eastern PA Emergency Communications Conference. It was only fitting to be in the remnants of a hurricane while attending this event, since it was just that type of weather devastation that disrupted power, communications, and virtually every form of life function for those living, or fleeing, from the brute force of the storms.

This year the conference was spread out over two days. The organizers hoped that this would allow for more breakout sessions, and longer dialogue with the presenters. The conference was also moved from the PA Career Link Building to a private resort setting that included a catered lunch and a breathtaking view of the Susquehanna River from the lecture hall's mountain top perch.

One of the most interesting presentations involved mixing the old with the new. The question that is directed to most EMCOMM groups is, "What can you do for us?" No longer can we simply respond, "We provide radio communications." In this day of instant communications and very well equipped public safety organizations, we must provide more than radios and operators. We must now provide our served agencies with a well-organized, technical response that has been anticipated before the need exists. An EMCOMM group from Chester County has been working with the Limerick Generating Plant response and has developed a shadow email service using Winlink 2000. They have both secured hardened sites for regular connections and have developed some innovative methods of deploying completely wireless Telnet stations. This goes far and above the old digital repeaters that were used for packet stations. The software looks and feels comfortable to the operator and the served agency, and is capable of multiple speeds, and attachments depending on the bandwidth and frequency use. As more users begin to experiment, the system will expand rapidly, providing more options for EMCOMM response.

The attendees were given real-world disaster development scenarios by both local level and state level EMA officials. The EMA officials were very knowledgeable and provided a look at the emergency from a different viewpoint. The attendees asked many questions of all the presenters, and the presenters were allowed the time to answer without restriction.

The best feature of the conference setting is the ability to network and to share ideas, problems, and solutions with those that are either traveling the same path or have stumbled the same road- blocks. The open forums provided the opportunity for participants to exchange their ideas and methods with each other and with the moderator.

Although each group has their own special problems to overcome, and may provide either one, or a multitude of services, the immediate goal for all was very clear. We must maintain solid training, and good organization. The best way is to follow the requests of the County Coordinator. In Lehigh County, ensure you have your EMCOMM Level I course and make it a goal to complete NIMS before the end of this year. Those two courses are the foundation for EMCOMM organization.

Hope to see you all there next year!





The officers and members of  
the LVARC Wish All Happy Holidays