



# The **E-VOX**



## The Official **On-Line** Newsletter of the **L**ehigh **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **C**lub - **W3OI**



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

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### 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)

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### 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)

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**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  
Thanksgiving*



**The November LVARC meeting will be held on November 1, 2005 at the Red Cross Building at 7:30 pm.**

**Program: APRS  
Presenter: Bob (WB3W)**



## **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**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Mondays</u>
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

**Minutes of the October 4, 2005 Meeting**

de Phil (KB3HMK), - Secretary - LVARC

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

The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1931 hrs, (EST / EDST).

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, then a moment of silence was observed for Silent Keys.

There were a total of 19 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 1 guest. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, Walt – KE3SP, Phil – KB3HMK, Paul – N0KIA, Mark – AK3M, Robin – KB3GZV

Corrections Additions to the minutes: No corrections

Approved by: Carl – WK3C

Second by: Larry – KB3MHT

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Beginning balance: \$1189.23

Ending balance: \$1214.53

Approved by: Mark – N3ULR

Second by: Walt – KE3SP

Carried: (Y/N) Y

**Committee Reports:**

**Repeater:** The 147.135 phone patch was used and is working. The FM element has not been put on Ebay due to the over abundance of them for sale. Rod will keep checking the website to see when it is a good time to try to sell it. There has been some interference from the N3TOC repeater. This is partly due to the fall season.

**Program:** Phil reports that tonight's program will be Rod (N3XG) doing a talk on Intro to Foxhunting. Next months program will be Bob (WB3W) doing a talk on Intro to A.P.R.S. No program for the month of December. We will have our annual Christmas cookie cruncher.

**Volunteer Examiners:** Mark reports that the club had three people test. One passed the extra test and two passed the technician test.

**Field Day:** No report at this time. Anyone interested in helping out, please let Rod know.

**Web Site:** Is working fine. Was down on October 1, and then went back on line

**Education:** No report

**OLD Business:** As stated at last meeting, Carl (WK3C) has announced his candidacy for the Atlantic Division director's position. He was pulled from the ballot due to the ethics committee saying it would be a conflict of interest. Rod would like to have the club write a letter stating how we feel about the situation. He will make a motion under new business. The Thursday night net has been a success. There have been some interesting topics and new ideas for the club. It is held every Thursday on the 146.94 repeater at 1930 hrs. If you have an idea for a new type of net, please let Mark (AK3M) know. Nominations for the Pres Schuyler award are now being taken. Let any board member know if you would like to nominate someone. Carl (WK3C) was appointed ARRL Assistant Manager for our area.



**New Business:** The Lehigh County E.M.A. office contacted Rod. They told him that they had the certificates from the PEMA Damage Reporting Class. Congratulations to everyone that attended. Operation Ho-Ho is soon coming. More info to follow. This will be the 4th year that we will be doing it. The club goes to the children wing at Lehigh Valley Hospital and have them talk to Santa Claus over the radio. We then present the kids with small gifts. Rod would like to make a motion to write a letter to the ARRL on behalf of the club. It would voice our opinions on the removal of Carl (WK3C) from the election ballot. Rod also encourages the members to write to the ARRL also. A motion was made by Paul (N0KIA) and seconded by Scott (KB3JMQ). The motion carries. Rod asked for a motion to open the nominations for the Board of Governors for next year. A motion was made Craig (N3TSY) and seconded by Mark (N3ULR). The motion carries. If someone is nominated and not present, Rod will contact them and let them know. They then have the choice to accept or decline the nomination. They have till November 15 to decide. Anyone can be nominated for multiple positions, but can only run for one. Nominations will be taken up till the November meeting. As it stands now, **the following people have been nominated:**

**President: Rod – N3XG** (accepts)

**Vice President: Craig – N3TSY** (accepts)

**Secretary: Phil – KB3HMK** (accepts)

**Treasurer: Paul – N0KIA** (accepts)

**Board: Willie – AB3BS** (not present)

**Carl – WK3C** (accepts)

**Frank – W3FTU** (not present)

**Larry – KB3MHT** (accepts)

**Robin – KB3GZV** (accepts)

**Jeff – N3MFT** (not present)

A foxhunt will be held on October 16 at 1400 hrs. Meet at the EMS Council building parking lot located at 1405 N. Cedar Crest Blvd. Across from the Target store. Rod will be the fox. This will a beginners hunt. Paul says that dues are being accepted. You can send it to Paul or use the PayPal system on the website. Mark stated that the Emmaus Halloween parade is October 15. The people in charge would like to use the 147.135 repeater again. There were no objections. The club is sad to announce the passing of Bob Kratz (N3QQ). He will be sadly missed. Robin states that PPL has abandoned the BPL project. They were not getting enough customers. This is a major victory for area hams. Rod suggests the book "The Case for Mars". In one of the sections it relates to Amateur Radio.

New members/Guests: Paul Albrecht – KB3MQD (New member)

Don Holmes – KC3II (New member / Guest)

New Members Motion to Accept by: Earl – KB3MHY

Second by: Carl – WK3C

Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2010 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Carl – WK3C

Second by: Larry – KB3MHT



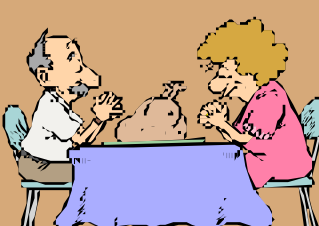
In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

<p><b>\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$</b></p> <p><b>Balance as of September, 2005 - \$1,189.23</b></p>	
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## This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b> 		<b>LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30</b>		<b>LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm</b>		<b>IPARC CW Contest</b> <b>Ukrainian DX Contest</b>
<b>IPARC CW Contest</b> <b>Ukrainian DX Contest</b> <b>ARRL CW Sweeps</b>	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>			<b>LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm</b>		<b>JIDX Phone Contest</b>
<b>JIDX Phone Contest</b> <b>Deadline to schedule test</b>	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>			<b>LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm</b>	<b>LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm</b>	<b>LZ DX Contest</b> <b>All Austrian 160-m Contest</b> <b>ARRL SSB Sweeps</b>
<b>LZ DX Contest</b> <b>All Austrian 160-m Contest</b> <b>ARRL SSB Sweeps</b>	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>			<b>TNX Giving</b> 		<b>CQ Worldwide CW Contest</b>
<b>CQ Worldwide CW Contest</b>	<b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>			<b>2005</b> 		

**LVARC Meeting - Tuesday November 1 - 7:30 pm - Red Cross Bldg.**

**Test Session - Friday November 18- 7:00 pm - Red Cross Bldg.**



## LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



**Tuesday November 1 --- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 PM (Red Cross Bldg.)**

**Thursday November 3 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)**

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

**Thursday November 10 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)**

**Sunday November 13 - Deadline to Schedule Test**

**Monday November 14 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)**

**Thursday November 17 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)**

**Friday November 18 --- VE Test Session (7:00 pm Red Cross Bldg.)**

**Monday November 21 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)**

**Thursday November 24 --- NO LVARC Net - Thanksgiving**

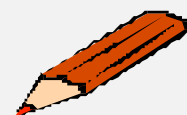
**Monday November 28 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)**

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.

## Newsletter Material Is Needed!

Send your favorite joke, radio related article, review of an item, diagram, etc. to Mark Miller (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or U.S. mail to 5508 Hale Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

“I tend to live in the past because most of my life is there.”  
--- Herb Caen





**Congratulations to Paul Albrecht, Jeffrey Miller and Rich Hetzel (KB3KIO) who tested at the September 16, 2005 LVARC test session.**

Paul and Jeffrey earned their Technician Class license and Rich is now an Extra Class operator! TNX to Frank (W3FTU), Walt (KE3SP) and Rod (N3XG) for acting as the VE's for this session!

**The LVARC will hold license test sessions on Friday November 18 and Friday December 16.**

## Monday Night RACES/ARES Net Control Operators



### November, 2005

November 7	KB3MHY	Earl
November 14	AK3M	Mark
November 21	N3XG	Rod
November 28	KA3UQP	Jim



**Amateur Radio Remains "Only Viable Means" of Communication in Some Areas** (Oct. 3, 2005) -- In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the need continues for both Amateur Radio communication and for volunteer operators. South Texas ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, reported over the weekend that all 35,000 residents of Jasper County are among more than 175,000 Texans without electric power more than a week after Rita struck. Without electricity, he says, Amateur Radio repeaters are only usable when connected to an on-site generator and regularly refueled--something he called "a daunting task" with fuel both in short supply and expensive. (From the ARRL web site).



## RACES/ARES Net QUIZ!



**Which month in 2005, to date, had the most check-ins?  
Include the month and number of check-ins.**



The first to answer correctly will have his name published in the next issue of the E-VOX.

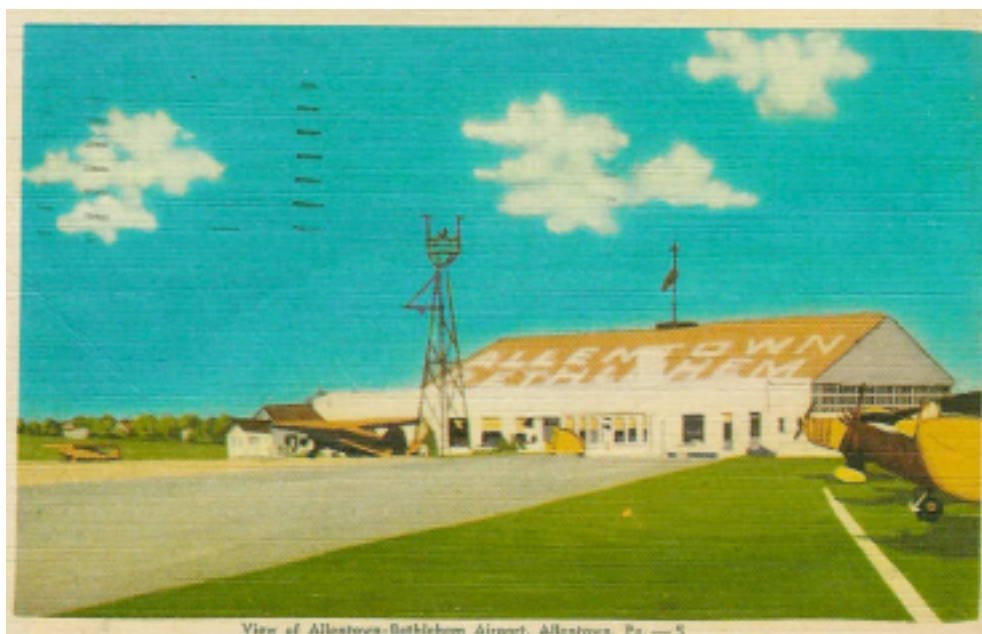






## Lehigh Valley Memories

TNX to Frank's (W3FTU) extensive library of postcards, we see the *Allentown-Bethlehem Airport* as it was in 19\_\_! Thanks for the memories Frank!. Send your guess to Mark (AK3M) of the year you think is depicted in the card below. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter. In the event of a tie, the first correct answer received will be honored.



Members of the LVARC say farewell to Kevin (KC0TTY). Kevin has completed his work here in the Lehigh Valley and will be returning to his home and family in St. Peters, Missouri. The LVARC had the pleasure of having Kevin earn his General class license at the May, 2005 test session.

## ITS NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT "OPERATION HO-HO"

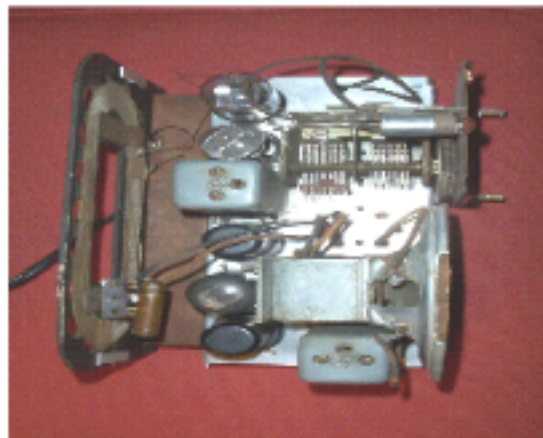
Listen for details on the Monday and/or Thursday Night Nets and at the meeting. (See page 14)



**What a Little Elbow Grease Will Accomplish** --- As we all know, Frank (W3FTU) enjoys restoring old radios. Below, are some *before* and *after* pictures of his latest project!



The chassis before the restoration



The chassis after the restoration



The case before the restoration



The **finished project** at the right shows what a little patience and some secret restoration tricks will accomplish. The cabinet had 5 coats of old paint that was removed and the refurbished cabinet has two coats of automotive primer and two coats of enamel.

**Beautiful Frank !!!!**





## Don't Forget the Thursday Night LVARC Net



The LVARC Thursday Night Net continues to be a big hit! After check-ins are taken, LVARC announcements are given followed by topics of interest submitted from the group. The net is NOT restricted to LVARC members and all amateurs are invited to participate. Join us on Thursday nights at 7:30 on the 146.94 repeater. (**Notice** -- there will be **NO LVARC net Thursday November 24, 2005** due to the Thanksgiving holiday).



**A Good Source For  
VHF/UHF Repeaters**  
submitted by Bob Green (KE3AW)



<http://www.artscipub.com/repeaters/>





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

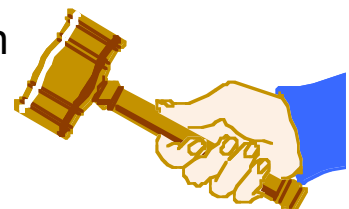
**Contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com) or call 610-865-9183**

## Nominations for the Pres Schuler Award Now Being Accepted

Your nomination for the Pres Schuler Award will be accepted by Rod (N3XG) or any club officer.



**Nominations for LVARC officers** will be taken at the October 4, 2005 meeting. The second call for nominations will be accepted at the November, 2005 meeting. If nominated and not present at the meeting, the nominee will have until November 15 to accept or decline. Election of officers for 2006, will take place at the December, 2005 meeting.



**Despite the controversy, CW is still a requirement for a General class license. If you need help with CW, contact Mark (AK3M) for CW practice tapes/CD's.**





## Presenting New L.V. Hams ..... de Mark (AK3M)

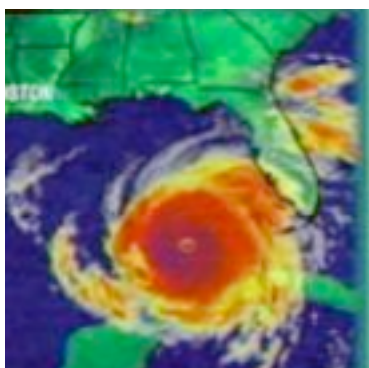
**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Paul Albrecht** who tested at the September 16, 2005 LVARC test session and earned his Technician license. Paul received his call on September 21, 2005 and is now **KB3MQD**.

**CONGRATULATIONS** also to **Jeffrey Miller** who drew **KC2OQG**. Jeffrey, who lives in Rochester, NY, tested with the LVARC while attending the radio show in Kutztown during the weekend of September 17 & 18, 2005. That explains the "2" in his call.

As stated before (p. 8), Rich Hetzel (KB3KIO) passed his Extra class test at the same session. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Rich!



## Rita Hits the Gulf Coast



Early on the morning of Saturday September 24, 2005, hurricane Rita made landfall on the already injured Gulf coast. The Hurricane Watch Net accepted traffic from the affected areas and passed hurricane related traffic including position, current WX conditions, wind speed and of course, any emergency messages.

Paul (N0KIA) has updated the listing of local frequencies with an expanded list extracted from the ARCC database. It's available at:

<http://www.w3oi.org/local-freqs.htm>



## “Katrina Spurs Emergency Review”

An article which appeared in the Morning Call on September 22, 2005 (section B, page 3) states, “Area officials look for lessons from Gulf and get ready here, just in case.”



Lehigh County Director of Emergency Management, Tom Nervine, was interviewed and was quoted as saying, ..... “Presumably New Orleans had communications backups too, he said, but Lehigh County has backups to backups, **including amateur radio operators** ..... ” (section B, page 7).

## Operation Ho Ho Press Release

### Kids Talk to Santa Via Ham Radio

(This article will appear in the hospital's newsletter.)



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.

With coordination from Dawn Miller, of the Child Life Department, the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club will again visit the hospital in December, 2005.

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).



# Neat Stuff from the ARRL

(Ideas for Christmas presents ?)

## Pen - ARRL

-- Enjoy the feel of this sturdy pen, emblazoned with **ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO**. Metallic chrome, push-action retractable ballpoint with fine point. Black ink. Refillable. Comfortable black rubber grip reduces writing fatigue. Great for use in the ham shack or office, business, household, college and school.



An attractive writing device for all ARRL volunteers!

#9386 -- \$3.95

## License Plate Frame

-- Durable license plate frame. Imprinted with the words **When All Else Fails...AMATEUR RADIO** and including the ARRL's popular web address. A great way to show-off your support for ham radio. The important message helps spread-the-word about Amateur Radio's important place in emergency communications and public service. Also a great recruitment tool!

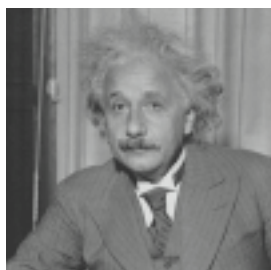


Frame fits most standard license plates used on automobiles throughout the United States.

Black license plate frame with white, screened imprinting. Heavy, high impact, molded plastic. License plate not included. Produced for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). #9052 -- \$4.95

## ARRL Necktie -- Silk tie with ARRL diamond insignia.

#5285 -- \$25.00



“Once you can accept the universe as matter expanding into nothing that is something, wearing stripes with plaid comes easy.”

--- Albert Einstein





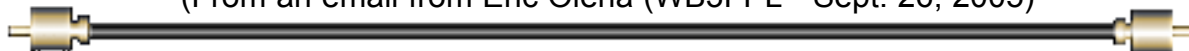
The following information comes from PEMA HQ., Harrisburg, PA.

*The widest dissemination of this email is requested. Please relay to all your public safety partners and organizations*

“The governors of Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Texas are reemphasizing their plea that **volunteers should not self dispatch themselves to the hurricane impacted areas**. Individuals arriving by themselves without a sanctioned mission are becoming an additional burden. Identified emergency services staff shortages which includes medical, rescue, law enforcement, emergency management and others are being coordinated through the EMAC process from states not impacted by the hurricanes.”

John L. Bahnweg  
Director of Operations  
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

(From an email from Eric Olena (WB3FPL - Sept. 26, 2005)



## Amateur Radio Continues Hurricane Rita Response

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep. 26, 2006--Amateur Radio volunteers have been utilizing a variety of modes, including HF, VHF-UHF [Winlink](#) and VoIP, to pass critical Hurricane Rita-related traffic. HF net frequencies remain busy with traffic related to the emergency. The West Gulf ARES Emergency Net continues 24-hour operation on 7.285 MHz days/3.873 MHz evenings, with health-and-welfare traffic taking place on 7.290 MHz days/3.935 MHz evenings. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Net ([SATERN](#)) has been activating at 1400 UTC daily on 14.265 MHz and monitoring for emergency requests. All amateurs are requested to keep these HF net frequencies clear for Hurricane Rita emergency operations.



## **PPL Decides Against Entering Broadband Market**

From Bob Green (KE3AW)



**PPL has decided not to enter the market as a broadband Internet provider over its power lines following a trial in some Lehigh Valley markets, the company reported on its Web site Monday.**

The company will end the market trial for residential customers on Oct. 31. Locations affected by the decision include Emmaus, Whitehall, Upper Macungie, Hanover Township and north Bethlehem.

PPL said it will fulfill its contractual commitments with institutional customers in south Bethlehem and center city Allentown.

"While our market trials indicate that BPL technology is promising, the combination of a competitive marketplace and the need for significant scale has led us to the decision not to proceed as a retail communications service provider," said David Kelley, president – PPL Telcom in a press release.

PPL has notified residential market trial customers in those areas of its decision. The company will give those customers a \$50 credit to ease the transition to another Internet service provider.

The ending of the trial does not result in any material financial accounting impacts on PPL.

Source: The Morning Call - Monday October 3, 2005.

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-pplbroadband1003,0,5286621.story?coll=all-newsbreaking-hed>



## Parts etc., for FREE

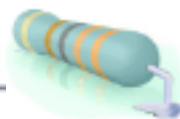
The following was forwarded to me (AK3M) from Paul (NOKIA) who received the message from the web comment sheet.

**I have numerous radio and electronic components which I would like to give to your club For FREE. I live in Bethlehem and clearing out my basement etc. I could deliver same.**

**Components contain some tubes, condensers both fixed and variable, several size pots, resistors of many sizes and values, a.c. motors, fans, a few small chassis, and much more.**



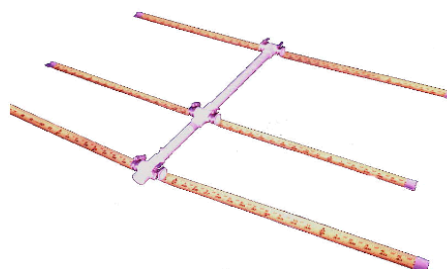
Call (610) 868-9500 for more details.  
Sincerely, Rowland Caver



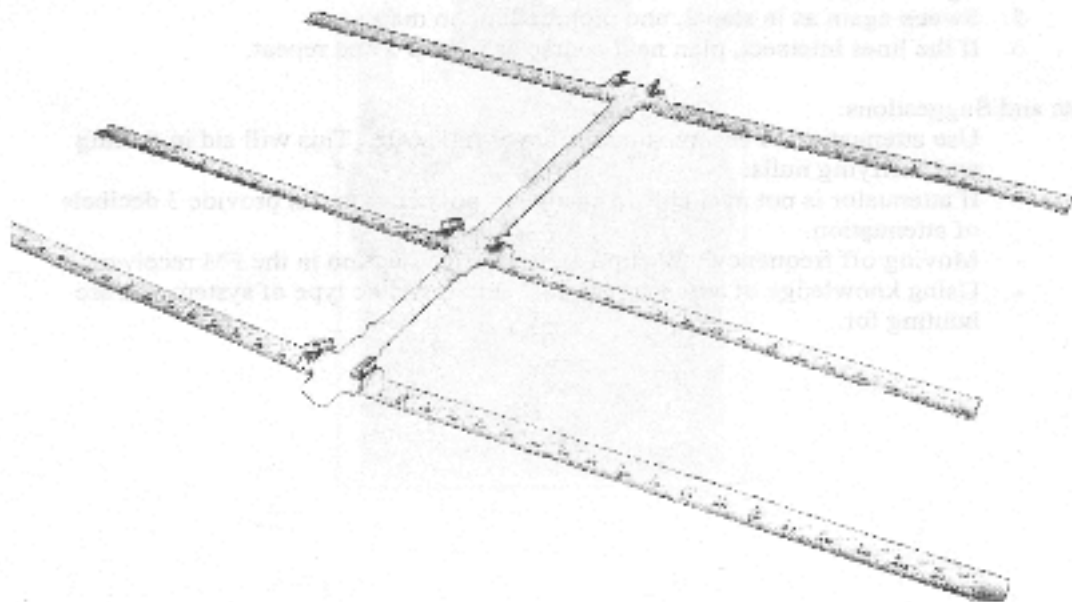
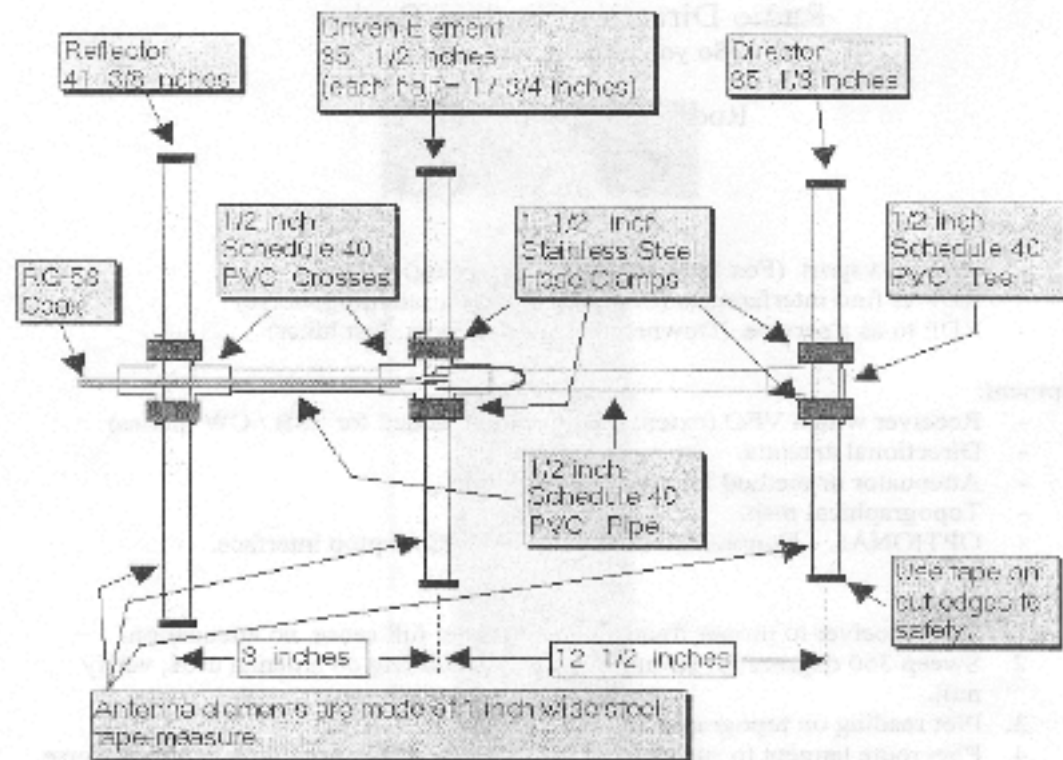
**The officers and members of the LVARC wish to express their condolences to Frank (W3FTU) and his family at the passing of his father.**

## Fox Hunt Antennas

At the October 4, 2005 LVARC meeting, a date was set for a Fall Fox Hunt. If you want to participate and need an antenna, you can search net for plans or you can select one from the following pages.  
(see pages 19 & 20).



[http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm)







## W3GTX TWO METER QUAD FOR PORTABLE OPERATION

The designer has successfully used this antenna for hidden transmitter hunting. It is light, durable and can be easily collapsed for storage in your car trunk.

\* WRAP ENTIRE LENGTH OF TWIN LEAD TIGHTLY ON DOWEL—THEN 80 TO COAX

