

The **E-VOX**

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



Lehigh **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **C**lub - **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)
Club Simplex Freq. - 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>





April, 2006



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Happy Easter





The April LVARC meeting will be held on
 April 4, 2006 at the Red Cross Building at 7:30 pm.

Program: WinLink
 Presenter: Rod (N3XG)



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 - 2006

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Mondays</u>
January	167	5
February	132	4



Send your submission for the E-VOX to Mark
 (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or US mail to 5508
 Hale Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18017.



**Minutes of the March 4, 2006 Meeting**
de Phil (KB3HMK), - Secretary - LVARC**Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Traverson at 1930 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 20 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 2 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Craig – N3TSY, Phil – KB3HMK, Paul – N0KIA, Frank – W3FTU, Robin – KB3GZV, Larry – KB3MHT

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Approved by: Larry – KB3JMS

Second by: Larry – KB3MHT

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting: \$1,735.78

Ending: \$1,735.02

Approved by: Dave – W3AMC

Second by: Mike – KB3LOD

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: 2 antennas are up for the new voters. For some reason they are on the same frequency.

Program: Phil reports that tonight's program will be Paul (N0KIA) doing a presentation on "Test Instruments: Part 1 of N". April's program will be Rod (N3XG) doing a presentation on Winlink 2000. If anyone has a program suggestion or would like to do a program, please let Phil know.

Volunteer Examiners: Mark reported that 1 person passed the written test for general. Next V.E. session will be March 17.



Field Day: No report

Web Site: No report

Education: No report

OLD Business: N.I.M.S. certification is required for A.R.E.S. / R.A.C.E.S. Tom and Frank will be going to a hamfest to try to sell items for the repeater fund. The sandwich sale is slated for April. More info to follow. C.W. class is scheduled for next week. It will be held at the Red Cross building except for Thursday. The class will be held at Frank's (W3FTU) house. The class starts at 6:30 P.M. If interested, please contact Frank. If you have any old ink cartridges, please give them to Frank (W3FTU). The proceeds will go to the repeater fund. Road Race is scheduled for April 30. If anyone is able to help, let Mark (AK3M) know. There will be a severe weather drill on March 16. If you are available, please let Jeff (N3MFT) know.

New Business: Club golf shirts are now available. The design is similar to the previous shirts. The quality is better this time. Contact Rod by next Wednesday to place an order. The club is asking the members to get more involved with club activities, such as emergency drills, fund raisers, special events and weekly nets.

New members/Guests: 1 new member: Dave Bokan – K3DLB

2 guests: Mark Schreiner – NK8Q
Pete Varounis – NL7XM

New Members Motion to Accept by: Phil – KB3HMK

Second by: Bill – KA3RBH

Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 1945 hrs. EST.

Motion by: Larry – KB3JMS

Second by: Larry – KB3MHT

In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance ending February, 2006 - \$ 1,735.02





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>   <h2>April</h2> </div>						
2 Kid's Roundup SB DX Contest QCWA Spring	3 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Paul-NOKIA	4 LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30	5	6 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm SARL 80m QSO Party	7	8 JIDX CW Contest ARCI Spring Georgia QSO Party
9 JIDX CW Contest ARCI Spring Georgia QSO Party	10 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Robin-	11	12	13 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	14	15 ES Open HF Champ. Mich. QSO Party Ontario QSO Party
16 Easter Deadline to schedule test	17 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Dorian-	18	19	20 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	21 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	22 DX Colombia Florida QSO Party
23 DX Colombia Florida QSO Party	24 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff-N3MFT	25	26	27 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	28	29 Helvetia Contest
30 LV Road Runners 1/2 Marathon	<div>  <h2>2006</h2>  </div>					

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday April 4 - 7:30 - Red Cross Bldg.

Test Session - Friday April 21 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Bldg.



LVARC Activities/Events **Mark your Calendar**

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday April 3 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday April 4 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 pm - Red Cross Building)
Thursday April 6 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)
Monday April 10 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Thursday April 13 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)
Sunday April 16 --- Final date to register for February 17 test session
Monday April 17 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Thursday April 20 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)
Friday April 21 --- LVARC Test Session (7:00 - Red Cross Building)
Monday April 24 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Thursday April 27 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)

Sunday April 30 - LVARC/LVRR 1/2 Marathon

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 717-261-0000



Monday Night RACES/ARES Net Control Operators



April 3
April 9
April 17
April 24

April, 2006

N0KIA
KB3GZV
KB3GVW
N3MFT

Paul
Robin
Dorian
Jeff





RACES? ARES?

de Mark (AK3M)



Many of the LVARC members check into the Monday Night ARES/RACES Net but do they really understand the difference between these two organizations? They **are** different. Since we have many new members to the club, these differences will be reviewed.

RACES is an acronym for **R**adio **A**mateur **C**ivil **E**mergency **S**ervices and is administrated by Lehigh County office of Emergency Management. After World War II, local emergency management agencies included amateur radio services into their civil emergency plans. This remains the case today. In order to participate in a RACES or county emergency management event, one must be registered with the county as a licensed amateur radio operator who is interested in being a member of the EMA team. Recently, we have learned that one must also have a NIMS certificate (by October, 2006). RACES events include a natural or man-made disaster such as a flood or a threat to the country (as in 9-11). Liability for participants is the responsibility of the county during a RACES event.

When registered as an amateur radio operator with RACES, one performs **ONLY** in that role. If one has a different skill such as medical or radiologic training, he may register and operate in that capacity. In other words, if only registered for *communications*, one should NOT assume other roles while participating.

ARES, which stands for **A**mateur **R**adio **E**mergency **S**ervices, on the other hand is **not** connected with the county's emergency management office. ARES is recognized by the ARRL, however, one need not be a member of the ARRL to participate in an ARES activity. ARES activities include local events such as parades walk-a-thons, marathons and bike-a-thons. Liability for participants in an ARES activity is the responsibility of the club and/or the sponsoring organization.

Many clubs (like the LVARC) hold simultaneous RACES/ARES drills and this is acceptable but keep in mind that they are indeed two separate entities.



Plain Language is the Best Practice!

Submitted by Christopher M. Post (N3SIG)

(Although "10 codes" are **never** used by ham radio operators and "Q" signals are **never** used on VHF/UHF (unless clarification is required), this article is interesting regarding the importance of clear, concise communications. --- ed.)

WASHINGTON - In Washington, DC, if a police officer says 10-50, he or she is talking about a car accident. Across the line in Montgomery County, Maryland, 10-50 means an officer needs help. And that's the way it is across much of the country, 10-codes used in one jurisdiction are not the same as those used in another. That's why it is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology. There simply is no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation.

The use of plain language in emergency response is matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident. It is critical that all local responders, as well as those coming into the impacted area from other jurisdictions and other states as well as the federal government, know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures. This is what NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) are all about - achieving interoperability across agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines.

The use of common terminology is about the ability of area commanders, state and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

It is required that plain English be used for multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction and multi-discipline events, such as major disasters and exercises. Beginning in the fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1, 2006, federal preparedness grant funding is contingent on the use of plain English in incidents requiring assistance from responders from other agencies, jurisdictions and functional disciplines.

While the NIMS Integration Center doesn't require plain English for internal operations, we strongly encourage it. We believe it is important to practice everyday terminology and procedures that will need to be used in emergency incidents and disasters. NIMS implementation is a long-term effort and it's probably not possible to persuade everyone to change ingrained habits overnight. But we do hope that over time, everyone will understand the important of using common terminology, that is, plain English, every day.

(Rule of thumb: When in doubt, do NOT be cryptic with your messages!! Give messages in clear concise language -- ed.)



The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club will provide communications support for the Lehigh Valley Road Runners Club (LVRR) on **Sunday April 30, 2006**.

The LVRR hosts an annual 1/2 marathon which is held in Allentown. The run begins at 8:00 am and about 3,000 runners are expected to participate.

After attending the meeting on Thursday February 23, it became clear to me that this is a HUGE event! We will need many LVARC operators to volunteer. The LVRR has cooperation from Allentown EMS, police, fire police and many sponsors including their main sponsor, Runner's World. They have arranged to have city streets closed for three hours. There will be at least six bands along the route and numerous water stations.

The race will begin at William Allen High School and end in the Allentown School District stadium where their control center will be. We will be using either the 135 or 94 repeater for the activity.



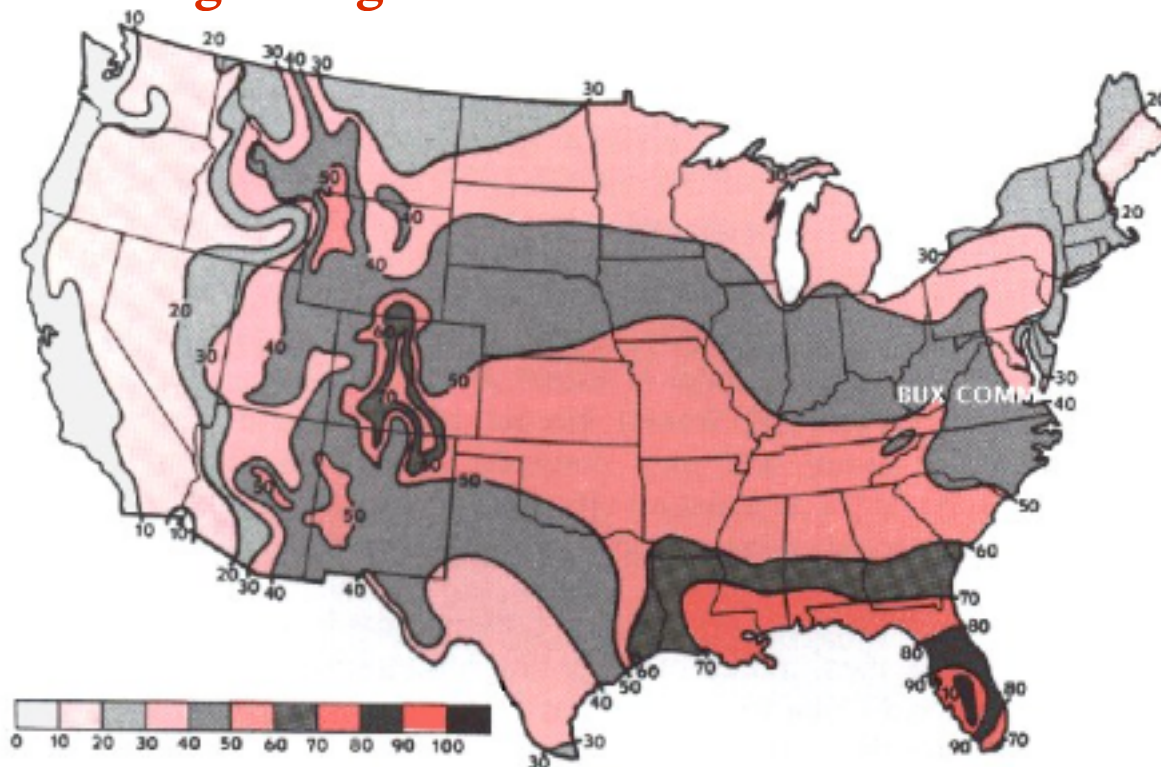
If you wish to help with this event, please contact Mark (AK3M). Your help is essential if we are to have a successful activity!!



The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club holds a net every Thursday at 7:30 pm on the "135" repeater. **ALL amateurs are welcome to check in!!** The format is rather informal and all topics are welcome. This is separate from the Monday Night RACES/ARES/LVARC net.



U.S. Lightning and Thunderstorm Distribution



The numbers shown on this map correspond to the color bands and indicate the number of lightning and thunderstorms per year in the indicated area or color band.

NOTE: that the largest numbers of lightning storms occur in Florida and in the Midwest.

FROM:

BUXCOMM
Lynchburg - Livingston, Virginia

Abbreviations Everywhere !!! - Abbreviations are everywhere. Every hobby/discipline has their abbreviations. Here are some of the more common ones I found relating to ham radio. Can you think of more?

CW	AM	AF	dB	NiMH	SWR
SSB	FM	AGC	DX	PTT	VE
FCC	AMP	ALC	Hz	QRP	VHF
QSO	UTC	RACES	LED	QSL	UHF
QRT	HT	ARES	LSB	RFI	VOX
QRM	AC	BFO	USB	RTTY	RF
QRN	DC	BNC	NICAD	SSTV	CQ



FEMA, Ham Radio and the US Coast Guard de Mark (AK3M)



It seems that FEMA not only is requiring Ham Radio operators to be familiar with NIMS, but they also require other organizations/agencies to understand this emergency management system. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary requires its members to pass IS 700 **AND** other FEMA courses!

CONGRATULATIONS to Larry (NR3R) for passing the following FEMA courses, **IS-100 and IS-200 and IS-700, and IS-800**. IS-700 is required for RACES but Larry's other certificates were required by the USCG Auxiliary.

CONGRATULATIONS also to Frank (W3FTU) for his successful completion of **IS 700 !!!**

SOS Origin ... --- ... de Larry NR3R)

"The number three had carried a grim connotation among peoples from primeval times. Always, in all cultures, three was associated with danger or distress. The Boy Scout Handbook teaches that three rocks piled on top of each other was a frontiersman's sign for danger. Three smoke puffs was the Indian distress signal. A hunter fired three shots when in need of aid. In the International Morse radio code, the symbol **SOS** had been adopted as the easy-to-send, impossible-to-mistake international distress signal on the high seas. Contrary to a legend popular among laymen, **SOS** had no other meaning such as "Save Our Ship" or "Save Our Souls."

Walk-In Testing Proposed at LVARC Field Day, 2006

Walk-in testing is proposed for Field Day, 2006!! The LVARC VE team will be recruited to provide 3 to 4 hours of **no pre-registration testing at Field Day this year**. This is a new initiative for the LVARC but one which we hope will become a tradition.

If you are an LVARC VE and wish to participate in this program, contact Mark (AK3M).

The 2006 Field Day site and specific information about the testing will be available when more details are known.





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 or call 610-865-9183

Don't Forget

You only have until October, 2006 to be NIMS certified in order to maintain your LC RACES status !!!

Go to:

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>

and scroll down to select - IS-700

(National Incident Management System - NIMS)

After October, 2006, non-certified amateurs WILL be able to check into the Monday Night RACES/ARES/LVARC Net but will NOT be able to participate in RACES activities !!!

The course is easy and you need only answer a simple 25-question test to become certified and it can all be done online! There is NO FEE.

Part of amateur radio is the emergency communications aspect. Don't be left out! RACES needs your help. **Get certified now!**



New Technician Class Question Pool Released to the Public

(Jan 23, 2006)

IMPORTANT



The National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the **new Technician (Element 2) Amateur Radio examination question pool**. The new Element 2 question pool is available for viewing or download in these formats: Adobe PDF, MS Word .doc file, RTF and ASCII text. Other versions may be available on request. **The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2006**, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2010



From CNN.com



"DALLAS - Electronics retailer RadioShack Corp. on Friday said fourth-quarter earnings dropped 62 percent and disclosed it plans to close 400 to 700 stores and two distribution centers as part of a plan to improve its financial performance."



REMEMBER

Save your used ink cartridges. Give to Frank (W3FTU). Money collected goes toward a new 135



The LVRR 1/2 marathon April 30, 2006. If you want to volunteer, contact Mark (AK3M)



February, 2006 Dinner A BIG Success !!!!!

The first LVARC dinner meeting of the 2006 year was held on Tuesday February 21, 2006 at the Old Country Buffet in Whitehall. Over 20 LVARC members met at 6:30 pm in our own private room! Dinner conversation was varied but as when all amateurs gather, topics soon turned to ham radio. **Kudos to Phil (KB3HMK)** for arranging this event. Below, are some pictures of hams eating ham (and other food)!! Also, **TNX to Harry (W3TEB)** for providing two door prizes - homemade penlight key chain flashlights!!!!



Photo courtesy of Paul (N0KIA)



Photo courtesy of Paul (N0KIA)



Photo courtesy of Paul (N0KIA)



Photo courtesy of Harry (W3TEB)



History of the FCC



The United States Federal Communications Commission, created by an act of Congress on 19 June 1934, merged the administrative responsibilities for regulating broadcasting and wired communications under the rubric of one agency. Created during "The New Deal" with the blessings of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the commission was given broad latitude to establish "a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service." On 11 July 1934 seven commissioners and 233 federal employees began the task of merging rules and procedures from the Federal Radio Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Postmaster General into one agency. The agency was organized into three divisions: Broadcast, Telegraph, and Telephone.



Traveling and want to monitor the local public service frequencies but don't know them? Check out the following web site:

<http://www.cityfreq.com>

From QST (March, 2006 -p.78)



LVARC Members In QST



CONGRATULATIONS to Rod (N3XG), Larry (KB3JMS) and Paul (N0KIA) who were published in QST for completing all three "EmCOMM" courses!. See **ARRL Communications Course Honor Roll**, March QST, pp. 42-43.



"Looking for a UHF repeater system to include TX/RX, power supply, duplexers and controller. Let me know what you have and we'll talk. Contact me at: **N0KIA@ARRL.NET**"



HF Corner

de Mark (AK3M)



I am writing this article as I sit in front of my HF rig. It is March 4, 2006 and the annual ARRL International DX Contest is well under way. What a terrific way to spend a chilly day! The object of the contest is simple, to contact as many DX stations as possible. Almost like a Field Day in March. Since the contest started, I have heard and worked stations from Italy, Finland, Spain, Africa (Senegal), Germany, the UK, Portugal, Belgium, Russia, Morocco, France, Sweden and Serbia, Montenegro, Portugal, Mexico and more!

Contesting is just one aspect of HF. I am not a "rag chewer," (except on VHF) so a contest fits my needs. All I need to do is get the station's call and my report and give my call, his report and my state then on to the next one. If you do enjoy "rag chewing," then HF is for you! You can talk to others and never call the same station twice unless you want to.

I do not QSL but do keep a record of all my HF contacts. I am after a *personal* DXCC and have 7 more countries to go! Then perhaps a WAS (worked all states).

I am writing this for several reasons. First, I enjoy contesting and want others to appreciate it as much as I do as well as general "HFing." Second, we have many articles in the newsletter, nets etc., devoted to VHF/UHF but little about HF. Perhaps "The HF Corner," can be a new feature.

I invite you to send me articles and share your HF experiences, questions, comments etc., to be published in the newsletter. Send them to me at AK3M@rcn.com and I will include them in the E-VOX.

"They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel." --- *Carl W. Buechner*



LATE BREAKING NEWS

I have found a supplier for embroidered **golf shirts**. We will be using the company Ernst Light in Oley, PA. They have provided me with sample embroidery, and three sample shirts. I have chosen a Guilden golf shirt, gray with navy accents. The shirt is 7oz, 100% cotton. Much heavier than the paper thin shirts that we have had in the past, and I think the price is very good. We did not have to pay a set up fee, and that makes all the difference.

The embroidery sample that they provided me has a higher stitch count than what we had, and that makes the letters seem more finely focused and bolder on the shirt.

Prices are \$14.00 for S-XL and \$16.00 for XXL.

I will be taking email orders for the shirts up until the 15th of March, and will try to get the first order delivered for the April meeting. I am asking that **club members that order shirts have their money at the April meeting**.



NOT
representative
of color or logo

73,
Rodney N3XG



KUDOS and a huge TNX to Frank (W3FTU), Tom (K3ARI) and Larrie (W2UL) for coming home from the Cherryville hamfest on Saturday March 11 with \$426 ! TNX also to all those who donated items for them to sell.

The money will go into the 135 repeater fund!

