

Happy

The E-VOX

2006



The Official **On-Line**
Newsletter of the
Lehigh **V**alley **A**mateur
Radio **C**lub - **W3OI**



Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA

Officers

President: **Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG** (rjwolfe@rcn.com)

Vice President: **Craig Traverson - N3TSY** (cjtraverson@yahoo.com)

Secretary: **Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK** (philbert@enter.net)

Treasurer: **Paul Ryan - N0KIA** (n0kia@arrl.net)

Board of Governors

Robin Gable - KB3GZV (kb3gzw@arrl.net)

Mark S. Miller - AK3M (AK3M@rcn.com)

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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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The January LVARC meeting will be held on
January 3, 2006 at the Red Cross Building at 7:30 pm.

Program: *An Evening with Phil* on
"Extreme Emergency Equipment" or
"What to Keep In Your Ready Box"



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
October	180	5
November	139	4

**Minutes of the December 6, 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 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 27 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), Frank (W3FTU), Willie (AB3BS), Robin (KB3GZV), Jim (KA3UQP)

Corrections/Additions to the minutes: None noted

Approved by: Earl – KB3MHY

Second by: Willie – AB3BS

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Beginning balance: \$1,290.46

Ending balance: \$1,421.29

Approved by: Larry – KB3JMS

Second by: Walt – KE3SP

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: The repeaters are working. Cat Country put a new system in and has resolved the interference problem. Voters are still in the works. A conversation was heard on the 147.135 machine between Spanish speaking people. When Rod tried to contact Paul, they left the repeater. If anyone hears of non-hams on the repeater, write down the date and time of the incident. If you don't understand the language, note that also.

Program: Phil reports that tonight is the annual holiday get together. He does not have a program for January. When he finds out what it is, he will let everyone know. If anyone has an idea or wants to do a program, let Phil know.

Volunteer Examiners: Mark reported that one person tested in November. Dan Schwartzman took the technician exam with code. He passed it, and then took the general exam and passed it also. His call sign is KB3MXP. Congratulations Dan. No one is scheduled for December.

Field Day: No report

Web Site: The website is working fine. Paul is trying to incorporate SSL into the site. This will help in accessing the database for the club.

Education: No report



OLD Business: Rod received a letter from David Sumner, a representative with the ARRL. The letter was in regards to Carl (WK3C), who was trying to run for a position with the ARRL. The letter basically stated that the ruling that the ARRL handed down stands. If anyone wants to see the letter, contact Rod (N3XG). Operation Ho Ho is scheduled for Sunday December 11, 2005. The club will go to the children's wing at Lehigh Valley Hospital to let the kids talk to Santa through amateur radio. There was a Limerick Drill on November 15 & 16. There was a very good attendance. PEMA was happy with the response from RACES/ARES members.

New Business: The annual elections are tonight. Rod made the motion that the board members running unopposed are voted on by the secretary. Larry (W2UL) made the motion to accept and was seconded by Willie (AB3BS). The motion carried. Phil handed out the ballots and then collected. The meeting momentarily adjourned so the ballots could be counted. Phil then presented the results to the president. The results of the election is as follows:

President – Rod Wolfe (N3XG)
Vice President – Craig Traverson (N3TSY)
Secretary – Phil Bigg (KB3HMK)
Treasurer – Paul Ryan (N0KIA)
Board Members: Mark Miller (AK3M)
Frank Unger (W3FTU)
Willie Robertson (AB3BS)
Robin Gable (KB3GZV)
Larry Snyder (KB3MHT)

Jim Kelly (KA3UQP) is retiring from the board of governors. He was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award. Mark Miller (AK3M) was presented with the Pres Schuler award for his work as past president and organizing and running the V.E. test program. Congratulations to both.

New members: Cricket Traverson – KB3MOZ
Anthony Benner – KB3MUX

New Members Motion to Accept by: Bill – KA3RBH
Second by: Larry – KB3MHT
Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2010 hrs, EST.
Motion by: Carl – AA3IX
Second by: Phil – KB3HMK
In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance as of November, 2005 - \$1,421.29





THIS MONTH IN HAM RADIO

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 AGCW HVHF/UHF Contest	2 ARES RACES Net 7:30	3 LVARC Meeting Red Cross 7:30	4	5 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	6 WQF QRP Party	7 MidWinter Contest Original QRP Contest EUCW 160m Contest
8 Original QRP Contest EUCW 160m Contest EUCW 160m Contest DARC 10m Contest	9 ARES RACES Net 7:30	10	11	12 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	13	14 070 Club PSKFest N. Amer. Party
15 Baltic Contest Deadline to schedule test	16 Run for Bacon QRP Contest ARES RACES Net 7:30	17	18	19 80m Straight Key/Bug Sprint LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	20 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	21 LZ Open Contest N. Amer. Party Hungarian DX Contest
22 N. Amer. Party	23 ARES RACES Net 7:30	24	25	26 LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm	27	28 UBA DX Contest
29	30 ARES RACES Net 7:30	31	<div> January 2006 </div>			

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday January 3 - 7:30 pm - Red Cross Bldg.

Test Session - Friday January 20 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Bldg.



LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



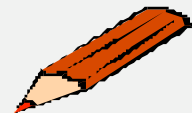
Monday January 2 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday January 3 --- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 PM (Red Cross Bldg.)
Thursday January 5 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)
Monday January 9 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Thursday January 12 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)
Sunday January 15 --- Final date to register for January 20 test session
Monday January 16 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Thursday January 19 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)
Friday January 20 --- LVARC Test Session (7:00 - Red Cross Building)
Monday January 23 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Thursday January 26 --- LVARC Net - 7:30 pm (147.135)
Monday January 30 --- 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



January 2

KB3MHY

Earl



January, 2005





ARRL BRIEFS



(from the ARRL web Site)



League Says BPL Group Should Embrace, Not Reject, Recent ARRL Proposals (Nov 23, 2005) -- In a Reply to Opposition filed this week, the ARRL maintains that changes it recently proposed to the FCC's Part 15 BPL rules provide a golden opportunity for the BPL industry and the FCC. The League was responding to a November 2 United Power Line Council (UPLC) Motion opposing and seeking dismissal of the ARRL's Petition for a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, filed last month in the BPL proceeding, WT Docket 04-37.



ISS commander cheers for Army in contact with Naval Academy's W3ADO (Dec 1, 2005) -- During a brief 2-meter contact November 26 between the US Naval Academy's W3ADO and NA1SS, ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, cheered for an Army win in the traditional Army-Navy football game December 3. "Thanks very much for the contact, but I can't resist," said McArthur, a US Army officer and veteran. "Go, Army. Beat Navy!"



"Ham Aid" Funds Available to Help Replace Storm-Damaged EmComm Systems (Nov 30, 2005) -- Thanks to a Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant extension, limited ARRL "Ham Aid" funds are available to help cover the cost of replacing hurricane-damaged Amateur Radio emergency communication systems. This assistance applies to ARES group or club-owned open-access repeaters, critical Amateur Radio infrastructure or other essential communication backbone equipment damaged by hurricanes Katrina, Rita or Wilma. The goal is to restore critical Amateur Radio emergency communication systems in hurricane-prone areas and especially in cases where equipment damage has compromised Amateur Radio's disaster-response capability.



ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration (Nov 29, 2005) -- Registration remains open through Sunday, December 4, for these ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (CCE) Program on-line courses: Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002), Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), VHF/UHF Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Propagation (EC-011), HF Digital Communications (EC-005) Classes begin Friday, December 16. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page or contact the CCE Department.



New LVARC Officers for 2006



The LVARC is proud to announce the officers
who will serve the LVARC for 2006:

President: Rod Wolfe (N3XG)
V. Pres: Craig Traverson (N3TSY)
Secretary: Phil Bigg (KB3HMK)
Treasurer: Paul Ryan (N0KIA)

Board of Governors

Larry Snyder (KB3MHT)
Willie Robertson (AB3BS)
Robin Gable (KB3GZV)
Frank Unger (W3FTU)
Mark Miller (AK3M)

36 mugs were collected at the December meeting !! These mugs will be sent overseas to our troops who are all from the Lehigh Valley. The mugs were requested by AI (KB3LCU) whose daughter is serving overseas. The mugs all represented the Lehigh Valley. They included the *Allentown School District, Lehigh University* and the *Lehigh Valley Historical Society*, to name a few.



Want a PERSONALIZED Mug? de Mark (AK3M)

Found in the back of QST, is the **Mug Factory.US** I had a terrific experience ordering and communicating with this company! For great etched mugs of all kinds, visit **The Mug Factory** at <http://www.themugfactory.us>.

BE CAREFUL AND DO NOT GO TO THE .COM SITE - ONLY THE .US SITE.

The mug factory is run by Todd (KA9OBH), a real ham !!





2005 Limerick Drill a Big Success

The 2005 Limerick drill was held on Tuesday November 15 and Wednesday November 16, 2005 and was a big success. Tuesday night's drill required operation from the EOC and home only. On Wednesday, deployment to the Reception Site at Emmaus High School and the Mass Care Center at Salisbury High School was necessary.

Those in attendance at the Reception Site were Jeff (N3MFT), Mark (KB3FDN) and Larry (KB3MHT). Mark (AK3M) and Mark (KB3FDN) manned the Mass Care Center until Emmaus site closed. The Emmaus team then joined both Marks at Salisbury High School.

Below are two pictures Mark (KB3FDN) took with his camera phone while at the Salisbury site. TNX Mark !!



Limerick participants at Salisbury H.S.



Portable radiation detector



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

**THE LVARC THURSDAY NIGHT NET MEETS
AT 7:30 pm ON THE 135 REPEATER.**



Dues Are Due

Dues keep the LVARC strong and allow us to contribute to Operation Ho Ho and the , 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).



Congratulations to the following LVARC Members who are now NIMS qualified:

Mark (AK3M)
Rod (N3XG)
Chris (N3RPV)
Jeff (N3MFT)
Tom (K3ARI)
Larry (KB3MHT)
Dick (KA3MOU)

**LVARC
VE
Program**



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO



CONGRATULATIONS to Dan Schwartzman who, at the November 18, 2005 test session, passed the **Technician, CW AND General** tests in one sitting! Well done Dan!!!!

Dan received his call just in time for Thanksgiving. He sports his new call (**KB3MXP**)!

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



A Great Idea From Connecticut SEC Rod Lane (N1FNE)

--- Submitted by Larrie Sutliff (W2UL)

Some of our DEC's and other leadership are drilling their crews on a new method of getting attention on a net called "Break Tags."

When net communication gets heavy, someone may have a quick solution to a problem that is taking up too much valuable airtime for discussion, but can't break into the net to share it. We came up with "Break Tags" to deal with such a scenario.

There are currently seven one-word Break Tags. They are: "answer," "question," "info," "priority," "medical," "emergency" and your call sign. Most of these tags have been used with great success in large public/emergency services nets. Here is how they work: Instead of saying "break" between transmissions during a directed net, the operator uses the word specified as a Break Tag without a call sign. They are to be used only when the operator's traffic will be appreciated by net control and results in more efficient communication. They are to be used wisely, as net control is directed to stop and turn over the net to the breaker. The message that follows a break should be as short as possible. Definitions and use:

"Answer": To be used when you have the definitive answer to a question currently being discussed on the air.

"Question": To be used when the answer of a question can't wait; for example, when the mayor is standing next to you and requesting you to get information using your radio.

"Info": To be used when information needs to be transmitted rapidly but is not related to what is being said on the air; for example, if an event that net control needs to know about is going to happen in the next few seconds or if waiting for the end of an exchange will negate the value of the information.

"Priority": To be used to report an important but non-life threatening situation such as a fender-bender that just happened.

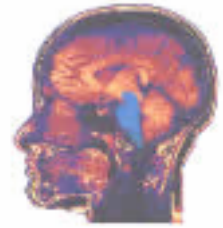
"Medical": To be used to report a minor medical incident that affects the operator in some way; for example, having to leave his/her post for a few minutes to walk someone with a minor cut over to a med tent.

"Emergency": Only to be used to report an ongoing life or property threatening or damaging incident.

Your Call Sign: An indication that the operator has traffic that can wait and does not require the cessation of the ongoing exchange. This tag is an expectation to be put on hold and in queue for transmission.

"Break Tags" takes little training. Its use is contagious and comes very naturally. I hope that everyone adopts it. I would like to hear if other groups try it and how it works. It will be a part of our communications from here on in.

Recognizing A Stroke



--- From an email from Blair (K3YD)

A health alert, be aware, it can save someone's life.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed and getting to the patient within 3 hours which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE - A true story: Susie is recouping at an incredible pace for someone with a massive stroke all because Sherry saw Susie stumble - that is the key that isn't mentioned below - and then she asked Susie the 3 questions. So simple - this literally saved Susie's life - Some angel sent it to Suzie's friend and they did just what it said to do. Suzie failed all three so then 911 was called.

Even though she had normal blood pressure readings and did not appear to be a stroke as she could converse to some extent with the Paramedics then took her to the hospital right away. Thank God for the sense to remember the "3" steps. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e., "It is sunny out today").

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

A cardiologist says if everyone who gets this e-mail sends it to 10 people, you can bet that at least one life will be saved.



Carl, WK3C, “Hits a Triple” in November

While he was ruled ineligible for election to the Atlantic Division Director’s seat, LVARC member, Carl R. Stevenson, WK3C, President and CTO of WK3C *Wireless* LLC, an Emmaus, PA consulting firm specializing in wireless standards, regulatory affairs, and design services, never the less “hit a triple” in November, so to speak.

First, he was elected to a seat on the IEEE Standards Association’s Board of Governors for a two year term beginning January 1, 2006.

Then, he was named the recipient of the IEEE Standards Association International Award for 2005 for his efforts in helping to obtain new global frequency allocations for wireless LANs and for his service as the first technical liaison to the ITU-R for the IEEE’s sector membership.

Finally, he was named by Scientific American magazine as a Policy Leader within the 2005 Scientific American 50 - the magazine’s prestigious annual list recognizing outstanding acts of leadership in science and technology from the past year.

Said Editor-in-Chief John Rennie: “The *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN 50* is our annual opportunity to salute the people and organizations worldwide whose research, policy or business leadership has played a major role in bringing about the science and technology innovations that are improving the way we live and offer the greatest hope for the future.”

Selected by the magazine’s Board of Editors with the help of distinguished outside advisors, the *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN 50* spotlights a Research Leader of the Year, a Business Leader of the Year and a Policy Leader of the Year. The list also recognizes research, business and policy leaders who have played a critical role in advancing key technology trends of the past year. such as the rise of Stem Cells, Flexible Electronics, Silicon Lasers, Flu Preparedness and more.

Past *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN 50* winners have spotlighted visionaries from an array of fields. Prior honorees have included stem cell researcher Douglas A. Melton, Professor of the National Sciences at Harvard (2004 Policy Leader of the Year); Nobel prize-winning neurobiologist Roderick MacKinnon, Professor of Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics of Rockefeller University (2003 Research Leader of the Year); aviation leader Burt Rutan, President, Scaled Composites (2003 Aerospace/Business Leader); global public health leader Gro Harlem Brundtland, former World Health Organization Secretary General (2003 Policy Leader of the Year); corporate chief Jeffrey Immelt, Chairman and CEO, General Electric Company (2002 General Technology/Business Leader); and high tech innovator Steven Jobs, CEO, Apple (2002 Communications/Business Leader).

Needless to say, Carl is very pleased – actually he said “overwhelmed” – by this series of events. He said, “Obviously I knew I was running for the IEEE-SA Board of Governors seat and I knew that I had been nominated for the IEEE-SA International Award, but I had NO idea that the Scientific American award was coming – those folks really know how to keep a secret!”

(continued on page 15)



(continued from page 14)

Mr. Stevenson said: "I am extremely honored to be recognized for my work in the area of wireless networking standards and to be named as a Policy Leader of the *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN 50*, with its singular stature in the world of science and technology."

Past *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN 50* winners have spotlighted visionaries from an array of fields. Prior honorees have included stem cell researcher Douglas A. Melton, Professor of the National Sciences at Harvard (2004 Policy Leader of the Year); Nobel prize-winning neurobiologist Roderick MacKinnon, Professor of Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics of Rockefeller University (2003 Research Leader of the Year); aviation leader Burt Rutan, President, Scaled Composites (2003 Aerospace/Business Leader); global public health leader Gro Harlem Brundtland, former World Health Organization Secretary General (2003 Policy Leader of the Year); corporate chief Jeffrey Immelt, Chairman and CEO, General Electric Company (2002 General Technology/Business Leader); and high tech innovator Steven Jobs, CEO, Apple (2002 Communications/Business Leader).

Founded in 1845, editorial contributors to *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN* have included over 100 Nobel laureates, among them Albert Einstein, Neils Bohr, Francis Crick, Stanley Prusiner and Harold Varmus. Scientific American, Inc. is a division of Holtzbrinck Publishers, a U.S. subsidiary of Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck GmbH, a privately held international media corporation operating in more than 40 countries. In addition to Scientific American, Holtzbrinck Publishers include the book publishing houses Farrar, Straus & Giroux; W.H. Freeman; Henry Holt and Company; St. Martin's Press and the academic scholarly publishing company Palgrave U.S.; the College Publishing Group of Bedford Freeman Worth; and the distribution company VHPS.

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

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

--- Bill Vaughan





TNX de Mark (AK3M)

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the LVARC for granting me the *Pres Schuler Award* for 2005!! I am sincerely honored to be the recipient of this award! Believe it or not, I am speechless!

CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Kelly (KA3UQP) who received the ***Lifetime Achievement Award*** !

Both awards were presented at the December 6, 2005 meeting.



The LVARC Holiday Party Was Enjoyed By All !

The LVARC traditional Holiday Party was held following the December, 2005 meeting. The food was terrific and in abundance! Conversation turned to ham radio as many looked through ham radio catalogs as they ate. Others simply caught up on personal and radio business with other members.



Plenty of food and great company !



A Holiday / New Year Message from The President

When asked to remember 2005, the year will be recalled for the huge natural disasters, flooding, fires, an ongoing war, and a total breakdown in government. The memory that should go with this year is the outpouring of support from volunteers all over the country, that mobilized to make the suffering of those in affected areas just a little more tolerable. Amateur Radio operators were there. They set up links for government and relief agencies. They provided health and welfare traffic in and out of affected areas. They delivered timely news, video, and situation reports. Amateur radio operators were put to task again and again, and did not fall short. At the same time, we were under attack by big business concerns that consider us nothing more than antiquated inhabitants of portions of the radio spectrum worth billions of dollars. We have staged good fights and have won small battles on the BPL front. We have proven our worth as emergency communicators. Unfortunately, that is not enough.

As amateurs, we need to stay active both on the air and in the public's eye. We need to remain visible and be heard. If you like amateur radio, tell someone. They may have wanted to get a license, or have been interested in the hobby, but never had the opportunity to pursue a license. Stay involved with club committees, activities, and functions. Don't be afraid to teach someone about your favorite radio activities. Talk to others about your enthusiasm for amateur radio. You may not get a new ham, but you will ensure people know about the hobby. If you are involved with an activity or event that may benefit from amateur radio, talk to the organizers of the event. If you know of people that use FRS and MURS radios on a daily basis, let them know that there are better options for family and friends that like to stay in contact with each other. In fact, many people still believe amateur radio is very expensive, and requires proficiency in code.

As we prepare ourselves to meet the unforeseen challenges of 2006, we must take pride in our history, and look forward to the future with eager anticipation. It is this time when many people make a personal inventory and resolve to make things better. Let us, as radio amateurs, make a resolution for 2006. Let us resolve to listen to amateur bands at least an hour a day. Let us resolve to send or speak our call sign at least once per day. And, finally, let us resolve to never let another's call sign go unanswered. I look forward to the challenges of the New Year, and to talk to everyone on the bands. See you on the air and 73!

Yours in Service,
Rodney Wolfe, N3XG
President, LVARC



“Operation Ho Ho” Delights Children at the Lehigh Valley Hospital! de Santa (Mark - AK3M)

Once again, “Operation Ho Ho” was a huge success! Members of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club visited the children at the Lehigh Valley Hospital and let them talk to Santa via ham radio. Santa spoke to the children as LVARC Elves visited their rooms armed with their HT’s. The simplex frequency (146.52) was used as Santa was in a room in the same unit. The children ranged in ages from 6 years to 13 years old. As in the past, the children asked Santa many interesting questions including, “Why is Santa so fat,” and, “How will you get in to my house if I don’t have a fireplace?” They also found out what Santa and the reindeer like for a snack and heard the reindeer’s bells as Santa visited with them while in the reindeer “barn.” An LVARC elf then presented each child with a gift, courtesy of the LVARC!!



Following the hospital visit, all the elves celebrated the success of the event at Perkins in Dorneyville.

A big TNX to Dawn Miller and Vanessa Gramm, Child Life Specialists, for arranging our visit. They even managed for a hospital photographer to be present for pictures of the children while Phil (KB3HMK) took pictures of LVARC members.

A BIG TNX to “Elf Larry” (NR3R) for doing all the gift shopping! Also participating in the event were, “Elves” Dick Dech (KA3MOU) and XYL MaryAnn, NR3R’s XYL, Robin, Scott (KB3JMQ) and XYL Kathy Green (KB3JMR), Phil (KB3HMK) and mother, Phyllis Bigg.

Watch for pictures to appear in the next issue of the E-VOX and/or on the club’s web site.

