

The *E-VOX*

The Official *On-Line* Newsletter of the



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI



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

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Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (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)

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





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Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark (AK3M)
at AK3M@rcn.com

Your submissions can be text or graphics.



The January LVARC meeting will be held on January 2, 2007 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

Program: To be announced.



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
March	149	4
April	149	4
May	123	4
June	109	4
July	120	4
August	102	4
September	78	3 (Labor Day)
October	145	5
November	118	4





Minutes of the December 5, 2006 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK) - LVARC Recording Secretary



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1935 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 18 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod (N3XG), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA), Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU), and Robin (KB3GZV).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Approved by: Mike – KB3LOD

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting balance: \$2,335.22

Ending balance: \$2,780.46

Approved by: Mark – N3ULR

Second by: Carl – AA3IX

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: There is still some interference on the 146.940 repeater. Everything else is running fine.

Program: Phil reports that tonight is the annual cookie cruncher. If anyone would like to do a program or has an idea for a program, please let Phil know. He also entertained the idea of another dinner gathering. The members said they would like to have one. It was suggested to have it in February. Phil will have more info to follow.

Volunteer Examiners: The club had one person test. That person passed the general written, but not the code part.

Field Day: No report

Web Site: No report

Education: No report



OLD Business: Rod wants to remind the members that we get money for sending your old ink cartridges. Frank (W3FTU) has envelopes that you can send them in yourself. He also has the list of acceptable cartridges. The hoagie sale was a success. The club made \$273.15. We will try to do it again in the spring. Operation Ho-Ho is scheduled for December 17. The members will be going to the children's wing of Lehigh Valley Hospital. Mark will e-mail more info to the members that are signed up.

New Business: Rod asked the members for a motion to move the meeting location to the Tri-Clover Fire Company. One benefit is it will help us establish tie with the ems council. There have been some problems with the current location. The fire company is welcoming us to the new location. Rod talked to Mark about the ve test sessions. The club would like to stay at the Red Cross building due to its location. A motion was made by Carl (AA3IX) and seconded by Robin (KB3GZV). The motion passed. The Red Cross now requires background checks. The local chapter as of now does not do this. Members may be required to have the checks done due to working the Red Cross thru ARES / RACES responses. The nominations were closed last month. Rod asked for a motion to accept the ballot as is. This is due to that the positions are running uncontested. The board members will stay the same except for one change. Dick Deck (KA3MOU) is a new board member. The motion was made by Jeff (N3MFT) and seconded by Mark (K3MP). The motion passed. Rod presented the Pres Schuyler Award to Frank Unger (W3FTU) for his work in helping the club raise funds. Frank thanked the members. Rod gave Jeff an ARRL mug to give to Tom Nervine who is the Lehigh County EMA Director. Tom has been very helpful with involving the members with activities and training for the county.

Sick report: Jim Kelly (KA3UQP) is back home.

New members/Guests: No new members or guests for the month of December

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2002 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Walt – KE3SP

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance ending November, 2006 - \$ 2,780.46





This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy New Year	 No Net	ARS Spartan Sprint 	 Full moon			Original QRP Contest EUCW 160m Contest
Original QRP Contest EUCW 160m Contest Kid's Day Contest	 Robin-KB3GZV					SPAR Winter Field Day Hunting Lions In the Air Contest NA QSO Party-CW
Hunting Lions In the Air Contest 	 Dorian-KB3GZW					LZ Open Contest Hungarian DX Contest NA QSO Party-SSB
Hungarian DX Contest NA QSO Party-SSB	 Jeff - N3MFT					SARL Youth for Amateur Radio UBA DX Contest-SSB
UBA DX Contest-SSB	 Tony-KB3MUX			January 2007		

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday January 2 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover FC

Test Session - Friday January 19 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Bldg.



Mark your Calendar LVARC Activities/Events

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday January 1 --- NO LC RACES/ARES Net

Tuesday January 2 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)

Thursday January 4 -- LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm (147.135)

Monday January 8 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday January 11 -- LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm (147.135)

Sunday January 14 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session

Monday January 15 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday January 18 -- LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm (147.135)

Friday January 19 -- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION NECESSARY)

Monday January 22 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Thursday January 25 -- LVARC Thursday Night Net 7:30 pm (147.135)

Monday January 29 --- LC RACES/ARES Net

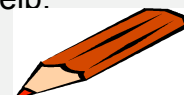
There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.

REMEMBER: The LVARC offers 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.



REMEMBER: Registration for the monthly 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



Mark (AK3M) is looking for Net Control Operators for the LVARC Thursday Night Net/roundtable. If you are available, please contact Mark at AK3M@rcn.com.





At the November 17, 2006 LVARC test session, **Andy Hardee** (KB3NWP) passed his General written exam. Ve's in attendance were **Walt** (KE3SP), **Frank** (W3FTU) and **Mark** (AK3M).

CONGRATULATIONS Andy !!

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man." ~ Benjamin Franklin

George: Gracie, what day is it today?
Gracie: Well, I don't know.
George: You can find out if you look at that paper on your desk.
Gracie: Oh, George, that doesn't help. It's yesterday's paper.

Quote from the [George] Burns and [Gracie] Allen show



Dues for 2007 are Now Being Accepted

Dues for 2007 are now due. They remain the same as they have for the past five years.

Regular membership - \$17.00

Extra family member - \$3.00

Non-licensed member - \$5.00

HOW TO PAY

1. Pay Paul (N0KIA) at the next meeting
2. Pay Paul via US mail
5814 Lindbergh Street
Orefield, PA 18069
3. Pay from the club's web site using PayPal



AMERICAN RED CROSS CLARIFIES BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

The American Red Cross (ARC) has attempted to clarify its policy to require background checks of its employees and volunteers, at least as far as the policy applies to possible credit checks. After the ARC announced the policy in July through its regional and local chapters, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members who support Red Cross disaster relief and recovery efforts began expressing concerns to ARRL. In some past incidents -- most notably the 2001 World Trade Center terror attacks and the 2005 Hurricane Katrina response -- ARES volunteers have had to badge in as Red Cross volunteers. In a statement <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/RedCross-LauraHowe-Statement.pdf>> to the ARRL November 9, Laura Howe, the ARC's director of response communication and marketing, stressed that, while background check applicants must give permission to conduct a credit check, the ARC has no intention of conducting them across the board.

"The Red Cross realizes some volunteers may have concerns about authorizing a credit check. Those concerns are understandable," Howe said. "But please rest assured that credit checks are only run in rare instances and are not a part of the routine minimum basic check the Red Cross performs on employees or volunteers." Howe told the League that the "standard minimum check" verifies the applicant's Social Security number and a search of the National Criminal File for the past seven years.

"While the Red Cross will never run a credit check on the vast majority of its employees and volunteers," she asserted, "it is important that this standard language is included in the consent form to protect our clients, volunteers and employees."

The ARC has contracted with MyBackgroundCheck.com LLC (MBC) to handle the on-line background checks. MBC notifies the applicant's local Red Cross chapter whether or not the individual passed the background check, but it does not share any personal data.

In a statement <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/RC-Background-Checks0610.pdf>> October 24, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged ARES and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously and read very carefully what they are giving MBC permission to collect on behalf of the Red Cross, especially given the wide net being cast. Howe acknowledged that by signing the consent form, applicants do give MBC permission to "conduct a credit check or other investigation into an individual's background." ARES members are not obliged to submit to a background check, however; the choice to do so is a personal one.

The Statement of Understanding (SoU) between the ARC and the ARRL does not address the issue of background checks. It also is ambiguous on the subject of whether ARES volunteers automatically become ARC volunteers when supporting Red Cross operations and become subject to a background check. The bottom line: The requirement extends to whomever the Red Cross says it does. While some Red Cross chapters will allow ARES member participation without requiring that they register as Red Cross volunteers, others may not. The ARRL-ARC SoU is up for review in 2007.

NOTE: The LV Red Cross is NOT requiring a background check of LVARC RACES members at

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 25, No. 45
November 10, 2006



American
Red Cross

American Red Cross
Celebrating 125 Years of Service





K3NZ and Nancy have decided to sell Norm's complete station. The following is a list of all of the major equipment. The towers and antenna are all on the ground.

I was involved in the antenna and tower tear down. If you have any questions about the towers or antennas, I may be able to answer your questions. ONLY EMAIL me at, "bgkx@fast.net" with your questions.

As for contacting Norm's wife Nancy, she is requesting that you only **call between the hours of 7 am to 12 noon. Evening hours between 4pm and 8 pm.** Please DO NOT call on off hours! 610-799-4044

The last time the station was on the air was one year ago. All equipment was in fine working order at that time. All equipment is sold, "As Is."

Hy Gain Yagi

20 meter four element = \$250

15 meter five element = \$200

10 meter five element = \$150

Cushcraft Yagi

2 element 40 meter beam with a solid modified boom = \$250

One capacity hat is missing.

60 plus foot Rohn 45 fold over tower = \$1000 including all the hardware, thrust bearing, coax, guy cables and lightning arrestors.

Two aluminum 24 foot masts. \$150 each

Two TX2 rotors with the automatic control boxes. \$600 each

Icom 756 PRO II = \$1600

Alpha 89, running a pair of 3CX800's = \$2600

Kenwood TM D700A dual band 144/440 MHz = \$400

Astron 35 amp switching power supply, metered. \$100

Cushcraft A2706S beam

144 and 440 MHz, elements per band = \$ 45.00



The LVARC Congratulates and Welcomes Officers for 2007

President:

Rod Wolfe (N3XG)

V. President:

Craig Traverson (N3TSY)

Treasurer:

Paul Ryan (N0KIA)

Secretary:

Phil Bigg (KB3HMK)

Board of Governors

Walt Snyder (KE3SP)

Frank Unger (W3FTU)

Robin Gable (KB3GZV)

Mark Miller (AK3M)

Dick Dech (KA3MOU)

Tim Reinhard **was** KD3JP but **now** is **WZ3T**. After earning his Extra at the October 20, 2006 LVARC test session, Tim decided to get a 2x1 call.

He also joined the LVARC VE team as he is now also a newly certified VE!

CONGRATULATIONS Tim !!!

Auld Lang Syne



The most commonly sung song for English-speakers on New Year's eve, "Auld Lang Syne" is an old Scottish song that was first published by the poet Robert Burns in the 1796 edition of the book, *Scots Musical Museum*. Burns transcribed it (and made some refinements to the lyrics) after he heard it sung by an old man from the Ayrshire area of Scotland, Burns's homeland.

It is often remarked that "Auld Lang Syne" is one of the most popular songs that nobody knows the lyrics to. "Auld Lang Syne" literally translates as "old long since" and means "times gone by." The song asks whether old friends and times will be forgotten and promises to remember people of the past with fondness, "For auld lang syne, we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet."

HF Phonetic Alphabet Quiz

de Mark (AK3M)

How many words in the **HF** phonetic alphabet are **only one syllable**? Search your memory then see page 12 for a complete list and the answer.





NCS Needed

Jeff (N3MFT) needs Net Control Operators for the Monday Night RACES/ARES/LVARC Net. If you are interested in helping, contact Jeff or any net control operator.

Product Review (de NR3R)



Transceiver Speaker
by High Sierra Antennas

All HF transceivers have one small problem; a small speaker in the top. That speaker faces upwards, lacks fidelity and lacks volume.

The speaker box is approximately 9 inches by 5 inches by 4 inches. For transceivers will dual receive, VFO A will be on the left and VFO B will be on the right. So, it is perfect for split frequency operation.

You can also play recordings through its built-in USB port. For example, if you are using Ham Radio Deluxe as your logging program and you record QSO's through your computer, they can be played back through the USB port. On the back there is a switch that determines the audio source; MP3, Audio (from your transceiver) or USB (from your computer). Also on the back is the audio input jack, headphone jack, recorder output jack and power supply jack.

Visit: <http://www.cq73.com/>

How many words in the HF phonetic alphabet are **only one syllable**?

The Phonetic Alphabet

A - ALFA	G - GOLF	M - MIKE	T - TANGO
B - BRAVO	H - HOTEL	N - NOVEMBER	U - UNIFORM
C - CHARLIE	I - INDIA	O - OSCAR	V - VICTOR
D - DELTA	J - JULIET	P - PAPA	W - WHISKEY
E - ECHO	K - KILO	Q - QUEBEC	X - X-RAY
F - FOXTROT	L - LIMA	R - ROMEO	Y - YANKEE
		S - SIERRA	Z - ZULU

Answer: 2. **"Golf"** and **"Mike"**



USING A COMPUTER SOUND CARD INTERFACE TO TUNE CW SIGNALS

The sound card interface between your radio and computer can serve other purposes than digital amateur radio communication such as PSK31. It is also quite useful for tuning cw signals.

Connect the interface card as per manufacturer's instructions. Install a digital program, and set up the sound card the same as for digital modes. I use WinPSKse 2.23 and a Tigertronics SL-1+, though I imagine other hardware and software configurations would work as well.

Tune to a cw frequency. On your computer, select the SPECTRUM tab, and set your radio to SSB. You now have an audio spectrum analyzer on your computer screen, displaying the audio spectrum from 200 to 3500 Hertz.

Note the background noise, and the shape and frequency of the bandpass. Look for the audio peaks of a cw signal. They will bounce in synchronism with the sound.

Switch to CW. You will immediately notice that the width of the bandpass has decreased.

You can now tune a cw signal with your eyes, as well as your ears. This is especially useful when reducing or shaping the bandpass to eliminate QRM. It also allows a signal to be tuned so it is not "lost" when reducing the bandpass.

I like to listen to signals around 800 Hertz. So, I have set the cw pitch of my IC-746PRO to this frequency. Simply tune the signal to 800 Hz.. When changing the bandpass, the signal will remain at 800 Hz., eliminating signals outside the bandpass. This is especially effective when looking for a cw signal on sideband, then switching to cw. The signal you are listening for should remain at the same audio frequency.

I set my software RX1 marker at 800 Hertz, so it is easily noted. The AFC of the software may have to be turned off in order to do this. As I change mode, or bandpass, the signal which I am listening to remains at 800 hertz. If there is an interfering signal close by, it can be eliminated by adjusting the bandpass, the notch filter, the shape of the bandpass, or any other features your radio may offer.

In summary, the sound card interface can be helpful to any cw operator. It's cheap, and extremely useful.

Practice this procedure, until the visual representation of the audio spectrum

Alfred Gruenke KB3JPP
1147 Jaime Cr.
Wescosville, Pa. 18106

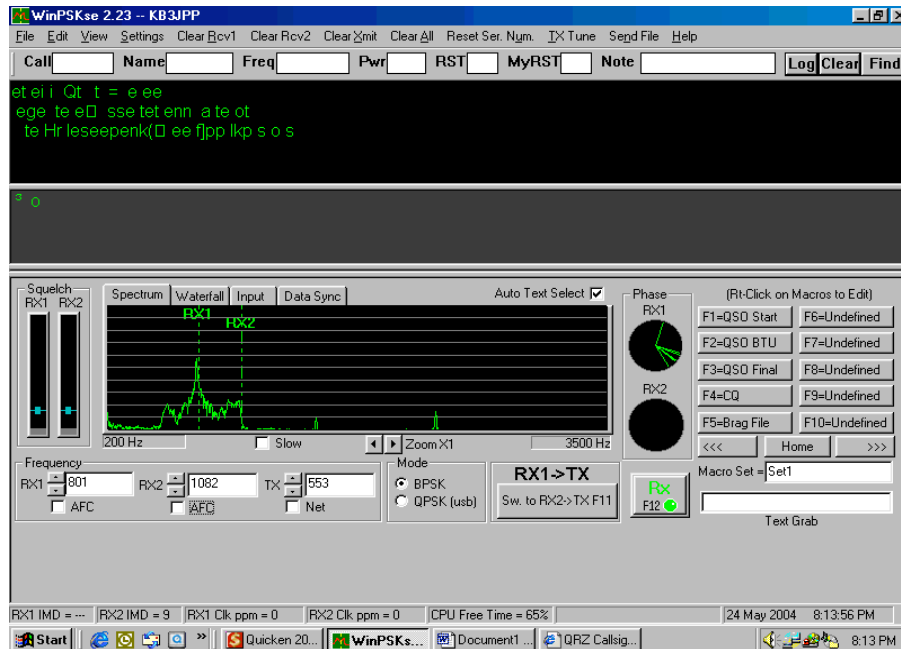


Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI)

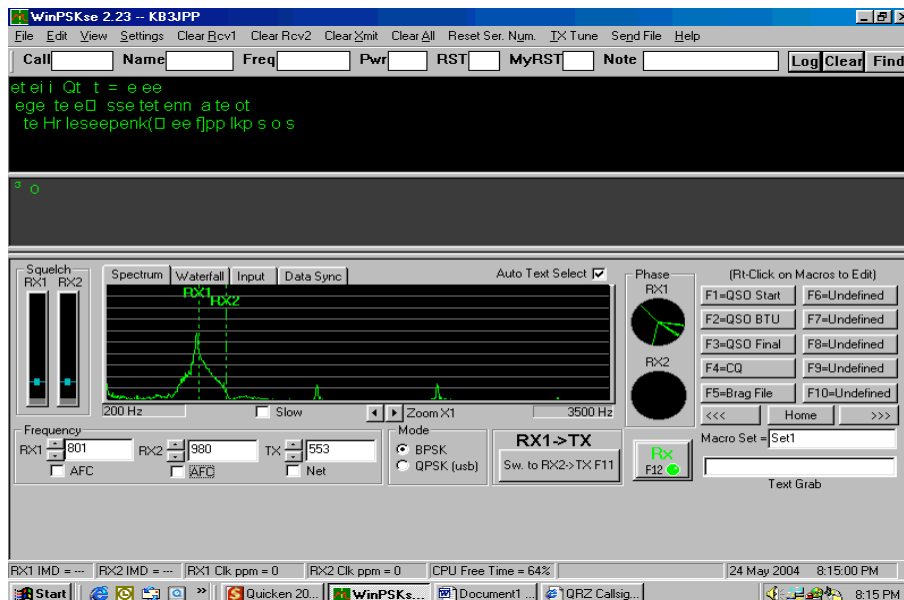
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7.0475 MHz W1AW signal, receiver on CW, 500 Hz bandpass. The cw signal is still at 800 Hz, and signals above 1080 Hz are eliminated !



7.0475 MHz W1AW signal, receiver on CW, 1.0 kHz bandpass. Again, note the signal, at 800 Hz.



FCC "Omnibus" Amateur Radio R&O Published in *Federal Register*, Takes Effect December 15 (From the ARRL website)

NEWINGTON, CT (November 15, 2006) -- Just a little over a month after the Federal Communications Commission released the *Report and Order (R&O)* in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared today in the *Federal Register*. The changes in the R&O will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the *Report & Order* as published this morning clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Still to be resolved are three controversial aspects of the Proceeding:

- Expansion of the 75 meter phone band all the way down to 3600 kHz (thus reducing the privileges of General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees, who had RTTY/data privileges in the 80 meter band, and CW privileges of General and Advanced class licensees)
- The elimination of J2D emissions, data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter, of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. This will make PACTOR III at full capability illegal. Other digital modes effectively rendered illegal below 30 MHz include Olivia and MT63 (when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz), 1200-baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.
- The elimination of access to the automatic control RTTY/data subband at 3620-3635 kHz.

The ARRL Board is discussing the possibility of a petition to reconsider several items in the R&O. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented: "The release of the R&O in the *Federal Register* has started the countdown clock. We are all looking forward to being able to use the refarmed frequencies starting on December 15. We are still anxiously awaiting the release of the *Report and Order* for 05-235, the Morse Code Proceeding. We are hopeful that the Commission will be able to move on that petition and address the outstanding issues in the Omnibus R&O soon."

For more information, see the [band chart](#) [917,715 bytes, PDF] and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on WT Docket No. 04-140. Both have been updated to reflect the R&O as it was published in the *Federal Register*.



FCC Corrects J2D Error in "Omnibus" *Report and Order*
 NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 28, 2006

The FCC today released an *Erratum* that corrects one error in the recent *Report and Order (R&O)* in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding -- that inadvertently limited J2D emissions to an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz. J2D emissions are data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter. Had it been left to stand, the error would have rendered illegal below 30 MHz PACTOR III at full capability as well as Olivia and MT63 when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz bandwidth, 1200 baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

The FCC *Erratum* revises §97.3(c)(2) of the Amateur Service rules going into effect December 15 to read:

Data. Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications emissions having (i) designators with A, C, D, F, G, H, J or R as the first symbol, 1 as the second symbol, and D as the third symbol; (ii) emission J2D; and (iii) emissions A1C, F1C, F2C, J2C, and J3C having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less when transmitted on an amateur service frequency below 30 MHz. Only a digital code of a type specifically authorized in this part may be transmitted.

In its comments on the proceeding, the ARRL argued that a 500-Hz bandwidth limitation in the definition of data emissions would have unintended consequences because the limitation would also apply to Amateur Radio bands where a higher bandwidth is allowed. In its *R&O*, the FCC said relaxing the bandwidth limitation "would *de facto* eliminate the separation of narrow bandwidth and wide bandwidth emissions," which it called an "reasonable means to minimize interference on shared frequencies and bands."

The Commission said in the running text of the *R&O* that it would address the League's concern by revising the Part 97 rules "to clarify that the 500 Hz limitation applies only to the emission types we are adding to the definition of data when transmitted on Amateur Service frequencies below 30 MHz."

Unfortunately, the language of the intended revision that appeared in the original version of the *R&O* inadvertently included J2D emissions among those to which the 500-Hz bandwidth limitation would apply.

The FCC incorporated some unrelated editorial revisions in the version of the *R&O* that appeared November 15 in the *Federal Register*. The "omnibus" rule changes -- including those accounted for in the *Federal Register* and the *Erratum* -- take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST (0501 UTC).





What is the smallest DXCC-entity in the world?

- (a) Luxemburg
- (b) Andorra
- (c) Singapore
- (d) S.M.O.M. (Sovereign Military Order of Malta)

ANSWER: (d) The S.M.O.M. is headquartered in Rome and there are approximately 10,500 members of the Order around the world today. It is one of the oldest religious orders of the Catholic Church, an international hospitaller and relief organization. and a sovereign entity under



**President Rod Wolfe, Jr. (N3XG)
presents the Pres Schuler award
to Frank Unger (W3FTU)**

(above)

**CONGRATULATIONS to
Frank Unger (W3FTU)** on
receiving the Pres Schuler Award
at the December 5, 2006 meeting!





LVARC 2006 Annual Holiday Party





The LVARC raised
\$273.15 on the
November hoagie sale !!!



**ITS OFFICIAL. THE
LVARC MEETINGS ARE
MOVING TO THE TRI-
CLOVER FIRE COMPANY**



Beginning with the January 2, 2007 meeting, the LVARC will hold its monthly meetings at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield, PA. The meeting time will remain the same at 7:30 pm local time.

Note: The LVARC test sessions (3rd Friday of each month) will continue to be administered at the Red Cross building.

Do you recognize the LVARC member to the right? Yes, its Phil (KB3HMK) in his kilt! We finally get to see it!



For the 2007 LVARC membership card, Paul (NOKIA) has selected purple to indicate the year of your current membership. Paul has indeed selected this color on purpose. Do you know the pattern? The answer will appear in the February E-VOX.

