

# 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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### 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)*

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### Board of Governors

*Richard Dech - KA3MOU (ka3mou@arrl.net)*  
*Robin Gable - KB3GZV (kb3gzw@arrl.net)*  
*Mark S. Miller - AK3M (AK3M@rcn.com)*  
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*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

**146.34 / 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)**



*All are welcome !*

**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 and/or graphics.



The July, 2007 LVARC meeting will be held on July 3, 2007 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

Program: "What you need to do a public service event"  
Presenter: Paul Ryan (N0KIA)



## 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 - 2007

Month		Number of Check-In's		Number of Mondays
January		131		4
February		128		4
March		129		4
April		158		5
May		96		3



### HOT TOPICS

Field Day --- June 23 & 24, 2007 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co.  
Walk - In Testing at Field Day --- Saturday June 23 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.  
District 2 RACES Net --- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays -8:00 pm. 147.255



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**Minutes of the June 5, 2007 LVARC Meeting**  
Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK) - LVARC Recording Secretary

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The meeting was called to order by Vice President Traverson 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 15 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Craig (N3TSY), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA), Robin (KB3GZV) and Walt (KE3SP).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Robin – Kb3GZV

Carried (Y/N) Y

**Treasurer's Report** (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting Balance: \$3,373.54

Ending Balance: \$3,408.81

Approved by: Dave – W3AMC

Second by: Mark – N3ULR

Carried: (Y/N) Y

**Committee Reports:**

**Repeater:** No report

**Program:** Phil says that he is in need of programs. Tonight's program will be a brief overview of Field Day. If you would like to do a program or know of a topic that you would like to see covered, contact Phil (KB3HMK). Paul (N0KIA) volunteered to do a program for next month. It will be on being prepared for public service events. Bob (WB3W) will do an APRS program for August.

**Volunteer Examiners:** Craig reported for Mark. The club had 2 test on May 18. Mark wants to congratulate Peicheng Chu (KB3MUF) and John Izzi, Jr. (W3JJI) for upgrading to General class. The next regularly scheduled test session will be June 15. Sign up deadline will be June 10. There will also be a walk in test session for the Saturday of Field Day. The time will be 9 AM to 12 PM. The current General question pool will expire on June 30.



**Field Day:** Field Day will be held at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. this year. The club will be running as a 2A station with a 3rd station. The main band will be 80 meters and a go to station. There is also a possibility of a 6 meter station. A sign up sheet is being passed around. Please sign up for what you are available for. If the club cannot get the motor home from the county, members have offered tents and campers.

**Web Site:** No report

**Education:** No report

**Old Business:** Rod thanks the members that helped with the 4K Run in Orefield. Mark got praises from the organizers on how professional the club members were. There will be a hamfest in Bloomsburg on June 9. It will be held at the fire company and the fee is \$5. There will also be hamfest in the Stroudsburg area on September 8. It will be held at the school and the fee is \$5.

**New Business:** Rod wants to know how many members will be at the next meeting. This is due to the 4th of July being the day after. Enough members showed an interest to have the meeting. The club wants to congratulate Dorian (KB3GZW) for graduating from high school and LCTI. He also received the Mathew Koch scholarship for electronics.

**Good of Order:** Ike (N3IK) suggested a membership drive. He feels this will help with the attendance at the meeting, He would like to head up the committee.

**Sick Report:** No report

LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2000 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Dorian – KB3GZW

Second by: Bruce – KA3TIU

In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

**\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$**  
**Balance ending May, 2007 - \$ 3,408.81**





## THIS MONTH IN HAM RADIO

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> KB3GZV	3 <b>LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30</b>	4  <b>July 4th</b>	5	6	7
8	9 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> KB3GZW	10	11 <b>Dist. 2 RACES Net 147.255</b>	12	13	14 IARU HF World Champ.
15 IARU HF World Champ. <b>Deadline to schedule test</b>	16 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> AK3M	17	18	19	20 <b>LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm</b>	21 CQ WW VHF Contest
22 CQ WW VHF Contest	23 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> N3XG	24	25 <b>Dist. 2 RACES Net 147.255</b>	26	27	28
29	30 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b> N3MFT	31	<b>July 2007</b>			

**LVARC Meeting - Tuesday July 3 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.**

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



## Mark your Calendar LVARC Activities/Events

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday July 2 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Tuesday July 3 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)  
 Monday July 9 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Wednesday July 11 --- Dist. 2 RACES Net - 8:00 pm  
 Sunday July 15 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month  
 Monday July 16 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Friday July 20 -- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION NECESSARY)  
 Monday July 23 --- LC RACES/ - ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
 Wednesday July 25 --- Dist. 2 RACES Net - 8:00 pm  
 Monday July 30 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

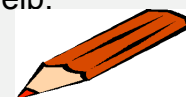
There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.

**REMEMBER:** The LVARC offers 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.



**The Origin of SOS ----** Do you think SOS means, "Save Our Ship?" or, "Save Our Souls," or some other acronym? Well, think again. Read the whole story on pages 88-89 in the June, 2007 issue of QST or visit John Dilks' web site at <http://www.k2tqn.com> . You will be surprised.

**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**



## LVARC VE Program



Two tested at the May 18, 2007 LVARC test session and two passed.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Pei Chu (KB3MUF) and John Izzi (W3JJI) on their upgrades to General.

LVARC VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU), Tim (WZ3T) and Al (W3SCT).

### NIMS/EmComm Certification -- de Mark (AK3M)

**IMPORTANT**

Your help is needed in order to maintain an accurate list of NIMS certified LVARC members. **IF YOU HAVE PASSED ANY OF THE "IS" (NIMS) COURSES AND/OR EmComm COURSES, PLEASE SEND, VIA EMAIL TO MARK (AK3M), INDICATING ALL OF YOUR NIMS AND/OR EmComm COURSES.** Please **DO NOT** send copies of the certificates. (See p. 11)

**NEW YAHOO POLL** --- There is a new poll on the LVARC website. See page 10 for the results of the first poll.

**VOTE NOW!**

**DON'T  
FORGET ...**



... the District 2 RACES Net on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM. Check into this net on 147.255 and a PL of 100. Should this repeater be non-operational, we will move to the 145.370 repeater with a PL of 131.8. All amateurs are invited and encouraged to check in.

... to visit the LVARC Yahoo group!





## “Old 807” Strikes again!

I received a second letter in the mail with two submissions for the newsletter from “Old 807.” Again, there was no return address, unfamiliar handwriting of the address and in the same typewritten document as before. I am printing the first and will hold the second item for the next issue of the newsletter. *Interesting, huh?* -- ed.



[From “Old 807,] --- **“Comedy Night”** --- “In the thirties, Sunday night was comedy night on the AM BC band and usually came in twos. There was Fibber McGee and Molly, Jack Benny and Mary Livingston, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Phil Baker and Beetle, Colonel Stoopnagle and Bud, Fred Allen and his alley, Eddie Cantor and Ida, Laurel and Hardy, Abbot and Costello and Jerry Colona.

Steve Allen wrote a book about Sunday night comedy time. He said Eddie Cantor was the least funny of all the comedians but he wrote his own “schtick.” Bob Hope had 15 writers.

We had only a small headphone set in the house to listen to to with 3 headphones connected to it. Sunday nights, we kids would crowd into our Studebaker sedan, with a Pep Boys radio in it and kill the battery. These old cars had a hand crank and were easy to start, with a dead battery and a bit of elbow grease.”

## Amateur Radio Mobile Use to be Outlawed in NJ URGENT ACTION NEEDED!

The New Jersey Legislature is fast-tracking a bill to prohibit the use of any “electronic communication device” while driving. The bill defines “use” as including LISTENING to any such device. The mobile use of Amateur Radio will most certainly be outlawed should this legislation be enacted.

This bill is being moved quickly in light of the controversy surrounding Governor Corzine's near-fatal motor-vehicle accident, where text-messaging has been implicated as a factor.

Is Pennsylvania far behind?





## Results of the First LVARC Yahoo Poll.

**Should the LVARC continue to provide communications support for local events?**

Created on Apr 24, 2007

**Responses 10**

Choices	Votes	%	1 reply
No	0	0	
Yes	10	100	

## LVARC Member is Recognized In QST! --- de Mark (AK3M)



**Jeff Fehr** (KX3Q) was recognized in the June, 2007 issue of QST as completing the third EmComm course thus earning a place on the ARRL Emergency Communications Course Honor Roll. See page 90 of June QST.

**CONGRATULATIONS Jeff !**

## From the ARRL --- TravelPlus CD-ROM with BONUS Repeater Directory -- 2007/2008 Edition. Version 11.0 -- **BONUS**

Pre-order TravelPlus with Bonus ARRL Repeater Directory (pocket-sized). You get both for ONLY \$39.95. Bonus offer expires May 31, 2007.

With TravelPlus for Repeaters™, you have the power of The ARRL Repeater Directory® on your COMPUTER! Make TravelPlus for Repeaters™ your traveling companion, and you'll never be alone on the road. Locate ham radio repeaters along US and Canadian travel routes using this map-based software. Fast. Powerful. Flexible. Convenient.

Map your travel route and tune in. Supports GPS (with separate external hardware\*). View and print maps and repeater lists Access The ARRL Repeater DataBase, global Internet linked nodes, AM/FM radio, broadcast television, and NOAA weather stations. NEW - Now including points of interest for radio-related sites and museums. Export data. Transfer to *Palm™* or *Pocket PC*, radio programming software, and more. --- Requires Microsoft Windows 98SE-XP, and a Pentium or comparable processor.



## Results of Response to NIMS/EmComm Survey

25 people have responded to the call for reporting their NIMS and/or AREC (EmComm) courses.

First Name	Last Name	Call	NIMS 100	NIMS 200	NIMS 300	NIMS 400	NIMS 700	NIMS 800	Em Comm Level 1	Em Comm Level 2	Em Comm Level 3	Total Certs.
Anthony	Benner	KB3MUX	1	1			1	1				4
Phil	Bigg	KB3HMK					1					1
Bruce	Bobo	KB3FIH					1		1			2
Tom	Braun	K3ARI	1				1					2
Dick	Dech	KA3MOU					1		1			2
Charles	Eckhart	KB3FDM					1					1
Guy	Ennis	KA3YGF					1					1
Jeff	Fehr	KX3Q	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	7
Rich	Hetzel	N3UB					1					1
Don	Holmes	KC3II					1					1
Bob	House	WB3JSZ					1					1
Jeff	Kelly	N3MFT	1	1	1		1	1	1			6
Chris	Kelly	N3RPV	1	1			1	1				4
Larry	Miller	NR3R	1	1			1	1				4
Mark	Miller	AK3M	1	1			1	1	1	1		6
Barry	Mitchneck	KB3FMI					1					1
Chris	Post	WZ3Q					1					1
Paul	Ryan	N0KIA					1		1	1	1	4
Jack	Seeger	KC9DQV					1					1
Larry	Snyder	KN3L	1	1			1	1				4
Carl	Stevenson	WK3C					1					1
Craig	Traverson	N3TSY					1					1
Frank	Unger	W3FTU					1		1			2
Bob	Wiseman	WB3W	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Rodney	Wolfe	N3XG	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	7

If your information above is incorrect, or if you have not yet submitted your NIMS/AREC courses, contact Mark (AK3M). -- **Remember, you cannot participate in a RACES activity without at least IS 700 certification.**

## ARES/RACES Net Control Operators Needed !

Jeff Kelly (N3MFT) is looking for volunteers to act as net control operators for the Monday Night Net. If you are interested, contact Jeff.



## **Three States Set Sights on Amateur Radio Antenna Legislation**

NEWINGTON, CT, May 9, 2007 -- North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma have -- or soon will have -- Amateur Radio antenna legislation in play. Radio amateurs in all three states are hoping to have the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 incorporated into their states' statutes. The North Carolina bill, H 1340, is on the fastest track at this point. The measure was reported favorably out of the House Ways and Means Committee on May 3, and unanimously approved by the full House on May 8. North Carolina ARRL Section leadership now are encouraging the Amateur Radio community to urge their lawmakers to support the bill when it reaches the Senate.

### **AN ACT**

Amending the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), entitled, as amended, "An act to empower cities of the second class A, and third class, boroughs, incorporated towns, townships of the first and second classes including those within a county of the second class and counties of the second through eighth classes, individually or jointly, to plan their development and to govern the same by zoning, subdivision and land development ordinances, planned residential development and other ordinances, by official maps, by the reservation of certain land for future public purpose and by the acquisition of such land; to promote the conservation of energy through the use of planning practices and to promote the effective utilization of renewable energy sources; providing for the establishment of planning commissions, planning departments, planning committees and zoning hearing boards, authorizing them to charge fees, make inspections and hold public hearings; providing for mediation; providing for transferable development rights; providing for appropriations, appeals to courts and penalties for violations; and repealing acts and parts of acts," further providing for ordinance provisions.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 603 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, reenacted and amended December 21, 1988 (P.L.1329, No.170), is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 603. Ordinance Provisions.--\* \* \*

(m) A municipality shall not adopt an ordinance, regulation or plan or take any other action that precludes amateur service communications or that in any other manner does not comply with the limited preemption of the Federal Communications Commission Amateur Radio Preemption order, published at 101 F.C.C. 2d 952 (1985), or any regulation related to amateur radio service adopted under 47 CFR Part 97. Any ordinance or regulation adopted by a municipality involving the placement, screening, or height of an amateur radio antenna based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must reasonably accommodate amateur communications, and represent the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's legitimate purpose. The provisions of this subsection do not prohibit a municipality from taking action to protect or preserve a historic, a historical, or an architectural district that is established by the municipality or pursuant to state or federal law.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.



## The LVARC Performs Another Successful ARES Event! - de Mark (AK3M)



On Saturday May 19, 2007, LVARC operators provided communications support for St. Joseph The Worker's annual 4-mile race in Orefield/Chapmans. The weather was chilly but no rain. Approximately 54 local runners participated and the event was completed in under than one hour. In addition to the runners, there were seven walkers (and one dog) who walked one mile on a separate course. Traffic handled was routine and no emergency situations were encountered.

I wish to thank **Paul** (N0KIA), **Fran** (KB3HZB), **Bob** (WB3JSZ), **Jeff** (KB3OCP), **Phil** (KB3HMK) and **Bill** (KA3RBH) for donating their time for this event. Below, is an email I received from Henry, the race coordinator, the following day.

[May 20, 2007]

"Gentlemen,

Once again, thank you all for participating in our race. We really appreciate your help; your group was very professional. We hope you consider joining us again next year. God bless!"




**807?** --- **W**e have had two submissions (with one more coming in the August issue) from the mysterious, "Old 807." **Do you know what an "807" is?** For hams familiar with vacuum tubes, an 807 is a final amplifier valve. Nominally 80 watts, but you could push it to a hundred with luck. Lots of amateurs got going with simple crystal controlled transmitters for CW using a single 807 as the final amplifier driving the antenna. There were 3 versions (pictured). Now you know, "The rest of the story !" --- ed.



3 versions of the 807



Just in Time for Field Day! (from QST, June, 2007, page 96)



## US/Canada Section Abbreviation List

Those new to the ins and outs of Field Day will find this list of Section abbreviations useful — for those in the US and Canada, they're an important part of the FD exchange, along with station call sign and class. Be sure to bring a copy of this Section Abbreviation List with you to FD 2007.

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Connecticut CT</p> <p>Rhode Island RI</p> <p>Eastern Massachusetts EMA</p> <p>Vermont VT</p> <p>Maine ME</p> <p>Western Massachusetts WMA</p> <p>New Hampshire NH</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Arkansas AR</p> <p>North Texas NTX</p> <p>Louisiana LA</p> <p>Oklahoma OK</p> <p>Mississippi MS</p> <p>South Texas STX</p> <p>New Mexico NM</p> <p>West Texas WTX</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Michigan MI</p> <p>West Virginia WV</p> <p>Ohio OH</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Eastern New York ENY</p> <p>Northern New York NNY</p> <p>NYC / Long Island NLI</p> <p>Southern New Jersey SNJ</p> <p>Northern New Jersey NNJ</p> <p>Western New York WNY</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>East Bay EB</p> <p>San Diego SDG</p> <p>Los Angeles LAX</p> <p>San Francisco SF</p> <p>Orange ORG</p> <p>San Joaquin Valley SJV</p> <p>Santa Barbara SB</p> <p>Sacramento Valley SV</p> <p>Santa Clara Valley SCV</p> <p>Pacific PAC</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Illinois IL</p> <p>Wisconsin WI</p> <p>Indiana IN</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Delaware DE</p> <p>Maryland — DC MDC</p> <p>Eastern Pennsylvania EPA</p> <p>Western Pennsylvania WPA</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Alaska AK</p> <p>Nevada NV</p> <p>Arizona AZ</p> <p>Oregon OR</p> <p>Eastern Washington EWA</p> <p>Utah UT</p> <p>Idaho ID</p> <p>Western Washington WWA</p> <p>Montana MT</p> <p>Wyoming WY</p>	<p><b>Canada</b></p> <p>Maritime MAR</p> <p>Saskatchewan SK</p> <p>Newfoundland/Labrador NL</p> <p>Alberta AB</p> <p>Quebec QC</p> <p>British Columbia BC</p> <p>Ontario ON</p> <p>Northern Territories NT</p> <p>Manitoba MB</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Alabama AL</p> <p>Southern Florida SFL</p> <p>Georgia GA</p> <p>Tennessee TN</p> <p>Kentucky KY</p> <p>Virginia VA</p> <p>North Carolina NC</p> <p>West Central Florida WCF</p> <p>Northern Florida NFL</p> <p>Puerto Rico PR</p> <p>South Carolina SC</p> <p>Virgin Islands VI</p>		

♦ Non US and Canadian stations should be logged as DX for Field Day.

**Emergency Communication Leads IARU Administrative Council Agenda** (May 16, 2007) -- The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual meeting May 14-15 in Boston, Massachusetts. Topping the agenda was the IARU's upcoming participation in the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, GAREC-07.



----- See <http://www.arrl.org> for further details.





## HF mobile antenna installation - Tim Reinhard WZ3T

In this article, I plan to document the steps taken and lessons learned while installing a HF mobile radio in my vehicle.

The installation consists of an Icom IC-7000 connected to a LDG AT-7000 antenna tuner and a 20 meter HamStick antenna. I've tried several HF mounts, including one home made mount, but none of them worked as well as the Diamond K-400 mount.



The IC-7000 has a detachable head, which was 'glued' on the dashboard with double sided 'servo' tape that is used in RC radio applications. The radio was mounted under the drivers seat. Make sure this is mounted solidly so it will not move in the event of sudden maneuvers.



Prior to purchasing the LDG AT-7000 antenna tuner, I attempted to connect that 20 meter HamStick to the radio directly. Tuning the 20 meter antenna was not simply the 'plug and play' installation that I was hoping for, but I've learned a great deal from the experience. Since the antenna was physically shorter than 1/4 wavelength, it turned out to be inductive. Using an MFJ antenna analyzer, it showed that the antenna was about 25 ohms resistive and 27 ohms reactive. The people that make the HamStick antennas suggested shunting the base of the antenna with a small capacitor, in the range of 100pf to 300pf for 20 meters. For my installation, the magic number turned out to be 270pF. This brought the antenna resistance to be almost 50 ohms and the reactance to be 7 ohms. The capacitor is a silver mica type and the working voltage is 100V. From our antenna theory, remember





that the voltage is low at the feed point of the antenna, so the capacitor should not be damaged in normal operation. The IC-7000 has no trouble working into this antenna. I trimmed the antenna to be resonant at 14.220MHz and the bandwidth is wide enough to enjoy 20 meter SSB mobile without worrying about the radio shutting down from a high SWR.

Since I was not happy operating only 20 meters, the next investment was an antenna tuner. The model selected was the AT-7000, which is made by LDG and is a 'one button' match for the IC-7000. The antenna tuner was mounted right behind the radio and once connected via the supplied cables, I had no trouble tuning the entire 20 meter band. Since I did not need the 270pF capacitor to match the antenna, it was removed from the system. The AT-7000 tuner is capable of tuning the 20 meter HamStick antenna on 40 meters as well as 15 meters. The antenna is not performing well on 40 meters, possibly due to the shortened length. The signals are weak. I cannot comment on 15 meters yet, the band has not been open during my testing, but I'm hopeful it will work once the sun spot cycle picks up.

From the lessons learned department:

1. When trimming an antenna, make sure you are not in close proximity to the antenna. This is easy to forget when your working with an antenna analyzer! I adjusted the antenna far away from the house, with a 20 foot coax extension so that my body would not affect the antenna adjustment.
2. Since this was a mobile application, and did not have a physical earth ground, the antenna analyzer was affected by my body while adjusting the unit! If I touched the metal case of the analyzer, the readings changed. So the procedure was, adjust, back up, adjust again, repeat if necessary.

Future additions to the setup will be HamStick antennas for 40, 15 and 6 meters.

Operating HF mobile is not as easy as operating HF in your shack, but it can turn out to be a very rewarding experience. Always remember that operating your vehicle should be the highest priority! Safety first, always.

I have two memorable mobile contacts out of many. The first was a station in Nigeria who, through the pile up, responded with "the whiskey 3 mobile station only". Nice contact for 100 watts mobile. The other was a station in Barcelona Spain, who was cranking out one contact after another, but when he answered me, he was so excited with the 59+ mobile signal that he spent about 10 minutes ragchewing with me. After a long day at work, this is a great way to spend the trip home.

The author can be reached at [wz3t@mac.com](mailto:wz3t@mac.com)





## “My Two Cents” ... de Mark (AK3M)



EDITORIAL

I have been a ham for 39 years (since 1968) and have made many mistakes, but have never given up on the hobby. Equipment, licensing and I have all undergone changes. Hopefully, I have learned from these mistakes and changes and have become a better operator. With this in mind, I offer the following.

I have always been interested in emergency communications. I feel that we can do more than contact others for our own benefit. We can use our skills, experience and equipment for the good of the community. I have been a Monday night net control operator for, let's just say, a few years. This does NOT make me an expert but it does allow me to share my experiences with you.

A few *personal* notes about being a Net Control Station (NCS). The Monday night RACES/ARES/LVARC net is a drill and practice exercise for both the NCS and check-in stations to hone their skills. A VHF/UHF EmComm net is *more than a list of calls/names*. I offer the following suggestions for both the VHF/UHF NCS and the stations checking in.

**For the NCS.** Be prepared to copy **ALL** emergency traffic as well as routine messages. Do not ask if the station with traffic will be around at the end of the net to repeat his message(s). It is the responsibility of the NCS to call that station at the end of the role call. If that station is not available, the NCS must be ready to repeat the information. Once the NCS has heard the information, it belongs to him.

This is not a contest and there is no prize for completing the net in the shortest amount of time. TAKE YOUR TIME. Everyone's call is different. We as amateurs, cherish our call as our name. Get the station's call correct. If unsure of the call, ask for clarification, don't guess.

If a station has a *marginal* signal or if you have trouble hearing him, do not waste time trying to get a better copy on him. Sounds cruel but if you were the NCS for an actual emergency, a marginal station would be useless. It is incumbent on the check-in station to have a useable signal. A directed net is not the time for experimentation.

**A note to check-in stations.** Beginning about 15 minutes prior to every net, the repeater begins to “ker-chunk.” Is this necessary? I have faith in my equipment and am confident that it will work. Your radio should be pre-programmed with the proper PL from the last time you used the repeater. “Kerchunking” only indicates that you can open the repeater but does not insure that your audio will be communication quality. Please refrain from “kerchunking,” the repeater, but if you must, please identify.

It is not necessary to say, “No traffic,” when responding. Traffic was solicited at the opening of the net and if you had traffic, that would have been the time to declare it.

At an event/emergency, many times the NCS may be busy interacting with coordinators. This may not be apparent to the supporting operators. If you, as a check-in station, call the NCS and he does not reply immediately, wait a few minutes then call again.

I hope these suggestions will help you become a better operator and make for smooth running net.

I invite YOUR opinions on this or other topics. I will be happy to publish them in the newsletter under, “My Two Cents.”



## Effective Communication With 2 Watts?



**You bet!** 2 Watts doesn't sound like enough power to open even a distant repeater but a report from Larry (NR3R) proves that is not the case on HF. Operating marine mobile from Lake Wallenpaupack, Larry worked a CW contest over the Memorial Day weekend using his Yaesu FT-817 and a 20-meter Hustler mounted on the boat. The 817 is capable of a maximum of 5 watts with external DC power but with a battery pack, only about 2 watts is obtainable. True QRP! Larry reports many East coast and mid-West CW contacts using only the battery pack (2 watts). Although hearing Europe clearly, he was not able to work those stations from his location. Effective HF communications with 2 watts? .... absolutely!

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**Field Day Water Bottle #1071**--\$3.95/ea

20 oz. white bottle with blue screw on push-pull cap.



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