

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

146.34 / 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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Field Day This Month



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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The June, 2007 LVARC meeting will be held on June 5, 2007 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

Program: Field Day Preparation
Presenter: Larry (KN3L)



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
February
March
April



131
128
129
158



4
4
4
5

HOT TOPICS

EmComm Conference --- June 9, 2007.

Field Day --- June 23 & 24, 2007 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co.

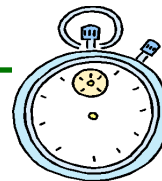
Walk - In Testing at Field Day --- Saturday June 23 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

District 2 RACES Net --- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays -8:00 pm. 147.255



Minutes of the May 1, 2007 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK) - LVARC Recording Secretary



The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Paul Ryan 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 17 members in attendance. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA), Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU), Dick Dech (KA3MOU), Robin (KB3GZV) and Walt (KE3SP).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Motion by: Dick – KA3MOU

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting Balance: \$3,133.47

Ending Balance: \$3,373.54

Approved by: Carl – AA3IX

Second by: Dick – KA3MOU

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: Mark (AK3M) reported for Jeff (N3MFT). No reports of the repeaters acting up. Most of the repeaters and duplexers are in. They will start working on installing them.

Program: Phil reports that tonight's program will Frank (W3FTU). He will do a presentation designed at promoting amateur radio. Phil said that he is always looking for members to do a program. If you also have any suggestions for a program, let him know. Next month will possibly be about preparing for field day.

Volunteer Examiners: No one tested for the month of April. Jeff (KB3OCP) is now officially a general class ham. There will be walk in testing for field day.



Field Day: No report.

Web Site: The website is working. The yahoo groups are now up and running. Go to Yahoo groups and do a search for W3OI. There is an anonymous pole on the site until the end of May. There is also a calendar and messages.

Old Business: Mark reports that the 1/2 marathon was a great success. A good time was had by all. Allentown EMS thanked the club for the work the members did. Paul thanked Mark for his work in setting everything up. There is walk-a-thon on May 19 that Mark is in need of help. If interested, contact Mark (AK3M). A reminder to the members to send in your old ink cartridges. See Frank (W3FTU) for envelopes.

New Business: The new net rosters will be posted on the website. There will be a new district wide ARES / RACES net on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. It will start at 8 P.M. This will include the 6 counties in are district. The primary repeater will be 147.255 with a P.L. of 100.0. This repeater is located in Jim Thorpe. The back up repeater will be 145.370 with a P.L. of 131.8. It will begin on May 9. There is also an emcomm conference on May 9. The info is also on the Yahoo group. Ike (N3IKE) is in need of help putting up antennas. If you're available to help, please contact him. Jennifer (KB3NOV) has small transformers for sale. If interested, please see her.

New Members: Charles Seymour – NJ3A

Motion by: Robin – KB3GZV

Second by: Phil – KB3HMK

Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 1956 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Walt – KE3SP

Second by: Dave – W3AMC


In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

<p>\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$</p> <p>Balance ending April, 2007 - \$ 3,373.54</p>	
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THIS MONTH IN HAM RADIO

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2007  Field Day					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SEANET Contest Alabama QSO Party	ARES RACES Net 7:30	LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30				Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint ARRL VHF QSO Party
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint Deadline to schedule test	ARES RACES Net 7:30		NAQCC STRAIGHT KEY/BUG SPRINT		LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	All Asian CW DX Contest W. VA. QSO Party Kid's Day Contest
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
All Asian CW DX Contest W. VA. QSO Party	ARES RACES Net 7:30			RSGB 80m SSB Contest		Open Testing Field Day
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Open Testing Field Day	ARES RACES Net 7:30					

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday June 5 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

Test Session - Friday June 15 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Bldg.



LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday June 4 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
 Tuesday June 5 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)
 Sunday June 10 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month
 Monday June 11 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
 Friday June 15 -- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION NECESSARY)
 Monday June 18 --- LC RACES/ - ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Saturday/Sunday June 23 -24 --- Walk-In Testing & FIELD DAY
 Monday June 25 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

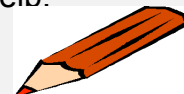
There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.

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.



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

The LVARC on Yahoo !



Join the LVARC on Yahoo! TNX to Rod, we now have a site on Yahoo where we can post messages regarding the LVARC and ham radio in general. Post questions, look for test session dates, upcoming events and more. Go to **yahoo.com** and join the group if you are not already a member. In addition to bulletins on the Monday Night Net, announcements meetings and the E-VOX, we now have one more avenue to spread LVARC information. From Yahoo, look for group **W3OI. JOIN THE GROUP NOW. VOTE IN THE POLL UNTIL MAY 31, 2007. Also, see the calendar.**



No one was scheduled to test at the April 20, 2007 test session.

VE Note: The regular third Friday of the month test session (June 15) will be held **IN ADDITION** to the Walk-In test session at Field Day.

NIMS/EmComm Certification --

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.**

VHF RACES group in NJ. - de Jeff (KX3Q)

To all who are interested

There has been an ARES group formed in Warren County, NJ. There is a weekly net on 146.82- (PL 110.9) on the W2SJT repeater in Washington, NJ. The net is held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. All who wish to participate are very welcome!

For more information about Northern NJ ARES check out:

<http://www.hudson.arrl.org/nnj/ares/>

For more information about Warren County ARES/RACES check out:

<http://www.co.warren.nj.us/publicsafety/> (link on the left scroll bar).



QRP Site - de Frank (W3FTU) -- A great site for the QRP enthusiast. Check out **QRPME.COM** For information about building a "canned" QRP kit.





“It Seems to Me” (an editorial) de AK3M.

EDITORIAL

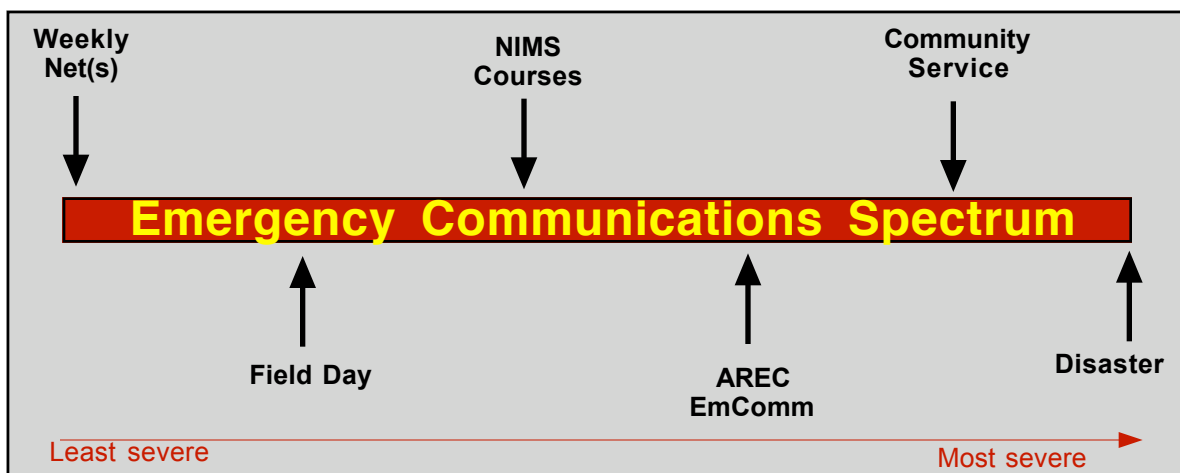
Many members of the LVARC have shown a sincere interest in emergency communications. Many of our members have taken NIMS and EmComm courses as well as faithfully checking into the Monday Night ARES/RACES net. That is to be commended!

Community service (ARES) activities fit nicely into what I will call the **Emergency Community Spectrum**. This is a continuum from the least to most severe activity in which we may be called to provide communications. In the diagram below, I have selected six activities as examples.

Why have I chosen to include Community Service activities (ARES) in this spectrum? I believe that there is little difference between checking into a net and responding to a disaster other than timing. We usually know in advance of an ARES activity where as in a disaster (RACES) we would not. An ARES activity makes us **plan** and **prepare** our equipment just as we would in a disaster. In an ARES activity, we **practice** our communications skills and protocols. After all, aren't these components of emergency communications?

If you are willing to check into a net, act as an NCS, take a NIMS/AREC course(s), attend Field Day, buy an orange vest or to travel to a site in perhaps another state to provide communications support, why then are we falling down on the local community service portion of the *Emergency Communications Spectrum* ?

In addition to all the programs the LVARC has been building over the years, with board and member agreement, we have begun to increase our participation in community activities. **It seems to me, that if we are going to declare our interest, we must be prepared to volunteer our time.** If you are sincerely interested in emergency communications (as indicated by all the activity), please be generous with you time when asked to help out in a community activity.



Where are you and where do you want to be on this spectrum?



Walk-In Testing to Be Offered at Field Day, 2007



For the second year, the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold "open," or Walk-In license testing at their 2007 Field Day site at the Tri-Clover Fire Company (Saturday June 23, 2007) !! The testing will begin at 9:00 am and conclude at noon. Those testing are invited to stay and observe/participate in Field Day activities.

NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!!!

Testing for Technician, General and Extra classes will be available. The hours for testing will be **9:00 am until noon ONLY**. Those testing are then invited to stay and observe/participate in the Field Day activities.

TO TEST, YOU WILL NEED:

1. 2 proofs of ID
2. \$14.00 **EXACT CASH** for EACH test
3. **A COPY OF YOUR LICENSE**. (It will NOT be returned to you.)
4. You may take a calculator but it may NOT have any formulas stored in memory.
5. 2 sharpened pencils

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.



FCC INVITES "OPPOSITIONS" ON TWO "MORSE PROCEEDING" RECONSIDERATION PETITIONS

The FCC has invited opposition comments ("oppositions") to two petitions for reconsideration filed in the wake of the Commission's Report & Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. That R&O altogether eliminated any Morse code examination element to obtain an Amateur Radio license. One petition calls on the FCC to reinstate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. The second cites problems with the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and seeks to have the Commission reopen the proceeding for an additional round of comments. Oppositions are due April 27 (comments in support of either petition are not welcome). Replies to oppositions - ie, comments on the opposition comments - are due 10 days later. Petitioner Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina, California, contends that "significant national security implications" require that the Commission take another look at the issue.

"As a federal government agency during the ongoing War on Terrorism, it is only prudent that the critical skill of Morse code telegraphy be kept as a hedge against unanticipated national security events and for emergency communication requirements, even if the consensus view or technological trend is in the opposite direction at the present time," Gordon said in his petition, filed February 23. He characterized Morse code proficiency as a "core competency" of the Amateur Radio Service.

In its R&O last December 15, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability was advantageous in emergency communication situations. "The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques," the FCC said. Gordon asked the FCC to restore the Element 1 Morse code examination element for Amateur Extra class applicants.

In a second petition the FCC put on public notice earlier this month, Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, argued that the FCC "improperly deleted and suppressed comments received by the e-mail system of the FCC, ECFS." Ward said the FCC was "arbitrarily deleting and suppressing public comments" on the basis of the sender's e-mail address - especially if it contained an Amateur Radio call sign - and charged that the Commission "is discriminating against radio amateurs."

As a result, he contends, the process of commenting on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235 "was flawed," in part because the Commission did not have the advantage of all comments members of the public may have attempted in vain to post.

Ward's petition, filed February 12, asks the FCC to do one of four things: Stay WT Docket 05-235, fix the "flawed ECFS," reopen the proceeding for comment or reconsider the "after a valid comment period." The FCC received more than 3500 public comments in the Morse code proceeding.

Neither Gordon nor Ward addressed the issue of how the FCC should deal with licensees who qualified for Amateur Extra under the new "no-code" rules that became effective on February 23

(continued on page 12)



(continued from page 11)

Both petitions are on the FCC Web site: Gordon's is at

<http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518808553>.

Ward's is at

<http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518808784>.



Interested parties may file oppositions and replies on these petitions for reconsideration via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

<<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>> and by serving a hard copy on the petitioner at his current mailing address. Comments supporting one petition or another are not welcome, however.

Instructions for filing electronic comments are on the ECFS page. Under "ECFS Main Links," click on "Submit a Filing" and type "05-235" (without the quotation marks) in the "Proceeding" field, being sure to include the hyphen.

All statements must be specific to one or more arguments in the reconsideration petition with which the person filing disagrees. They should not simply say, "I oppose this petition." Only individuals who have filed oppositions may file replies to oppositions.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 26, No. 15
April 13, 2007



A Nifty Gadget for Your Ready Box

(or boat or car or pocket or) - de Mark (AK3M)

Pak-Lite company makes a nice little light that is easy to use and lasts a l-o-n-g time. Two LED's snap onto any 9-volt battery and burn up to ??? hours depending on the type of battery. Great for your Ready Box or anywhere else you may need a light.

Visit <http://www.9voltlight.com> for more information.





The Great Depression of 1929 Was A Great Boost for the Radio Industry.

We all love a mystery. Well, we have one right here in this newsletter! I (AK3M) received the following article in the U.S. mail with no return address and simply signed, "Old 807." It was typewritten on a 1/2 sheet of paper.



I am printing the submission in its entirety. -- TNX Old 807!

"The great depression of 1929 was a great boost for the radio industry.

1. People had little money to spend, but radio was cheap entertainment.
2. Montgomery Ward sold 30 tubes for 29 cents each.
3. The radio amateur ranks went from 22,000 to 130,000 in three years.
4. Sears sold a 5 tube radio for \$5.95.
5. Screen grid tubes and the Super Het were both great advancements.
6. Local newspapers had a radio section with data and circuits.
7. Home build was common.
8. Mail order catalogs and cheap postage were the radio store back then.
9. Our homemade 3 tuber was used to get egg and potato prices at noon everyday.
10. At night, it was comedy and news programs.
11. Those regenerative sets produced a lot of signal.
12. Penn Jersey, Pep Boys, Woolworth and McCrory 5 and 10 cent stores had radio stuff.

When I was a boy of 9 years, I built my first 1-tuber and was hooked. Radio, as you know, is a disease and once infected, not easily cured. That's why we have recovery support groups like the LVARC-W3OI. See you there."

Editor's note: TNX Old 807 for the article! I have an idea who you are, but will wait until you reveal yourself before I guess openly.





LVARC & LVRR Team Up For A Second Year



The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club provided communications support for the Lehigh Valley Road Runner's Half Marathon and 5K race. This is the second year for this alliance. The weather was beautiful as 4,600 runners ran through the streets of Allentown and the Lehigh Parkway. LVARC operators handled numerous emergency communications regarding "downed" runners.

A big TNX to **Mark** (AK3M), **Larry** (NR3R), **Frank** (W3FTU), **Bob** (WB3JSZ), **Jeff** (N3MFT), **Dave** (W3AMC), **Jeff** (KB3OCP) and **Paul** (N0KIA) who participated in this event. We were thanked by Allentown EMS for our quick communications as in many cases, we knew and called in medical aid before they were contacted.

Below and on pages 15 & 16 are pictures of this event taken and submitted by our operators. (Editor's apologies for not being able to include all photos submitted.)



Photos courtesy of Bob (WB3JSZ) - At the "Turn Around"



Photos courtesy of Mark (AK3M) - At the Main Medical Tent



Photos courtesy of Larry (NR3R) - At the Secondary Medical Tent



LVARC



LVRR



**Half
Marathon
& 5K Race**

Photos courtesy of Paul (NOKIA) -- At his water stop



New District RACES Net - de Dick (KA3MOU)

This past Saturday our District Emergency Coordinator, Bob Wiseman - WB3W, and 6 of us Emergency Coordinators and Assistant Coordinator had a meeting. At our meeting it was decided to have a **directed net on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM**. A primary repeater frequency of **147.255** and a PL of 100.00 hertz. Should this repeater be non-operational we will move to the 145.370 repeater with a PL of 131.8 Hertz. **All amateurs are invited and encouraged to check in.**

The District Emergency Coordinator and the County Emergency Coordinators, and Assistants are listed below.

District Emergency Coordinator:
Bob Wiseman - WB3W

County Emergency Coordinators:

Berks County EC: Don Boulanger - WA1ELA
Carbon County EC: Brian Eckert - KB3KLJ
Lehigh County EC: Jeff Kelly - N3MFT
Monroe County EC: Jerry Traux - N3SEI
Northampton County EC: Dick Dech - KA3MOU, Assistant Don Holmes - KC3II
Schuylkill County EC: Gordon Cox - KB3NXN

73,

Dick Dech - KA3MOU



Product Review - The Heil Pro Set Plus - de Mark (AK3M)

At the urging of a fellow ham (NR3R), I recently purchased a Heil Pro Set Plus. The first day I received my headset, I worked 4 countries on 20 meters in just a few minutes. The Pro Set Plus has 2 elements in the microphone. One for DX and one for normal audio. My audio reports were great with each station I worked when using the DX element.

Bob Heil also sells adapter cables for all radios. I purchased the one for my Yaesu VHF/UHF radio which means I can use the Pro Set Plus on all my radios!

The ear pads are *extremely* comfortable which is an asset for contesting.

<http://www.heilsound.com/amateur/>





EmCOMM Conference Scheduled for June 9, 2007

The Snyder County ARES group is sponsoring the Middle Atlantic Emergency Communications Conference. on June 9, 2007. below is some preliminary information.

Snyder County ARES Inc is sponsoring their third Emergency Communications Conference. The previous two events were section-wide (Eastern PA). Building on our previous successes we are taking our conference to the entire region, and aiming to make 2007 the best one yet.

The conference will take place on Saturday, 9th June 2007 commencing at 09:00 (Registration and coffee from 08:00). Venue will be the VFW Hall on Rte. 522, Selinsgrove. It boasts ample parking and comfortable accommodation for up to 200 delegates.

Tentative Schedule

08.00 - 09.00 Registration and Coffee/Danish (Meet and Greet)
09.00 - 09.15 Welcome by Snyder County Commissioners and Snyder County RO/EC
09.30 - 10.30 Principal speaker - Rich Arland - W3OSS, Popular Communications, Homeland Security column author
10.30 - 10.45 Break (Coffee/Soda/Light Snack)
10.45 - 11.45 NIMS - Joe Roberge, PEMA - State NIMS Coordinator
11.45 - 01.00 Buffet Lunch
01.00 - 01.15 Announcements/50-50 Drawings/Door Prize
01.15 - 02.00 Breakout Session A: NVIS Antennas by Al Yessel - AB3CE
Breakout Session B: TBA (Technical or operations oriented topic)
02.00 - 02.15 Break (Coffee/Soda/Light Snacks)
02.15 - 03.00 Breakout Session C: Funding your Operations - William Michaels - KB3KUM - Snyder Co. Dept. of Emergency Services
Breakout Session D: TBA (Technical or operations oriented topic)
03.00 - 03.15 Break
03.15 - 04.00 Breakout Session E: Erie County ARES/SKYWARN - Working with your County Government.
04.00 Thank you and good-byes

For more information go to: <http://www.midatlantem.com>

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