

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)

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 May, 2007 LVARC meeting will be held on May 1, 2007 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

Program: "Amateur Radio - Wireless Window To The World" Video
Presenter: Frank Unger (W3FTU)





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



"I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said I don't know." --- Mark Twain



Minutes of the April 3, 2007 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK) - LVARC Recording Secretary



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1932 Hrs, (EST / EDST).

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, then a moment of silence was observed for Silent Keys.

There were a total of 20 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod (N3XG), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA), Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU), Robin (KB3GZV) and Walt (KE3SP).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Mark – N3ULR

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting Balance: \$3,083.95

Ending Balance: \$3,133.47

Approved by: Larry – KN3L

Second by: Mike – KB3LOD

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: The equipment that was purchased with Homeland Security grant money came in. A multitude of equipment was purchased. The base unit will go on top of South Mountain. The county is willing to put the 147.135 repeater on the new they purchased. Mobile radios for the command post has also been purchased. This will enable us to do Winlink. A special thank you goes out to Tom Nervine, who is the Lehigh County E.M.A. Director, for getting us the grant to purchase the equipment.

Program: Phil reports that tonight's program will be Eric (AI3D). He will be doing a presentation called "A Dash of Digital Communication". Next month will be Frank (W3FTU). He will be doing a presentation called "Ham Radio Promotion Project".

Volunteer Examiners: The scheduled session was moved to the following week due to inclement weather. Two people passed the general test. Jeff Willett (KB3OCP) and Matt Small (KB3NMQ).

Field Day: There will be walk in testing on Saturday from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.

Web Site: No report

Education: There will be a possible technician course held in the fall.



Old Business: Rod wants to remind the members that club gets money for used ink cartridges. See Frank (W3FTU) for mailing envelopes. The club had a table at the Cherry Hill hamfest. Stuff was being sold as it was coming out of the boxes. We made \$260. Rod wants to thank Frank (W3FTU), Tom (K3ARI) and Larrie (W2UL) for there help. Also to the members who donated items. A 10 meter net has been started after the regular Monday night net. It starts at 8 P.M. All are invited to join. Mark (AK3M) is in need of 3 more volunteers for the LV Roadrunners Race. The date is April 29. Mark is begging for the assistance. If you are able to help out, please contact him. The deadline for the Amateur radio Scholarship is rapidly approaching. The info is on the website at www.w3oi.org. There will a hamfest in the Stroudsburg area on September 8. There will be an FCC Public Safety Meeting on April 20. More information is on the FCC website.

New Business: The club wants to try a new fund raising project. It's thru Appleby's. The members pass out fliers to friends and family. They then go to Appleby's on the day that is scheduled. They give the flier to the waitress. The club will make money from the visit. A motion was made by Jeff (N3MFT) and seconded by Mark (N3ULR) to proceed with the project. The motion carries. The club has started a Yahoo group e-mail system. It will allow the members to e-mail each other. It will be a closed group. If you would like to participate, go into the Yahoo user groups online and sign up. Rod will then verify it and you will be notified. It's for both members and people who are associated with ARES / RACES. With the county allowing us to use the new repeater they bought, Rod would like a motion to accept the offer. The club can use the money that was saved up for other uses. There was a concern of the county having control of the repeater. Rod stated that the county would have rights to the hardware. The club will still hold the license to the repeater. By having the county own it, any repairs or replacement will be paid thru the county. If there is a problem down the road, the club can then pursue getting a new repeater. A motion was made by Bruce (KA3TIU) and seconded by Dave (W3AMC). The motion carries.

Good of Order: Craig (N3TSY) is unable to be here at the meeting due to his grandmother passing away. A card was sent to him on the clubs behalf. Jeff Johnson is the Tri-Clover Fire Chief. He wants to get the fire company there own frequency. If anyone knows how to fill out the paperwork, please contact him. He is in need of help.

Sick Report: Nothing to report

New Members: No new members

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2015 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Larry – KN3L

Second by: Robin – KB3GZV

In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance ending March, 2007 - \$ 3,133.47





This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May			2	3	4	5 Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower 10-10 Spring CW Contest Ind/NE QSO Party
		LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30				
6	7 ARES RACES Net 7:30	8	9	10	11	12 FISTS Spring Sprint
13 Mother's Day Deadline to schedule test	14 ARES RACES Net 7:30	15	16	17	18 Dayton LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	19 US Counties QSO SSB Party Dayton
20 US Counties QSO SSB Party Dayton	21 ARES RACES Net 7:30	22	23	24	25	26 CQ WW WPX CW Contest
27 CQ WW WPX CW Contest	28 NO MONDAY NIGHT NET	29	30	31	2007	

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday May 1 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

Test Session - Friday May 18 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Bldg.



LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Tuesday May 1 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)
Monday May 7 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday May 13 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month
Monday May 14 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Friday May 18 -- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION NECESSARY)
Monday May 21 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
***** Monday May 28 --- NO LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94) - Holiday**

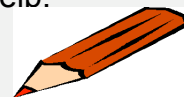
There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.

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.

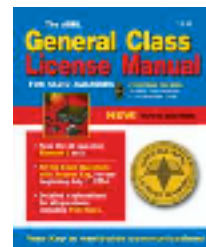


REMEMBER: Registration for the monthly test session, must be made **NO LATER THAN THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE TEST!**

Contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or call 610-865-9183

Want to upgrade now that CW has been Eliminated?

The ARRL General Class License Manual. 400 pages. 5th edition, fourth printing, 2007. © 2004-2007, The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ISBN: 0-87259-920-5) #9205 -- \$19.95





LVARC VE Program



At the March 23, 2007 LVARC test session, two tested and two passed. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Jeffrey Willett (KB3OCP) and Matt Small (KB3NMQ) who upgraded to General.

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU), Walt (KE3SP) and Tim (WZ3T).

Bills aimed at thwarting "driving while cellular" and "driving while distracted" behavior have been introduced in several states and most are worded broadly enough to proscribe some Amateur Radio mobile operation.

--- from QST, April, 2007, page 12.



Lehigh Valley Roadrunners Request LVARC Help!



For the second year, the Lehigh Valley Roadrunners are requesting communications support for their 1/2 Marathon. This race will be held on Sunday April 29, 2007.

This race is a very prestigious event with participants from all over the globe!

We need at least 10 operators to cover this event. We do not want to let them down.

If you are interested in using your equipment and your communication skills, please contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com. **Don't wait. Volunteer now !**

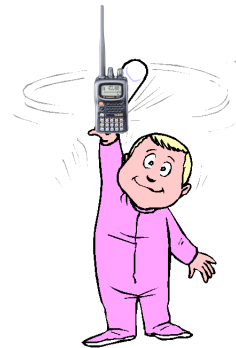


NIMS Certification -- Your help is needed in order to maintain an accurate list of NIMS certified LVARC members. **IF YOU HAVE PASSED ANY OF THE "IS" (NIMS) COURSES, PLEASE SEND VIA EMAIL TO MARK (AK3M) INDICATING ALL OF YOUR NIMS COURSES.**

IMPORTANT



CONGRATULATIONS to Tom (K3ARI) and his XYL **Regina** on the birth of their baby boy ! *Joseph Anthony* was born early Sunday morning on March 10, 2007. He weighed in at 7lbs., 13 oz. By the way, Joseph is also LVARC member Larrie's (W2UL) grandson!



ONE MORE STORM HITS VALLEY

Winter reared its head one more time. On Friday March 16, 2007, the Lehigh Valley experienced another winter storm. Three to six inches of snow fell along with ice. Similar to the Valentine's Day storm, the ice kept the snow totals down. The Poconos and regions North of the LV received up to twelve inches. Numerous accidents were heard on the public service bands.

Auto Sound System?

Yes, it really **IS** a record player in a car. The 1956 Plymouth advertisement boasted a "Highway Hi Fi Record Player!" Makes your 8-track tape look good !





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) !!

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.





Hamfest A Big Success

TNX to Frank (W3FTU) for gathering all the donations for the Cherryville hamfest which was held on Saturday March 24, 2007. Also, TNX to Tom (K3ARI) and Larrie (W2UL) for helping out at the hamfest. TNX to all who donated something for them to sell. Reportedly, about 90% if the items were sold !!! The club made \$260 with the possibility of \$225 additional. **TNX Frank, Tom and Larrie !!!!!**



Pictures from the
Cherryville
hamfest



Plenty to blame for I-78 debacle



**PennDOT didn't hire more snowplow drivers -- PEMA repeated problems from 2006 flooding -
- State police chief notified late of backup**

By Christina Gostomski Call Harrisburg Bureau

State officials, including Gov. Ed Rendell, knew about problems with Pennsylvania's emergency response system at least five months before the Valentine's Day storm that stranded motorists for miles, but failed to take corrective action, according to an independent report released Tuesday.

Poor communication among state agencies and a lack of understanding of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's role during disasters were obvious after June 2006 floods. But the state did not change procedures.

The state's delayed response to the Valentine's Day storm that snarled traffic and closed parts of Interstates 78, 80 and 81 for hours was the result of a systemic failure of Pennsylvania's emergency response agencies, the investigation by James Lee Witt Associates found.

"Given the gaps in the system, something like this was bound to happen," Rendell acknowledged as he called for a long list of changes -- but no firings.

"Am I totally satisfied that we can respond to a terrorist attack or natural disaster? No," Rendell told reporters.

The system's Feb. 14 failures occurred at every level of local, county and state agencies including PennDOT, state police and PEMA, and ranged from not having enough people to run snowplows in Berks County to even senior officials being unaware of basic state emergency policies.

The \$130,000 report found no formal plans on how to divert traffic on state highways or even agreement on when a road officially is closed. Fifty-five of the state's 74 Roadway Weather Information System sensors weren't working, and the highway advisory radio in District 5, which covers Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Schuylkill counties, was inoperable.

The report found "PennDOT did not fully understand how to work alongside PEMA in an emergency, nor did PEMA explain its expectations of PennDOT during an emergency."

"Plenty to Blame" (cont. on page 13)



"Plenty to Blame" (cont. from page 12)

In disasters, emergency response "problems that are below the radar ? surface," said Witt, a former director of the the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In Berks County, those problems included a number of retirements in January, leaving an inexperienced PennDOT crew and a shortage of workers. Berks only had enough workers for one 12-hour shift of snow removal, the report found.

Local PennDOT officials should have known they had the ability to hire more drivers for the storm or contract out snow removal, Rendell said, but they failed to do so.

Witt's investigation did not include an equipment inventory or review PennDOT's budget, but Rendell and Administration Secretary Joe Martz said there was not a lack of vehicles.

In District 4, which includes Luzerne County, where I-80 and I-81 meet, the problem was simply too much traffic as vehicles were diverted from I-78 onto I-80 and I-81, Martz said. "You just basically poured gasoline on a fire," he said.

At the state level, problems included a complex array of **communication** and supervisory **problems**. There was inadequate interagency planning before the storm. Rendell and state police Commissioner Jeffrey Miller weren't made aware of the traffic problems until late in the day, and then not from the chain of command.

Additionally, available information wasn't communicated up the line.

PennDOT's road condition reporting systems weren't available to PennDOT staff at PEMA's State Emergency Operations Center.

County emergency workers didn't notify PEMA of the traffic problems, and PEMA didn't raise the activation level of the operations center until nearly 14 hours after problems began.

If the level had been raised, each department would have sent an employee to the command center, ensuring information sharing and "a lot of what occurred could have been avoided," Rendell said.

But the communication problems among the agencies weren't new. [RACES not included -- ed.]

See the story at the Morning Call website at :

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-stormmar28,0,4336892.story>



IMPORTANT

Do not follow instructions in bogus "arrrl.net user support team" e-mails



(Mar 30, 2007) -- The ARRL is alerting members -- and especially users of the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service -- about **bogus e-mails that claim to be from the "arrrl.net user support team."**

There is no such entity, and the messages do not originate with ARRL but appear to be coming from outside the US. Recipients should not follow the instructions in the e-mail, which reads, "We have received reports that your e-mail account has been used to send a large amount of unsolicited commercial email messages during this week. We suspect that your computer had been infected by a recent virus and now contains a hidden proxy server. We recommend you to follow our instructions in order to keep your computer safe."

Following the instructions will have the opposite effect, however, infecting your computer with the MyDoom Trojan worm and making it part of a spamming network. The League urges all members to invest in and use anti-virus software.

See entire article at ARRL site: <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=7337>



CONGRATULATIONS to Frank (W3FTU) on completing and receiving his EmCoMM Level 1 Certificate !



To register for ARRL Certification and Continuing Education courses, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=7350>