

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)

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





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**Happy
Halloween**



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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



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

Program: "Emergency Communications Planning for Families"
Presenter: Rod (N3XG)



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

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Mondays</u>
January	131	4
February	128	4
March	129	4
April	158	5
May	96	3
June	91	4
July	132	5
August	106	4



"To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge."

--- Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)

Minutes of the September 4, 2007 LVARC Meetir

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK) -- 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 17 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 1 guest. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod (N3XG), Craig (N3TSY), 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: Bill – KA3RBH

Carried (Y/N) Y

Guests: Greg Sheets – N7NOD
Stan Zook

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)
Starting Balance: \$3495.46
Ending Balance: \$3513.20
Approved by: Craig – N3TSY
Second by: Larry – KN3L
Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: Rod will get more quotes for the new (135) repeater. The repeater the club originally looked at does not have certain features. If anyone hears of any problems please let Jeff (N3MFT) or a board member know.

Program: Phil reports that tonight will be Bob (WB3W) doing a presentation on A.P.R.S.. Next month will be Rod (N3XG) will be doing a presentation on "Emergency Communication Planning for Families". As always, if you would like to do a program or have an idea, please let Phil (KB3HMK) know.

Volunteer Examiners: Mark reports that no one tested for August. The next test session will be September 21. As always, you must register to test. Please contact Mark (AK3M).

Old Business: As always, Rod wants to remind everyone to send in there old ink jet cartridges. See Frank (W3FTU) for the envelopes. Rod has been looking around for an EZ-UP tent. He has gone to the surrounding sports stores to try to get a good deal. The tech class scheduled for the weekend of September 7 has been canceled. This is due to no one signing up. Two people are interested in the obtaining the book to test.



There is a marathon on September 9. If you are able to help, please contact Bob (WB3JSZ). At one of the previous meetings, Frank had presented a new fundraiser. It is with Appleby's restaurant on CatasaUqua Rd.. Frank tells us that the date for the fundraiser will be on November 5 from 1630 to 1830 hrs. What the member will do is give a coupon to friends and family. They in turn will go to the restaurant that night. When the waiter / waitress gives them the bill, the member will give them the coupon. The club then gets 10% on the food that is purchased. There will be a copy of the coupon in the newsletter. Mark asked for volunteers to help with the Women's 5K run that will be held on October 13. If anyone can help out, please contact Mark.

New Business: Paul says that the Pocono hamfest is this Saturday. Paul also wanted to know if we should open a savings account with the current bank that the club has. Rod asked for a motion to open a savings acct. and keep 3 months of expenses in the checking acct. The rest will be transferred to the savings acct.. Bruce (KA3TIU) made the motion and it was seconded by Mark (N3ULR). The motion passed. Rod says that anyone who participates in the Pa. QSO

Party can put the club's call sign on the points sheet. He would like to give a \$50 gift card to the member who has the highest points. It was discussed at great length. Rod tabled it till next month. It was said that for R.A.C.E.S. events you need EmComm 1 certification. For A.R.E.S., you don't need it. Any ?, please contact Jeff (N3MFT).

Good of Order: Nominations for 2008 officers open in October. Nominations may close in November, but can remain open until December. You can go to the website and click on the link for the club's by-laws. This will explain any questions you have.

New Members: Greg Sheets – N7NOD

Motion by: Larry – KN3L

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2007 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Larry – KN3L

Second by: Dave – W3AMC



In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$	W3OI Finances	\$\$\$	
Balance ending August, 2007		- \$ 3,513.20	



This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Robin KB3GZV	2 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	3 Dist. 2 RACES Net 147.255	4	5	6 Oceania SSB QSO Party CA QSO Party PRO CW Contest
7 Oceania SSB QSO Party CA QSO Party PRO CW Contest	8 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Dorian KB3GZW	9	10 Dist. 2 RACES Net 147.255	11	12	13 Women's 5K Classic PA QSO Party
14 PA QSO Party Deadline to schedule test	15 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark-AK3M	16 School Club Roundup	17 Dist. 2 RACES Net 147.255	18	19 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	20 Worked all Germany Contest
21 Worked all Germany Contest	22 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Rod-N3XG	23	24 Dist. 2 RACES Net 147.255	25	26	27 CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest
28 CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest	29 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff N3MFT	30	31 Dist. 2 RACES Net 147.255	October 2007 		

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday October 2 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

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

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday October 1 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
 Tuesday October 2 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)
 Monday October 8 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Sunday October 13 - Women's 5K Classic

Sunday October 14 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month
 Monday October 15 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
 Friday October 19-- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION NECESSARY)
 Monday October 22 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
 Monday October 29 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

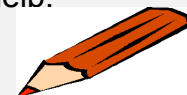
There may be additions and deletions to the above dates. Listen to the Monday Night Net, the newsletter and announcements at meetings for changes.

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.



To repeat what others have said, requires education; to challenge it, requires brains. ---- Mary Pettibone Poole, 1938

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 Report



No one was scheduled to test at the August 17, 2007 test session.

A note to VE's (and others). The ARRL keeps track of test sessions for VE's. To see the number of test sessions in which a VE has participated, go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/veparti.php?state=PA>

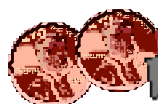
OPERATORS NEEDED For 5K EVENT!



OPERATORS ARE NEEDED for the *Women's 5K Classic* on Saturday, October 13, 2007 in the Little Lehigh Parkway. Although it seems like a long way off, mark your calendar now! This is the second time we will help with this event. Our assistance was much appreciated last year! This event is rain or shine. If willing to help with this event, contact Mark (AK3M).

Have an article, diagram or an opinion you would like to share with the LVARC members in the newsletter? Send it to Mark (AK3M). You can submit VOX material in any form. Send it via email (AK3M@rcn.com) or US mail (5508 Hale Ave - Bethlehem, PA 18017). You can send pictures, diagrams or text. **The newsletter needs YOUR material to continue!**

“My Two Cents” ... de Mark (AK3M)



The e following is a response from Bob (WB3W) to the “My Two Cents” editorial regarding the NTS . --- TNX Bob. The editor invites responses.

A recent editorial under the “My Two Cents” caption focused on the National Traffic System” (NTS) and made it seem like the NTS no longer existed, and therefore there was no need to have anyone trained in handling formal written ARRL type NTS messages.

As the editorial stated the Internet and free long distance phone plans have diminished the need to use the NTS as it had been up through the mid-nineties, but the fact is that the NTS is still in existence and does still handle formal written traffic, although a lot less than years ago due to the reasons previously cited.

The editorial asks” How many times has our local net handled traffic?” and then continues “I have not heard actual NTS traffic in many years”. I suggest the editor listen to other repeaters and nets and he may hear some of it. There was actually incoming NTS traffic listed on the District 2 ARES net last month, and I have heard incoming NTS formal traffic passed on both the Carbon and Schuylkill weekly nets in June and July.

I don’t disagree with the underlying theme of the editorial in that the NTS doesn’t function to the same degree or handle the same amount of traffic it did ten or fifteen years ago, but I do strongly disagree with the conclusion it seems to arrive at in that we don’t need to be trained in the proper handling of formal “**written**” traffic.

There **is** a need to be able to pass “written” traffic over radio, be it the standard ARRL radiogram format or the FEMA ICS-213 format. If you were to put ten people up on a stage in front of you standing side by side, and whisper a statement to the first person on the left, and ask that person to whisper it to the next person, and on down the line, by the time it gets to the last person it will bear no resemblance to the original statement.

Just think what would happen if the originator of the original oral message was the local Lehigh EMA director and he was asking the state EOC to send **two Hazmat teams** into his county. By the time it passed as an oral message through five or six repeaters on it’s way to Harrisburg, it may get translated as “I need **to** move my **team** to **Hazleton**”...Sound far fetched??? It happens. A formally written and transmitted message doesn’t get changed that way.

I am a big proponent of Winlink, and, because email now has become a way of life for us and our served agencies we need to embrace new methods of written “traffic” by utilizing email over radio with mediums like Winlink, where we can actually attach photos and other documents – it can be typed directly by the EMA director and go direct to the recipient faster than the NTS and without any additional Amateur Radio stations relaying in between.

But then again, lessons should have been learned from hurricanes Katrina and Rita – the EOC’s and their PC’s were wiped out, so even Winlink email from an EOC wasn’t always an option. And, I would hate to have been that local EMA director down in Mississippi asking for the two hazmat teams while the state EOC thought he was just letting them know he was moving his location....We do need to be trained in handling “written” traffic – be it ARRL radiograms or NIMS IC-213!!!

And, even within Winlink, most Amateur stations utilizing it still use the old NTS message format – so “**Yes**” – there should be training in handling “formal written traffic”

Birds On The Air !

While on vacation, Larry (NR3R) snapped the picture to the right.

I seems that the birds who live in this house are hams!

Check the antenna on the roof?



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.

LV Ham Becomes Silent Key

Norman Zoltack, (K3NZ) 71, of Schnecksville, died Wednesday, August 22, 2007, at the Inpatient Hospice Unit at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown. He was born August 15, 1936, in Bethlehem, the son of the late Andrew and Mary (Keyock) Zoltack. He was the loving husband of Nancy L. (Seyfried) Zoltack. They celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary last February 12. Norman worked for Bethlehem Steel Corp. as a printer for 34 years. After retiring, he became a self-employed printer from 1988 to 1999. Norman was a life member of Copeechan Fish & Game Club, Schnecksville, North End Rod & Gun Club, New Tripoli, Schnecksville Fire Company and the Delaware Amateur Radio Club of The Lehigh Valley, and he was an avid golfer and trapshooter. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Bethlehem. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, son, Randall N. Zoltack of Slatington, daughter, Catherine A., wife of Darrell McNeil of Pinehurst, N.C., sister, Elsie Petrash of Bethlehem Township, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his two brothers, Donald and Raymond Zoltack. Services: 11 a.m. Saturday, August 25, 2007, Connell Funeral Home Inc., 245 E. Broad St., Bethlehem. Visitation will be held 7-9 p.m. Friday, August 24, 2007, and 10-11 a.m. Saturday, both in the funeral home. Burial will be at Bethlehem Memorial Park. Send online condolences to www.connellfuneral.com. Contributions: May be made to Grace Lutheran Church, 74 E. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA 18018 or Lehigh Valley Hospice, 2166 S. 12th St., Allentown, PA 18103-4799. ---- (Published in the Morning Call on 8/24/2007.)





Upcoming LVARC Events

OCTOBER

- (1) 2007 Women's 5K
Classic - Saturday,
October 13, 2007
- (2) Nominations for Pres Schuler
Award
- (3) Nominations of officers

NOVEMBER

- (1) Nominations of officers close

DECEMBER

- (1) Operation Ho Ho
- (2) Election of officers
- (3) Annual holiday party
- (4) Presentation of the
Pres Schuler Award

Odds 'n Ends

**DO
NOT
CALL**



If you do not want to be a
victim of telemarketers, its time
to re-register for the
"Do Not Call" list. Go to:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/dnc.aspx>

or call: 1-888-777-3406

(This is NOT for cell phones)

Volunteers Needed for "Operation Ho Ho"



"Operation Ho Ho,"
will be held in
December, 2007.

If you are interested
in helping, contact
Mark (AK3M).
Details to be
announced.



NEEDED:

1. Volunteers (5K, Ho-Ho etc.)
2. Articles for E-VOX
3. Nominations for officers, Pres
Schuler award)

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!

Its not too early to think
about preparing your
antennas for winter!

Check connections,
rotators, feedlines and
their entry into your shack.



“Looking Up” -- Insights from “Old 807”

When I was a boy on the farm, it was great seeing an aeroplane (wings) or an airship (dirigible) grace the sky. Every night there was a radio report from these airships on prime time news. Radio was an asset to these big balloons.

Ferdinand Von Zeppelin built the **Los Angeles** for the U.S. as part of war reparations (WW1). Italy built the **ROMA** for the U.S. These two were hydrogen filled airships. The U.S. built the **Akron, Macon** and **Shenandoah**. The Shenandoah flew into a storm in 1922 and disintegrated. The Roma blew up over Langley Field, VA., in 1922. The Akron went out of service in 1933, Macon out of service in 1935. The German **Graf Zeppelin** flew around the world in 21 days. The German **Hindenburg** made 10 round trips to the U.S. but in 1937, it burned as it was landing --- 35 dead and 62 survivors. That was the final chapter of the airships.

It was a cost effective way to move cargo and people are still talking about blimp cargo transport. Shenandoah, Akron and Macon were helium filled airships. Helium is only found in the U.S. and is mostly used in metal welding.

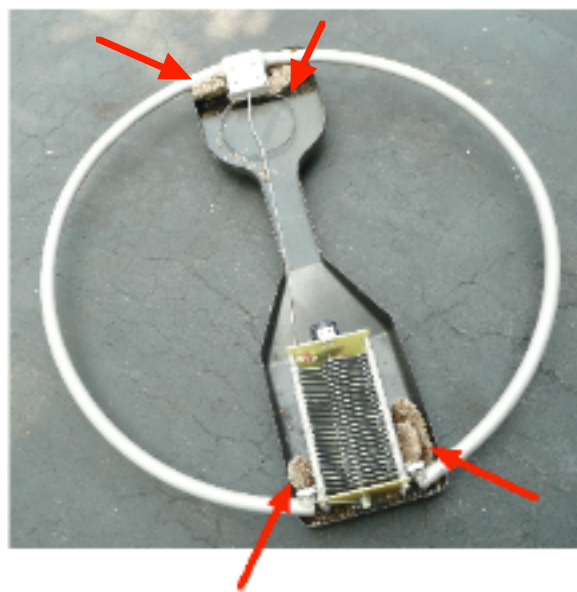
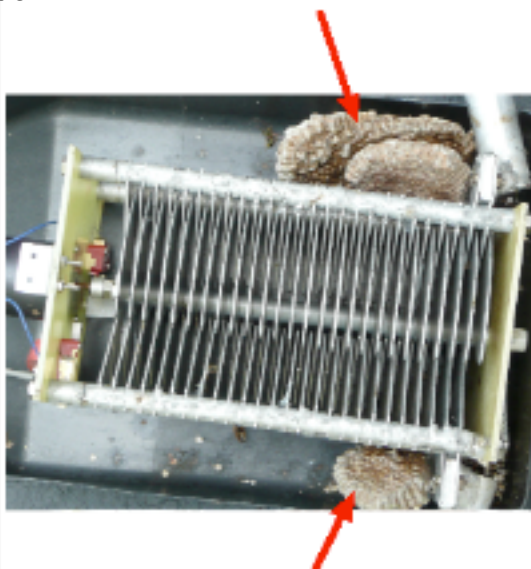
Goodyear still flies the blimps but all that is left of the golden age of lighter than aircraft are postage stamps. Very expensive and highly collectible, if you can afford them.

If only they had ham radio aboard the Hindenburg -- what an E-Bay item that QSL would be!



Antenna Problems? Read on !

HF antenna won't tune? Intermittent RF? Bad coax? Damaged connector? Well, after having these problems with his Iso-loop, Larry (NR3R) took his antenna down and opened the case which houses the inductor and motor, to find several *wasp nests* ! A little bug spray and cleaning out the nests made all the difference. He now claims a great SWR and performance. *NOW*, you have heard it all!



The remnants of the nests after being evicted from the Iso-loop's case.



1st and 2nd Prizes for LVARC Member! --- Mark (N3ULR) won both 1st and 2nd prizes for old radio restoration! At the Allentown Fair, Mark won 1st prize for the restoration of a 1946 GE radio and 2nd prize for his 1961 Grundig Majestic radio. Congratulations Mark !!

USS New York

It was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center

It is the fifth in a new class of warship - designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft.



Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, LA to cast the ship's bow section. When it was poured into the molds on Sept. 9, 2003, "those big rough steelworkers treated it with total reverence," recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there. "It was a spiritual moment for everybody there."

Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager, said that when the trade center steel first arrived, he touched it with his hand and the "hair on my neck stood up." "It had a big meaning to it for all of us," he said. "They knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back"

The ship's motto? "Never Forget" ----- *from an email from Frank (W3FTU)*



New Member



At the September 4, 2007 meeting, the LVARC approved the application for membership submitted by **Gregory Sheets (N7NOD)**. Welcome to the club Greg!!!



**LVARC
Fundraising
Night at
Applebee's**



On Monday November 5, 2007, the LVARC will receive 10% from your bill at Applebee's off Catasauqua Road. A flyer will appear in the next newsletter. **FEEL FREE TO PRINT THIS FLYER AND HAND OUT TO FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS.** Anyone presenting this flyer on November 5, will be donating 10% of their bill to the LVARC. **The time is 4:30 - 6:30 pm.**

top news



SET Scheduled for October, 2007 - de Bob (WB3W)

On Saturday, October 27, 2007, the Eastern Pennsylvania Section District 2 ARES group will be conducting a joint SET. The SET, or Simulated Emergency Test, is an annual ARRL sponsored event for ARES groups to test their emergency preparedness and readiness, and is normally held in October.

The EPA District 2 encompasses the six counties of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Schuylkill, and the EC's from all six of the counties have agreed that it would be beneficial to get operators from all the counties to participate together, and we may also have some activity from a couple of the District 1 counties, just south of our district.

The actual script is still being written, but will be centered around a weather event that will not have the kind of wide spread or catastrophic consequences of hurricanes Rita or Katrina, but will still probably have Category 1 or 2 winds, with wind damage to some assets and flooding damage to others. They may even be some spotty tornado activity.

The SET will utilize the 147.255 repeater in Jim Thorpe as the main resource/tactical net frequency, although there will also be nets on local repeaters, and we will also utilize HF on the Eastern Pennsylvania RACES frequency of 3897.50 and we expect to have 6-8 Winlink stations on both VHF and HF.

The exercise will last approximately three hours, although the actual start and stop time have yet to be determined. There will be deployment to local/county EOC's, to served agencies like the Red Cross, and various schools used as shelters. But, since it is a "simulated" emergency the deployments will also be simulated, so operators can participate in the net and can simulate the deployment from the comfort of their Ham Shack.

When natural disasters or other man made disasters occur, they don't necessarily know local town or county geographical boundaries, so this could be a beneficial exercise, and we hope as many of the operators in the six counties will participate. And we know not everyone may be able to participate the full three hours, but if they can even put in just thirty minutes or so, they are still strongly urged to join in for that time they can.

As plans are developed further, announcements will be made on the local weekly VHF nets, including start and stop times.

Bob Wiseman WB3W
EPA District 2 DEC



LVARC President Visits the ARRL - Your ARRL Headquarters - de N3XG

During the second week of August, I had the opportunity to accompany my work partner on a road trip to Vermont. Having never been to Vermont, it was a great way to get away for a day and squeeze in some mobile ham radio action. It must be said that my partner on the ambulance is Matt KB3NMQ. Once the plans were made for the trip, we also decided to stop off in Newington, Connecticut along the way and pay a visit to the ARRL HQ.

If you believe only half of what you read, and even less if it is on the world wide web of misinformation, then you may think that ARRL would be like anywhere else in the world. A great write up on their page, with many a welcome and exciting catch phrase all designed by some marketing guru that is being paid to make everything look better than it ever could become. Okay, so I'm pessimistic. That's a good thing! If you always expect the worst, you are never disappointed, and are always either satisfied or surprised. At this point you may wonder what my response was to the in-person visit to the ARRL HQ.



Matt pulled the mighty Pontiac Bonneville into the parking lot, and found an appropriate place to dock. We were amazed by the antenna farm, and immediately started taking pictures of the lot, HQ, and of course of each other posed next to the Bonneville. The Bonneville is key in this trip because we had mounted a Side-Kick Screwdriver HF antenna to the trunk using three gigantic magnets. The antenna resembled a mortar tube, and I'm sure more than one motorist decided against tailgating for fear of the profile of the HF antenna.



We ambled up to the entrance to the HQ building and noted that we were standing in the Diamond Terrace. First off, it is not as impressive as the artist's rendition in the monthly QST. It is taking shape, and will need more donors to bring the area to life. We did locate Bob WB3JSZ's brick in the terrace, so it was nice to find a familiar call sign. We walked around the outside of the building, and made note of a monument to amateurs that died in the line of duty.

Proceeding inside of the lobby, the guest is greeted by portraits of the current and past presidents of the ARRL and then into a small gift, book, and exhibit area. For those wishing to take a tour, simply signing up with the receptionist is all that is needed. We were then greeted by an ARRL staff member and given a tour of the HQ building. The highlights were: seeing the ARRL

Lab, QSL Bureau, QST Editing Staff, and VE Coordination Area. The tour then proceeded to the W1AW building that is located across the parking lot. After the tour ended, we were welcomed to operate the W1AW station. It was nice to sit down in a professional studio, and use professional equipment to make contacts. Although the bands were dead into the U.S., I did manage a couple of Italian contacts on 20-meter voice. I wondered if the W1AW call sign is meaningful in other parts of the world?