

The **E-VOX**

The Official **On-Line**

Newsletter of the

Lehigh Valley Amateur

Radio Club - W3OI



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

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)

Board of Governors



Robin Gable - KB3GZV (kb3gzw@arrl.net)
Mark S. Miller - AK3M (AK3M@rcn.com)
Larry Snyder - KN3L (KN3L@ARRL.NET)
Walt Snyder - KE3SP (SBWALLY@ptd.net)
Frank Unger - W3FTU (funger@ptd.net)



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Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)
147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)
447.775 (PL 71.9)
Club Simplex Freq. - 147.420



RACES NET - Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)

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

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Happy Holidays



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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.

The December, 2008 LVARC meeting will be held on December 2, 2008 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

Program: Election of officers, Presentation of the Pres Schuler Award and the Annual Holiday Party



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 - 2008

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets</u>
January	145	4
February	198	5
March	197	5
April	140	4
May	100	3
June	170	5
July	116	4
August	120	4
September	151	4
October	143	4



"Do give books - religious or otherwise - for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal." --- **Lenore Hershey**

Minutes of the November 2, 2008 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1934 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 22 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), Robin (KB3GZV) and Walt (KE3SP).

There were two corrections to the November EVOX. They are:

The total money from the county was calculated incorrectly. Instead of \$39,050.00, the correct total should be \$60,506.00.

Brian (KB3QHA) was not included for his participation in the September 7, 2008 Marathon. You were not omitted on purpose. Sorry and TNX for your help Brian.

Guests: Dave Shellhammer (formerly W3CML)

Treasurer's Report: (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting Balance: \$1483.50

Ending Balance: \$1,615.39

Approved by: Carl - AA3IX

Second by: Craig - N3TSY

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: New UHF repeater is up and running. The frequency is 447.775 with a P.L. of 71.9. There is no controller, so please identify with your call sign and the club call sign. The controller will be installed within a week or two. The D-Star stack has been very active. The 2 meter side is sounding better. The duplexer was retuned. The county will be getting us a new antenna for the D-Star repeater.

Program: Phil reports that tonight's program will be himself. He will be doing a presentation on "How to make your own QSL cards" Next month is the annual "Cookie Cruncher." Please bring your favorite dish or desert. As always, he's looking for programs or ideas. Please contact him in any way possible and he will put it on. He will also send out an e-mail to get the members opinion on doing the annual dinner get together. That will be sent out within the week.

Volunteer Examiners: Mark reports that five tested at the October 17, 2008 LVARC test session. Congratulations to:

Corinna VanNest - Technician

Eric VanNest - Technician

John Scheirer - Technician

Dave Arwood (KB3ROB) - Upgraded to General

Joel Monza (KC2SNL) - Upgraded to Extra

Old Business: The Women's 5K Run was held on October 18. Rod thanked the members who helped out with communications. He also mentioned that the prescheduled events are the best way to get familiar with how a net is handled.

Rod is still taking nominations for the Pres Schuler Award. This award is given to a member who has done something that benefits the club. Contact Rod if you would like to nominate a member. Deadline is November 15.

Rod asked for a motion to reopen the nominations for the elections for 2009. The motion was made by Craig (N3TSY) and seconded by Walt (KE3SP). The motion passed. Rod read a list of members who have already accepted the nominations. The following members accepted their nominations from the previous meeting. They are Craig (N3TSY), Robin (KB3GZV) and Brian (KW3K). Terry (KB3QKS) nominated himself for a board position. He accepted the nomination. Rod then asked for a motion to close the nominations. The motion was made by Craig (N3TSY) and seconded by Charlie (N3WXO). The motion passed.

New Business: The date for Operation Ho-Ho will be announce at a later date. Rod asked for a motion to allow the club to spend \$200 on gifts for the kids. The motion was made by Brian (KW3K) and seconded by Carl (AA3IX). The motion passes. Operation Ho-Ho is an event where the club goes to the Lehigh Valley Hospital Children's Ward. They then go into the rooms and have the children talk to Santa via an HT. There is a club member in another room who plays Santa. He has a list of the child's name and age and any siblings. Santa then asks the children questions. It is a very nice time and it boosts the children's spirits before the Christmas holiday. Mark (AK3M) will announce the date when it is confirmed.

Rod asked for a motion to spend \$150 on prizes for the annual "Cookie Cruncher" in December. The motion was made by Charlie (N3WXO) and seconded by Walt (KE3SP). The motion passed.

Dave Shellhammer has applied for membership. Rod asked for motion to accept his application. The motion was made by Craig (N3TSY) and seconded by Al (KB3LCU). The motion passed. Rod welcomed him to the club.

Rod asked for a motion to declare all non contested positions on the ballot elected. Since they are non contested, it will make the elections easier to do. A motion was made by Brian (KW3K) and seconded by Bill (KA3RBH). The motion passed.

The club has hooked up with the North Catasauqua Fire Company to do a fundraiser. The fire company approached Rod about doing the fundraiser. This will benefit both groups. The drawing will be on December 15 and the main prize is \$1000. The % of tickets we sell is how much we get back. See Rod (N3XG) for the tickets. He will collect the sold and unsold tickets at the December meeting.

Brian (KW3K) reported that there was a good turnout for the advanced Skywarn training class. December 6 is Skywarn recognition day. Brian is working on a Skywarn handbook. He asks that Skywarn members report any icy road conditions to him or to Mt. Holly.

Good of Order: Robin (KB3GZV) is selling large plastic jug containers for \$5. There are numerous uses for them. Half the proceeds will go to the club. See Robin if interested.

New Members: Dave Shellhammer The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2011 hrs,
Motion by: Craig - N3TSY Motion by: Craig - N3TSY
Second by: Al - KB3LCU

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$	
Balance ending October, 2008 - \$ 1,615.39	

This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ARES RACES Net 7:30	2 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	3 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	4 ARCI Topband Sprint	5 ARRL 160m Contest	6 ARRL 160m Contest  SkyWarn rec. Day Wake Up! QRP Sprint
7 ARRL 160m Contest Pearl Harbor Day	8 ARES RACES Net 7:30	9	10 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	11	12	13 ARRL 10m Contest
14 ARRL 10m Contest Deadline to schedule test	15 ARES RACES Net 7:30	16	17 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	18	19 Russian 160m Contest LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	20 Lighthouse Xmas Lights QSO Party 12/20 to 1/4 Croation CW Contest Intl Naval Contest
21 Croation CW Contest Intl Naval Contest	22 Hanukkah ARES RACES Net 7:30	23	24  Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day	26 DARC Xmas Contest	27 RAC Winter Contest Original QRP Contest
28 Original QRP Contest	29 ARES RACES Net 7:30	30	31  New Year's Eve			

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

Test Session - Friday December 19 - 7:00 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday December 1 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday December 2 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)
Monday December 8 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday December 14 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month
Monday December 15 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Friday December 19-- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
Monday December 22 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Monday December 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.



Operation Ho Ho will be held this month. For those new to the club, unfamiliar with this event or if you just enjoy hearing again, about this wonderful LVARC activity, let me explain. LVARC volunteer “elves,” visit the children’s unit at the Lehigh Valley Hospital (Cedar Crest Blvd.) and allow the children to talk to Santa via VHF! With the cooperation of the hospital staff, LVARC elves visit the children’s rooms where they talk to Santa on simplex. Simplex is effective because Santa is very close. Before the elves leave the rooms, the children are given a T-shirt which says, “I Talked To Santa On Amateur Radio,” a small present and a letter from Santa. All who have participated in this event, have felt that indeed, the holiday season has arrived!

ARRL ANNOUNCES NEW YOUTH EDITOR

Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, of Prairie Village, Kansas, has been named as the new ARRL Youth Editor and will write the Youth@HamRadio.Fun column <http://www.arrl.org/news/youth/>. MacLachlan, who turns 14 next week, takes over from Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, as she continues her education at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). Amateur Radio runs in the MacLachlan family -- 12 family members are hams. "I got interested in ham radio through Boy Scouts," MacLachlan said, "but it was with family support that I got licensed."



LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

Five tested at the October 17,
2008 LVARC test session.
CONGRATULATIONS to:

Corinna VanNest - Technician
Eric VanNest - Technician
John Scheirer - Technician
Dave Arwood (KB3ROB) - General
Joel Monza (KC2SNL) - Extra



VE's in attendance were **Walt** (KE3SP), **Frank** (W3FTU) and **Don** (W3DLH)

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.

NEW

New Procedure for Recording EmComm/NIMS Certificates

Send hard copies of your EmComm/NIMS certificate(s) via US mail to Mark (AK3M) at:
5508 Hale Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18017-9035.

You may also send a scanned e-file via email. You **MUST** submit a scanned/photocopy **COPY** of your certificate before you will be credited for the course(s). **DO NOT send the original.** If you have already mailed your certificate to Jeff (N3MFT), you need **not** send another to Mark.

IMPORTANT

Have an article, diagram or an opinion you would like to share with the LVARC members in this 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)



This editorial was inspired by an article in QST regarding what makes an amateur radio club successful. A very timely article for the end of the year EVOX. I began to think of all the offerings of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club which make our club successful.

The author sites the social/personal relationships that exist in any organization as a large part of success in a radio club. I wholehearted agree however, there exist other factors which cannot be excluded.

I have seen the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club steadily grow over many years. Although a slow process, the results leave us with an active, social and stimulating club which has a lot to offer members as well as prospective members.

The club continues to hold its monthly meetings on the same day and time for many years. Although the meeting place has changed from the Red Cross building to the Tri-Clover Fire Company, this has not reduced the number of members attending meetings on a regular basis. Thanks to Phil (KB3HMK), there has been a program following each business meeting regularly. This is no easy task.

The club's newsletter continues to be published monthly and is accessible to anyone thanks to Paul (N0KIA) for his posting the EVOX on the club's web site. Members and nonmembers can stay informed of ARES/RACES events, club news, contests and more.

The LVARC is very fortunate to have an amateur radio friendly ally at the county level. Thanks to the support of Mr. Tom Nervine and his staff who listen and respect our opinions!

We have active RACES members who diligently make themselves available for NCS or check-in stations for the weekly Monday Night Net.

The LVARC is proud to serve the community in several events during the year. This allows the LVARC members to use their equipment and skills as communicators to serve their community. This has emergency preparedness implications as well. Skills used and learned during these activities are carried over to any emergency/RACES situations which may arise.

Thanks to Rod (N3XG), who acting as our president for many years, has also set up a site where LVARC members can share ideas and information with the group (Yahoo group).

Thanks to all the ARES volunteers who unselfishly volunteer a part of their weekend for a “walk, run etc.” They typically arise and deploy very early on a Saturday or Sunday to walk to a location and sit, waiting patiently for the event to begin and then remain well after it has concluded. Always taking a personal interest in the welfare of the participants.

Members helping members is nothing new either. Recently, several LVARC members helped another LVARC member erect a tower and later, an antenna.

The LVARC license test sessions are held monthly. This is apparently a novel idea. Many clubs only offer test sessions a few times per year. There have been many who have tested with the LVARC who have come from very long distances because they were ready and we were the only club which met their schedule. The LVARC has had several who tested with us, join the club.

(continued on page 14)

Upcoming LVARC Events

November

- * Deadline for Pres Schuler Award
- * Deadline for Fundraiser



December

- * W3OI Annual Holiday Party
- * Election of Officers for 2009
- * Presentation of the Pres Schuler Award
- * Operation Ho Ho --- Date: TBA



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

“Can Someone Give Me A Signal Report?” --- This has been heard many times on VHF/UHF repeaters. This, of course, will not be at all accurate. The station seeking this information needs to understand that the signal assessment he is seeking will only be based on the *repeater's* output. **A signal report must be made on the repeater's input or on a simplex frequency.**



CORRECTIONS to the November, 2008 EVOX

de Mark (AK3M)



Yes, you read right. Your trusted editor made TWO errors in the November, 2008 issue of the newsletter.

First, the total money from the county was calculated incorrectly. Instead of \$39,050.00, the correct total should be **\$60,506.00 !**

Second, **Brian** (KB3QHA) was not included for his participation in the September 7, 2008 Marathon. You were not omitted on purpose. Sorry and TNX for you help Brian!

Women's 5K Classic - 2008

de Mark (AK3M)



The Women's 5K Classic went off without a hitch! The October 18, 2008 event began on a sunny but very cold morning. Eleven LVARC ARES members arrived in the Lehigh Parkway well ahead of their suggested time. Our job was to keep watch on the more than 6,500 women participating in the event. There were three "runs," happening simultaneously. There was a 5K race, a 5 mile run and a 5 mile walk. Needless to say our operators had a huge job keeping track of the welfare of all these women in pink. Despite the large number of women, there was only one incident which required EMS. That was relayed to NCS who had an ambulance at his site. Missi, the event coordinator kept in touch with NCS via an FRS radio. This proved to be an effective means of communication for her to NCS.

A HUGE TNX goes to those who volunteered for this, the 3rd (perhaps after Saturday, the 2nd) largest breast cancer event in the country!

TNX to **Mark** (AK3M), **Bob** (WB3JSZ), **Larry** (NR3R), **Don** (W3DLH), **Ryan** (KB3MPX), **Jeff** (N3MFT), **Paul** (N0KIA), **Frank** (W3FTU), **Mike** (KB3QZL), **Jeff** (KB3OCP) and **John** (KB3PJO).

The ARES members were encouraged to take their cameras. On pages 12 and 13 are pictures submitted to me for inclusion in the EVOX.



Women's 5K Classic



Photos courtesy of
Larry (NR3R)





Women's 5K Classic



Photos courtesy of
Bob (WB3JSZ)



New Hams ... Once again, in record time, those who tested on Friday October 17, 2008 received their calls on Tuesday October 21.
CONGRATULATIONS to:

Eric VanNest - **KB3RVE**
John Scheirer - **KB3RVF**
Corinna VanNest - **KB3RVG**



(**My Two Cents** - continued from page 9)

LVARC social activities are not lacking. An annual dinner meeting is held as well as the camaraderie experienced at Field Day. Communications on the local repeater and at meetings are not restricted to radio speak. Members know about each other, their work, families and interests. This strengthens the relationships we have with each other and the club.

Currently, W3OI has THREE repeaters and a simplex frequency on which to operate and thanks to Jeff (N3MFT), who has a personal repeater, is willing to link this to the main LVARC repeater when necessary, essentially making four repeaters available for our use.

Fund raising helps insure that although we may have to wait for equipment, we will have the funds to purchase items. The members support the fund raising efforts. Thanks to Rod (N3XG) and Frank (W3FTU) for their help with raising money for the club.

The LVARC governing body, the Board of Governors, has only the interests of its members at heart. Decisions are considered with the best interest of the club and its members in mind.

I agree with the author of the article in QST which inspired this article who felt that personal/social relationships make a successful club but I am glad that the LVARC has much more to offer its members thus making our club one of continued growth and success.



Think Out of The Box! The following question was used as a job interview question. How would you answer? The candidate who was hired offered the answer which will appear in the January, 2009 issue of the newsletter.

You are driving down the road in your car on a wild, stormy night when you pass by a bus stop and you see three people waiting for the bus. 1. an old lady who looks as if she is about to die, 2. an old friend who once saved your life and 3, the perfect partner you have been dreaming about.

The question: **“Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car?”**



Pres Schuler Award

Nomination deadline is Nov. 15, 2008. Send your nomination to Rod (N3XG) or any board member (listed on the cover page).



LVARC Fundraiser

We are selling tickets for a grand prize of \$1,000 dollars that will be drawn on December 15th. Need not be present to win. The more tickets we sell, the more we make out of the profit. The tickets are \$5 dollars each and I'm requesting that **anyone who sells tickets, get the stubs, money and left over tickets back to me (Rod - N3XG) either by the December meeting or the end of the first week in December.**

Absentee LVARC Ballot

You can vote for LVARC 2009 officers at the **meeting, via email** or you can **US mail** the completed ballot on the next page (p. 16).

Any absentee ballots must be received NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 25, 2008.

Print page 16 and US mail to Phil (KB3HMK) at:

**Phil Bigg
1713 Cottage Ave
Bethlehem, PA 18018**

Vote via email

Email Phil (philbert@enter.net). Simply email Phil with your 5 selections for Board of Governors.



LVARC ABSENTEE BALLOT for 2009 OFFICERS



President (uncontested) --- **Rod Wolfe, Jr.** (N3XG)
Vice President (uncontested) --- **Craig Traverson** (N3TSY)
Treasurer (uncontested) --- **Paul Ryan** (N0KIA)
Recording Secretary (uncontested) --- **Phil Bigg** (KB3HMK)

Board of Governors (Vote for 5)

- Frank Unger** (W3FTU)
- Larry Snyder** (KN3L)
- Carl Seier** (AA3IX)
- Brian Klock** (KW3K)
- Robin Gable** (KB3GZV)
- Mark Miller** (AK3M)
- Walt Snyder** (KE3SP)
- Terry Kern** (KB3QKS)

To use this absentee ballot, print this page (16), complete and US mail to:

Phil Bigg - KB3HMK
1713 Cottage Ave
Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Ballots must be received
NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 25, 2008**



*Happy Holidays from the Lehigh
Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI*