

# The **E-VOX**

The Official **On-Line**

Newsletter of the



**L**ehigh **V**alley **A**mateur



**R**adio **C**lub - **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)

## Board of Governors

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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

447.775 (PL 71.9)







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

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

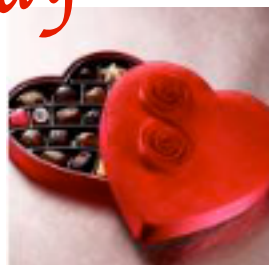


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*Valentine's Day*



Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark  
(AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.

**The February, 2009 LVARC meeting will be held on  
February 3, 2009 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.**

Program: "Setting Up Your First Digital Station"  
Presenter: **Brian (KB3QHA)**

**NOTE:** The dinner meeting (p. 8) will be held **IN ADDITION** to the regular business meeting this month.



## 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
November	138	4
December	168	5

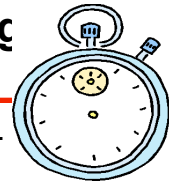


<b><u>2008 Totals</u></b>	<b><u>1,786</u></b>
Weekly Avg.	34.3
Month Avg.	148.3



## **"Minutes" of the December 2, 2008 LVARC Meeting**

Submitted by Mark (AK3M)



Due to bad weather, the January 6, 2009 LVARC meeting was canceled. Rod (N3XG) held an, "**Informational Meeting**," on the 146.94 repeater beginning at 1930 hours.

The following LVARC Officers and Board of Governors reported: Rod (N3XG), Craig (N3TSY), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA), Robin (KB3GZV), Mark (AK3M), Larry (KN3L) and Frank (W3FTU).

LVARC members who checked in included: KB3GZW, W3AMC, KB3OCP, KA3TIU, WB3W, N3ULR, KB3PJO, KB3QZL, KA3RBH, KB3RVF, KB3MOZ, W3GGY, W3QXI, AA3IX.

### **Traffic / messages for the net:**

**Phil (KB3HMK)** --- (1) The program for the January 6 meeting will be held over until the February meeting. (2) The dinner will be held on February 17 at 6:30 pm at the Old Country Buffet. Arrive early. (3) The dinner will be in addition to the regular February business meeting and NOT in place of it. (4) Phil needs program suggestions. (5) Phil thanks all who presented a program(s) during the 2008 year.

### **Paul (N0KIA)**

(1) Paul reminded all that 2009 dues are due. There are three ways to pay: (a) Pay Paul at a meeting (include name and call with your payment), (b) Use PayPal from the club's website or (c) US mail to Paul. Dues are \$17.00 or \$20.00 for a family membership. (2) If you have paid, your 2009 membership will be updated on the club's website.

**Mark (AK3M)** (1) Operation Ho Ho, scheduled for December 21, 2008 was canceled at the last minute due to icy road conditions. On Monday, December 22, Larry (NR3R), delivered the stockings filled with gifts to the hospital for the children. The T-Shirts were retained and will be used for Operation Ho Ho, 2009. (2) **VE Report** --- There was no one scheduled to test on December 19, 2008. The next test session will be Friday January 16, 2009. One person has already scheduled to test on that date. VE's have been secured for the January 16 test session. (3) The Lehigh Valley Road Runner's 1/2 marathon will be held on May 3, 2009. They have contacted me for communications support. Two LVARC members have already volunteered. Contact Mark (AK3M) to volunteer.

**Rod (N3XG)** --- (1) Rod wished all a Happy New Year. (2) Rod also thanked all who helped with the holiday raffle. The club earned \$677.25. He plans additional similar fundraisers.

**Release Date: December 18, 2008**

Release Number: HQ-08-259

## **NIMS Update**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today released a revised National Incident Management System (NIMS) - the national standard for incident management. NIMS establishes standardized incident management processes, protocols, and procedures that all federal, state, tribal and local responders will use to coordinate and conduct response actions.

NIMS expands on the original version released in March 2004 by clarifying existing NIMS concepts, better incorporating preparedness and planning and improving the overall readability of the document. The revised document also differentiates between the purposes of NIMS and the National Response Framework (NRF) by identifying how NIMS provides the action template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the policy structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management.

"The National Incident Management System has been the single most significant improvement in incident management since the Department of Homeland Security was formed in 2003," FEMA Administrator David Paulison said. "It has enhanced interoperability among emergency responders at all levels of government and is the product of a collaborative effort involving hundreds of emergency personnel from across the nation. We incorporated lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, clarified incident command system concepts, increased emphasis on planning and mutual aid, expanded the intelligence/investigation function, and better aligned the NIMS document with the National Response Framework," said Paulison.

With the oversight of FEMA, the newly released NIMS followed an extensive revision involving over 100 partners from all levels of government, private sector, nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and subject matter experts representing a broad spectrum of emergency management and incident response disciplines. Throughout three official nationwide comment periods, FEMA reviewed nearly 6,000 comments from more than 280 individuals and organizations, including extensive review and recommendations made by the National Advisory Council (NAC).

The basic tenets of NIMS remain the same. There have been several improvements to the revised NIMS document which will aid in readability and usefulness of preparing, preventing, and responding to incidents. For example, the revised document places greater emphasis on the role of preparedness and has reorganized its components to mirror the progression of an incident.

Recognizing the importance of private sector partners and NGOs in incident response, FEMA has ensured that those entities have been more fully integrated throughout NIMS. The new document is consistent with the NRF, and together they provide a single, comprehensive approach to incident management.




**Further information on preparedness programs is available at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) and [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).** FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

### **LINK TO NIMS DOCUMENT**

[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS\\_core.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/NIMS_core.pdf)



# This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>	3 <b>LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30</b>	4 <b>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</b>	5	6 	7 <b>N. Amer. CW Sprint</b>
8 <b>N. Amer. CW Sprint</b>	9 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>	10	11 <b>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</b>	12	13	14 <b>N. Amer. Sprint SSB</b>  
<b>School Club Roundup</b>						
15 <b>N. Amer. Sprint SSB</b>  <b>Deadline to schedule test</b>	16 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>	17  <b>Dinner at Old Country Buffet - 6:30 (arrive at 6:00)</b>  <b>Digital TV Change</b>	18 <b>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</b>	19	20 <b>LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm</b>	21 <b>ARRL DX CW</b>
22 <b>ARRL DX CW</b>	23 <b>ARES RACES Net 7:30</b>	24	25 <b>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</b>	26	27	28 <b>CQ WW 160m SSB</b>
						<b>February 2008</b>

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

**Test Session - Friday February 20 - 7:00 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.**



## LVARC Activities/Events

### Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



**Monday February 2**--- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
**Tuesday February 3** -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)  
**Monday February 9** --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
**Sunday February 15** -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month  
**Monday February 16** --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
**Friday February 20**-- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)  
**Monday February 23** --- 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.

**ARES Field Resources Manual** is available from the ARRL. This is a 92 page spiral bound book. The cost is \$12.95. Details on how to order this manual may be found at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

### Question Pool Schedule

**Technician** --- July 1, 2006 is valid until June 30, 2010.

**General** ----- July 1, 2007 is valid until June 30, 2011.

**Extra** ----- July 1, 2008 is valid until June 30, 2012.

## *Operation Ho Ho Gifts Ready To Go!*

In preparation of Operation Ho Ho, 2008, Larry (NR3R) displays gifts the children will receive after their visit with Santa via amateur radio.



## LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

No one was scheduled  
to test at the December 19,  
2008 test session.



**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](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com) or call 610-865-9183.



The annual dinner will be held at the Old Country Buffet on **February 17 at 6:30 pm.** Arrival *no later* than 6:00 pm is strongly recommended.



### **Silent Key** - *Edward Poplasky (KA3ZOY)*

Edward B. Poplasky, 91, of Bethlehem Township, died on Wednesday, December 31, 2008 in St. Lukes Hospital, Fountain Hill. He was a member of the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Inc.



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](mailto: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!**





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Last month, I mentioned that the new TV regulations (digital only) should not directly effect amateur radio. After continued thought, it occurred to me that amateur radio operators should be fundamentally opposed to this legislation and its implementation with respect to emergency communications.

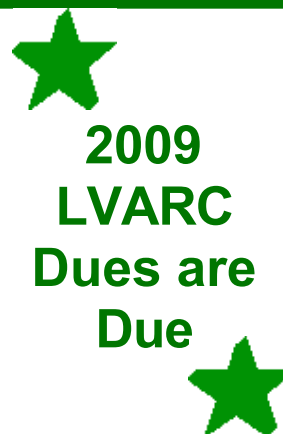
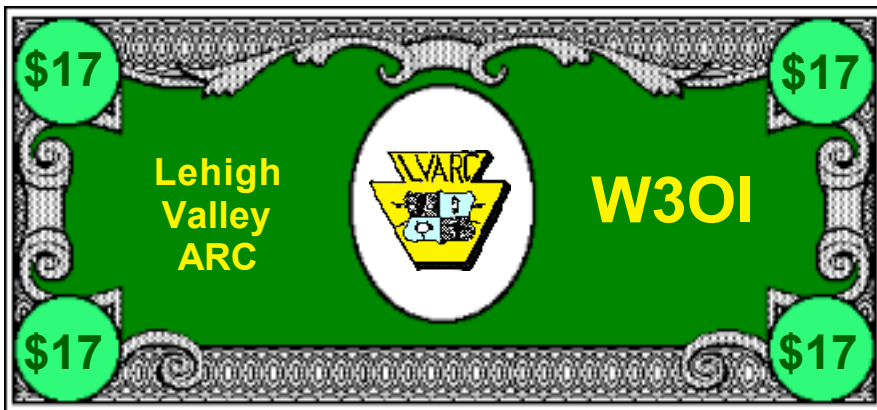
It seems to me that dependency on a, “wired,” infrastructure and equipment would be counterproductive. Internet communications are fine as long as your ether net cable is intact, your wireless card is in working and your ISP remains connected to the internet. Email is also fine but has the same limitations, as does Echolink. The only effective amateur emergency communications would be a, “stand alone,” HF station or secondary to that, VHF/UHF repeater(s) with its own separate power source and antenna or perhaps VHF/UHF simplex operation.

We are soon going to be dependent on cable or satellite reception *only* for our TV information and entertainment. It seems like we are going backward and are returning to a, “**wired dependency** .”

We all know that cable broadcasts are susceptible to natural effects such as thunderstorms and satellite signals can be obscured by something as simple as a wooden structure like your house or even cloud cover. TV stations are regulated by the FCC and they are required to have public emergency communications plans in place. If cable or satellite systems are, down, how are these emergency plans and information to be broadcast? Since there will be few or no, “stand alone,” TV receivers with antennas after February, 2009, how will the FCC fulfill their transmissions? *Who* will be able to receive these emergency plans?

I assume that this move from analog to digital broadcasts will save bandwidth and make additional information and programming sharing possible. I also assume that this is progress and I have no problems with progress but I am concerned about an unfriendly plan to disrupt our, “wired,” communications capabilities at both the amateur and commercial levels. This would would cause havoc and inefficiency in an emergency situation.

“Wired,” dependency may make our every day TV viewing and information sharing better than what we have had in the past but what about the emergency communications aspect? After all, emergency communications are a big part of amateur radio and should continue to be at all levels including commercial broadcasts. *[Rebuttals are encouraged --- ed.]*



For many years, the dues for membership in the LVARC have **NOT increased** and remain at **\$17.00 (\$20.00 for a family)**! There are not many things which can make the same claim. There are several ways to pay your 2009 dues:

1. Pay Paul (N0KIA) at a meeting or
2. Send Paul a check via US mail or
3. Pay online at the club's website via PayPal



### 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 E-VOX** The Official **On-Line** Newsletter of the **Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI**

All six years of the EVOX, from 2002 to 2008 are available on CD! All these issues are in a pdf format, just as they appeared when you first enjoyed them.



To get your copy, contact Mark (AK3M). The CD is free!

*"To love deeply in one direction makes us more loving in all others."*  
--- Anne-Sophie Swetchine

## Mark Your Calendars - de Mark (AK3M)

The Lehigh Valley Road Runner's Half-Marathon will be **Sunday May 3, 2009**. I have already been contacted for communications support for this event. If you are interested in participating, contact me at (AK3M@rcn.com)



## Need / Want An Amber Light To Be Identified At An ARES Event?

This revolving warning light plugs into a cigarette lighter outlet in your car or truck. There is a coiled cord with a cigarette lighter plug on the end. The warning light has three magnets on the bottom so it will stick to the top of your vehicle. It is about 5.5 inches tall and about 4.5 inches in diameter. It uses a standard automotive bulb. There is a motor inside that turns the mirror around the bulb.



[The purchase of this item is an individual decision. LV ARES members are not buying these as a group at this time -- ed].

**Price: \$20.00** ---- From: High Sierra Antennas --- <http://www.hamcq.com/>



## Amateur Radio Shirts Available

At the December 2, 2008 meeting, Phil (KB3HMK) showed a shirt which says, "Amateur Radio Operator," on the back with **YOUR** [first] **NAME** on the front under a graphic of a tower.



The shirts are \$10.00 each. If interested, contact Phil (philbert@enter.net). Give him your size and name.

## IMPORTANT

**Test Fees to Increase** - Beginning January, 2009, test fees for taking a test for any class license (Tech, General and Extra) will increase from \$14.00 to \$15.00.



## Results of the Holiday Raffle

Rod (N3XG) reported the following:

1. LVARC tickets sold --- 225
2. LVARC profit ----- \$677.25



## The LVARC Ink Cartridge Program

As you know, Frank (W3FTU) has been collecting empty ink cartridges as an ongoing fundraiser. Copy toner cartridges are now also being accepted. Some ink cartridges are not accepted. To check if your ink cartridges are those which "Empties 4 Cash," will accept, visit the URL below where you can find a complete list.

**Empties4Cash**  
YOUR RECYCLING AND FUNDRAISING PARTNER

<http://www.empties4cash.com/cartridge-price-list.html>

**Old/Previous Call Quiz** --- Send me you old/previous

call(s) (Mark - AK3M) and we will have an "Old Call," quiz in a future issue of the EVOX . TNX to Phil (KB3HMK) for this idea.

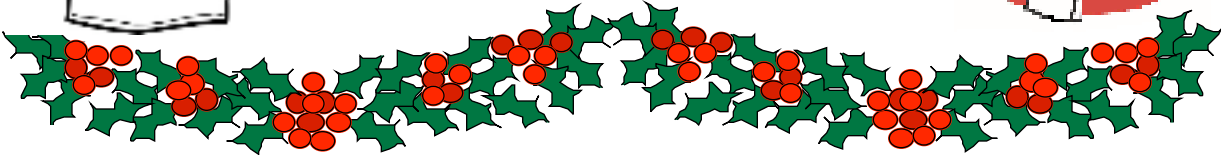


**Repeater Tip** (de AK3M) --- When involved in a, "Round Table," on a repeater, it is helpful to name the person who is to get the mike next. This will avoid, "doubling."



## Operation Ho Ho 2008

de Mark (AK3M)



Sunday morning December 21, 2008, saw the arrival of ice in the Lehigh Valley making travel impossible. With the safety of Santa, the elves and the LV hospital staff (who was to come in specially for this event) in mind, Operation Ho Ho, 2008 was canceled.

I wish to thank **Larry** (NR3R) for all his preparations including all the shopping, t-shirt ordering and pick up and **Robin** (KB3GZV) and **Dorian** (KB3GZW) for volunteering to be elves again this year. The decision to cancel was not an easy one and we all are sorry to miss, "2008 Operation Ho Ho".

Although Santa was not available to talk to the children, Larry (NR3R) took the stocking gifts (see page 7 for picture) to the hospital the Monday after the scheduled event for those children who were in the children's unit. The shirts will be packed away until 2009.

### World Radio Magazine to be Published by CQ

**WorldRadio**



**CQ Amateur Radio**

World Radio 's plan is to continue to be published as an online only magazine, but their current plan is to make it open access, without charging for subscriptions.

**CONGRATULATIONS to John**  
Krumenacker (KB3PJO), on his  
completion of the Level II ARECC  
course!



## Amateur Radio Word Search



RADIO  
 TUBE  
 FREQUENCY  
 ANTENNA  
 RACES  
 ARES  
 QST  
 ARRL  
 HEADPHONES  
 CONTEST  
 SOLDERING  
 METER  
 BAND  
 EMERGENCY  
 DSTAR  
 YAESU  
 ICOM  
 KENWOOD

RADIO  
 AMPLIFIER  
 TUNER  
 AMATEUR  
 RECEIVER  
 TRANSMITTER  
 BEAM  
 DIPOLE  
 TOWER  
 MANUAL  
 COAX  
 WATT  
 VOLT  
 CABLE  
 GENERATOR  
 VERTICAL  
 EXAM  
 EVOX  
 DXCC

**Words to look for:**

WAS  
 ROTATOR  
 COMMUNICATIONS  
 MICROPHONE