

The **E-VOX**

The Official **On-Line**

Newsletter of the



Lehigh **V**alley **A**mateur

Radio **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

447.775 (PL 71.9)








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

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



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LATE BREAKING NEWS



Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

Digital TV Changeover delayed until June, 2009.

More Late Breaking News - page 13.

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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.

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

Program: TBA
Presenter: TBA



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

Month

January



Number of
Check-In's

150



Number of
Nets

4



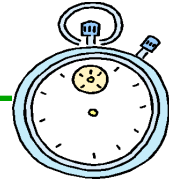
IMPORTANT



BOTH IS-100 **AND** IS-700 are required to be registered
with Lehigh and/or Northampton County RACES.

Minutes of the February 2, 2008 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1935Hrs, (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 6 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod (N3XG), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA) and Robin (KB3GZV).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Motion by: Bruce - KA3TIU

Second by: Dave - W3AMC

Carried (Y/N) Y

Guests: Joe Corona - KB3SBX
Jeff Bauer - WA3PNY
Gary Decker - KB3SFJ
Charles Lear - K3IKJ
Doug Miller - K2ASF
Joe Reynick

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting Balance: December - \$1844.76

January - \$1918.25

Ending Balance: December - \$1918.25

January - \$2662.20

Approved by: Bruce - KA3TIU

Second by: Carl - AA3IX

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: The repeaters have running fine. The 94 repeater clock is off by a half hour. Jeff will be notified to fix it. If a member hears of any problems with the repeater, please let a club officer know.

Program: Phil reports that tonight is Brian (KB3QHA). He will be doing a program called "How to get your first HF digital station set up". He will announce the March program will be at a later time. If you have an idea or would like to do one, please let Phil (KB3HMK) know.

Volunteer Examiners: At the January 16, 2009 LVARC test session, Gary Decker earned his Technician then General class license. He received his call on January 21, 2009. His call is KB3SFJ. The next test session is Friday February 20, 2009. Contact Mark to schedule your test.

Old Business: Operation Ho-Ho was scheduled for December 20. Due to inclement weather, it was canceled. Larry (NR3R) went to Lehigh Valley Hospital the next day and gave the kids the toys they were supposed to get on Sunday. The club participated in a holiday raffle with North Catasauqua Fire Company. The club made \$677.25. The more we sell, we get a bigger return. North Catty is very pleased with us. Rod thanked the members that sold tickets. The inkjet cartridge recycling is still going on. Please Frank (W3FTU) if you have any cartridges. The January meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. Some upcoming events are the _ Marathon in May with a full marathon later in the year. Other activities are planned. Tune into the Monday night nets get the information. The board of governors met for there yearly meeting. The FCC has asked amateur radio clubs to help promote the new digital TV. that will be coming out. The board decided not to help with this venture due to numerous risks.

New Business: Rod read the list of new applicants. See list. Rod asked for motion to donate \$100 to Tri-Clover Fire Company for the use of the facilities. A motion was made by Carl (AA3IX) and seconded by Mike (KB3QZL). A \$50 donation will be sent to The Lehigh Valley Red Cross for the use of there facilities. No motion required. Rod received a call for North Catasauqua Fire Company. They would like to do lottery calendar for April. Rod asked for motion to participate in this fundraising event. A motion was made by Bruce (KA3TIU) and seconded by Robin (KB3GZV). More info to follow.

Good of Order: Charlie (N3WXO) says there are possible Skywarn classes coming up. If anyone is interested, please contact Charlie or Brian (KW3K). If the classes are scheduled, they will be announced at a later time. Valley Search and Rescue Team is looking for help in teaching the proper way to communicate with a two way radio. Rod will look into it and see what the club can do.

Sick Report: Ike (N3IK) is still in Good Shepherd rehab. If you hear him on the radio, send a hello out to him. Margo (N3RDI) is in the hospital. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

New Members: Joe Corona - KB3SBX
Jeff Bauer - WA3PNY
Gary Decker - KB3SFJ
Jeff Welsh - KB3ELT

Motion by: Bruce - KA3TIU
Second by: Brian - KB3QHA
Carried (Y/N) Y

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



Motion by: Bruce - KA3TIU
Second by: Dave - W3AMC
In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$
Balance ending January, 2009 - \$ 2,662.20



This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ARES RACES Net 7:30	3 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	4 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	5 LC WX Drill	6	7 ARRL DX Phone
8 ARRL DX Phone	9 ARES RACES Net 7:30	10	11 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	12	13	14 Russian DX Contest
15 Russian DX Contest Deadline to schedule test	16 ARES RACES Net 7:30	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	19	20 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	21
22	23 ARES RACES Net 7:30	24	25 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	26	27	28 CQ WPX Phone
29 CQ WPX Phone	30 ARES RACES Net 7:30	31	<div> <div>March 2009</div>  </div>			

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

Test Session - Friday March 20 - 7:00 pm - Rd Cross Building

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar PRINT, CLIP and POST



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

LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

At the January 16,
2008 LVARC test session,
**Gary Decker earned his
Technician then General
class license.**

CONGRATULATIONS Gary !



VE's in attendance were Walt (KE3SP) and Larry (NR3R)

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.

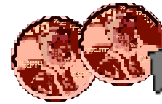
Test sessions are given the 3rd Friday of each month.

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.

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!**



More Than 70 Miles On 5 Watts Simplex?

Every year, my family takes a vacation at the New Jersey shore and I take my modest boat for fun in the bay. Radio equipment, of course, includes my Yaesu HT and a marine VHF radio mounted aboard my boat. My HT, as well as dedicated marine HT's, are limited to a maximum of 5 watts output. My boat VHF radio has a maximum output of 25 watts. Fortunately, I have never had an occasion to need the Coast Guard's help but have heard many recreational boaters who have needed their help.

I have often wondered how low powered VHF transmissions can be a reliable communications system. I have sat in my boat in Barnegat Bay and heard the Coast Guard's, "Sector Delaware Bay," station which is located in Philadelphia, PA. **How can a boat using 5 or even 25 watts, simplex, contact Philadelphia from that location with a, "full quieting," signal?**

Well, the answer lies with a new USCG communications system instituted a few years ago. It is called, "Rescue 21" and is both analog and digital. Rescue 21 from Sector Delaware Bay, utilizes 6 towers, which are NOT repeaters, as marine VHF communications is a simplex mode. They rely on these 6 towers placed around their area of responsibility. Three towers are on the, "river," (Delaware) side and three listen to the, ocean. The originating signal is recognized by the closest tower and sent to the Philadelphia station.

The digital component of the this system, means that a boat will have the option to upgrade to the appropriate radio. Boaters, both recreational and commercial, can opt to buy these new radios (digital) although analog radios still work. This transition will take time but most marine VHF radios are now being built and sold with digital capabilities.



For more information about Rescue 21, visit:

<http://www.gdc4s.com/content/detail.cfm?item=816a4a1c-1316-4879-adff-430e9f7972fa>



LVARC Shorts



Old Radio Shack Catalogs -- de Rod (N3XG)

Here is a web site with most of the old catalogs, and you can flip through page by page. Brings back memories. Enjoy: <http://www.radioshackcatalogs.com/>



Former Call Quiz



I have had a few responses for the "Former Call Quiz," so will not include it in this newsletter. If you want to submit your previous call(s), send to Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com

WANTED

Two 3 to 4 feet 19" racks for mounting equipment. Will pay and pick up.

Contact Charlie Giannetta at **610-837-6211**



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

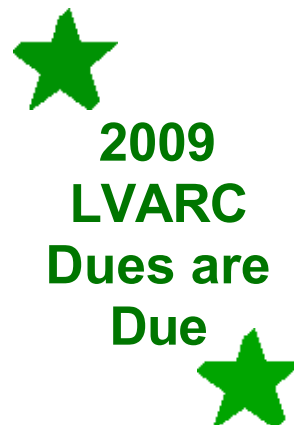
Ink Cartridge Update de Frank (W3FTU)

Empties4Cash reported last month that they would begin accepting toner cartridges. This month, they have put an end to their toner cartridge program. We are back to just collecting printer cartridges.

FOR SALE:
VX7R - Silver



Works Fine
Contact Ed (W3EFT) for details at 610-865-3915



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

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 left front under a graphic of a tower.



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

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 interested in participating, contact me at (AK3M@rcn.com)



The Foundation for Amateur Radio



AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer forty-eight (48) scholarships for the academic year 2009 – 2010 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds two of these scholarships. **The remaining forty-six (46) are administered by the foundation without cost to the various donors.**

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$5,000 to \$500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Non-USA residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. Clubs, especially those in **California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin** (areas of preferred residence for some of the scholarships), are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to March 30, 2009 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

Applications are also available for download from the foundation's web site
<http://www.farweb.org/>.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.



Information about your birthday - de Walt (KE3SP)

Unique site tells you all about the day you were born! TNX WALT. [ed]

www.paulsadowski.com/birthday.asp



2009 LVARC ARES Activities



January
February
March

April

May

- (1) LVRR 1/2 Marathon - May 3
- (2) St. Joseph the Worker 5K - May 16

June

Field Day

July
August

September

LVH Marathon - Sept. 13

October

- (1) Women's 5K Classic
- (2) SET

November

December

Operation Ho Ho

CONGRATULATIONS to Gary Decker who, even with the Martin Luther King federal holiday, received his call on Wednesday January 21, 2009. Gary tested at the LVARC's January 16, 2009 test session where he earned his General class license. Gary is now **KB3SFJ**.

The Delaware Valley FM Sprint Contest

Please join us on February 28th from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM for an evening of FM fun.

The object of the contest is to contact as many different zip codes as possible. The rules can be found at <http://www.harcnet.org/contest.htm>. This is a great way to check out your simplex coverage. It's good information to have if your favorite repeater went off the air. While the contest is centered in the greater Philadelphia area, all stations are invited to participate and submit logs.

This contest is designed as an enjoyable event using radios that most amateurs have. It is a low key contest, so do not feel rushed, there is plenty of time for a short chat. You can move a participant to another band, rovers can arrange meets, ask questions, meet someone new.

To keep things interesting and provide plenty of activity, there will be some rovers running in the Philadelphia area during the full contest period.

We would like club stations to participate, as contacting a club station is worth a bonus. If we know before the contest that a club will be on the air it would be helpful, but advance notice is not required.

As with any contest, you don't have to submit a log, but you never know, you may have won your class. Don't let the number of contacts the rovers make scare you away, they are a different class.

It is really a pleasant way to spend a winter evening on the radio.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Rich
AB3EO
ab3eo@arrl.net
H.A.R.C. Contest Organizer

The **DO NOT CALL** List is due again. To register your hard wired and/or cell phone(s), call: **888-382-1222** and follow the directions.

[LVARC] Members,

During Tuesday's meeting (February 3, 2009) I was asked about the income from the ink cartridge program, and I replied that Frank had contributed about \$150 to \$200 per year from the ink recycle program. I managed to get some time on the database today and I have some corrected figures. Frank's efforts have netted ONLY about \$100 per year from the ink cartridge program. But wait, there's more. Frank has also spearheaded the Applebee program, the Cherryville Hamfest project, the club equipment auctions, as well as the Empties4Cash program and helping with the hoagie sales. His total donations to the club since mid-2006 have been \$776.58 or about \$250.00 per year.



Way to go, Frank, and thanks for your efforts!

73,
Paul



Dive into the Digital Radio Universe!

NOW SHIPPING! ---- The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course CD-ROM --- \$49.95



As I alluded to during the presentation last Tuesday [February 3] , I have put the slides on the Web, in PDF format, for reference.

<http://www.brianwsnyder.com/ham/digital.pdf>

Thanks to all who those who helped out with your questions and ensuing discussions.

Brian
KB3QHA



**The St Joseph the Worker 5K will
be on Saturday, May 16th, 2009.**

Contact Craig (N3TSY) to volunteer - cjtraverson@yahoo.com

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**