



# 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*

---

### Officers

*President:* **Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG** (rjwolfe@rcn.net)  
*Vice President:* **Craig Traverson - N3TSY** (cjtraverson@yahoo.com)  
*Secretary:* **Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK** (philbert17@verizon.net)  
*Treasurer:* **Paul Ryan - N0KIA** (n0kia@arrl.net)

### Board of Governors

**Robin Gable - KB3GZV** (kb3gzw@arrl.net)  
**Mark S. Miller - AK3M** (AK3M@rcn.net)  
**Larry Snyder - KN3L** (KN3L@ARRL.NET)  
**Brian Klock - KX3W** (brian@stcp.com)  
**Frank Unger - W3FTU** (funger@ptd.net)



**E-VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M)**  
AK3M@rcn.net



**Webmaster- Paul Ryan (N0KIA)**  
(n0kia@arrl.net)

### LVARC 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

### LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

*Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)*  
146.940 (PL 71.9)

### D-Star







W3OI Dstar repeaters are now on 147.165  
(plus offset of 600 Khz) and 445.025 (minus  
offset of 5 Mhz).

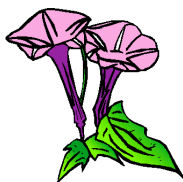
Join us for a Mid-Atlantic regional net the  
second and fourth Tuesdays of each month on  
the 147.165 port

To register for the Gateway or need information  
on setting up the radio, please visit  
<http://www.epaares.org/dstar/>

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

# May 2009 Contents

Meeting Information .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 3
L.C. RACES Net Information .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 3
Minutes of the April, 2009 Meeting .....		pages 4-5
This Month In Ham Radio .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 6
VE Report .....		page 7
"My Two Cents" .....	<b>EDITORIAL</b>	page 8
LVARC Shorts .....		page 9
LVARC ARES Events.....	 <b>LVARC Event</b>	page 10
RSGB IOTA Directory .....		page 11
Kidde Recalls .....		page 12
The K5D Phenomenon/ From the President.....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	pages 13-14



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 May, 2009 LVARC meeting will be held on  
May 5, 2009 at the Tri-Clover Fire Co. at 7:30 pm.

## 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 - 2009

Month  
March



Number of  
Check-In's

173  
150  
161



Number of  
Nets

5  
4  
4

January  
February

### Get Your License In Time for Field Day, 2009 !

The LVARC's regularly scheduled test session will be  
June 19, just in time for Field Day which is June 27 & 28, 2009.

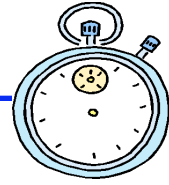


The Lehigh County Office of Emergency Management has moved to:

640 Hamilton Street  
8th Floor  
Allentown, PA

## Minutes of the April 2008 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by Vice President Traverson 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 29 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Craig (N3TSY), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA), Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU) and Robin (KB3GZV).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Motion by: Walt – KE3SP

Second by: Brian – KB3QHA

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Starting Balance: \$2734.73

Ending Balance: \$3058.05

Approved by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Carl – AA3IX

Carried: (Y/N) Y

### Committee Reports:

Repeater: The 94 repeater was down for a bit over the weekend. This was due to some circuit breakers and other items that were fixed.

**Program:** Phil reports that tonight was supposed be Rod (N3XG).

Due to work related issues, he was not able to attend. Bob (WB3W) will be filling in tonight. He will be doing a program on D-Star and EmComm. May will be Rod (N3XG) and his topic will be "N.V.I.S. Antennas". The June program might be a possible trip to the new Lehigh County EOC. As always, if you would like to do a program or have an idea, please let Phil know.

**Volunteer Examiners:** Mark reports that at the March 20 test session, two tested and two passed. Congratulations to Laurie (KB3SIK) who earned her General and Dave (W3GMT) who is now an Extra. The next test session will be April 17. Please call Mark (AK3M) to register.

**Field Day:** Per Jeff (N3MFT) the South Whitehall Board of Supervisors have approved the Brickyard site for our use. That is the site that we were at last year. The club hopes to run a lean 2F again this year, as well as a GOTA station. We did well with that last year. More info to follow.

**Old Business:** Mark (AK3M) is still looking for help with the \_ Marathon. If you can help, please let him know. The St. Joseph the Worker Walk-a-Thon is May 16. Contact Craig (N3TSY) for more info. Frank (W3FTU) is still collecting inkjet cartridges for a fund raiser. If you still have the plastic envelopes, continue to use them. When you use them up, you will have to give Frank the cartridges at a meeting or contact him. Rod will finish up the paperwork for the additional license this week.

**New Business:** The club is working with St. Luke's Hospital to provide them with communications between the St. Luke's sites. One of the organizations that St. Luke's is guided by is starting to require hospitals to have a back up communication system. This will benefit the club. More info to follow.

**Good of Order:** The N2MO hamfest will be April 18. The RF Hill auction will be April 30. Paul asked for a motion to renew our membership with the A.R.C.C. The cost is \$50. A motion was made by Brent (KB3QER) and seconded by Carl (AA3IX). The motion passed. Carl would like to see the photos updated on the website. There are new members coming in and it would be nice to know who they are. It was suggested to be careful what bands you use. Due to the earthquake in Italy, there are certain bands being used for emergency communications. Check the ARRL website to get the information.

**New Members:** Laurie Hartranft – KB3SIK

Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Walt – KE3SP

Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 1958 hrs., EST.

Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Charlie – W3QXI



In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

**\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$**  
**Balance ending March, 2009 - \$ 3,058.05**



# This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>May</div> 					1	2 MARAC SSB QSO Party  ARI Int. DX Contest
3 <b>1/2 Marathon</b>	4 ARES RACES Net 7:30	5 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	6 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	7	8	9 EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party
10 Deadline to schedule test	11 ARES RACES Net 7:30	12	13 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	14	15 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	16 <b>St. Joseph the Worker 5K</b>
17	18 ARES RACES Net 7:30	19	20 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	21	22	23
24	25 <b>No Net</b> 	26	27 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	28	29	30
31 Kids Roundup	<div>2009</div>					

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday May 5 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

Test Session - Friday May 15 - 7:00 pm - Rd Cross Building

# LVARC Activities/Events

## Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



### Sunday May 3 --- 1/2 Marathon

Monday May 4 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday May 5 -- LVARC Meeting - 7:30 pm (Tri-Clover Fire Co.)

Sunday May 10 -- Deadline to Schedule Test Session for this month

Monday May 11 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Friday May 15 -- LVARC Test Session (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

### Saturday May 16 - St. Joseph The Worker 5K

Monday May 18 --- LC RACES/ ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

\*\*\* Monday May 25 --- **NO** LC RACES/ ARES Net

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 March 20, 2009 test session, two tested and two passed. Congratulations to **Laurie (KB3SIK)** who earned her *General* and **Dave (W3GMT)** who is now an *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.

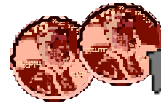
Test sessions are given the 3rd Friday of each month.

**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](mailto: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](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!**



**Get ready for Summer !!!!** Finally, the weather is warmer and it is time to look ahead to Spring and Summer activities! Nice weather means it is time to work on those winter damaged antennas. Check those wire antennas. Also, check your coax (squirrels love to chew that black insulation) as well as where feedlines enter your shack. Consider helping another ham with their antenna project.

There are several ARES activities scheduled. Don't forget to volunteer! New or old to ARES activities, your help is needed. Listen to the Monday Night Net and read the newsletter for details.

Field Day, 2009 is also on the Summer agenda! Field Day this year will be June 27 and 28, 2009. If you really want to get into the spirit, the ARRL has nice 2009 Field Day T-shirts for sale. In addition to T-shirts, the ARRL has other Field Day gear. See <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-0515>.



If you plan a vacation to an island or shore point, don't forget to take your HT. Most HT's have extended receive capabilities and you can monitor Cruise (port ) or Coast Guard (marine) frequencies.

*Lots of ham activities going on this Summer. Take advantage of the nice weather to help and enjoy your hobby !*

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

TNX to Bob (WB3W) for a great D-Star presentation at the April, 2009 meeting. D-Star stands for **D**igital **S**mart **T**echnology for **A**mateur **R**adio.



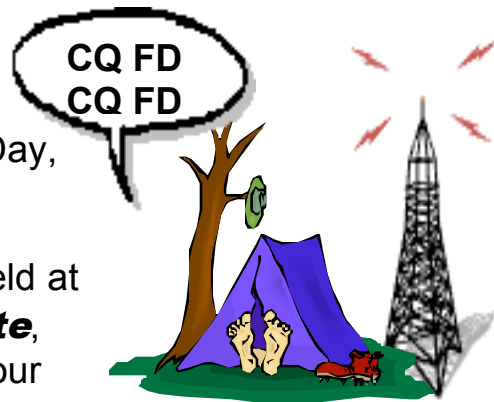
# LVARC Shorts



## FIELD DAY, 2009 !!

Its not too early to think about Field Day, 2009. Your LVARC officers haven't.

Field Day, 2009 will once again be held at the **Huckleberry Road Tower site**, the same place as last year. Mark your calendar for June 27 & 28, 2009.



## The New RACES Room at the New EOC!

The EOC has moved from the basement of the LC courthouse to its new location at  
640 Hamilton Street  
8th Floor  
Allentown, PA 18104

*Photo courtesy of Jeff (N3MFT)*



## UP COMING LVARC ARES EVENTS

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

Contact Craig (N3TSY) to volunteer - [cjtraverson@yahoo.com](mailto:cjtraverson@yahoo.com)

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

### Mark Your Calendars - de Mark (AK3M)

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



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**“i” ?????**

We have all heard Apple's use of “i,” as in ipod, iphone and itunes but do you know for what the “i,” stands?

- 1) individual
- 2) innovative
- 3) ideal
- 4) internet

(answer on page 11)

**Royal Caribbean's *Explorer of the Seas*, prepares \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_ meals a week (including the crew):**

- 1) 43,000
- 2) 18,000
- 3) 32,500
- 4) **22,000**



(From in the April, 2009 EVOX.

**The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public. ----- George Jessel**

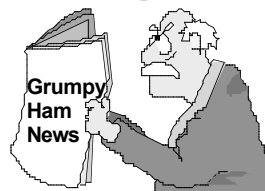
**The ARRL DXCC List** (ISBN: 0-87259-121-2) #1212 -- **\$5.95**  
<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/index.php3?category=Contesting>

## Nonpareil



## Another Grammar Faux Pas?

That's the dumbest thing I ever heard !



If the prefix "non," means *not*, as in **non**existent and **nond**irectional, how can a "**pareil**," ever exist in the first place?

## "i" ?????

We have all heard Apple's use of "i," as in **i**pod, **i**phone and **i**itunes but do yo know for what the "i," stands?

- 1) individual
- 2) innovative
- 3) ideal
- 4) internet**

(see page 10)

## RSGB IOTA Directory



More than 40 years of the IOTA (Islands On The Air) are celebrated in the essential guide to participating in the program.

2007, published by Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

(ISBN: 9781-9050-862) #1112 -- \$19.95

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/index.php3?category=Contesting>

**In 1924, the 20 meter band was authorized for amateur use.**

(SOURCE: QRZ.COM)

I didn't know that



## ***Kidde Recalls to Replace Fire Extinguishers***

Due to Failure to Operate WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

### **Name of product: Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers**

Units: About 167,000

Distributor: Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc.,  
of Mebane, N.C.



**Hazard: The pressurized cylinders in the recalled fire extinguishers could lose pressure and fail to operate. In the event of a fire, this failure could put a consumer and property at risk.**

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves the Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers with model numbers FX340SC, FX340H, FX340GW, XL5MR, FX210R, FX340SC-2, FX210W, XL2.5TCZ-4, E-340-3 and with manufacture dates between October 2007 and April 2008. "Kidde" and the model number can be found on the label on the front of the extinguisher. The manufacture year is on the bottom of the extinguisher. If your extinguisher is one of the listed model numbers and is marked with the year 07 or 08, contact Kidde to determine if you have a recalled extinguisher.

Sold at: Department, home, and hardware stores nationwide from October 2007 through April 2008 for about \$35.

Manufactured in: Mexico

Remedy: Consumers should immediately inspect the pressure gauge. If it points to the red zone, contact Kidde to receive a free replacement extinguisher. If the gauge is not in the red zone, but you have questions about an extinguisher within the listed model numbers, please contact Kidde for additional information.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Kidde at (888) 345-4407 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at [www.Kidde.com](http://www.Kidde.com)

## THE K5D PHENOMENON -- de Al Gruenke (KB3JPP)

**READER SUBMISSION**

On 13 February, 1600Z, the K5D phenomenon hit the ham bands like a tsunami. For those of you who have just emerged from a winter-long nap or otherwise oblivious to the goings on in the amateur radio world, K5P was a Dxpedition to the island of Desecheo, located 14 miles off the coast of Puerto Rico. Desecheo was the No. 2 Most Wanted prefix in Asia and No. 3 Most Wanted in Europe. It was my first attempt at big-time DX.

On Saturday morning, 14 February, I decided to join the fray.

I quickly noted that no matter what band K5D was operating, they were listening UP. Setting the IC746PRO to operate split frequency was no problem, but I was reluctant to transmit on a frequency which I wasn't listening. What if I was interfering with someone? Wasn't this against the Amateur Radio Code of Conduct, if not FCC Part 97? Ethics can be hell.

Another unanswered question was, UP by how much? Most of the articles on operating DX suggest that the DX station is listening one kHz up from the transmitting frequency. Seemed like a good place to start, so I gave it a go on 20 meters..

The first thing that impressed me was the skill of the operators. I listened up a few kHz. It was a veritable cacophony of cw signals, each transmitting its call, with the hope that it would be the one to be chosen. I am only a marginal cw operator, so trying to pick out a particular station was way beyond my capabilities. Yet, these guys were returning calls at what seemed like two or three per minute. The QSO's were obviously short, consisting of the call sign, 5NN TU, wait for the next station. All at better than 30 wpm.

So, I tried up 1 kHz. My measly 100 Watts and 20 wpm sounded downright wimpy compared to all those speed demons, but I decided not to be intimidated.

Then I tried IP 2 kHz. Some DX clusters suggested 4 kHz. Still no success. So it went, all week.

On Thursday, I thought I heard my call answered. I put it in my log, with a question mark. Next day I checked the K5D log on their website, but received no confirmation. What I thought was my call was obviously wishful thinking, maybe even delusions of grandeur.

On Friday, I talked to a fellow ham, Richard Suhar, P.E. and K8WHA, who had just received the Engineer of the Year Award presented by the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council. The subject of K5D came up within ten seconds of introducing ourselves. He had worked them four times. FOUR TIMES, and I didn't work them once. His suggestion was to go up three kHz, and match their cw speed.

There was minimal activity that weekend. I believe the K5D crew took a break .

Monday evening, 24 February, (UTC) it was hot and heavy again.

Taking the advice of K8WHA, I increased my code speed, and took another shot at them.

At 02:05 UTC, on 30 meters, up 2 from their frequency, they answered! To verify, I checked their website log the next day, and there I was, KB3JPP! I'd done it! Persistence, or maybe luck, had paid off.

So, the next day, at around the same time, I tried again on 30 meters, up 1.5. By golly, they answered again! That's number two.

(cont. on page 14)



(cont. from page 13)

Flush with success, I switched to 40, and, at 02:55 UTC, another QSO, up 1.375.

The next day I checked their website, and sure enough, there I was. Three QSO's with such a sought-after station is not too bad for a neophyte Dxer.

On 26 February, K5D folded their tent and closed shop, after a phenomenal 115,787 QSO's. Because I was actually able to work them, I have renewed respect for the skill and determination of the operators. To be able to copy cw through all that clutter just boggles my mind.

K5D whetted my appetite, and I've since worked a couple other exotic locations, but the K5D phenomenon was unique, in size and in scope. I can't wait for another one.

## From the President --- (N3XG)



### The LVARC and St. Luke's Hospital

Recently, Mark AK3M, Frank W3FTU and I met with the Director of Safety and Security at St. Luke's Hospital. They are looking for help from the Amateur community, and would like us to be there during live drills. This relationship can provide us with some real world training for our members and in turn, some funds may be donated for our own education. We are starting to cultivate that relationship, and hopefully it is fruitful.

### Field Day

Per Jeff N3MFT, South Whitehall Board of Supervisors have approved the Brickyard site for our use. That is the site that we were at last year. I spoke with Jeff and he will arrange to have the toilet delivered. I will be coordinating with Brian KW3K just how we are going to publically advertise the event. I'm expecting to run a lean 2F again this year, as well as a GOTA station. We did well with that last year. I'm hoping that Brian assists us with the PSK station, as that was a big points and interest gathering station last year.

### Public Service

Spring finds us in the beginning of our public service season. The LVARC provides communications support to many different groups and events throughout the year. Please provide Mark AK3M with your assistance, and remember to not only volunteer but to come ready to learn and be challenged. It is through practice and planning with scheduled events that we are able to hone our skills as communicators for the unplanned event.

**Emergency Frequencies Declared for Italian Earthquake** (Apr 6, 2009) -- An earthquake that registered between 5.8 and 6.3 magnitude struck L'Aquila, the capital of Italy's Abruzzo region, about 65 miles northeast of Rome, early Monday morning. News reports say the quake has killed more than 90 people, with at least 50,000 left homeless. According to cluster spots, 7045 and 3640 kHz are being used as emergency frequencies, so please keep these frequencies clear.

