



The *E-VOX*

The Official *On-Line* Newsletter of the



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI / KB3SYV
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 (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.com)
Larry Snyder - KN3L (KN3L@ARRL.NET)
Brian Klock - KW3K4 (brian@stcp.com)
Frank Unger - W3FTU (funger@ptd.net)



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



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>

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Happy Thanksgiving



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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The November, 2009 LVARC meeting will be held
on November 3, 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

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Number of Check-In's</u> | <u>Number of Nets</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| January | 150 | 4 |
| February | 161 | 4 |
| March | 173 | 5 |
| April | 146 | 4 |
| May | 99 | 3 |
| June | 165 | 4 |
| July | 136 | 4 |
| August | 148 | 5 |
| September | 100 | 3 |



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

Minutes of the October, 2009 LVARC Meeting

Submitted by Phil (KB3HMK)



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 19 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 2 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod (N3XG), Phil (KB3HMK), Paul (N0KIA), Mark (AK3M), Robin (KB3GZV) and Brian (KW3K).

Corrections Additions to the minutes: None noted

Motion by: Brian – KB3QHA

Second by: Walt – KE3SP

Carried (Y/N) Y

Guests: Don – N0VGA
Harold – KB3NGM

Treasurer's Report (Paul – N0KIA)

Starting Balance: \$3039.07

Ending Balance: \$2779.07

Approved by: Gary – KB3SFJ

Second by: Dave – W3AMC

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: The 94 repeater was down. It's now back up. The low voltage power supply went. There have been some voter problems around the area of Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Program: Phil reports that tonight is Brian (KW3K). He will be doing a presentation on "Going beyond a 72 hour Response Kit". He will also be doing the November program. That will be on "Alternative and Renewable Energy". December is the annual cookie cruncher. That will wrap up the year. If anyone would like to do a program or has an idea, please contact Phil (KB3HMK).

Volunteer Examiners: (1) At the September 18, 2009 LVARC test session, Mark Hritz earned his Technician class license. He received his call on Monday September 21, 2009 as KB3TKR.

(2) On Saturday October 3, 2009, the special test session for the St. Luke's volunteers went off without a hitch. 10 people showed up for the test and 8 left passed and earned their Technician class license.

(3) The LVARC VE team will hold a special test session at the Church of Latter Day Saints on Saturday October 10, 2009. Two VE teams will provide the personnel to test 20 expected prospects.

(4) One person is registered for the October 16, 2009 test session.

Old Business: ARES Report (1) On Sunday September 13, the LVARC provided communications support for the Lehigh Valley Hospital / VIA's marathon although we were 7 operators short of our goal.

I want to thank the following operators because without their dedication to ARES events, this one would not have been possible. Thanks to Gary (KB3SFJ), Larry (NR3R), Paul (N0KIA), Don (W3DLH), Mike (KB3LOD), Ryan (KB3MPX), Charlie (N3WXO), John (N3SQV), Jeff (N3MFT), Jeff (KB3OCP) and Phil (KB3HMK).

(2) On Saturday October 17, the LVARC will provide communications for the Women's 5K Classic. Two to three volunteers are still needed.

Rod thanked the members who helped out with the Lehigh County Emergency Preparedness Day. There was a mixture of people who attended. St. Lukes Hospital had an technician class. It started with 12 people attending and having 10 test and pass. A good time was had by all.

New Business: The Pa QSO party is this weekend. Rod asked for a motion to open nominations for 2010. The motion was made by Bruce (KA3TIU) and seconded by Walt (KE3SP). The following members were nominated:

President – Rod (N3XG) accepted

Vice President – Craig (N3TSY) not present to accept

Treasurer – Paul (N0KIA) accepted

Recording Secretary – Phil (KB3HMK) accepted

Board Members – Brian (KW3K) accepted

Robin (KB3GZV) accepted

Mark (AK3M) accepted

Gary (KB3SFJ) accepted

Walt (KE3SP) accepted

Dorian (KB3GZW) accepted

If you were nominated but were not present at the meeting to accept, you can e-mail or mail a letter to the recording secretary with your intentions. Rod then asked for a motion to suspend the nominations till the next meeting. The motion was made by Dave (W3AMC) and seconded by Brian (KW3K).

This Friday morning at 7:30, NASA will be doing some experimenting with impacts to the moon. If you go to the website, it will give all the details. On October 14, the Old Buzzards group will be meeting in Mechanicsburg. For more info, contact KB3CDC

Good of Order: The ARRL has published a "Commercialization of Amateur Radio". It is a document that sets down the rules for companies wanting to use amateur radio for their business or in emergency situations. Rod will put the document on the Yahoo group for everyone to read. There will be a miniature jet show coming up. If you go to or call Trains & Lanes Hobby shop, they can give the information. The Church Of Latter Day Saints that will be doing a special vehicle testing this weekend is having a church festival. It is geared towards being able to sustainable living.

New Members: Beth Brady (W0ADX), Donald Hoppes (N0VGA) and Robert Williams (KB3TKQ)

Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Brent – KB3QER

Carried (Y/N) Y

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

Motion by: Bruce – KA3TIU

Second by: Brian – KB3QHA

In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

| | |
|--|---|
| \$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$ |  |
| Balance ending September, 2009 - \$2.779.07 | |

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 | 6 | 7 ARRL CW Sweep DST ends. Turn clocks BACK 1 hour  |
| 8 ARRL CW Sweep | 9 ARES RACES Net 7:30 | 10 | 11 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 12 | 13 | 14 Worked All Europe RTTY |
| 15 Deadline to schedule test | 16 ARES RACES Net 7:30 | 17 | 18 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 19 | 20 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm | 21 ARRL Sweep Phone |
| 22 ARRL Sweep Phone | 23 ARES RACES Net 7:30 | 24 | 25 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 26  Thanksgiving Day | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 ARES RACES Net 7:30 | November 2009 | | | | |

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday November 3 - 7:30 - Tri-Clover Fire Co.

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

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



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

On Saturday October 3, 2009, the special test session for the St. Luke's volunteers went off without a hitch. Ten people showed up for the test. Eight passed and earned their Technician class license. See page 17 for details.



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!**



The Bad News

This year, we provided communications support for the LVH marathon although we were **7 operators short of our goal**. This is the first time I have *ever* coordinated an ARES event while not having enough operators to fill the positions requested by the event staff. That means, I must face the event coordinator and apologize for not having enough operators. Yes, we ARE volunteers but at a club meeting, the members DID say they wanted and would support more involvement in ARES/community activities. We operate 4 events during the year and each one is unique. Being a 26 mile run, the marathon requires the most operators. In order to fill all positions requested by the staff, we needed 17 operators. As experienced this year, NCS also should have two operators. It is difficult to hunt down event staff with information or questions while manning the radio. If you do not want to spend the whole day involved with communications, you could volunteer for a position near the start of the race. Several operators were home before 10:00 am because their station closed early. In fact, Gary (KB3SFJ) even volunteered to man a second position after his starting position was completed. It is becoming increasingly harder to solicit and get volunteers for ARES events and I can only assume that the majority of LVARC members in fact, no longer want to support ARES activities. **We have 84 LVARC members with an average of 35 checkins on the Monday Night ARES/RACES Net.** Why is it so difficult to get 17 volunteer operators for ARES events? If you are new to ham radio, you are needed! If you are an experienced ham, you are needed. *What is holding you back from volunteering for an ARES event?* Let me know so your concerns can be addressed and we can have more ARES volunteers for our 4 annual events.

The Good News

The LVH/VIA marathon was held on a picture perfect day in September, 2009. More than 2,600 people ran either the 1/2 or full marathon starting in Allentown (Bethlehem for the 1/2) and ending at the square in Easton. The organization is fantastic. Transportation from Easton back to Allentown must be coordinated. Scores of volunteers, are needed. EMS and food must be coordinated. Music and entertainment must be arranged and on and on. Every discipline is designated by a colored t-shirt. Communications operators wear red shirts. This makes us visible and accessible. I had many people ask me questions about what I was doing, helping people locate runners, keeping track and routing emergency traffic etc. Phil's (KB3HMK) position as a ham with EMS Command was a great asset. There was no lag between communication of an emergency situation and the implementation of the service.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

I am always impressed with the performance, concern and dedication of our operators. They DO take ownership of the event and participants. There is a genuine concern when we hear, "Runner down," or , "Missing runner." In addition to reporting events like these, we want a resolution to the problem. This attitude is admirable and makes for more reliable communications. We go beyond the mechanics of communication as our volunteers provide effective communications *content* ! In addition to the, "We need more Power Aid," to, "Runner Down," and priority emergency medical traffic. Every call to NCS is different.

I want to thank the following operators because without their dedication to ARES events, this one would not have been possible. Sounds trite but true !! Thanks to **Gary (KB3SFJ)**, **Larry (NR3R)**, **Paul (N0KIA)**, **Don (W3DLH)**, **Mike (KB3LOD)**, **Ryan (KB3MPX)**, **Charlie (N3WXO)**, **John (N3SQV)**, **Jeff (N3MFT)**, **Jeff (KB3OCP)** and **Phil (KB3HMK)**. I also want to thank the DLARC for allowing us to use the 146.70 repeater if needed. If you want your name listed here, it means you must volunteer for the next ARES event. Your help is needed if the LVARC ARES program is to continue.



Photo courtesy of Gary (KB3SFJ) - Photo is dark as we all were on site before sunrise!

Photos of the marathon



Photo courtesy
of Charlie (N3WXO)



Photo courtesy
of Charlie (N3WXO)



Photo courtesy
of Charlie (N3WXO)



Photo courtesy
of Don (W3DLH)



Photo courtesy
of Don (W3DLH)



Photo courtesy
of Larry (NR3R)

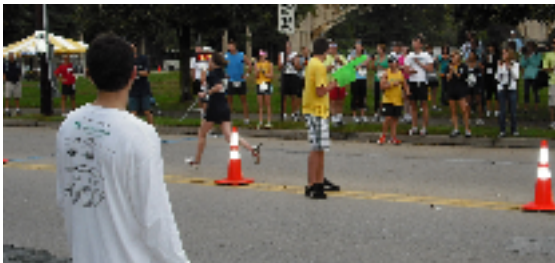


Photo courtesy of Gary (KB3SFJ)



Photo courtesy of Larry (NR3R)



NCS



Photos courtesy of Mark (AK3M)



RACES / ARES --- What's the Difference?

Do you know the difference between RACES and ARES? **ARES** stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Services and is sanctioned by the ARRL. Parades, walks etc. are operated under ARES.

RACES means Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services and is under the control of the county. RACES is only activated at the request of the office of the Lehigh County Emergency Management. The LC EMA may activate RACES in the event of a local emergency. One need not be a member of the LVARC to be a member of RACES and a membership in one organization (RACES/ARES) is not an automatic membership in both. To join LC RACES, contact Lehigh County Emergency Coordinator Jeff Kelly (N3MFT). Remember, you must have completed NIMS (ICS) 100 and 700 to participate in RACES.

Just because you check into the Monday Night Net does NOT mean that you are a registered RACES member.

The first EVOX was posted on the LVARC website in:

- 1) 2000
- 2) 2001
- 3) 2002
- 4) 2003



(answer on page 12)

The First Thanksgiving Proclamation

- On June 20, 1676, the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving, our first.

*Happy Thanksgiving
from the board and
officers of the LVARC!*

November 26, 2009

Poll date: August 28, 2009

Among the "low" HF bands, which is your favorite?

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 160 Meters | = | 8.7 % (251) |
| 80 Meters | = | 24.8 % (716) |
| 60 Meters | : | 1.3 % (39) |
| 40 Meters | = | 53.1 % (1534) |
| I don't operate on those bands | = | 12.1 % (350) |
| Total votes: 2890 | | |

**The first EVOX was posted
on the LVARC website in:**

- 
- 1) 2000
 - 2) 2001
 - 3) 2002**
 - 4) 2003

(See page 11)

The ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News **to Move to Thursdays** (Sept. 15, 2009) -- ARRL members who subscribe to The ARRL Letter will be getting their issue a day early. Beginning Thursday, September 24, The ARRL Letter and the ARRL Audio News will now be available on Thursdays instead of Fridays.



Upcoming LVARC 2009 Events

October 6 --- Nomination of 2010 Officers

October 10 ----- Special Test Session

October 17--- Women's 5K

November --- Close nomination for 2010 Officers

December 8 --- Election of 2010 Officers

December --- Operation Ho Ho (TBA)

CONGRATULATIONS to Mark Hritz who tested at the Friday September 18, 2009 LVARC test session. Mark received his Technician call on Monday September 21, 2009. His call is **KB3TKR**. *The fastest turn around time yet !*



"Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."
--- **Mark Twain**

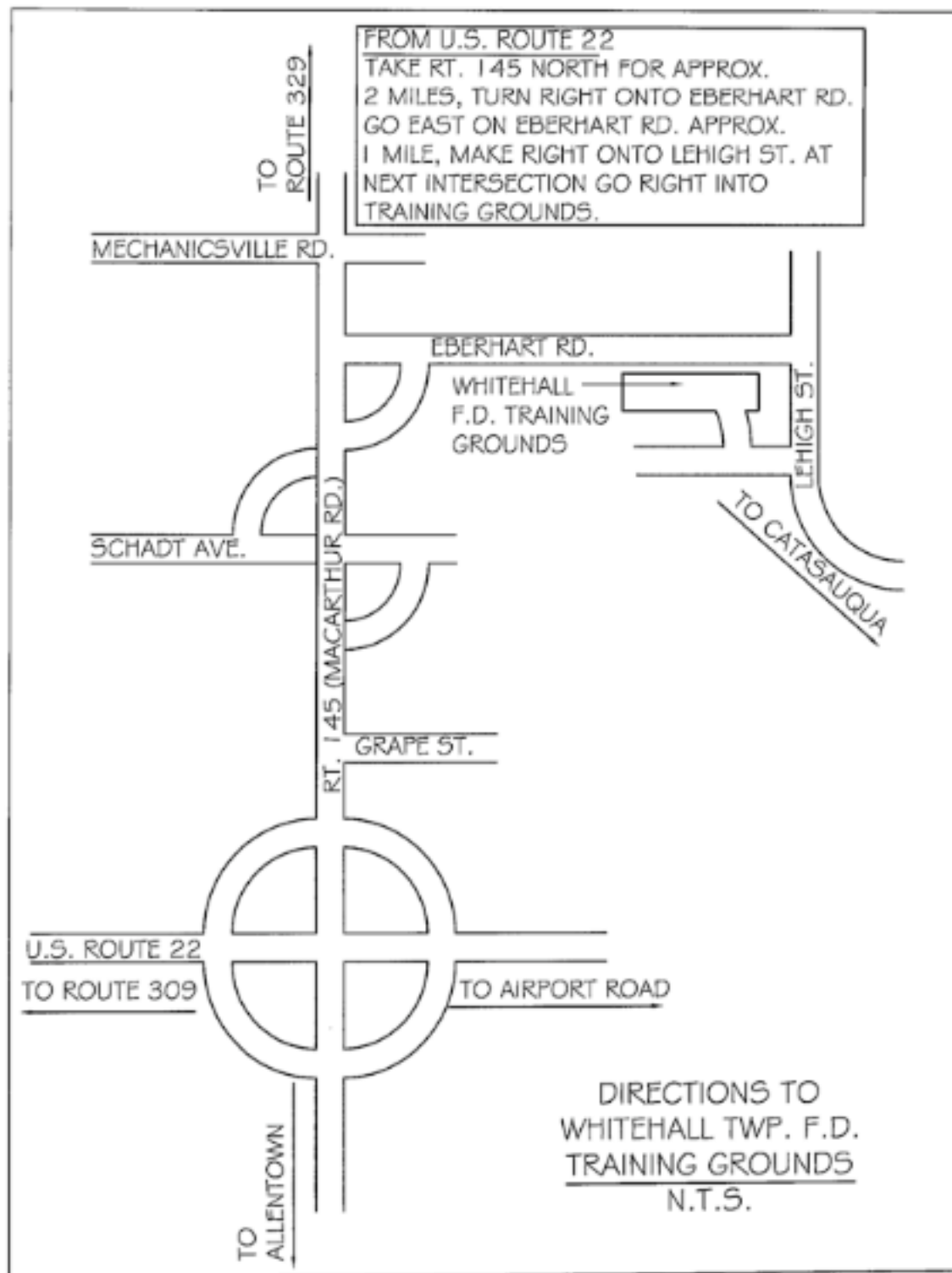


This just in!

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| The logo is a circular seal. The outer ring contains the text "WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP" at the top and "EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT" at the bottom. The inner circle is divided into four quadrants, each containing a different symbol: a fire truck, a police car, a medical cross, and a weather symbol. | <p>Whitehall Township Emergency Management Agency & National Weather Service</p> | The logo features a large, stylized black eye shape. Below it, the word "SKYWARN" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and "WEATHER.GOV" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below that. |
| <p>Sponsors:</p> | | |
| <p>Basic Weather Spotter Class Wednesday, October 21, 2009 @ 7pm</p> | | |
| <p>SKYWARN storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. Volunteers that should attend are Police and Fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS Workers, public utility workers, and Emergency Management personnel</p> <p><u>Training covered includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basics of thunderstorm development• Fundamentals of storm structure• Identifying potential severe weather features<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information to report• How to report• Basic severe weather safety <p>Classes are free and typically 2 hours long.</p> | | |
| <p><u>Class will be held at:</u> Whitehall Township Fire Training Ground 2600 Lehigh St, Whitehall PA</p> <p><u>Pre-Register by:</u> Email: cgrim@whitehalltownship.com or Call 610-437-5524 ext 121 Class open to 50 students.</p> | | |

Directions on page 14

Directions to Weather Spotter Class



The Magic and Mystery of Amateur Radio

de Al Gruenke (KB3JPP)

READER SUBMISSION

The evening of 1 June, 2009, I had a QSO with a Yuri Yashin, RA7MP, QTH near Omsk, Asiatic Russia.

He was calling CQ DX on 14.020. He was not a 35 wpm speed demon so characteristic of so many DX stations, just a calm, moderately paced CQ DX, CQ DX, de RA7MP.

So, I answered him, and he responded.

After the normal RST, he gave his name, Yuri, and his QTH, near Omsk. I came back to him with my RST, and my QTH, which I give as 150 km West of New York.

Yuri greeted me and wished me and my family good luck, then said 73.

Shortly thereafter on 14.205 I heard EY7AD from Tajikistan, and talked to him for a few minutes. His name was Abdurakhim. This QSO was more hurried. I gave him my usual response to Russian speakers. Spaciba, tavarich. Dos vidania. Thank you, comrade, good by.

As I filled out my log, I sat back and reflected on what had occurred. Here I was, in the basement of my home in Wescosville, PA, with a gadget slightly larger than a shoebox, communicating with people half a world away. My window to the world is a lowly piece of wire a mere 52 feet long strung between my house and a tree in my back yard. It's barely visible. With the power of a light bulb, I meet and communicate with real people, with real names, living in remote corners of the world

The communication is real, but it differs from the telephone and the internet. There are no intermediaries between me and this person 7,000 miles away. No towers, no satellites, no cables; just a radio and an antenna, with more or less equal equipment at the other end. And, following the protocol of amateur radio, anyone can say to everyone in the world, "I am here, come be my friend".

I understand radio waves, F2 layers, sunspot cycles and all that stuff. But somehow, the technical explanation seems cold and unsatisfactory. Its really a bit mysterious, bordering on magic. The telephone and the internet is easy to understand. There are wires and cables leaving the house, which are somehow connected to more wires and cables, stretching all the way from here to over there. Nothing mysterious about that! Yet, this little box and a piece of wire evokes a different set of emotions. A feeling of satisfaction, accomplishment, and yes, magic.

May it always be so.

Alfred Gruenke, KB3JPP
Wescosville, PA

Al's article was published in the
October, 2009 issue of QST, page 24.

CONGRATULATIONS AI !!!



Fall & Winter are Busy Seasons !!!



The Lehigh Valley Hospital's marathon in September, does not mark the end of LVARC activities. As you know, in **October**, there is VE testing for the St. Luke's Hospital employees and members of Brent's (KB3QER) church, as well as the regular LVARC test session. ARES activities include the Women's 5K Classic (volunteers needed). **November** brings nominations for LVARC officers for 2010. In **December**, the LVARC will hold its election for 2010 officers, annual holiday party and let's not forget Operation Ho Ho.



The LVARC has much happening in Fall and Winter, 2009 ! **Be involved in YOUR club's activities.**

Support your club and volunteer for any of these activities !



VE Sessions Count - If you are a VE and want to see how many sessions you have attended, got to the ARRL's site at:

<http://www2.arrl.org/arrlvec/veparti.php?state=PA>



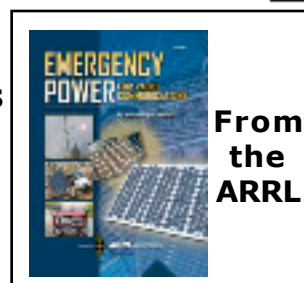
Emergency Power for Radio Communications

-- by Michael Bryce, WB8VGE

When all else fails...how will you communicate?

Tools for... Emergency or Backup Power!

Energy Independence! Portable Energy!



With **Emergency Power for Radio Communications**, you will explore the various means of electric power generation—from charging batteries, to keeping the lights on. This book covers the foundation of any communications installation--the power source. Use this book to plan ways to stay on the air when weather or other reasons cause a short-term or long-term power outage. Find ways to reach beyond the commercial power grid. Identify methods for alternative power generation that will work best in your particular situation, perhaps taking advantage of possibilities already on hand. -- \$19.95

St. Luke's Hospital Employees Earn Ham Licenses!

Special

LVARC
VE
Program



TNX to Rod and his instructional team who did a terrific job with the amateur radio classes for the St. Luke's hospital employees. Ten people stayed for the test session following their last class on October 3, 2009. A few more students were unable to test with the others and will seek another test session to get their license.

The instructional team included Rod (N3XG), Brian (KB3QHA), Brian (KW3K) and Paul (NOKIA).

Congratulations to *Donna Crouthamel, Eileen Catino, Harold Mason, Carl Nuss, Kristina Seedorff, Stephen Makos, Charles Rodgers and Alan Lynch* who all earned their Technician license.



Two VE teams were used for this test session. TNX to VE's Mark (AK3M), Jeff (KX3Q), Walt (KE3SP), Bob (WB3W), Frank (W3FTU) and Rod (N3XG) for volunteering their Saturday afternoon to make this special test session possible.

New LVARC Members

The LVARC welcomes new members **Beth Brady** (W0ADX), **Don Hoppes** (N0VGA) and **Robert Williams** (KB3TKQ).



CONGRATULATIONS to the St. Luke's gang:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Donna Crouthamel --- KB3TLZ | 5. Kristina Seedorff --- KB3TMD |
| 2. Eileen Catino --- KB3TMA | 6. Stephen Makos --- KB3TME |
| 3. Harold Mason --- KB3TMB | 7. Charles Rodgers --- KB3TMF |
| 4. Carl Nuss --- KB3TMC | 8. Alan Lynch --- KB3TMG |

All received their calls on October 7, 2009.

Shirt Order

Phil (KB3HMK) will be taking orders for short sleeve, collared golf type shirts. The shirt is gray and will sport LVARC - W3OI with an antenna tower on the left. The cost for each shirt is \$25.00.

If you are interested in buying a shirt, contact Phil (philbert17@verizon.net). **Be sure to state your name and shirt SIZE.** A bulk order will be placed at the November 3, 2009 meeting.



No an actual picture



Nominations for 2010 LVARC Officers

Nominations for officers for the 2010 year were held at the October 6, 2009 meeting. The following were nominated:

President

Rod Wolfe (N3XG)

V. President

Craig Traverson (N3TSY)

Treasurer

Paul Ryan (N0KIA)

Recording Secretary

Phil Bigg (KB3HMK)

Board of Governors (vote for 5)

Brian Klock (KW3K)
Robin Gable (KB3GZV)
Mark Miller (AK3M)
Gary Decker (KB3SFJ)
Walt Snyder (KE3SP)
Dorian Gable (KB3GZW)

NOTE: Nominations remain open until the end of the November 3, 2009 meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, contact Phil (KB3HMK) (philbert17@verizon.net). Election of 2010 officers will be held at the December 8, 2009 meeting.