

# The *E-VOX*

The Official *On-Line*  
Newsletter of the



**Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI / KB3SYV**  
**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 (philbert17@verizon.net)  
*Treasurer:* Brian Snyder - KB3QHA (brian@teamsnyder.net)

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### 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 W3OI at  
147.165, W3EPE at 445.225 and W3OK at  
145.110





Join us for a Mid-Atlantic regional net Tuesdays  
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>**

# September 2011 Contents



Meeting Information .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 3
L.C. RACES Net Information .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 3
Minutes of the August, 2011 Meeting .....		pages 4-5
This Month In Ham Radio .....	<b>INFORMATIONAL</b>	page 6
VE Report .....		page 7
Correction / FD Report.....		page 8
<b>ARES Events! <u>HELP NEEDED</u></b> .....		<b>page 9</b>
Homemade balun .....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	pages 10-12
Morse Code .....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	pages 13-14
Old LVARC Photo .....	<b>READER SUBMISSION</b>	page 15

## Lehigh Valley Health Network/VIA Marathon

September 11, 2011

(See page 9)



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 September, 2011 LVARC meeting will be held on  
**September 6, 2011** at the TriClover Fire Company 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 - 2011

<u>Month</u>		<u>Number of Check-In's</u>		<u>Number of Nets/Mondays</u>
January		137		4
February		147		4
March		128		4
April		112		4
May		104		4
June		100		4
July		80		3

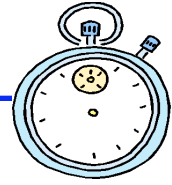
#### REMEMBER:

Registration for the monthly test session, must be  
made NO LATER THAN THE  
SUNDAY BEFORE THE TEST!



Contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)  
or call 610-865-9183

## Minutes of the August, 2011 LVARC Meeting de - Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by Vice President Traverson at 1930 Hrs, (EST / EDST).

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and then a moment of silence was observed for Silent Keys.

There were a total of 20 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Craig - N3TSY, Phil - KB3HMK, Brian - KB3QHA, Dave - N3GRH, Paul - N0KIA and Robin - KB3GZV.

**Corrections additions to the minutes:** Corrections noted to secretary and changed

Approved by: Bruce - KA3TIU

Second by: Bill - KA3RBH

Carried (Y/N) Y

**Treasurer's Report** (Brian - KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$3,888.78

Ending Balance: \$3,823.20

Approved by: Bruce - KA3TIU

Second by: Bill - KA3RBH

Carried: (Y/N) Y

### Committee Reports:

**Repeater:** Nothing to report

**Program:** September's program will be "Software Defined HF Radio" by Eric - AI3D. The October program will be "PSK" by Brian - KB3QHA.

**Volunteer Examiners:** At the July 15, 2011 test session, 1 tested and 1 passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to Athena Tolotta (KD2AKN) - Athena tested at the June session and earned her Technician class. At the July session, she upgraded to General! VE's in attendance were, Mark (AK3M), Walt (KE3SP) and Larry (NR3R)

Next VE session is Friday August 19. Registration is necessary.

**Old Business:** The club will be placing the order for the ARES vests shortly. If you would like to purchase your own vest, please contact Brian (KB3QHA) before Aug. 15. He needs the money by then. The cost is \$18.75

**ARES REPORT:** Sunday September 11, 2011. is the Lehigh Valley Hospital/VIA Marathon. There will be about 3,000 runners for this event which begins in Allentown and ends at the square in Easton. Approximately 18 operators will be needed to meet the communications requirements requested by the event staff.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

If you are able to provide your time and service to this event, please contact Mark (AK3M) as soon as you know your availability.

Also, go to <http://via.kintera.org/MarathonVolunteer2011>. In special requests, please put HAM Radio Volunteer. and register with VIA.

Your help and communications expertise is needed! Contact Mark (AK3M) to volunteer.

The Women's 5K Classic will be held on Saturday October 15, 2011. This is the largest women's fundraiser for breast cancer on the East Coast!! Your help is needed! If you are new or have served in a previous ARES activity, this is your chance to help a most worthy organization. Contact Mark (AK3M) to volunteer.

**New Business:** The club picnic is on August 13. Dave (N3GRH) volunteered to coordinate it. It will be at the Upper Macungie Park in the upper pavilion. Anyone with the suffix A-M is asked to bring a side dish. Anyone with the suffix N-Z is asked to bring a dessert. Craig asked for a motion to spend no more than \$150 on the picnic for food and supplies. The motion was made by Bruce (KA3TIU) and seconded by Alan (KB3TYE). The motion passed.

**Good of the Order:** Dave (N3GRH) noted that gasoline with ethanol in can cause a problem with generators, lawn motors and motorcycles. He recommends putting in additive that will help prevent the rubber material from breaking down.

There is a years worth of QST's in the back for free.

Going Out of Business Sale: I had a small RF/microwave manufacturing company which I closed in 2010. I have test equipment (signal generators, oscilloscopes, RLC bridge, and power supplies), soldering equipment (Pace machine and multiple irons), QA equipment, and RF (semi-rigid) manufacturing equipment and parts (coaxial switches, amplifiers, couplers, etc.) that I am looking to off-load. These items are currently stored in Bath, PA.

I am moving and want to be rid of these items in the next month. I am not looking to make much money on these items (far, far less than auction prices). If anyone is interested, please have them contact me.

If there is an interest, I plan to meet one or two times at the storage facility and have anyone get what they want. I intend to keep the storage facility until the end of Sept.

Hank Podobinski  
Phone: 610 841-4604  
Email: [kobi9@ptd.net](mailto:kobi9@ptd.net)

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2001 hrs, EST.  
pectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$	<b>W3OI Finances</b>	\$\$\$	
<b>Balance ending July, 2011 - \$3,823.20</b>			

# This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>September</div>				1	2	3
				8	9	10
4	<div> <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> <div>Labor Day</div> </div>	<div> <div>LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30</div> </div>	<div> <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> </div>			
11	<div> <div>Deadline to schedule test</div> <div>LVH/VIA Marathon</div> </div>	<div> <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> </div>	<div> <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> </div>	15	<div> <div>LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm</div> </div>	17
18	<div> <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> </div>	20	<div> <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> </div>	22	23	24
25	<div> <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> </div>	27	<div> <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> </div>	29	30	

**LVARC Meeting - Tuesday September 6 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC**

**Test Session - Friday September 16 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Building**

## LVARC Activities/Events

### Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday September 5 --- **NO** LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday September 6 --- **LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)**

Sunday September 11 --- **Deadline to schedule for license exam**

Monday September 12 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Friday September 16 --- **LVARC test session (Registration required)**

Monday September 19 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday September 26 --- 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 July 15 , 2011 test session,  
1 tested and 1 passed.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS** to

**Athena Tolotta (KD2AKN)** - Athena  
tested at the June session and  
earned her Technician class. At the  
July session, she upgraded to  
General!



VE's in attendance were, **Mark (AK3M)**, **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](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!**

**CORRECTION** - In the minutes of the August, 2011 issue of the EVOX, George Krauss's name and call were incorrect. It should have read: **"George Kraus (W2LEI) made a donation of antennas and various items to be given out to the club members. His call is W2LEI."** This correction is **ONLY** mentioned in case members want to contact George about his item(s) for sale.



## **Field Day 2011 Report** - de Rod (N3XG)

**Call Sign:** W3OI **Class:** 3F

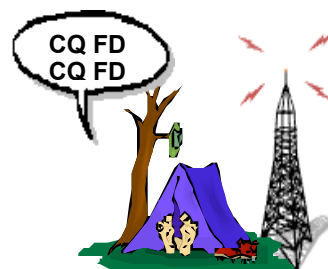
**GOTA:** W3GRD

**Participants / Visitors:** 36

**Total Contacts:** Phone - 259,  
Digital - 98, GOTA - 28, total contacts - 385

**Total Bonus Points- 1110.**

**Claimed Score: 2020**



## **Question Pool Scheduled Revision**

The **General** class (Element 3), has been updated and became effective July 1, 2011. Be sure to study from the current question pool!



Won't you join me?



Why? Are you falling apart?

## **Up Coming LVARC ARES Events**

**September 11---** LVHN/VIA Marathon

**October 15---** Women's 5K Classic







## LVARC ARES Activities



### LVH/VIA Marathon



**September, 2011**, will bring two very important ARES activities!  
*The help of Lehigh Valley ARC hams is needed.*

The first event will be **Sunday September 11, 2011**. This is the Lehigh Valley Hospital/VIA Marathon. There will be about 3,000 runners for this event which begins in Allentown and ends at the square in Easton. Approximately 18 operators will be needed to meet the communications requirements requested by the event staff.

If you are able to provide your time and service to this event, please **contact Mark (AK3M)** as soon as you know your availability. Also, go to

<http://via.kintera.org/MarathonVolunteer2011>

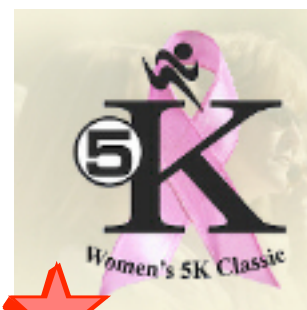
*In special requests, please put HAM Radio Volunteer.* and register with VIA.

Your help and communications expertise is needed!



### Women's 5K Classic

The **Women's 5K Classic** will be held on **Saturday October 15, 2011**. This is the largest women's fundraiser for breast cancer on the East Coast!! Your help is needed! If you are new or have served in a previous ARES activity, this is your chance to help a most worthy organization. **Contact Mark (AK3M) to volunteer.**



## HOW TO BUILD A 4:1 BALUN



To start with cut about a 6 inch section of 1" pvc pipe.



Drill 6 holes, 4 in front 1 on each side large enough for wire or connector



GET A PACK OF LUGS



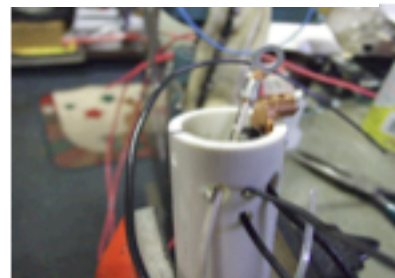
CUT AN 8 INCH SECTION OF #14 OR 12 GA. WIRE ATTACH WIRE TO RIGHT SIDE LUG BOLT LUG TO PVC USE ANY 2 COLORS



HAVE ABOUT 4' OF 2 COLORS OF WIRE



CONNECT LONG WIRE OF OPPOSITE COLOR THROUGH LEFT FRONT HOLE FASTEN A WIRE CONNECTOR - FASTEN COPPER LUG ON LEFT SIDE - FASTEN WIRE TO LUG BOLT



(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



RUN A PLASTIC TIE THROUGH THE CENTER HOLES (SEE PIC) TAKE THE SAME COLOR WIRE (AS THE RIGHT HOLE) EXTEND THAT WIRE ABOUT 8 INCHES BEYOND THE FRONT LEFT HOLE, TAKE BOTH COLOR WIRES AND SECURE THEM WITH THE PLASTIC TIE IN THE CENTER.



START WINDING THE WIRES TO THE RIGHT AROUND THE PVC PIPE KEEPING THE COILS TIGHT. AS IN THE PICTURES I COUNTED THE NUMBER OF TURNS OF BLACK WIRE - COUNT 12 TURNS DOWN. I PULLED BACK THE LAST WINDING AND DRILLED 2 HOLES FOR A PLASTIC TIE TO FASTEN THE LAST TURN.

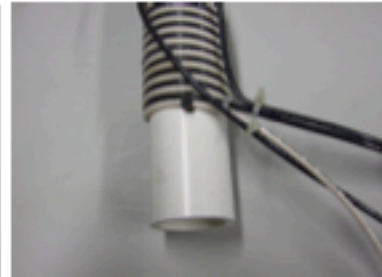
(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)



TAKE THE WIRE FROM THE RIGHT HOLE AND THE SAME COLOR WIRE FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE WRAPPED COIL AND CONNECT THEM TOGETHER - THESE WIRE WILL CONNECT TO THE CENTER OF THE S0239 CONNECTOR. TAKE THE EXTENDED WIRE ON THE UPPER LEFT AND JOIN IT TO THE WIRE OF OPPOSITE COLOR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE COIL WHICH WILL ATTACH TO THE GROUND OF THE S0239 CONNECTOR.



I TOOK THE COIL AND INCASED IT IN 2 INCH PLASTIC PIPE. I USED A DIFFERENT S0239 CONNECTOR IN THE 2 IN. ENDCAP. I CUT A SLOT IN THE OTHER ENDCAP FOR THE WINDOW LADDER LINE TO COME IN AND FASTEN TO THE TWO COPPER LUGS. I USED DUCT SEAL COMPOUND TO SEAL THE ENDS AFTER FIRST USING ELECTRICAL TAPE AROUND THE CONNECTOR. THE PIPE LENGTH CAN BE TRIMMED. This is what I built - David N3GRH

REFERENCE [WWW.ROGERTANGO.COM](http://WWW.ROGERTANGO.COM) BUILD A 4:1 BALUN

## Morse Code

de Bob House (WB3HSZ)

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE, Calif. — It has been a little more than a decade since the last of the nation's commercial Morse code radio stations officially went off the air, as new technology sank a system that had been a lingua franca of maritime communication since before the Titanic.

KPH, whose buildings are now part of the Point Reyes National Seashore in California, northwest of San Francisco, was long part of the nation's Morse code network. The station was one site of Tuesday's event.

But like transmissions that continue to travel through the cosmos long after their original senders are gone, there are some things that refuse to die. And on Tuesday, several outposts of Morse code blazed to life again, if only for a night, with the help of a group of enthusiasts bent on preserving what they call "the music of Morse," one key tap at a time. The occasion was an annual radio reboot known as the Night of Nights, held every year on the anniversary of the last Morse code broadcast from a coastal California station in 1999, which included a traditional sign-off ("We wish you fair winds and following seas") and more than a few teary-eyed former radio operators.

On Tuesday, though, some of those old key men were back on the job, broadcasting from the former headquarters of a marine Morse station in Northern California, KPH, and joined on air by two other stations outside Seattle and in Mobile, Ala., all to honor a system that linked the world long before the Internet, e-mail and Twitter.

"It's just beeps in the air, but it just meant everything to people," said Richard Dillman, a self-described "radio squirrel" who serves as president of the nonprofit Maritime Radio Historical Society, which sponsors the event. "And we are the only thing standing." Or buzzing, as it were, as more than a dozen volunteers assembled at KPH's receiving and transmitting stations, two dusty but rock-solid structures that are now part of the Point Reyes National Seashore, northwest of San Francisco.

Closed in 1997, the station's receiving headquarters is like a living time capsule, stuffed with communications relics, including Teletype machines, manual typewriters and rotary phones — and, of course, all manner of telegraphy keys, ranging from the versions like those used in Samuel Morse's time to shiny new models favored by some modern-day ham operators. A dusty calendar from 1997 still hangs on the wall, as does a copy of the famous distress call from the Titanic. Many of the station's ancient machines were ablaze on Tuesday, spitting out clicks, whistles, white noise and — of course — dots and dashes. (Or "dits" and "dahs" as they were often known in the business.)

And at just past midnight Greenwich Mean Time, the first message, tapped out at breakneck speed by Mr. Dillman, was beamed into the air. "On this date in 1999 the death of commercial Morse was announced," it read. "But Morse still lives."

The KPH property — an Art Deco cube built between 1929 and 1931 by the Radio Corporation of America — was acquired by the National Park Service in 1999. Shortly after that, Mr. Dillman made a remarkable discovery while visiting the station's headquarters.

"As I got close to the operators' room, I started hearing static and hearing Morse code and ships calling," Mr. Dillman said. "It was like they had left 20 minutes ago. The voice was gone, but the ears were still on."



(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

Indeed, KPH had been shuttered, but not completely shut down. Jack Martini, a former manager at the station, said he had left the receivers on as both a sign of affection and — he hoped — of possible preservation.

“I loved the place,” said Mr. Martini, 72, who also spent years as a Morse code operator at KPH. “And it saved the receivers. You turn off the receivers, you get the moisture in there, and they’re done.”

And so it was that KPH was eventually reborn as KSM and began broadcasting in Morse a few hours each Saturday, a development that attracted the attention of other aficionados.

“We’re doing the radio equivalent of Civil War re-enactments,” said Bill Ruck, one participant on Tuesday.

Another of those drawn in was Dave Wolfe, 62, a longtime enthusiast who had served as a radio operator in the 1960s and early ’70s, at sea and on land.

“We had eight people in there, almost on roller skates,” Mr. Wolfe recalled. “You got paid, and reasonably well, for doing what was basically a hobby.”

Not that it was easy work. Operators during Morse’s heyday worked grueling shifts, staffing stations 24 hours a day as ships sent messages to shore and vice versa. Experts in the form said the secret was to never count the dots and dashes, but to listen.

“You had to think of it as a rhythm,” Mr. Martini said. “You had to kind of be a musician.”

Sure enough, on Tuesday night, the symphony of dits and dahs continued for hours at the receiving station, as amateur Morse operators from around the world chimed in to say hello. At the transmitting station, meanwhile, another crew staffed banks of refurbished and rescued devices, some dating to World War II and complete with glowing mercury vapor tubes.

“You’re running antiques,” said Steve Hawes, who staffed the control room. “But we haven’t had anything let off a giant bang or blow up in smoke yet.”

But as the night wore on, the one thing that was not heard was any commercial traffic, though Mr. Dillman said that occasionally a ship would still call in during the station’s Saturday hours, wondering how the station was still alive. But even if the ships did not call, he said, the die-hards at Point Reyes would continue to listen.

“Even if there were no ships out there, we’d be keeping the faith,” Mr. Dillman said, before adding, “Of course, it’s thrilling when they call.”

**A version of this article appeared in print on July 14, 2011, on page A16 of the New York edition with the headline: For a Night Each Year, the Airwaves Buzz With Morse Code.**



## **Preston (Pres) Schuler (W3VQ) - de Mark (AK3M)**

Each year, the Pres Schuler Award is given to a member of the LVARC for exceptional service to the club. As you may know, Pres Schuler was one of the outstanding members of the LVARC and I had the pleasure of knowing him personally. After seeing the picture sent to me by Dave (N3GRH) which was sent to him by Harry (W3TEB) on page 15, I found him in the crowd.





## The LVARC in 1968

de Dave Hinkel (N3GRH)

