



The **E-VOX**

The Official **On-Line** Newsletter of the



Lehigh **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **C**lub - W3OI / KB3SYV
Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA

Officers

President: Rod Wolfe, Jr. - N3XG (rjwolfe@rcn.com)
Vice President: Brian Klock - KW3K (BRIAN@STCP.COM)
Secretary: Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK (philbert17@verizon.net)
Treasurer: Brian Snyder - KB3QHA (brian@teamsnyder.net)

Board of Governors

Gary Decker - W3GRD (SCOUTIH79@YAHOO.COM)
Dorian Gable - KB3GZW (kb3gzv@arrl.net)
Robin Gable - KB3GZV (kb3gzv@arrl.net)
Paul Ryan - N0KIA (N0KIA@arrl.net)
Jeff Willett - KB3OCP (JJEFF2W@RCN.COM)



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 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>

April 2012 Contents



Meeting Information	INFORMATIONAL	... page 3
L.C. RACES Net Information	INFORMATIONAL	... page 3
Minutes of the February, 2012 Meeting		... pages 4-5
This Month In Ham Radio	INFORMATIONAL	... page 6
VE Report		... page 7
Upcoming LVARC activities.....		... page 8
Australia on 5 Watts and a Wire page 9
"To CW or Not to CW"	READER SUBMISSION	... page 10
LVRR 1/2 Marathon		... page 11
The History of Radio	READER SUBMISSION	... page 12

IMPORTANT

LVARC E-VOX CHANGES COMING IN JUNE, 2012

Come June, 2012, the **EVOX will only be available electronically**. After June, 2012, I will not have access to a copy machine anymore and will **not** be sending the E-VOX via US mail to a select few, as I have in the past. Provided I have a viable email address for you, you will receive the EVOX via email in a pdf format or it will be available on the club's website as always. -- Mark (AK3M) ed.

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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The April, 2012 LVARC meeting will be held on
April 3, 2012 at the Tri Clover 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 - 2012

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets/Mondays</u>
January	113	4
February	104	4



REMEMBER:

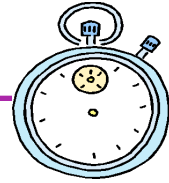
Registration for the monthly test session, must be
made **NO LATER THAN THE**
SUNDAY BEFORE THE TEST!



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

Minutes of the March, 2012 LVARC Meeting

de - Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by Vice President Klock at 1934 Hrs, (EST).

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

There were a total of members in attendance, and the club was joined by guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Brian – KW3K, Phil – KB3HMK, Paul – N0KIA, Robin – KB3GZV, Dorian – KB3GZW, and Gary – N3GRD.

Guests: Frank Griffith (No license, interested in amateur radio)

Corrections additions to the minutes: None noted

Approved by: Charles – W3QXI

Second by: Chuck – WB6CDY

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA) Vice President Klock filled in for Brian.

Starting Balance: \$4,394.44

Ending Balance: \$4,431.45

Approved by: Gary – W3GRD

Second by: Dave – N3GRH

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: Lehigh County has offered to buy a new antenna for the 135 repeater. They will also install it. More info to follow.

Program: Tonight's program will be and open mic night. Gary (N3GRD) will host it. The members get about 5 minutes to tell how they got involved with amateur radio. March 20 is the hands on night. The members will be making APRS units to be used for future events. Some members will then be able to take them and other members will be able to track them. The April program will be on Skywarn.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Volunteer Examiners: Two people tested and both passed at the February test session. If you would to test for March, please let Mark (AK3M) know.

Old Business: The club will be raffling off an HT as a fund raiser. The drawing will be December 4. The tickets are \$2 each. Members will also be eligible for tickets by participating in events for the club. Brian has press kits if you go to other clubs or hamfests. If interested in tickets tonight, see Phil.

Paul read the first draft of the proposed changes to the Constitution & By Laws. As Paul was reading it, he asked for comments and suggestions. Paul made note of the member's comments and suggestions. The committee will meet again and discuss the possible changes.

New Business: Gary (N3GRD) has an Extra Class book if anyone would like to borrow it.

Good of the Order: Tri-Clover Fire Company will have an open house on June 2. They will be doing volunteer recruitment, fingerprinting for the kids by State Police, a burn house and equipment demos.

There will be a Skywarn class on April 14 at LVH – Muhlenberg from 10 am to 1 pm. If interested in attending, Please let Brian (KW3K) know. Just an FYI, the National Weather Service mandates a 3 year certification. If you don't do a refresher by the time the 3 years are up, they will drop you from the roster.

Mark (AK3M) needs help with the LV Road Runners _ Marathon. It will be on April 29. If interested in helping out, please contact him.

Charlie (N3WXO) needs help with the Hanover Twp. 5k run. If interested in helping, please contact him. This is an easy event if you haven't done one yet.

The Timonium hamfest will on March 31 this year.

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2100 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Chuck – WB6CDY

Second by: John – AB3LZ

In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$	
Balance ending February, 2012 - \$4,394.44	

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
8 Easter 	9 ARES RACES Net 7:30	10	11 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	12	13	14  SkyWarn training (see p. 8)
15 Deadline to schedule test	16 ARES RACES Net 7:30	17 LVARC Activity Night 7:30	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 Hanover Township 5K 
29 LVRR 1/2 Marathon 	30 ARES RACES Net 7:30	April 2012				

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday April 3 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC

Test Session - Friday April 20 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Building

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday April 2 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday April 3 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday April 9 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday April 15 --- Deadline to schedule for license exam
Monday April 16 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday April 20 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Friday April 20 --- LVARC test session (Registration required)
Monday April 23 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday April 29 --- LVRR 1/2 Marathon
Monday April 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 February 17, 2012 test session, two tested and two passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to: **Robin Fisher** and **Rita Harrison** who both earned their Technician licenses.



VE's in attendance were Mark (AK3M) Larry (NR3R) and Walt (KE3SP)

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!**

2012 LVARC/ARES Events

April 29, 2012 - LVRR 1/2 Marathon

May, 2012 - St. Joseph the Worker 5K - Not contacted yet

June 22-23, 2012 - Field Day

September, 2012 - LVHN/VIA Marathon

October, 2012 - Women's 5K Classic

December, 2012 - Operation Ho Ho



Spray-on antenna: Wireless in a can?

READER SUBMISSION

de John (AB3LZ)

(Don't scoff until you have seen this video - ed)

http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-57376903-1/spray-on-antenna-wireless-in-a-can/

See a YouTube video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4efE_gO9IFo

SkyWarn Training will be held on **Saturday April 14, 2012** at Lehigh Valley Hospital - Muhlenberg.

Contact **Brian** (KW3K) - KW3K@arrl.net



CONGRATULATIONS to Rita Harrison and Robin Fisher who tested at the LVARC February 17, 2012 test session. Rita's call is **KB3YCR** and Robin followed with **KB3YCS**. Their calls were listed on the FCC web site on February 23, 2012. This was an LVARC first, two females tested!



April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go. -- Christopher Morley, John Mistletoe

Australia on 5 Watts and a Wire

READER SUBMISSION

Alfred Gruenke PE, KB3JPP

It was a cold and rainy February evening in suburban Wescosville, Pennsylvania. It was “tween” time, the time between the Super Bowl and the opening of baseball Spring Training. This is when physical and mental activity in general slow down. February is, in general, a pretty useless month. Other than a few exceptions, it’s usually cold, wet, and miserable. The month just doesn’t have much going for it. For years I’ve been advocating going from January directly to March, skipping February entirely. However, my voice of reason has been a mere cry in the wilderness, drowned out by the forces of darkness and disparagement.

It was early Friday evening and I was home recovering from surgery. My recovery left me with a lot of time to spend on my favorite leisure activity, globe trotting with my Elecraft K1. I fired up my ICOM IC-746PRO and the K1, Ham Radio Deluxe and QRZ.com on the computer. Then I went hunting for DX on 20 meters. Utilizing two receivers really makes a difference when Dxing; monitor one QSO while searching with the other. My antenna is a mere 52 ft. G5RV Junior 25 feet above the ground.

Up and down the band, I would listen to a station, check if I had worked that country or state, and then skip to another. This went on for some time. Then I heard it! A VK prefix! Any prefix that starts with the letter V (other than VE or VA) will get my attention since it’s sure to be a pretty exotic DX. I listened for a while to verify the call, “VK2GWK”. I checked the call on QRZ.com. Yup, that’s Australia! I’d already worked VK land with 100 Watts, so I thought I’d give it a go with the K1, QRP.

After finishing his QSO he called, “CQ, CQ de VK2GWK”, and I responded. He came back, “KB3???”. I did a fist pump and repeated my call. Again he sent “KB3???”. I repeated my call about three or four times, after which he had my call correct. My RST was a mere 339, but, as they say, a slight ripple in the cosmic ether is better than no ripple at all. His RST was a very respectable 579

VK2GWK is Henk Tobbe, New South Wales, Australia. It’s a few miles up the coast from Sidney and 9.776 miles from Wescosville, or 1,995 miles per Watt. Not bad. A few Watts go a long way! I intend to apply for another 1,000 miles per Watt award. Henk has a rather sophisticated website which allowed me to download an electronic QSL card. It’s nice, but I’d rather have a real card in my hand. Call me old fashioned. Besides, I don’t know if an electronic card is valid for any awards.

I don’t know if I was just lucky or whether the long-promised sun spots are coming back, but by QRP QSO’s have been increasing lately. So far, I have confirmed QRP QSO’s with 38 states and 62 countries. I’ve had QSO’s with Oman, Nigeria, and Kiribati, but this one is the most memorable. Just think of it, Australia, with only five Watts and a wire!

I celebrated in style at the Stoned Crab, up the street from my home. Beefeater martini, very dry, very cold, with olives. Shaken, not stirred. Life is good.



While learning Morse code is no longer required in order to pass a amateur radio exam many hams prefer this mode for general operating. If you have never tried this mode you might wonder why anyone would want to bother with it!

First of all, let me tell you back when I first was licensed all I wanted to do was work phone (AM in those days). Just did not seem reasonable why I had to learn Morse! However in those days the FCC mandated a knowledge of Morse for all classes of Amateur license, so we all learned the CODE!

After receiving the license I began to assemble a AM phone station. It would be a 40 watt transmitter with Heising modulation. It worked great except for the fact that mine was the weakest signal on 75 meters! No matter what I could conjure, 40 watts (actually about 15 watts) just could not cut it on phone. Consequently I was forced to move down to the hated Morse code.

After a very short time I realized that even with a low power transmitter I could actually talk to hams all over the globe. Now it became a thrill to operate! One night I talked to a ham in Oregon, all the way on the other side of the USA and we chatted for over half an hour and became great friends, exchanging not only QSL cards but letters and photos. This was why I got into ham radio. As time went on my code speed gradually approached 25 wpm and I could copy signals in my head; so to me it was just as good as talking.

After about a year of working 80 meters my Elmer (Doc Dibelle W3HTS) talked me into converting my homebrew 80 meter rig to operate 40 meters. My third contact was with a fellow in Italy! Within days stations in Europe, Africa and South America were in my log. Now I was really convinced that Morse code would be my mode.

This was in the mid 50's when the sun spots were the best in many cycles and the higher bands were hopping. At age 15 my financial situation was sort of bleak, however that summer Mr. Keller asked me to work for him in his Orchard and enough money was put away to purchase a "World Radio Globe Scout kit". After a week of furious kit building it was ready to put on the air. Yes, it did work phone and I worked a lot of 10 and 15 meter phone (still low level modulation) and low power but on those bands it did not matter. Strange thing though, Most of the harder to work DX was on CW! Hence I gravitated back to that mode. One particular contact on 15 meters was with PY7ASN (Percy) He sent me a Great QSL card on which was a drawing of Chess men. I was an avid chess player and wondered about this. It was not long till I heard him on 15 and called, finding he had excellent command of English I inquired about his chess man QSL and found he was a grand master chess champ. So like a fool! I challenged him to a game on the air. Needless to say it was a disaster but he seemed so happy that he sent me long letter asking if I would like to belong to a chess on the air group? This was a new aspect of the hobby to me, I found myself playing games with hams who spoke almost no English but the chess shorthand was recognized by all. After school and relocating to the Western USA I lost touch with this group and found they disbanded in the mid 70's. But it was great fun and worth the effort on cw.

Today one of my favorite activities is low power (QRP) operating. On cw with 5 watts over 120 countries have been worked.

While working the QRP CW frequencies lately many young hams are active on cw. One, Molly a 16 year old YL from Washington has been on 20 meters about a year. She learned code so she could work more stations with low power. A very interesting young lady to chat with. Frequently she works an other teen (Brian) in Ohio and they seem to really have fun. It was surprising to listen to a bunch of these QRPers having a round table on cw, most of them were under 20 years of age, so guess cw will live on for awhile yet.

Over the years CW has been my favorite mode of operating, yes I work some phone (SSB and FM) and have even worked PSK 31, RTTY and SSTV but Morse is preferred above all others.

Now, will knowing code make you a superior ham? No but it will give you another option and if you are oriented towards emergency communications it can be very handy to know as it will get through with very simple gear and low power when all else fails.

Hope this spurs your interest in learning Morse code and in a future article I will tell you how to go about learning Morse.

THE FEBRUARY LVARC "MIDWINTER DINNER"

*Old
Country
Buffet*

The February LVARC "MidWinter Dinner," was held at the Old Country Buffet on Tuesday February 21, 2012. It was well attended with plenty of food and fellowship. TNX to Frank (W3FTU) for taking a, "Dollar Box of Goodies." Items that were not purchased by LVARC members will go to the Cherryville Hamfest.



Photos
courtesy of
Mark (AK3M)



Operators Needed!!! The LV Road Runner's 1/2 marathon will be held on **April 29** and operators are needed. Even if you are new to ARES, do not hesitate to help with this event. To volunteer, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com.



Yaesu VX7 & VX6 Heavy Duty Leather Case PF-VX7

List Price: \$29.99
Our Price: **\$24.95**
You save \$5.04!

READER SUBMISSION

de Larry (NR3R)

RIMFLEET.com

The History of Radio

READER SUBMISSION

de Erik (AI3D)

Here is some excellent reading material on the history of radio!

smirc.stanford.edu/papers/chapter1.pdf

This was written a few years ago - so the wonderful contributions made by Jay Smilkstein and Scarfman were not included....

Enter the Seventh Annual ARRL Photo Contest!

Have you ever wanted to see a photo of yours in QST, the annual ARRL Amateur Radio Calendar or another ARRL publication? Well, here's your chance!

Deadline: Photos must be received at ARRL HQ by May 31, 2012.

See the ARRL web site for rules and details.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/enter-the-seventh-annual-arrrl-photo-contes>.



ARRL Backpack

New Style! Black backpack imprinted with the ARRL diamond against a hemisphere of the world.
Order No. 0127 - \$19.95

