



The 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 (KW3K@arrl.net)
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)



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)

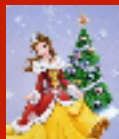
D-Star

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 at 7:30 pm.

To register for the Gateway or need information
on setting up the radio, please visit
<https://24.229.28.14/Dstar.do>

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



December 2012 Contents



| | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Meeting Information | INFORMATIONAL | page 3 |
| L.C. RACES Net Information | INFORMATIONAL | page 3 |
| Minutes of the November, 2012 Meeting |  | pages 4-5 |
| This Month In Ham Radio | INFORMATIONAL | page 6 |
| VE Report |  | page 7 |
| A Spud Gun Antenna Launcher | READER SUBMISSION | page 8 |
| LVARC Activities |  | page 9 |
| A Ham Radio "Night Before Christmas" |  | page 10 |
| 2013 Officers |  | page 11 |
| 2012 Women's 5K Classic In Review |  | page 12 |
| Animal Crackers for Christmas and more |  | page 13 |
| Santa Names Around the World |  | page 14 |
| Hurricane Sandy comes to the LV | | page 15 |
| "When All Else Fails" | | page 16 |



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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The December, 2012 LVARC meeting will be held on
December 4, 2012 at the Tri Clover Fire Company at 7:30.

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 |
| March | 97 | 5 |
| April | 105 | 5 |
| May | 45 | 2 |
| June | 100 | 4 |
| July | 110 | 5 |
| August | 94 | 4 |
| September | 74 | 3 |
| October | 98 | 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 November, 2012 LVARC Meeting de - Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1933 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 14 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 1 guest. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, Brian – KW3K, Phil – KB3HMK, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA, Robin – KB3GZV and Gary – N3GRD.

Guests: Rex Mott – KC1WE

Corrections additions to the minutes: None noted

Approved by: Chuck – WB6CDY

Second by: Eric – AI3D

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$3,760.44

Ending Balance: \$3,806.76

Approved by: Gary – W3GRD

Second by: John – AB3LZ

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: There was some type of problem on the 146.94 repeater Monday night. It was possibly due to one of the voter sites. If anyone notices it's continuing, let Rod know. The 147.135 repeater is working well. We have an agreement with DLARC that they can use the 135 repeater for events if there is no emergency going on.

Program: Tonight's program is Gary (W3GRD). He will be discussing green radios. December is the annual cookie cruncher, elections and awards.

Volunteer Examiners: No one was scheduled to test at the October, 2012 test session. Next test session will be Friday November 16, 2012.

Old Business: The D&L Heritage Trail marathon was this past Sunday. Due to the hurricane and the response of the county and members, the club was unable to participate in the event. Rod thanked everyone who responded to support the shelters during and after the hurricane.

Due to the printer not having power, the raffle from the North Catty Fire Company was delayed. North Catty will be changing the date and theme of the raffle. It will be called the Tax Break Raffle. The drawing will be on April 15. Rod will have the tickets in January.

Rod asked for a motion to reopen the nominations for 2013. The motion was made by Chuck (WB6CDY) and seconded by Walt (KE3SP). The motion passed.

Rod noted that Mark (AK3M) is not eligible to be nominated for a position this year due to the new by-laws that were accepted. The President will check the list to see the eligibility of members being nominated.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

The following were nominated for the listed positions:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| President: | Rod – N3XG | Accepted |
| | Brian – KW3K | Declined |
| Vice President: | Brian – KW3K | Accepted |
| Secretary: | Phil – KB3HMK | Accepted |
| Treasurer: | Brian – KB3QHA | Accepted |
| Board: | Paul – N0KIA | Accepted |
| | Matt – KB3UZE | Accepted |
| | Gary – W3GRD | Accepted |
| | Robin – KB3GZV | Accepted |
| | Chuck – WB6CDY | Accepted |

Rod then asked for a motion to close the nominations for 2013. The motion was made by Matt (KB3UZE) and seconded by Gary (W3GRD). The motion passed.

Women's 5k run was on October 14. Mark thanked everyone who helped out.

New Business: Brian (KB3QHA) asked about the January meeting. The meeting falls on New Years Day in 2013. Rod said it will be voted on in December to move the meeting to January 8.

Good of the Order: Rod received an e-mail forwarded from Paul. It was from a woman in Arizona. It stated that her ailing brother was being denied access to a computer and his ham equipment by his wife. Being that were a close knit group, she thought we could go over and help him. Rod e-mailed her back and stated the club does not get involved in situations like this. We will help hams that are in need of it. He provided her the phone number of the Northampton County Office of Aging and the Northampton County Sheriff's Department.

Brian (KW3K) mentioned that the hurricane response was a bi-county operation. Northampton County hams were very active. There were hams on National Guard vehicles being deployed out to the township EOC's. Brian thanked everyone who came out to help. There many items that need to be discussed.

New member applicants under new business: Rex Mott – KC1WE, Myles Bodisch

New Members Motion to Accept by: Chuck – WB6CDY
Second by: John – AB3LZ
Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2013 hrs, (EST.)
Motion by: Chuck – WB6CDY
Second by: Walt – KE3SP
In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------|---|
| \$\$\$ | W3OI Finances | \$\$\$ |  |
| Balance ending October, 2012 - \$3,806.76 | | | |

This Month In Ham Radio

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <div>December 2012</div> | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> <div>Matt KB3UZE</div> | <div>LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30</div> | <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> | 6 | 7 | 8 <div>Hanukkah</div> |
| 9 | <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> <div>Robin KB3GZV</div> | 11 | <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Hanukkah | | | | | | |
| 16 <div>Deadline to schedule test</div> <div>Hanukkah</div> | <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> <div>Dorian KB3GZW</div> | <div>LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover</div> | <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> | 20 | <div>LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm</div> | 22 |
| 23 | <div>24 Christmas Eve</div> <div>No Net</div> | <div>25 Christmas Day</div> | <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div> | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | <div>New Year's Eve</div> <div>No Net</div> | <div>1 New Year's Day 2013</div> | <div>Happy Holidays</div>  | | | |

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday December 4 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC

Test Session - Friday December 21 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Building

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday December 3 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday December 4 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday December 10 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday December 16 --- Deadline to schedule for license exam
Monday December 17 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday December 18 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Friday December 21 --- LVARC Test Session (Registration required)
Monday December 24 --- NO LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Monday December 31 --- NO 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)

No one scheduled to test at the
October, 2012 test session.



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!**

A Spud Gun Antenna Launcher

de Ike (N3IK)

READER SUBMISSION

They are sold by the "Joplin Amateur Radio Club" Cost is \$35.00 and S&H is \$15.00 for total of \$50.00.



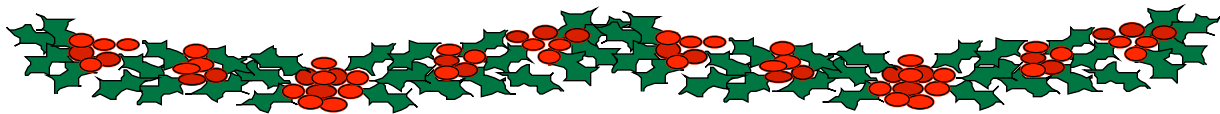
Unit works nice, will easily put line over my 80 foot trees. Much better than anything else I have used, including bow and arrow, fishing rod and the famous sling shot.

Comes as a kit and takes about an hour to build, just glue the PVC according to instructions. I used a bicycle pump for power and at 30 lb psi it will really chuck the line up there for you.

I bought a little Zebco 202 spin cast reel from "Amazon" for ten dollars and it does the job.

If you go to the "Joplin Radio Club" web site they have a video of the unit in use.

<http://www.joplin-arc.org/>



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club's Annual Holiday Party

The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club's annual Holiday Party will be held on the night of the December meeting (Tuesday December 4, 2012) following the business meeting.

The party consists of food, food and more food accompanied by plenty of conversation with LVARC members.

If you plan to attend the meeting and the party, please take something to share with the group.

Your contribution can be cookies, something to drink, something hot or anything you like.

Remember to include all the necessary accessories like plates, napkins, spoons etc.

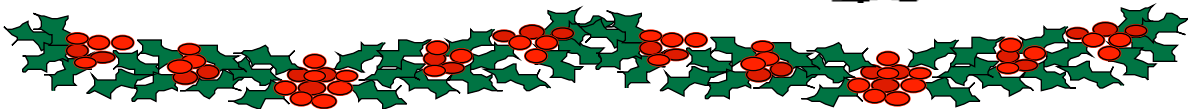


2012 LVARC Activities



December

- (1) **Date TBA - "Operation Ho Ho"** --- Contact Mark (AK3M)- AK3M@rcn.com
- (2) **December 4 - Presentation of Pres Schuler Award**
- (3) **Annual Holiday Party**



Track Santa's trip on
Christmas Eve with your
children or grandchildren



<http://www.noradsanta.org/>

"The Night Before Christmas" - Ham Radio style

The real
"Night
Before
Christmas"
was written
by
Clement
C. Moore
in 1823.



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"



http://myplace.frontier.com/~longrj2/humor/nb_hams.html

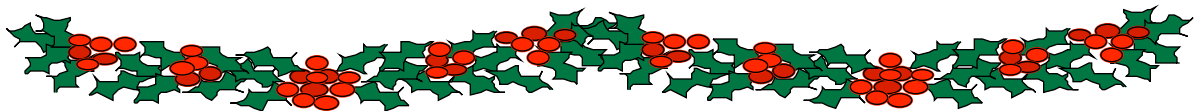


At the November 6, 2012 meeting, the slate of officers was closed. Since the slate of officers is filled and there are no contested offices, there will be **no election** at the December, 2012 meeting. The following officers will be in effect beginning January, 2013.

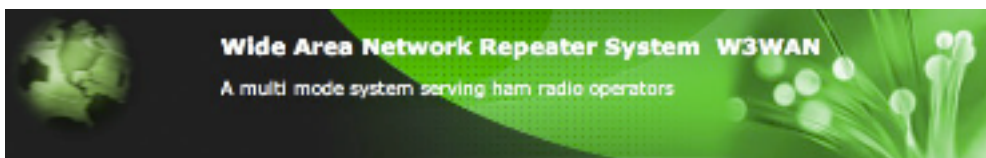


| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| President: | Rod – N3XG |
| Vice President: | Brian - KW3K |
| Secretary: | Phil – KB3HMK |
| Treasurer: | Brian – KB3QHA |
| Board of Governors: | Paul – N0KIA |
| | Matt – KB3UZ |
| | Gary – W3GRD |
| | Robin - KB3GZV |
| | Chuck - WB6CDY |

Since the January 2013 meeting is normally scheduled to be held the first Tuesday of the month and this year that is New Year's Day, the January meeting will be held on **Tuesday January 8, 2013.**

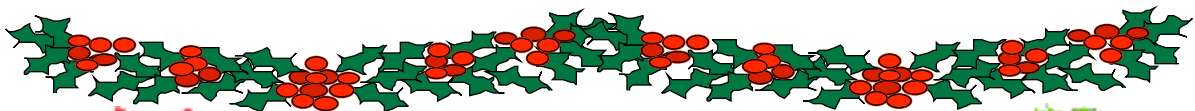


Wide Area Network Repeater System - W3WAN

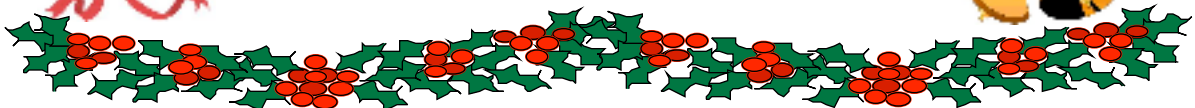


Home page: <http://www.wanrepeater.net/>

Node list: <http://stats.allstarlink.org/nodeinfo.cgi?node=2135>



Campanology is the study of bells



"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white". --- Bing Crosby

2012 Women's 5K Classic In Review - de Mark (AK3M)



The Women's 5K Classic was held on Saturday October 13, 2012.

The weather was very cool with sun as the morning progressed.

More than 5,100 women participated in the 5K Fun Run, 5K Competitive Run and the 10K Run making this the largest Breast Cancer Awareness event on the East coast! LVARC operators went beyond their assigned communications duties.

They are to be commended! Paul (N0KIA) was assigned to the golf cart which he used while directing incoming traffic as well as picking up traffic cones after the start of the events. Jeff (N3MFT), again provided commercial HT's for event staff to be in contact with NCS. EMS traffic was minimal. LVARC operators were able to recover and reunite a car key and a cell phone to their proper owners.

A **HUGE** TNX to the following LVARC operators who turned out to assist this most worthy event. TNX to **Bob** (WB3JSZ), **Paul** (N0KIA), **Don** (N0VGA), **Larry** (NR3R), **Jack** (KC9DQV), **Don** (W3DLH), **Scott** (KB3YOT), **Tom** (KB3YWK), **Alan** (KB3TYE) and **Jared** (KB3TYD).

Following are some pictures of the event submitted by LVARC operators.



Photos courtesy of
Bob (WB3JSZ)



Photos courtesy of
Larry (NR3R)

Photo courtesy of
Paul - N0KIA (right)



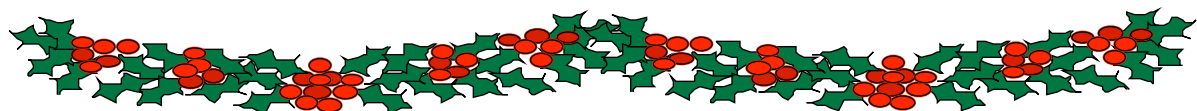
Animal Crackers and Christmas?

The reason the Animal Crackers box is designed with a string handle is because when the popular circus theme was introduced in 1902, they thought it would also be a good idea to package them with a string as a Christmas novelty **so they could be hung from Christmas trees.**



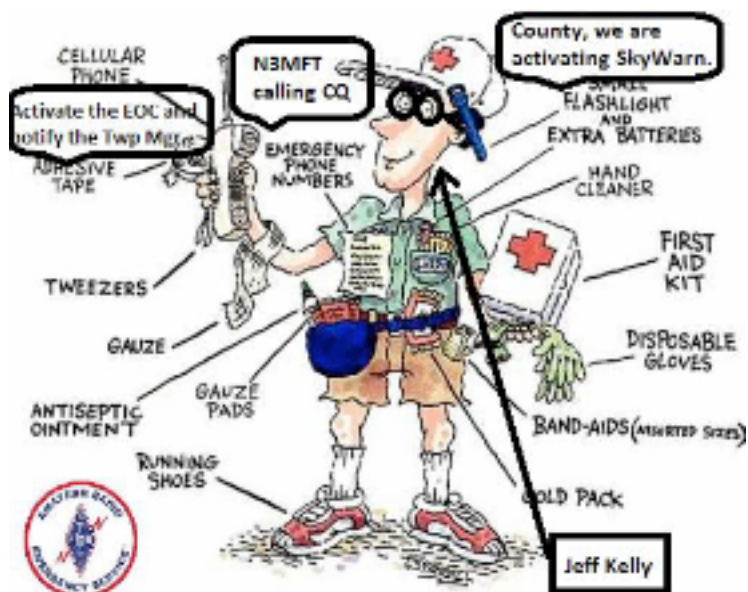
From Cool Facts!

<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=315194952&mt=8>



Do you know this man?

You guessed it! It is the LVARC's own Jeff Kelly (N3MFT)! This actual photograph of Jeff was taken at September's Emergency Preparedness Expo.



2013 LVARC Dues

Dues for 2013 are being accepted. Individual Membership is **\$17.00** (Includes autopatch) and a Family Membership is \$20.00 (Includes autopatch). Dues can be paid at a **meeting**, **U.S. mail** or **PayPal** via the LVARC website.



Santa Names Around the World

How many of these countries have you worked?

COUNTRY

SANTA NAMES

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| United States of America, Canada ----- | Santa Claus |
| Brazil ----- | Papai Noel |
| China ----- | Shengdan Laoren |
| Chile ----- | Viejo Pascuero |
| Dutch ----- | Sinter Klaas |
| England ----- | Father Christmas |
| Europe ----- | Saint Nicholas |
| Finland ----- | Joulupukki |
| France ----- | Pere Noel |
| Germany ----- | Saint Nikolaus |
| Hawaii ----- | Kanakaloka |
| Holland ----- | De Kerstman |
| Hungary ----- | Tel-apo/Mikulas / Winter grandfather |
| India ----- | Santa Claus, Baba |
| Italy ----- | Babbo Natale |
| Japan ----- | Hoteiosho |
| Lithuania ----- | Kaledu Senelis |
| Morocco ----- | Black Peter |
| Netherlands ----- | Kerstman |
| Norway ----- | Julenissen |
| Peru ----- | Papa Noel |
| Poland ----- | Swiety Mikolaj |
| Russia ----- | Ded Moroz |
| Scandinavia ----- | Julenisse |
| Spain ----- | El Nino Jesus |
| Sweden ----- | Tomten/Jultomten |



<http://www.happywink.org/christmas-day/multiculturism-santas.html>



Ham Radio Podcast - de John (AB3LZ)

READER SUBMISSION

I came across this ham radio podcast on a website with some other tech podcasts I check out once in a while. The podcasts started last year but they are all archived. I started to watch the first podcast and it features as a guest Joe Walsh the musician who is also a ham.

<http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation>

There's an option on this page to subscribe via iTunes, or you can just watch the videos on the site.

“Sandy” Hits the Lehigh Valley

10/28/12

The map on the right was issued on **Sunday** October 28, 2012 showing the path Hurricane Sandy will take in the next few days.

If you remember the WX predictions from the Farmer’s Almanac in the November, 2012 issue (page 13), you will see that it really missed this time.

October 28-3. *Trick or Treaters enjoy mostly **fair** weather (Sandy?!?!?)*

Monday 10/29/12) 0800 ---- Sandy continues to follow expected path. Coastal areas are seeing increased tidal activity. She has begun to turn West from her Northern track and heads toward the Lehigh Valley.

Friday (11/2/12) --- As of 6 a.m. Friday, around 98,000 PPL customers in our area were without power. That includes around 39,000 in Lehigh County and more than 19,000 in Northampton County.

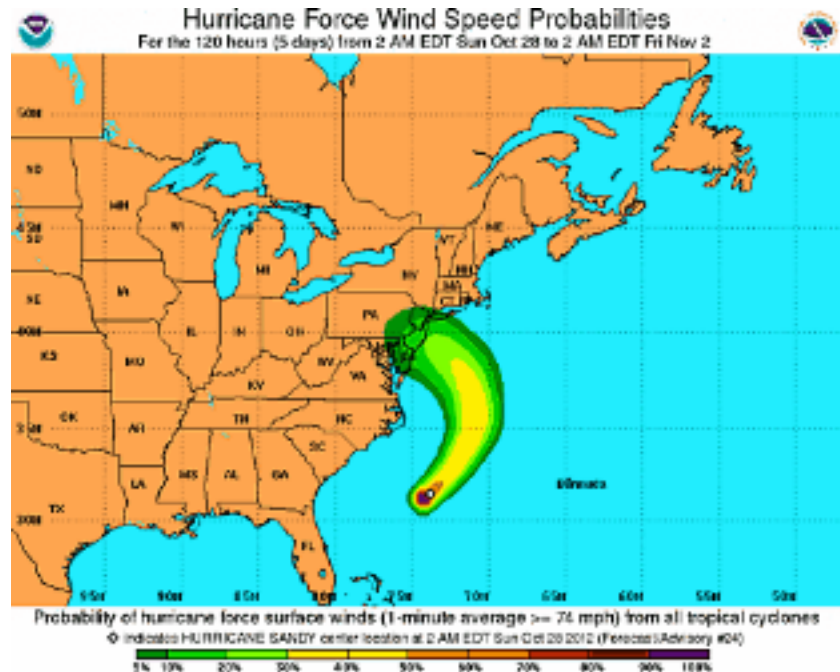


**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross shelters were set up in both Lehigh and Northampton counties which led to a **bi-county** effort to provide communications. Members of both the DLARC and LVARC manned communication stations on 6-hour rotation schedules. They were able to relieve cell phone communications which was not functioning at one hundred percent at the time. The Lehigh Country EOC was open 24/7 and the 146.940 repeater was the primary machine during the event.

A **HUGE TNX** to all who opened and manned the LC EOC as well as those LVARC and DLARC members who came out to support this effort!

Amateur radio again proved its place in this rapidly changing technological world.



PPL Power Outage Map

During a Winter or Summer storm, you can check the status of power outages in Pennsylvania, go to <https://www.pplelectric.com/my-account/outage-center/outage-map.aspx>



A nice site for phone and radio cases

de Larry (NR3R) <http://mightypouch.com/radio.html/>

READER SUBMISSION

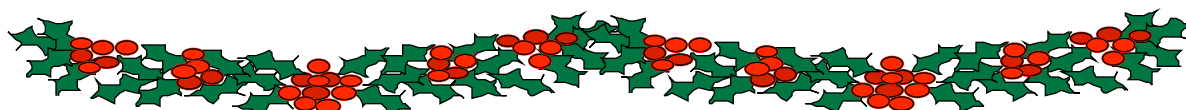
"When All Else Fails"

de Mark (AK3M)

READER SUBMISSION



We all have our personal memories about Hurricane Sandy's visit to the Lehigh Valley. I want to share *my* thoughts about Sandy and amateur radio. Monday night into Tuesday left me without electrical power, cell phone communications *and* landline phone communication. I immediately thought of the ARRL's slogan, "When All Else Fails." Well, although not life threatening, **all DID** fail, at least for me. The only communications I had that **WORKED** was ... you guessed it, **Amateur Radio!** Feel free to send your Sandy related experience to me for inclusion in future newsletters.



*The Officers and board of the
Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio
Club wish all Happy Holidays
and best wishes for a prosperous 2013!*

