



The 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)
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Secretary: Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK (philbert17@verizon.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 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>

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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, 2012 LVARC meeting will be held on
November 6, 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 |

REMEMBER:

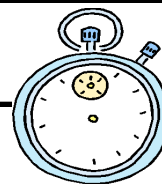


Registration for the monthly test session, must be
made NO LATER THAN THE
SUNDAY BEFORE THE TEST!

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

Minutes of the October, 2012 LVARC Meeting

de - Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1935 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 11 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 3 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, Phil – KB3HMK, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA and Gary – N3GRD.

Guests: Tom (KB3YWK) and wife, Bill – KA3RBH

Corrections additions to the minutes: None noted

Approved by: John – AB3LZ

Second by: Walt – KE3SP

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$3,976.17

Ending Balance: \$3,910.44

Approved by: Gary – W3GRD

Second by: Matt – KB3UZE

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports: Repeater: No problems reported. There were some problems with the internet on the D-Star repeater.

Program: Tonight is Rod (N3XG) and his presentation will be on battery technology. Next month is Gary (W3GRD) and his presentation will be on green radios. Rod apologized to Paul for changing the program for November. Paul will do his presentation at a later time. Hands On night is October 16. It will be a show and tell, stay and play night.

Volunteer Examiners: No test session for September. Test sessions are the 3rd Friday of the month. If you would like to test or upgrade, please contact Mark (AK3M) to sign up.

Old Business: The LVHN / VIA marathon went well. Rod thanked everyone for coming out and helping. There were some concerns this year. The club will let the organizers know.

There was a multi hospital drill on September 8. It was a communications failure drill called "Tin Can & String". Several members from the club were involved. The state evaluators praised amateur radio for how well we moved communication traffic. This is the second largest drill that the club participated in. There will hopefully be more drills to follow.

The Women's 5k run is on October 13. If you're available to help, please contact Mark (AK3M).

The D&L Heritage Trail marathon is November 4. If you're available to help, please contact Brian (KW3K).

The Emergency Preparedness day went well. Several members were there to show the community how amateur radio works. Thank you to Brian (KW3K) for coordinating the event for the club. So far we have not received any bills from the web hosting people. The site is up and running.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

New Business: The will again sell holiday raffle tickets with North Catty Fire Company. How ever many tickets we sell, that's how much profit we make. Rod will mail tickets to the members again.

Rod asked for a motion to open nominations for the 2013 officers and board members. Walt (KE3SP) made the motion and it was seconded by John (AB3LZ). The motion passed. Rod then asked for nominations for the following positions:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| President: | Rod – N3XG | Accepted |
| | Brian – KW3K | Not present |
| Vice President: | Phil – KB3HMK | Declined |
| | Gary – W3GRD | Declined |
| Secretary: | Phil – KB3HMK | Accepted |
| Treasurer: | Brian – KB3QHA | Accepted |
| Board: | Paul – N0KIA | Accepted |
| | Matt – KB3UZE | Accepted |
| | Gary – W3GRD | Accepted |
| | Mark – AK3M | Not present |
| | Jeff – KB3OCP | Not present |
| | Robin – KB3GZV | Not present |
| | Dorian – KB3GZW | Not present |

Rod then asked for a motion to close the nominations till the November meeting. Matt (KB3UZE) made the motion and Don (N0VGA) seconded it. The motion passed.

Good of the Order: Rod asked if anyone knows of a place locally to have a radio repaired. A fellow ham is in need of radio repair. Gary (W3GRD) said he went to a place near Harrisburg. He will check to see where he went.

New member applicants: Tom Julius – KB3YWK

New Members Motion to Accept by: Paul – N0KIA
Second by: Gary – W3GRD
Carried (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2007 hrs, (EST.)
Motion by: Gary – W3GRD
Second by: Walt – KE3SP
In favor: Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.

| | |
|--|---|
| \$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$ |  |
| Balance ending September, 2012 - \$3,910.44 | |

This Month In Ham Radio

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|----------|
| November 2012 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4  Delaware Lehigh Heritage Corridor | 5 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Brian KW3K | 6 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30 | 7 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Deadline to schedule test | 12 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Paul NOKIA | 13 | 14 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 15 | 16 LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm | 17 |
| 18 | 19 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff N3MFT | 20 | 21 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 22  Thanksgiving | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26  No Net | 27 | 28 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 29 | 30  | |

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday November 6 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC

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

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday November 5 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday November 6 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Sunday November 11 --- Deadline to schedule for license exam
Monday November 12 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Friday November 16 --- LVARC Test Session (Registration required)
Monday November 19 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday November 20 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Thursday November 22 --- Thanksgiving
Monday November 26 --- 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 September, 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!**

Lehigh County Emergency Preparedness Day 2012

The Lehigh County Emergency Preparedness Day Fair was held on a beautiful September day (September 15, 2012). Many municipalities were there with exhibits by fire companies, CERT teams, ,LVHN,, St. Luke's Hospital and more. By the way, the LVARC had a great stand manned by **Brian** (KW3K), **Gail** (KB3RDB) and **Phil** (KB3HMK). Below are a few pictures of the event.



ARES Help Needed for *Women's 5K Classic*



On **Saturday October 13**, 2012, the Lehigh Parkway will see more than 5,000 women run to earn money for breast cancer research. Our help as communication support is again needed. If you can help with this event, please contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com. The event coordinators are counting on our support.



2012 LVARC Activities



October

(1) **October 13** --- **Women's 5K Classic** -- Contact **Mark** (AK3M) ---AK3M@rcn.com



(2) **October 13 & 14** --- **PA QSO Party**

(3) **October 15** --- **Emergency Preparedness Expo** -- Contact **Brian** (KW3K) ---KW3K@arrl.net)



November

(1) **November 4** --- **Delaware/Lehigh Heritage Corridor**
Contact **Brian** (KW3K) - KW3K@arrl.net



(2) **Nominations for the Pres Schuler Award** -
Submit your nomination to **Rod** (N3XG) --rjwolfe@rcn.com

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**



The LVARC has a LOT of activities!



Carry your cell phone AND your HT!

(Submitted by Bob (WB3JSZ) -- from an article on Yahoo)

READER SUBMISSION

After what he said were four attempts to reach a 911 operator after a car had hit his vehicle on a Texas road, Kelvin Crowe of Dallas gave up, got out of his car and was hit by a passing vehicle as he tried to flag down help.

"The first three calls, the line was busy," Crowe told ABC's Dallas-Fort Worth affiliate [WFAA](#) Wednesday. On the fourth call, "the automated machine said, 'All other operators are busy assisting other callers,' Crowe told the TV station. "It said, 'Hold for the next available operator.' I held for maybe a minute. It made a funny sound, so we hung up." It all started late last Saturday night when Crowe's tire blew out. Still in his car, he was making his way to the shoulder of the road when another vehicle hit his car from behind, according to the affiliate report.

Crowe's fiancée was injured in the crash, and he called 911, using her cell phone. Calls were made at 11:48, 11:49, 11:54 and 11:58, according to WFAA, but never got through to the 911 call center. Crowe exited his vehicle and tried to get help from the road. But another car hit him, and he ended up in the hospital. "I just heard the tire screeching and then, 'Bam!'" Crowe said. "I just kept saying, 'Lord, please don't take me. I got kids depending on me. Don't take me ... don't take me.'"

Crowe had broken his arm, bruised his leg badly - and his right eye needed stitches. "Maybe if we'd have gotten a response, or if police would have answered, then I would have just stayed in the truck a little longer," Crowe said. "That way I wouldn't have walked back down there and it would have been avoided." But the city of Dallas said it's not at fault.

"The city of Dallas conducted a review of the calls during the time period of this incident," read a statement from city hall. "At this time, we cannot find any indication that the Dallas 911 call center received a call from Mr. Crowe's cell number." "It went into the antenna, but it didn't come to us," Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings told WFAA. "We've got proof it didn't show up at 911. ... The call got into T-Mobile's antenna, and it didn't get to us. It wasn't sent appropriately. One of those things that just didn't hit up."

In a statement, the city of Dallas said the call center had received other calls at about the same time as Crowe's, and that it was not at capacity. A Dallas Police Department lieutenant who oversees the call center visited Crowe in the hospital Tuesday to get a firsthand account, a city spokesman told WFAA.

"Cell phones can be extremely valuable in emergency situations. However, cell phone users should always be aware of the limitations in cell phone technology in relationship with 911 systems," read the city of Dallas' statement.

The longest U.S. highway is
Route 20, which is over
3,365 miles



In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

THE MODEST BUT EFFICIENT G5RV Jr.

(de Alfred Gruenke KB3JPP)

READER SUBMISSION

Is there a better multi band antenna for under \$100.00 than the G5RV Jr? In my experience, a hearty NO!.

The G5RV Jr. is 52' long, with a 17' vertical section. My installation is about 25 feet high and extends from the peak of my house to a conveniently planted tree in the back yard. It's not a stealth antenna, but attracts little attention. When asked by the neighbors, the XYL says that she really doesn't know what it's for, that its "some radio thing, something Al plays around with". I've been tempted to tell neighbors its really a wash line, but have not had that opportunity.

Back to the antenna itself. I feed it with 50 feet of RG58 coax. Using the internal tuner of my IC-746PRO at 100 watts, it loads on 40, 20, 15, and 10. Depending on how the coax is coiled, it also tunes on 30. I never figured it out, but the guy who makes it said that it does that sometimes. I've even worked North Dakota and Bermuda on 6 meter SSB with this antenna. A couple of months ago, I was made aware of a 160 cw contest. Why not give it a shot? The SWR was somewhere the other side of infinity, but I reduced the power and gave it a go. Voila! I had a dozen QSO's within a 200 mile range.

My DX prowess is only modest. Europe and South America are easy, but the Far East is iffy. My best DX with the IC-746PRO is Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan, all on cw. Not bad, but not great. I've considered changing the antenna's orientation, but that's not easy to do. I've also considered upgrading to another all band antenna, but they are too visually obvious and/or have met in-house QRM from the XYL.

Connected to my SW40+ at two watts with a BLT tuner, I've had numerous QSO's of over 1,000 miles, and one 4,110 mile QSO with I1MMR. My newest rig in an Elecraft K1 with an LDG Z-11 Pro II tuner. I've had DX contacts on 20 meters to Istanbul, Turkey, Abuja, Nigeria, and a notable 15,080 mile long path QSO with VK2GWK in Eastern Australia.

I must admit it gives me a thrill to have someone 4,000 miles away give my QRP signal a 579, then ask me what kind of antenna I'm using!

What more can one ask of an antenna that costs a little over thirty bucks?

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse." --- Henry Van Dyke

There was a brief side note to the term "byte" in the October VOX. It said it was a contraction of "by eight". I've labored in the computer field for almost fifty years and I never heard that reference. I've worked with bytes of five, six, seven, eight and nine bits of data and the term was always byte whatever its bit length. Warren Buchholz chose the spelling so it wouldn't be confused with a misspelled bit, i.e. someone types "bite" and really meant "bit" but now it would look like a unit of bits rather than one bit. Whereas byte has an intentional "y" in it to distinguish it. There was a method to his madness.

From Wikipedia we find:

Werner Buchholz (born October 24, 1922 in Detmold, Germany) is a noted American computer scientist. In July 1956, he coined the term byte, a unit of digital information to describe an ordered group of bits, as the smallest amount of data that a computer could process (bite).[1][2]

As a member of the team at International Business Machines (IBM) that designed the IBM 701 and the IBM 7030 Stretch, IBM's first transistorized supercomputer, his work was standards-setting in the field of character encoding on computing systems.

In 1990, Buchholz received the IEEE Computer Pioneer Award, awarded since 1981 to recognize and honor individuals whose effort resulted in the creation and vitality of the computer industry.

End of Wikipedia article

See also: <http://www.trailing-edge.com/~bobbemer/BYTE.HTM> for more information.

I've used bytes of five bits when working with Baudot code, six bits when using typesetter or BCDIC codes, seven when working with ASCII, eight when working with EBCDIC and nine when using eight level code with parity. A byte is all relative to the system that's using the data. Granted, eight bits is common, but not limited to a byte's worth. To properly reference eight bits taken as a data group one should use the term "octet", but byte is often used instead.

Now, a nybble (or nibble), that's another mouthful... ;)

Peace and 73

WX Predictions

Predictions of upcoming weather for the rest of 2012 from the Farmer's Almanac. Lets see how accurate it is.



October 2012



1st-3rd. Mostly fair.

4th-7th. Fair, windy.

8th-11th. Strong disturbance off the Atlantic Coast. Heavy rains. Mid-Atlantic States. Stormy, with gale-force winds along New England coast.

12th-15th. Fair, then showers return, accompanied by milder air.

16th-19th. Dry and mild.

20th-23rd. Severe thunderstorms move in, then clearing and unseasonable cold; widespread frosts.

24th-27th. Fair at first, then turning unsettled.

28th-31st. Trick-or-treaters enjoy mostly fair weather.



November 2012



1st-3rd. Fair.

4th-7th. Stormy, with heavy rain, snow, then clearing, cold. Wet for ING New York City Marathon.

8th-11th. Light snows, flurries New England, then fair.

12th-15th. Fair.

16th-19th. Stormy again, clearing, much colder



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If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. ~ Meister Eckhart

Bluetooth We all know that bluetooth allows for wireless connections to many of our digital devices but do you know the frequency it uses? According to internet information, bluetooth operates at **2400 - 2483.5 MHz**.



Who said, "**You can have any color as long as it is black?**"

- a. Sherwin Williams (about his paint)
- b. Henry Ford (about his Model T)
- c. Alexander Bell (about his phone)
- d. Eastman Kodak (about his film)

(Answer below)

Guilty -- de Mark (AK3M) --- I needed to reset and reprogram my HT recently. Sounds easy enough except, the software wasn't working as it was not seeing the comm port. Now What? I am guilty, like I am sure many hams are. We are guilty of using our computers to program our radios. **Do you know how to program your radio(s) WITHOUT software?** What if you were on a RACES activity and needed to go to a frequency that you did not have programmed into your radio? Would you know what to do? It may be a good idea to learn how to program your radio(s) without using software even if you don't have to do it all the time. Don't forget to also include learning how to set the PL, offset etc.

The two **Boy Scout Merit Badges** that have Morse code characters on them are **Radio and Emergency Preparedness**.



Who said, "**You can have any color as long as it is black?**"

- a. Sherwin Williams
- b. Henry Ford**
- c. Alexander Bell
- d. Eastman Kodak



Henry Ford said, "**You can have any color as long as it is black,**" when referring to the color a customer can have his 1909 Model T painted.