



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 (n3xg.radio@gmail.com)
Vice President: Brian Klock - KW3K (KW3K@kw3k.com)
Secretary: Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK (philbert17@verizon.net)
Treasurer: Brian Snyder - KB3QHA (brian@teamsnyder.net)

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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>

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LV RR 1/2 Marathon --- Sunday April 28

Your help is needed! Contact Mark (AK3M) --- AK3M@rcn.com)



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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The April, 2013 LVARC meeting will be held on
April 2, 2013 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 - 2013

<u>Month</u>		<u>Number of Check-In's</u>		<u>Number of Nets/Mondays</u>
January		108		4
February		105		4



*"Oops! Forgot to ground all pieces of equipment to
 one common ground!"*

<http://www.hamradiosecrets.com/ham-radio-cartoons.html>

REMEMBER:

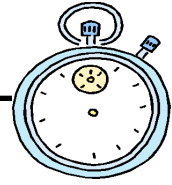


**Registration for the monthly test session, must be
 made NO LATER THAN THE
SUNDAY BEFORE THE TEST!**

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

Minutes of the March, 2013 LVARC Meeting

de - Phil (KB3HMK)



The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1932 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 16 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 3 guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, Brian – KW3K, Phil – KB3HMK, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA, Robin – KB3GZV, Matt – KB3UZE and Chuck – WB6CDY.

Guests: Jim Sagazio, Marvin Charles and Mike Zweifel – KB3MJZ

Corrections additions to the minutes: None Noted

Approved by: Chuck – WB6CDY

Second by: Gail – KB3RDB

Carried (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$4,365.82

Ending Balance: \$4,327.35

Approved by: Paul – N0KIA

Second by: Brian – KW3K

Carried: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: No problems to report. The 443.350 repeater is back up. The club will be putting Echolink on the repeater soon. Let Rod know of any problems or interference on the repeaters.

Program: Tonight Rod will be doing a program on VHF / UHF antennas and how to use them for contesting. March 19 th is the hands on night. We will be putting together a canned program for the Boy Scouts. April's program will be tricks and operations of a repeater.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Volunteer Examiners: At the February 15, 2013 test session, two tested and two passed. CONGRATULATIONS to David Hill (N3XGE) who upgraded to General and Charles Kerchner who passed all three tests and earned his Extra! Charles received his call, AB3RP on February 22, 2013.

Next scheduled VE session is March 15, 2013. Registration is required.

Old Business: The raffle is doing well. If you would like more tickets, see Rod. All tickets need to be returned to Rod by April 11. The drawing is April 15.

The dinner get together on February 19 was a success. During the get together, a special meeting was called to discuss the retirement of Tom Nervine. He is the Lehigh County EMA director. It was decided to get him a \$100 gift card to the Bethlehem Diner. Rod will send it to him.

The annual club picnic will be on July 27. It will be at the Upper Macungie Park. We will have the Hawk pavilion again. More info to follow.

The Lehigh Valley Roadrunner's 1/2 marathon is Sunday April 28. Volunteers are needed. Contact Mark (AK3M) if you can help.






Brian (KW3K) has some 900 MHz radios for sale. It's the radio, battery and charger. The cost is \$50. Brian will donate \$25 of each radio to the club. See Brian if interested.

At the board meeting Rod asked for a committee to create an incentive program for the club. Paul (N0KIA) and Chuck (WB6CDY) volunteered to be on the committee. At the meeting, Paul read results of the program. ***It is presented on page 16.***

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$	
Balance ending February, 2013 - \$4,327.35	

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” --- Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  ARES RACES Net 7:30 KB3UZE Matthew	2 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	3 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	4	5	6
7	8 ARES RACES Net 7:30 KB3GZV Robin	9	10 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	11	12	13
14 Deadline to schedule test	15 ARES RACES Net 7:30 KB3GZW Dorian	16 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	17 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	18	19  LVARC Test Session 7:00 pm	20
21	22 ARES RACES Net 7:30 N3XG Rod	23	24 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	25	26	27
28  LVRR 1/2 Marathon	29 ARES RACES Net 7:30 AK3M Mark	30				

LVARC Meeting - Tuesday April 2 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC

Test Session - Friday April 19 - 7:00 pm - Red Cross Building

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday April 1 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday April 2 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday April 8 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday April 14 --- Deadline to schedule for license exam test
Monday April 15 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday April 16 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover)
Friday April 19 --- LVARC Test Session (Registration required)
Monday April 22 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday April 28 --- LVRR 1/2 Marathon
Monday April 29 --- 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 15, 2013
test session, two tested
and two passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to David
Hill (N3XGE) who upgraded to
General and **Charles Kerchner**
who passed all three tests and
earned his Extra!



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.

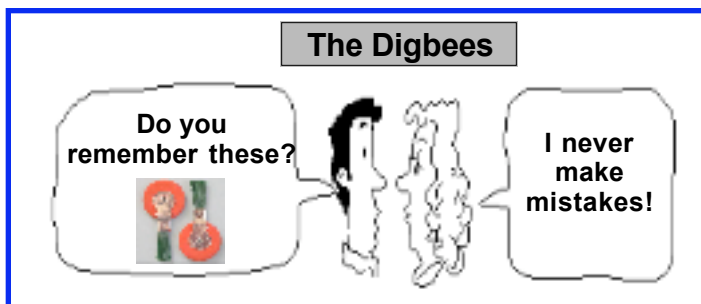
Test sessions are given the 3rd Friday of each month.

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 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 first chimpanzee to travel into space was named **Ham**. He got the name from the lab he was raised in, the Holloman AeroMedical laboratory in Alamogordo, NM. Ham flew in a Mercury space capsule in 1961.



LVARC VE Program




CONGRATULATIONS

to
Charles Kerchner

who earned his Extra license at the February 15, 2013 test session!

Charles received his call, AB3RP on February 22, 2013.

Lightning Detectors

de Mark (AK3M)

READER SUBMISSION

An article in a boating magazine I receive, prompted me to submit the following in the newsletter. It is important to know the weather when boating and also when participating in an ARES or SkyWarn activity. *SkyScan* makes a lightning detector that will alert one to a lightning strike within 40 miles. The P 5-2 can be seen at http://skyscanusa.com/products/product_info.php/cPath/1/products_id/2



Model P 5-2 (left)
\$179.95

Strike Alert (right)
\$69.00



Another manufacturer can be seen at <http://www.weathershop.com/strikealert.htm>

There are other detectors. Simply do a search for *lightening detectors* on the internet to see more. One might make an excellent addition to your "Go Bag."

Besides the invention of the telegraph, what else was Samuel Morse known for?

(Source: QRZ.com)

His paintings



Good QRP DX Hunting - de Al Gruenke (KB3JPP)

From September to December,
What a time to remember.
Good DX galore,
Who could ask for anything more.
The skip was heavenly,
For a Dxr wannabe.
Ham Radio has been good to me,
Especially when working QRP.

READER SUBMISSION

Sorry for the bad poetry, but there was a definite improvement in DX propagation last fall. I don't know if this is due to the sunspot cycle finally arriving, the end of the Mayan calendar, or just better operating on my part. I suspect a host of reasons other than the latter.

Looking over my activities, the festivities started in September, when I had QRP QSO's on 20 with A45XR, LX9DX, IZ1ASM, and G3MJX all within a half hour! The odd thing (to me) was the time, 4:00 PM EST, 2100z! I started re-thinking my concept that 20 meters was an evening and late night band. So, I started getting on the air earlier and earlier. One can do this when retired. All of you still working for a living, eat your hearts out.

A similar pattern continued the next month, with good propagation starting at 2:00 PM, 1900z. Czech Republic (1 watt), France, Ecuador, a bunch of islands in the Caribbean, Morocco, Cape Verde, Canary Islands, Mauritania, Cyprus, a total of 26 countries in one month.

If it was a new country, I tried worked them first with 100 Watts, then with the K1, 5 Watts. That pattern worked for 5T0SP, 5B4AJC, and D3AA, but mostly I stayed strictly QRP.

The pièce de résistance had to be Japan! JH1GEX, Japan. At 2200z of November 30, I heard the CQ and answered. He came back after the second call, with an RST of 518. Readability was good, tone was excellent, but the strength was so far down in the mud he must have used a backhoe with an extended arm to dig me out! I asked him twice to repeat the RST. I worked him before he appeared on the Ham Radio Deluxe website; i.e., before the pile up. Japan, the Holy Grail of QRPers with only a G5RV Jr. for an antenna.

It was the season for Dxpeditions. In the Caribbean, single operators from the cold climates descended and set up their shack while their XYL's went gallivanting about. Lots of fun, and days in the sun. Seven Japanese operators were QRV on Sint Eustatius Island, 160 miles East of Puerto Rico. They operated as any DX station until 2100z, after which they worked JA-JS' exclusively. I worked them after a week of trying, and waiting. There were Polish Dxpeditions in Mauritania and Cyprus, and single operators from Finland and Germany in the Atlantic islands.

By mid-January, the good times seem to have come to an end. Maybe there were fewer Dxpeditions after Christmas, or the solar winds died down, but it was good while it lasted.

I managed to work fifteen new countries since September, for a total of 104 QRP QSO's. Most of the operators have sent me QSL cards, and I have high hopes for the rest. Like I've said, a few Watts go a long way. Especially when the DX gods are smiling.



"Welcome to cyberspace, I'm lost in the fog --- everything's digital, I'm still analog." (Source: QST, March, 2013, page 9)

Ham Email - de Mark (AK3M)

I received the following email and thought I would pass along in the newsletter in case anyone is interested in Jerry's program.

Hi Mark



I am Jerry Gentry - WA0H - age 71.

If you would like to see my (easy-to-use) ham radio logging program ... MicroLog .. you can download a (free) version from my website.

www.wa0h.com.. (0) is the number zero.

It is not a contest logger or a dx logger.
It does do basic logging and it is easy to use.

There is a \$10 (CD) version of the program which has the US and Canadian callbooks built into the program.

Earlier versions were reviewed in both QST and CQ magazines.

It runs on windows XP, Vista, and Windows-7.

73

Jerry Gentry .. WA0H .. ARRL life member
206 East Crestview
Springfield, Mo. 65807

JerryWA0H@sbcglobal.net



READER SUBMISSION

de Rod (N3XG)

Use a drill to charge your cell phone? This YouTube video is very interesting!



<http://youtu.be/hCxm1ERbXc>

Good Bye, Good Luck and Thanks Tom!



Lehigh County Director of Emergency Services **Thomas H. Nervine** announced Monday (February 11, 2013) he is retiring from county service. Tom has led Lehigh County's Emergency Management operation since 2005. Tom's retirement was effective as of February 28, 2013.

Tom has been a good friend to and a wonderful supporter of amateur radio and W3OI.

Enjoy your retirement Tom!



<http://uppermacungie.patch.com/articles/lehigh-county-director-of-emergency-services-to-retire>

Lehigh County RACES

Registration with Lehigh County RACES can be completed on line. Visit the county's web site at

<http://ema.lehighcounty.org/Home/tabid/148/Default.aspx>. Go to **FORMS** and select **RACES Application**.

The screenshot shows the Lehigh County Emergency Management website. The navigation bar includes links: Home, About, Sections, Resources, Calendar, Forms, Contact, Multimedia, and Site Map. The 'Forms' link is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the navigation bar, the 'RACES Registration Form' is displayed. The form includes fields for Name, Address, City, State, Phone, Email, and County of Residence (set to Lehigh). A sidebar on the right contains a list of links, with 'RACES Application' being the selected option. The Lehigh County RACES Communications logo is also visible in the sidebar.

2013 LVARC Events

April 28 --- LVRR 1/2 Marathon
June 22 & 23 --- Field Day 2013
July 27 - LVARC Picnic

September 8 --- LVHN/VIA Marathon
October 12 --- Women's 5K Classic

Equipment for sale

READER SUBMISSION

Spring cleaning. **All items must go.** I have prices in mind but reasonable offers will be carefully considered. All items were in use/operated unless noted. All items are in 8/9 condition .

The following are Heathkit. Most have manuals.

DX-20 CW xcvr--\$40
HG-10 VFO--\$45
SB-630 station console--\$50
SB-600 6"X9" speaker--\$25
HD-140 keyer--\$15
SG-8 rf sig gen--\$15
AO-1 audio sig gen--\$15
HN-31 antenna--\$10
IO-4550 dual trace oscilloscope--\$75
IC-4505 oscilloscope calibrator--\$50
SB-301 5 band ssb/cw rcvr--\$150
SB-401 5 band ssb/cw xmtr--\$150
SB-610 station monitor scope (2)--\$40ea
IM-2420 frequency counter (2)--\$50ea
SB-10 sideband adaptor--\$50
RX-1 Mohawk 7 band ssb/am/cw rcvr--\$170
TX-1 Apache 5 band am/cw xmtr--\$170

J-38 keys (3)--\$35ea
MFJ 492/492X memory keyer w/manual--\$10
Realistic MDA-40 35 watt PA amp--\$10
Turner Mod 99 mic w/Astatic MC-320 elem--\$50
Astatic D-104 mic MC-320 elem (2)--\$50



DX-100 6 band am/cw xmtr, not DX-100B model--\$160
HD-20 100kc xtal calibrator--\$20
PM-2 field strength meter--\$10
GC-1A Mohican gnl coverage rcvr w/batt pak--\$75
Model 336 30k volt probe, as NIB--\$25

The following are Hallicrafters:

SX-101A rcvr w/manual--\$250
SX-101 rcvr w/manual--\$250
HT-32 xmtr w/manual--\$250
R-46B spkr (2)--\$20
R-47 spkr, matches SX-101--\$30
SX-71 rcvr w/manual--\$150
S-85 rcvr w/manual--\$50

Hammerlund Hq-170A w/50 Mhz w/manual--\$300

Navy T22/ARC5 7-9 Mhz, no plastic escution, all tubes,
parts rig--\$50

RCA WV-98C Senior voltohmmist--\$30
RCA WV-87A Master voltohmmist--\$60

Ferris Mod 22A rf sig gen w/manual--\$150

Measurements Corp. rf sig gen w/manual--\$150



Please contact Jim at
KN3DZY@ptd.net for more information,
pictures, and asking prices for these
items.

VE materials from the ARRL VEC --- de Mark (AK3M)



If you are an ARRL VE, you may be interested in the mailing I received.

ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs)

Special Offer for ARRL VEs

ARRL Volunteer Examiners give so generously of their time, energy and skill. Celebrate your dedication to Amateur Radio with these popular supply items, designed specifically to honor the service of ARRL VEs like you.

- ARRL VE ID Badge Lanyard, ARRL Order No. 1342..... Only \$3.95
- ARRL VE Zippered Portfolio, ARRL Order No. 5001..... Only \$7.95
- ARRL VE Polo Shirt Black (S-4XL), ARRL Order No. 0051..... Only \$19.95
- ARRL VE Long-sleeved Oxford White (S-3XL), ARRL Order No. 0716..... Only \$29.95
- ARRL VE Pin, ARRL Order No. 0020..... Only \$3.00
- ARRL VE Patch Rectangular, ARRL Order No. 0121..... Only \$2.00
- ARRL VE Patch Round, ARRL Order No. 0013..... Only \$5.00
- ARRL VE Challenge Coin, ARRL Order No. 0711... **BONUS OFFER!**... Only \$9.95
- ARRL VE Manual, ARRL Order No. 1320..... Only \$10.00

BONUS OFFER! FREE VE Challenge Coin when you spend \$10 in ARRL VE supply items. **Coupon Code VEC.** Expires March 31, 2013. This special keepsake depicts the ARRL VEC logo on one side and the ARRL diamond against a hemisphere of the world on the other.

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO®
www.arrl.org/shop

Show off your ARRL VE support today!

Order by phone: 1-888-277-5289 or order online: www.arrl.org/shop



READER SUBMISSION

Great QSL picture
submitted by Ike (N3IK).
TNX for the submission
Ike - ed.



Announcing a New Feature to be added to the VOX

**NEW VOX
FEATURE!**

"Ask The Answer Man"

Erik (AI3D) has graciously accepted my (ed.) request to be the VOX's **Answer Man**. Here's how it works. Simply email your technical/amateur radio related question(s) to Erik at **GEISSENE@GMAIL.COM**. Erik will select a question(s) and supply his answer(s) to the editor. The question(s) and answer(s) will appear in the LVARC's VOX the following month.

Your questions to the **Answer Man** can include topics about propagation, antennas, rules and regulations or **anything** technical or related to amateur radio. *"Will the leaves on the trees effect my VHF communications?" "How long of an antenna do I need for a half wave 10m dipole?"* This will be a great feature for both new hams as well as seasoned veterans. **Send your question(s) to Erik at GEISSENE@GMAIL.COM.** *(Not all questions will be answered. The questions will be selected and answered at the discretion of Erik).*

LVARC Picnic

The LVARC annual picnic will be **Saturday July 27, 2013**. It will be held at the Upper Macungie Route 100 Park.



Win a free radio!



(Picture NOT actual representation)

LVARC members will be eligible for free tickets depending on their level of participation in LVARC activities. These activities include participation in ARES activities, Field Day etc. There will be a special drawing using those tickets in December to determine the winner of the radio. ***The only way to win is to participate in LVARC activities!***

(See page 16)



Florida Hams Prove that Ham Radio Works When Cell Phones Don't

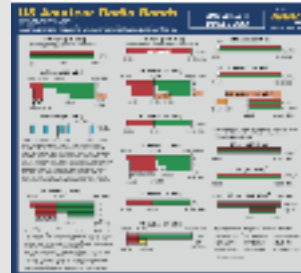
(From the ARRL website)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/florida-hams-prove-that-ham-radio-works-when-cell-phones-don-t>



Amateur Radio Band Plan - if you need to check on the band allocations for amateur radio, visit the following URL. Very nice graphic. Feel free to print and keep in your shack (ed.).

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Hambands_color.pdf



★ C-Band Equipment (satellite gear) for Sale ★

1. Uniden UST-6000 satellite receiver, (~\$80)
2. Uniden UST-730 actuator control for receiver dish (~\$20)
3. Power supply for above (~\$10)
4. Winegard 10ft diameter perforated aluminum dish with LNB receiver (~\$100)
5. Heavy duty A-frame mounting unit for satellite dish. Suitable for roof or land mounting. (~\$20)
6. Misc cables & hardware for the above.

Below are photos of the first two items. The dish is disassembled at the moment.

Prices negotiable. **I will deliver** within a reasonable distance at no cost.

For more information or if interested, contact Glenn at 610-248-9501



LVARC PARTICIPATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM - 2013



PURPOSE

The Participation Incentive Program awards club members who organize and actively participate in club events. This year's recognition is in the form of tickets for a radio raffle to be drawn in December of 2013. There is no limit to the number of tickets that can be awarded to any club member. The tickets will be awarded at each monthly general membership meeting based on request by event organizers and approval by the Board.

QUALIFYING EVENTS

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

One ticket will be awarded for participation in a public service event such as a 5K walk or run, half or full marathon, or similar. The event organizer will be awarded two tickets for their efforts and an additional ticket if they actually work during the event. Participants who man more than one venue will be eligible for additional ticket(s) depending on the level of effort. The event organizer will document their special effort in their submission. The event organizer will track the participants and submit names in time for the Secretary to alert the Board to approve and award the tickets at the next monthly meeting.

FIELD DAY

Any club member who provides two or more hours of support (setup, teardown, actual on-the-air operation) during field day will be eligible for a ticket. Members who remain on-site and help for more than twelve hours will be granted a second ticket. Any singularly noteworthy achievements will be recognized on recommendation by the Board.

PROGRAMS

Monthly Program Presenters will be granted one ticket for each program they present. Special Club Programs, such as VE Teams, Newsletter Publisher, etc., will be awarded two tickets at the end of the year by the Board. Program Chairpersons may be granted an extra ticket for their participation.

OTHER EVENTS

Members may be awarded one or more tickets for special projects such as BSA liaison, special article for the VOX, repeater repair mission, coffee supply person, etc., if it is brought to the attention of the Board and approved.

Rod thanked Paul and Chuck for a great job on creating the program. Paul will be the incentive tracker.

NOTE: The term Board above refers to the Board of Governors and may be replaced by the Ticket Award Council if requested by the Board of Governors.