



The VOX

The Official *On-Line* Newsletter of the



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI / KB3SYV
Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA



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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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NO TEST SESSION IN APRIL

Due to the school district's Easter schedule, **we will not be able to use Hanover Elementary School on Friday April 18.** As a result, there will be **no test session in April, 2014.**

The next test session will be Friday May, 16 at the Hanover elementary School in Bethlehem at 6:30 pm. **REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY.** Deadline to register is the Sunday before the test.

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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The April, 2014 LVARC meeting will be held on
April 1, 2014 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 - 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets/Mondays</u>
January	131	4
February	128	4



First ARES event of 2014 to be held this month!

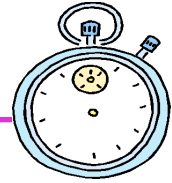


The Lehigh Valley Road Runners in cooperation with St. Luke's hospital will hold its annual half -marathon on **Sunday April 27**. Your help is needed! Contact Mark (AK3M) if you can help. (See page 8).



"April 1. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four." ~ Mark Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson, 1894

Minutes of the March 2014 LVARC Meeting de - John (AB3LZ)



Date: March 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Wolfe at 1930 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 25 members in attendance. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, Brian – KW3K, John – AB3LZ, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA, Robin – KB3GZV, Myles –KB3ZMA, Scott – KB3YOT and Gary – W3GRD.

Guests: No guests were present.

Corrections additions to the minutes: There were no corrections or additions to the February meeting minutes as printed in the VOX

Approved by: Phil – KB3HMK
Second by: Chuck – WB6CDY
Carried: Yes

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)
Starting Balance: \$ 4,474.17
Ending Balance: \$4,309.00
Approved by: Brian - KW3K
Second by: Myles – KB3ZMA
Carried: Yes

Committee Reports:

Repeater: Repeaters are working without problems with the exception of the B side of the D-Star repeater. The B side is not receiving. Jeff Kelly will look into having it repaired through the county once access to the site is available.

Club Station: No progress with the Tri Clover Fire Company due to them being busy with building damage and repair due to the snow.

Program: The program for tonight will be given by Scott – KB3YOT on do it yourself antennas. During the hands-on Scott will have kits made up that can be purchased and assembled during that night. Scott is taking orders for the kits and all proceeds from the kits will go to the club treasury.

Next months program will be Myth Buster antennas by Gary W3GRD. The April will hands on night will demonstrate antenna various types of antenna analyzers. The focus will be on how they work, how you use them and what do they tell you.

Paul – N0KIA noted that the club web site has a list of programs for the year.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Volunteer Examiners: No one was scheduled for the February test session. One person is scheduled for the March 21. There will be no test session in April because of Good Friday. There will be a walk-in test session at Field Day again this year.

Tax Exemption: We received a letter from the IRS that stated they were still processing our application and it is still pending.

Old Business:

The equipment donation from Eastern PA EMS is still stalled. The equipment can't be accessed due to snow blocking the storage location. Once we can get into the storage barn we can plan processing the equipment.

The club picnic date is July 19 at the Upper Macungie Park on Rt. 100.

The Lehigh Valley Road Runners half marathon is April 27. Mark – AK3M is still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mark.

New Business:

The date for the D&L Rail Trail has been set to November 2. It is no longer a marathon. It will be a half marathon and a half marathon power walk.

Good of the Order:

Carl – AA3IX reported that the Cherryville, NJ hamfest was Saturday March 15. Admission is \$7.00. Rod – N3XG reported the Warminster Armature Radio Club's hamfest is May 4 and opens at 7 AM.

Sick Report:

Mark N3ULR is not well and has been on dialysis. If you hear him on the radio say hello.
New member applicants:

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 1850 hrs, (EST.)
Motion by: Chuck - WB6CDY
Second by: Kenny – KC3AFW
In favor: Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted de AB3LZ, Secretary.

\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$	
Balance ending February 2014 - \$4,309.00	

This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April		1 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	2 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	3 SARL 80M QSO party	4	5 LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest MS QSO party SP DX contest
6	7 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Rod - N3XG	8	9 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 NAQCC straight key/bug sprint	10	11	12 EU Spring Sprint CW GA QSO Party
13	14 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Matt KB3UZE	15 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	16 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	17	18  Holy Land DX contest	19 Holy Land DX contest ES Open HF Championship
20 Easter 	21 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Robin KB3GZV	22	23 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	24	25	26 FL QSO Party QRP to the Field
27  LVRV/St. Luke's 1/2 Marathon	28 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Dorian KB3GZW	29	30 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	2014 		

LVARC meeting - Tuesday April 1 - 7:30 - Tri - Clover FC

NO TEST SESSION IN APRIL

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Tuesday April 1 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday April 7 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Monday April 14 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday April 15 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Friday April 18 --- NO Test Session
Monday April 21 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday April 20 --- Easter Sunday
Sunday April 27 --- LVRR / St. Luke's 1/2 marathon
Monday April 28 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

2014

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 February 21, 2014 test session.

Due to the school calendar, there will be NO TEST SESSION on April 18, 2014 because of Good Friday.

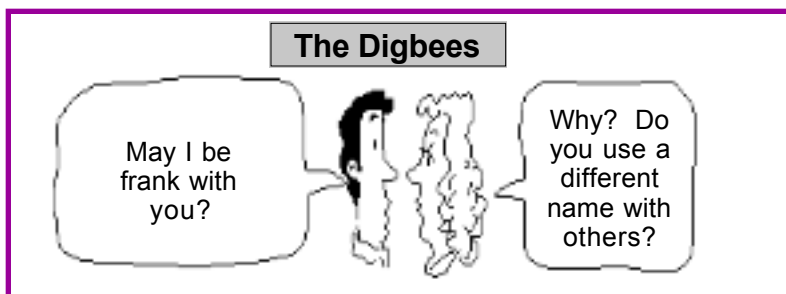


REMEMBER: The LVARC offers amateur radio testing. If you want to obtain your entry level license or if you wish to upgrade, the LVARC can help.

Test sessions are given the 3rd Friday of each month. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED!!!** 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 handle on your recliner does not qualify as an exercise machine."

2014 LVARC & ARES Events

Below, are *tentative* **LVARC / ARES** events. **Mark your calendar and volunteer to help when asked!**

April 27--- 1/2 Marathon

June 7 --- Hanover Township Spring 5K

June --- "Girl's On The Run" 5K

June 28-29 --- Field Day

July 19 --- LVARC picnic

September 7 --- LVHN / VIA Marathon

October 18 --- Women's 5K Classic

November 2 --- D&L Rail Trail 1/2 marathon

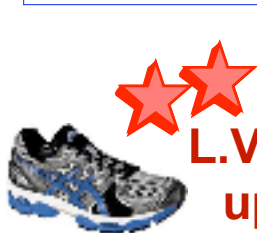
November 8 --- Hanover Township "Fall 5K"



The time interval from first sighting of the iceberg that sank the Titanic to impact was a little over 30 seconds.



April 15, 1912



L.V. Roadrunner's and St. Luke's team up for the first ARES event of 2014!



L.V. Roadrunner's and St. Luke's Hospital will hold their **1/2 marathon** on **Sunday April 27**, 2014. The LVARC ARES operators have provided the communications for this event for many years! **Fifteen operators are needed!** If you can help this year, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or call 610-865-9183.



February Snow

-- On Thursday February 13, 2014, the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas saw the arrival of a Nor'Easter. Because of the temperatures, this storm brought SNOW and not rain!!! 14 to 20 inches of the white stuff fell in the area. In addition to the many many school and business closings, LANTA bus service was canceled! Although there was no official LC EMA activation, many hams monitored both UHF and VHF. TNX to Bob (WB3W), Section Emergency coordinator, a supplementary HF net was available on 3917. As stated in an email *Bob Wiseman WB3W, has approved the use of 3917 kHz LSB as an undirected ARES resource net frequency at such times when the actual Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic Net is not in formal operation on that frequency.*

Did you listen to VHF/UHF and or HF communications during the day?

NO LANTA bus service



LVARC “Hands - On Night” & Program Schedule

Hands On Night

March 18 ---- “Do It Yourself Antennas”

April 15 --- “Analyze that Antenna”

May 20 --- “Go Kits”

Program/Meeting Night

May 6 program --- “Net Operations and Public Service Events”

In last month's VOX (March, 2014, p. 12), I referred to an amateur using a non-amateur frequency/band in a life or death situation without a penalty and I cited FCC Part 97. Following is the specific section of Part 97 which substantiates that statement (Mark - AK3M).

§97.403 Safety of life and protection of property

No provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.



Mid-Winter LVARC Dinner



The WX cooperated and the annual LVARC Mid-Winter dinner was held on Tuesday February 18, 2014. The Old Country Buffet treated us well, as always and LVARC members were able to gather and dine in the private dining room. TNX to Phil (KB3HMK) for arranging this social event every year! About 20 members attended the dinner. Having a room full of hams didn't restrict the conversation to just amateur radio. All topics were included and a good time was had by all. ***TNX Phil for organizing this event every year!***



Remember Keying ("kerchunking") the repeater will NOT make the Monday Night Net start any earlier than scheduled. Also, it is **ILLEGAL** to key the repeater and not identify. The net is NOT the time to test your radio!

VHF RFI ----- (LED replacements) - submitted by Dave (N3GRH)



The following message was forwarded by another member of the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum.

To recap, the wideband RFI centered on 145 MHz which began in mid-December was isolated to a specific house in Caldwell, NJ about 700 feet from my home. The RF level was about 20db over S-9, or nearly 1 millivolt, yes, "millivolt", at my receiver. It wiped out the entire 2 meter band as well as the lower portion of the public safety and aircraft spectrum.

While the RFI sounded like AC line buzz, looking at it on a spectrum analyzer showed a 20 MHz wide signal that swept and pulsated. PSEG (the local electric provider) was instrumental in first identifying that the RFI was wideband and close to the residence in question as I had determined from walking the area. I then used a 4 element, 2 meter yagi to positively identify the direction of the source. I considered that the problem might be channel 18 leakage from Comcast cable, but that did not prove to be the case.

I was able to talk to the home owner who was very cooperative in working with me to find the source. I first thought that it was associated with TV usage but several tests did not yield the precise problem though the Comcast cable box and Samsung large screen TV were able to be heard inside the house on my Yaesu HT in AM mode but nowhere near the level I was seeing at times at my home. It seemed that when the homeowner was not home the RFI would disappear and in that case TV's were off.

Today, another test was made where the homeowner turned off all TV's and the RFI was still present. She then started tripping breakers and the RFI completely disappeared! It was now positive that the RFI was from something in the home. Further testing revealed the source as 9 LED lamps in the kitchen that had been installed in mid-December, at the time I first noticed the beginning of the problem.

The lamps were obtained at Home Depot, and are the Eco-Smart brand, MR-16 halogen replacements, and are rated at 50w = 8 watts consumption. Obviously this is going to become a really big problem, not only for PSEG as people bite the bullet and purchase these things, but it will also become a FCC issue as well, as they clearly exceed any radiated emission spec's for consumer devices.

For now, since we know the source of the problem, I am working out with the homeowner a plan to perhaps go back to the halogen lamps. This problem needs to be escalated to Home Depot, the FCC, and anybody else that should be notified before the entire 2 meter spectrum is lost to licensed users in this country and others.

So, if you are thinking about LED replacements as was I, it might not be the best thing to do or if you do, make sure you can return them or take up some other hobby!

73, Roger, NJ2R

READER SUBMISSION



"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow." --- Proverb

Headlights AND Wipers - A change in the law recently invoked that *when your windshield wipers are on, so should your lights.*



Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Law:

4302. Periods for requiring lighted lamps.

(3) Any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to precipitation or atmospheric moisture, including rain, snow, sleet or mist.

AND



The sun is about three million miles **closer** to the earth on January 1st than it is on June 1st.



ARRL Polo Shirt Red Price: \$19.95

Designed specifically for ARRL Members, this sport polo features the ARRL diamond logo with the words **ARRL, Amateur Radio** on the front left chest.

60% polyester and 40% cotton ultraclub whisper pique. Lightweight with relaxed fit. Superior wrinkle and shrink resistant. Color: Red (unisex sizes). Sizes: Small - 4XL available.

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Polo-Shirt-Red/>

Need a form? Check the ARRL website for many printable forms.

<http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms>



Want to know upcoming radio events?
(a.k.a. Contest Calendar)

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>



"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you." --- Walt Whitman

Three shops in a row!

de Mark (AK3M)

- (1) Radio Shack, (2) a pizza shop and
(3) HRO, **all in a row** (Delaware).

Life **IS** good!



HURRAY... (a.k.a., finally)! - de Mark (AK3M)

After many many years as a ham, I completed my *personal* DXCC the weekend of the ARRL International DX Contest (March 1 & 2, 2014). What is a **personal** DXCC? I worked 100 countries but since I do not QSL, it will never be official and I will never get the DXCC certificate but I am personally happy and know it was earned honestly. Share **your** ham experiences/triumphs in the newsletter. Send to me at **AK3M@rcn.com**.



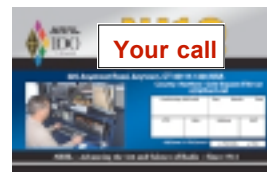
Protect **YOUR** frequencies

“Right now there is tremendous pressure for more spectrum for commercial mobile broadband services.”

<http://www.arrl.org/spectrum-defense-fund>



Order your ARRL 100th anniversary QSL's



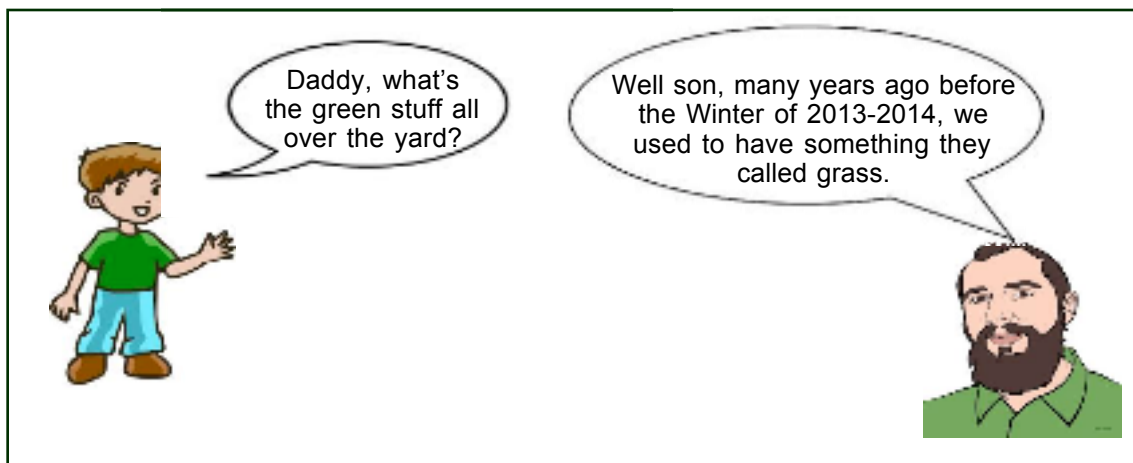
<http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Member-Centennial-QSL-Cards/>

“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.” -- Thomas Jefferson

Hanover Township

"Spring 5K" will be held on
Saturday June 7, 2014.

Volunteers are needed! Contact
Mark (AK3M) if you can help
(AK3M@rcn.com).



A YEAR Long QSO Party!



<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>



Tickets for awards in December, 2014, can be earned again this year by participating in LVARC activities.