

The VOX

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



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W301 / 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

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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LVARC TEST SESSIONS





Due to the school being unavailable, there will be no test sessions in June and July, 2014. The August test session will be moved to August 29 (the 5th Friday) for that month only.

There **WILL** be **walk-in testing** at the LVARC Field Day site for two hours on **Saturday June 28 (2-4 pm)**. The test fee is **\$15.00 EXACT CASH.** If upgrading, you MUST take a **COPY** of your **ham** license.

Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com
Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



May

The July, 2014 LVARC meeting will be held on July 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>		Number of Check-In's	Number of <u>Nets/Mondays</u>
January February March	THUTEUR RADIO	131 128 162 121	4 4 5 4

96



Do you know this famous ham? (see page 8)





WA2MKI

3 (Memorial Day)

Minutes of the June, 2014 LVARC Meeting

de - John (AB3LZ)



President Wolfe called the meeting to order at 1930 Hrs, (DST).

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

There were a total of 24 members in attendance. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Rod – N3XG, John – AB3LZ, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA, Robin – KB3GZV, and Gary – W3GRD.

Guests: Guests present were Steve Levine (KC3CXV) and Carl (KC3CXB) and Natalie Hoffmeyer

Corrections additions to the minutes: There were no corrections or additions to the May meeting minutes as printed in the VOX. Call for motion to approve the minutes as printed in the VOX.

Motion to approve by: Bruce (KB3FIH)

Second by: Don (NOVGA)

Carried: Yes

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$4,252.09 Ending Balance: \$4,430.66 Motion to approve by: Donna (KB3RFU)

Second by: Matt (N3MYM)

Carried: Yes

Committee Reports:

Repeater: The 146.94 repeater is back in proper working order. There were two months of weak operation. The D-Star gateway was down for a few days. Rodney (N3XG) investigated and found the power outlet to the gateway was dead. Rodney changed the gateway to another outlet and it is now functioning.

Club Station: No report on the club station.

Program: The program for tonight is Field Day preparation given by Rodney (N3XG). The handson meeting will further discuss Field Day planning and the needs for Field Day. Next month Gary (W3GRD) will be giving a talk on Green Radio.

Volunteer Examiners: On the May 16 test session, 6 people tested and 6 passed. There will be no test session in June and July but there will be walk in testing at Field Day on June 28 from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. The August test session is being moved to August 29. This is the fifth Friday in August. In September the test will be moved back to the third Friday, September 19.

ARES Report: The next event is the Girls on the Run event in the Lehigh Parkway. The event is Thursday June 5. Rodney (N3XG) has distributed details for the event. The Hanover Twp. 5K is being held on June 7. Mark AK3M has distributed details for that event. The rest of the ARES events are listed in the VOX. Marl (AK3M) noted that he still need volunteers for the VIA marathon held on September 6.

Tax Exemption: We have not received any response from the IRS as of this meeting date. Our application and it is still pending. Rex (KC1WE) reported that the IRS is processing applications from last August.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

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

Rodney (N3XG) announced that he has 150 raffle tickets for the joint raffle with the North Catasauqua fire department. Each member is requested to buy or sell at least 5 tickets. Tickets will be distributed and collected at the June hand-on meeting, Field Day and the July club meeting. The raffle is July 5.

A discussion was held on the address to be printed on the Club QSL cards. Brian (KB3QHA) shares a PO Box with the Club. The Club pays half of yearly fee (~\$38).

It was decided that since the cost of a new PO Box would exceed the cost of the cards we would use the address for Brian's shared PO Box. If in the future the address changes, stickers with a new address could be applied to the QSL cards.

John (AB3LZ) noted that he had a picture from the St. Luke's half marathon web site that would make a nice QSL card background. It shows a covered bridge in a wooded area. It was noted that the picture could be subject to a copy write. John will contact St. Luke's and seek permission to use the photo. A copy of the draft QSL card will appear in the VOX.

At last month's meeting it was approved to purchase a Hy-Power 80 meter OCF antenna. Brian (KW3K) informed Rodney that he had new extra Hy-Power 80 meter OCF antenna and was willing to donate the antenna to the club.

New Business: Rodney (N3XG) requested a motion to spend money for Field Day supplies. A motion to spend up to \$250 for Field Day supplies was placed for discussion.

Motion presented by: Paul (N0KIA)

Second by: Rex (KC1WE)

Carried: Yes

A motion was presented to accept the application of two new members:

Steve Levine (KC3CXV) and Carl Hoffmeyer (KC3CXB)

Motion presented by: Dave (W3AMC)

Second by: Walt (KE3SP)

Carried: Yes

Good of the Order Paul (N0KIA) announced that in addition to the 50/50 drawing there will be two additional prizes. They will be the winner's choice.

Paul also announced that he brought his computer with CHIRP installed and would be willing to help program information onto HT's. He will also have his computer at the hand-on night and field Day.

Paul reminded members that meeting parking in front of the fire house was for handicapped only. The fire company wants to keep the front of the building clear.

Mark (AK3M) noted that if a member is not getting a copy of the newsletter by email, they need to provide Mark with their email address.

Sick Report: There were no reports of sick members.

Motion to close the meeting presented by: Phil (KB3HMK)

Second by: Dave (W3AMC) In favor: Motion passed.

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2006 hrs. (DST.)

Respectfully Submitted by AB3LZ, Secretary.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ju 20	14	LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	3	MI QRP CW sprint	Venezuelan Ind. Day contest Marconi Memorial HF contest
6	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Dorian KB3GZW	8	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	10	11	IZ FISTS Summer sprint IARU World Champ.
13	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff N3MFT	LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	NAQCC straight key/bug sprint	LVARC Ter (Scasion 5:30 pm <u>NO</u> test session	CQ Worldwide VHF contest
20	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark AK3M	22	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	24	25	RSGB IOTA contest
27	ARES RACES Net 7:30 Brian KW3K	29	Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	31		

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

No test session this month (July)

LVARC Activities/Events Mark your Calendar PRINT, CLIP and POST



<u>Tuesday July 1 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)</u> Friday July 4 --- Friday July 4th holiday

Monday July 7 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94) Monday July 14 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Tuesday July 15 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)

NO test session this month

Saturday July 19 --- LVARC Picnic

Monday July 28 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

Monday July 21 --- 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.



At the May 16, 2014 test session, 6 tested and 6 passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Carl Hoffmeyer - Tech & General Walter Breiner Jr. - (KC3CEY) - General Walter Breiner III - Technician Brian Blagbrough - Technician John Shober - (KC3CJT) - General **Todd Mandell - Technician**

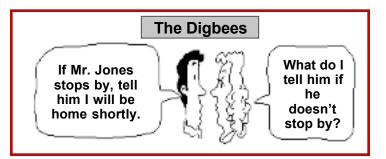


VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M), Frank (W3FTU) and Don (N0VGA)

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!







2014 LVARC & ARES Events

Below, are tentative 2014 LVARC / ARES events. *Mark your calendar and volunteer help!*

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"









CURRENT Technician class (Element 2) Pool is effective July 1, 2010 and is only valid until June 30, 2014. NEW Technician class (E lement 2) Pool released December 12, 2013 will become effective July 1, 2014 and is valid until June 30, 2018.

When studying for the Technician test, be sure to use **UPDATED** and **CURRENT** material.







Answer (from page 3)



WA2MKI Larry Ferrari

Philadelphia Musician/TV personality (organ). Posthumously inducted into the "Hall of Fame of the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia," on NOV. 16, 2000.



There will be Walk-In license testing at the LVARC Field Day site on Saturday June 28, 2014 for 2 hours (2-4 pm).

Fee: \$15.00 EXACT CASH. If upgrading, you need to take a **COPY** of your current **amateur** license and a photo ID.





WANTED SkyWarn Assistant

responsibilities include helping Brian (KW3K) now and likely assuming the coordinator position in the near future. Applicants must have a current SkyWarn **certificate(s)**. To learn more about SkyWarn, see the SkyWarn website at: http://skywarn.org/.

For the **FREE** On-Line SkyWarn course, go to:

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23

If you have a current SkyWarn certificate, please let me know along with the current date. I have started a list. --- Mark (AK3M)

LVARC 2014 Test Session Dates --- Due the





June 28 --- Walk-In testing at the LVARC field Day site (2-4 pm - see above). June --- No regular test session at Hanover School October --- October 17

July --- No regular test session at Hanover School November --- November 21

December --- December 19 **August** --- Aug. 29 (moved to 5th Friday for Aug. **ONLY**)

September --- September 19

NOTICE: As of July 1, 2014, there is a new Technician exam. When buying materials or studying, be sure you are looking at the correct/updated material! (see page 8).





"I knew a man who had little to say but his life spoke volumes"

Summer Vacation Tips - de Mark (AK3M)



Summer Tip:

Your HT can be lots of fun on a vacation. Not only can you talk to new people you don't know, you can monitor marine

traffic if going to the shore. You can also listen to the local aircraft, lifeguard, fire and police not to mention listening to broadcast bands while on the beach!



Summer Tip:

Don't forget to disconnect your antennas when going away on vacation.



300+ vs. 19

The 2014, Boston Marathon, run on April 21, had more than 300 ARES participants. We usually need at least 19 for our marathon in September. Our marathon IS a qualifying event for the New York and Boston marathons so it deserves the same level of recognition and support. If you can help on September 7, contact Mark (AK3M).

"On a beautiful New England spring day, yet under an umbrella of heightened security, more than 300 Amateur Radio volunteers provided communication support on

April 21 for the 118th running of the Boston Marathon — a 26.2-mile race from Hopkinton to Boston, Massachusetts." (ARRL).



http://www.arrl.org/news/more-than-300-amateur-radio-volunteers-support-2014-boston-marathon





2014 LVARC Field Day Information - de Rod (N3XG)

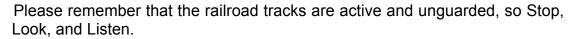
June 28 and 29, 2014

We need help with set up, and with take down as we will again be hoisting antennas high into the air, don't forget Field Day is the best time to learn to operate HF, no matter what your license class, there are many activities and coaches available to help learn new modes, or just refine some old ones. Microphone shy? Try PSK.



Directions to the Field Day site from Allentown

- (1) From route 22, take Rte. 309 North to Huckleberry Rd.
- (2) Right on Huckleberry Rd to Brickyard Rd.
- (3) Drive to the end of Brickyard Rd.



Also, observe the speed limit on Brickyard Road. The houses on that road are occupied and just experience the most traffic on Field Day. We want to be good temporary neighbors. Come out to enjoy the weekend!

What Are the Chances?



READER SUBMISSION

TICKET

de Mark (AK3M)

One afternoon in May, I was on the West bound lane of the PA Turnpike, about to get onto the NE Extension. As usual, the traffic was terrible and my lane was often stopped or moving *very* SLOWLY! My window was down as it was a beautiful Spring afternoon. I was driving my Mustang which has a vanity license plate with my call. A BMW pulled up next to me and the driver rolled down his passenger side window. I expected him to tell me I had a flat tire or something as dire when he yelled, "I used to be AK3M!" As you may remember, when I upgraded to Extra many years ago, I changed my call from WA3KIF (my call for 40 years) to AK3M. AK3M is a vanity call and would have been a "free agent," after two years but the two year rule had not yet expired. Under FCC regulations, I had to U.S. mail Ross (the relinquished owner) and ask him if I could have that call before the 2 year time period expired, and as you can guess, he agreed. That was the previous owner I met on the turnpike! Imagine not only running into the former owner of my call but also under the strange circumstances?!?!







Don't forget to send your Field Day pictures to me for inclusion in the newsletter. --- Mark (AK3M - AK3M@rcn.com)



LVARC

VE

Program



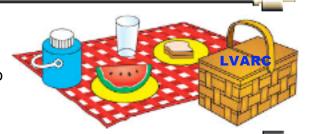
de Paul (N0KIA)

For those who missed the **UV-5R handouts** at the May meeting, they're available on the web at:

http://kc9hi.dyndns.org/uv5r/programming/UV-5R%20Menus.pdf



The LVARC picnic will be held on Saturday July 19. The location will be at Rt. 100 Park in Upper Macungie. Details to be announced on the net and/or meeting.





READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)



By the time this newsletter is published and you read it, the LVARC VE program will have tested 11 amateurs already for 2014. See page 9 for an updated schedule of 2014 test sessions.



Mobile Fire Extinguisher

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)

Several issues ago, we discussed the importance of having a fire extinguisher in your shack but have you considered keeping one in your car too? After hearing about one accident on 78 a few days ago, a passing motorist stopped and used his extinguisher on a burning truck. Consider putting an ABC extinguisher in each of your cars. It may not only be useful to you but also other drivers!





(NOKIA) for completing his CERT

training in May, 2014!



(If you are also CERT trained and wish to be recognized in the newsletter, drop me an email) - Mark (AK3M)

New Hams! Those who tested at the May 16, 2014 test session, received their calls on May 22, 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Todd Mandell - Technician - KC3CWY
Brian Blagbrough - Technician - KC3CWZ
Walter Breiner III - Technician - KC3CXA
Carl Hoffmeyer - Tech & General - KC3CXB







Ham Radio Operators Train National Guardsmen on the Communications Tool

"The military is trying to bring back the use of HF or high-frequency communications in the service rather than having sole dependence on satellite communication." See more at: http://m.emergencymgmt.com/details/Ham-Radio-Operators-Train-National-Guardsmen-258913171.html

Ham radio: Old technology gets new respect

READER SUBMISSION
de Jeff (N3MFT)



The following amateur radio news segment aired on Fox News today (May 19, 2014).

http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2014/05/19/ham-radio-old-technology-gets-new-respect/?intcmp=features>http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2014/05/19/ham-radio-old-technology-gets-new-respect/?intcmp=features



Girls On The Run



The "Girls On The Run 5K," event was held on Thursday June 5, 2014. The morning weather did not look promising but the sun came out in the afternoon and the temperature was great for running. The event was a big success as more than 730 girls and their escorts ran the 3.2 mile (5K) course. Once again, LVARC members turned out to provide communications support for the event. The 5K started at 6:30 pm and ended about 7:30 pm. The LVARC 135 repeater was used with the 94 machine as a back up. There was little traffic and no emergencies. A directed net was called at 7:05 pm and closed at 7:45 pm.

Eight LVARC operators participated with communications. A big TNX to **Rod** (N3XG) for his coordination of this event and for riding his bicycle acting as roving communications, **Paul** (N0KIA) who shadowed Liz Fones, the event coordinator, **Gary** (W3GRD), who walked the course as t the end acting as the, "sweep person," **John** (KB3VNS), **Jim** (KC3AFU), **Dave** (W3AMC), **Don** (N0VGA) and **Mark** who acted as net control. Below are some pictures of the event.



Photos courtesy of Mark (AK3M)



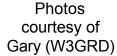






Photos courtesy of Don (N0VGA)













A big TNX to those who have volunteered for the LVARC communications sponsored 2014 ARES events so far. Without your help, communications support with served agencies would not be possible. Many years ago, at a board meeting, I asked why we [LVARC] were not providing communications for community agencies and their events. I got the job of soliciting agencies and then organizing them. I never regretted taking on that job as I know LVARC members also see the need for our services to help our communities as evidenced by their eagerness to support these events each year! If you have never used your skill as a communicator, there are several events left in the 2014 calendar year (see page 8). Volunteer your time and skill as an amateur radio communicator. On page 78 of the July, 2014 issue, "Try Something New," is recommended. Now is your chance!

READER SUBMISSION de Mark (AK3M)

Hanover Township Spring 5K



The third ARES event of 2014, was held on Saturday June 7, 2014. That was, the Hanover Township Spring 5K for the benefit of *First Strides.*" Hanover Township holds two 5K events in a year. call them the, "Spring 5K," and the "Fall 5K." The, "Fall 5K," will be held on November 8, 2014 (see p. 8).

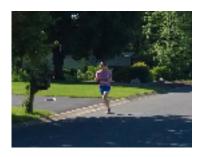
The morning of the, "Spring," 5K, made for a beautiful day for a 5K event. A directed net was called on the LVARC 146.940 repeater, at 8:45 am. Net control was stationed directly behind the township EMS ambulance but there was no emergency traffic. The event went well and the net was closed at 10:05 am. Thanks to Judy (KB3YOS) who filled a position that needed both communications and runner direction, at a moments notice. Also TNX to Don (W3DLH) for getting AAA to jump his car and he still made his position! That and a few other issues (vehicular traffic speed) will be sent to Rob, event coordinator, and hopefully the Fall 5K will run without *any* hitches. A big TNX to all amateurs who came out for this event. They include, Mark (AK3M), Don (W3DLH), Jack (KC9DQV), Frank (W3FTU), Mike (KC3BLF), Don (N0VGA), Paul, N0KIA), Bob (KE3AW), Scott (KB3YOT), Judy (KB3YOS) and our "off site" phone support position was manned by Dave (W3AMC).



Photos courtesy of Mark (AK3M)



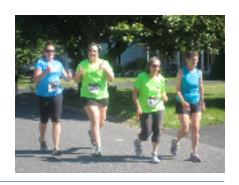




Photos courtesy of Mike (KC3BLF)



Photos courtesy of Don (N0VGA)



Thank You -- The following "Thank You" email was received from Rob (event coordinator) on June 9, 2014 after the June 7 Hanover Township Spring 5K. The reference to traffic cones was after Scott (KB3YOT) made that suggestion to direct runners in the right direction.

Hey Mark & Club members:

Thank you so much for coming out to help support our race! It is the volunteers who make our community events so successful! I appreciate all your hard work and I am sure the participants do as well!

I have noticed that CRPD [Colonial Regional Police Department] usually does take the task of traffic control on Jacksonville, however I was informed Fire Police was taking the task on Saturday morning as the Department, will only attend, if free (meaning: there must have been an emergency).

I do like the idea of coning off Sydna and Gaspar...I will definitively utilize that as an option or make it another point of command if applicable.

Thank you all again!





The next 2014 LVARC ARES event will be the **LVHN/VIA Marathon**. That will be held on Sunday September 7,
2014. At least 20 operators will be needed to fulfill the requested positions. If you can help, don't wait.

Contact Mark (AK3M) **NOW** at AK3M@rcn.com! See page 8 for a list of remaining 2014 ARES events.







No words in the English language rhyme with orange, silver or purple.

SOTA

READER SUBMISSION

de Scott (KB3YOT)

Do you like hiking? And using your radios in the field? How about combining the two into a single activity? Try Summits On The Air!

Summits On The Air or **SOTA** for short is an awards program that anyone can participate in. The premise is for operators, Activators, to hike to the top of mountain peaks and see how many people, Chasers, they can contact. Activators will need a valid license for the frequencies they are operating on. Chasers can be amateur operators and/or shortwave listeners. The contacts are submitted to the SOTAwatch database for confirmation.

The main SOTA website can be found at https://www.sota.org.uk. There you will find the various associations, rules and guidelines, and descriptions of the awards to be earned. There are also links to the SOTAwatch page, where you can find and post activation alerts and see the latest spots. On the SOTAwatch page you will find links to the database, reflector, the list of summits that qualify for activation in the various zones, photos, and more.

Check it out if you are interested and I look forward to hearing you on the air from a mountain top.





Roll Up Solar Panels

READER SUBMISSION

de Scott (KB3YOT)

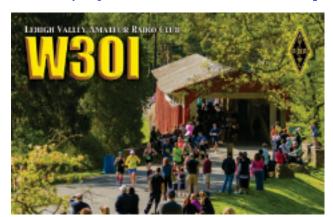
Here is a link to the manufacturer website for the rollup solar panels that I have and really like. http://www.powerfilmsolar.com/

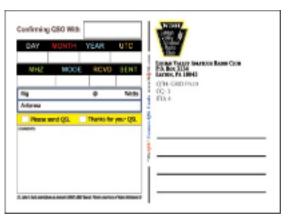
I have two of their R13 panels, RA-2 adapter, and RA-6 Daisy Chain Accessory, and a few other cables and I would definitely recommend them. They also sell foldable panels but they are not as water resistant as the rollup panels. The R13 panels are not always available as they are made from leftover materials from other runs, but they are a lot less expensive than the R14 panels. [There are many other solar panels at this URL -- ed.].



New LVARC QSL Card

There is a new QSL card on the horizon. A HUGE TNX to John (AB3LZ) for making this happen. John is responsible for the card's design and searching out the proper persons to permit use of the photograph. The picture showcases the LVARC's commitment to the local ARES program, where LVARC members provide communications support for community events. This event, happens to be the Lehigh Valley/St. Luke's Half-Marathon. *The photo for the the card are courtesy of St. Luke's and John Hofmann Sr. TNX for all your work on this project John! Well done. --- [ed].*











One More ARES Event for 2014! Cetronia Fire

Company will be holding a celebration for their 90th Anniversary Parade on **Saturday, August 23rd**. They have asked that the LVARC provide communications for this event. If you can help with this event, contact **Rex (KC1WE)** at rexmmott@yahoo.com. Additional information will be available at the July meeting. This would be the first time Cetronia and the LVARC have collaborated on such an event. Let's show them what amateur radio can do! Contact Rex and volunteer early!