



# The VOX

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



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



### Officers

*President:* **John Bartos - AB3LZ** (jab.2@rcn.com)  
*Vice President:* **Chuck Ballard - WB6CDY** (chballard@compuserve.com)  
*Secretary:* **Mike Mandell - KC3BLF** (mikemandell@hotmail.com)  
*Treasurer:* **Brian Snyder - KB3QHA** (brian@teamsnyder.net)

### Board of Governors

**Rod Wolfe (N3XG)** (n3xg.radio@gmail.com)  
**Gary Decker - W3GRD** (SCOUTIH79@YAHOO.COM)  
**Robin Gable - KB3GZV** (cardinalcreek4852@gmail.com)  
**Scott Leichssenring - KB3YOT** (scott.leichssenring@verizon.net)  
**Paul Ryan - N0KIA** (paul.f.ryan@gmail.com)

**VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M)** ---- (AK3M@rcn.com)

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### LVARC Repeaters

**146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)**  
**147.735/147.135 (DCS - 315)**  
**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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*Happy Easter* --- Sunday April 5, 2015



## LVARC TEST SESSIONS

The LVARC test sessions are held the third Friday of every month. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** no later than the Sunday before the test session.

Test sessions are held at the Hanover Elementary School in Bethlehem, PA (3890 Jacksonville Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017) beginning at 6:30 pm.



Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark  
(AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The April, 2015 LVARC meeting will be held on  
**April 7, 2015** at the Tri-Clover Fire Company at 7:30 pm.

## 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 - 2015

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets/Mondays</u>
January	132	4
February	128	4



**Remember to send:** (1) Your SkyWarn certification(s), (2) Your ICS 100 **and** ICS 700 certifications (if you haven't already), (3) any EmComm certifications you have and/or (4) Your Lehigh County RACES registration to me (Mark -- AK3M@rcn.com). I am keeping track of this information.

**The General class** (Element 3) Pool was effective July 1, 2011 and is valid until June 30, 2015. You have until the end of June 2015 to take the General test using the current question pool and study guides.

## Minutes of the March, 2015 LVARC Meeting de - Mike (KC3BLF)



### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:30 on March 17, 2015 by President Bartos.

There were a total of 19 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests.

### **Guests:** none

The following Board Members were present at the meeting: John Bartos, Brian Snyder, Paul Ryan, Rodney Wolfe, Gary Decker, Mike Mandell, Scott Leichssenring

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as corrected, with the correction of the call sign of new member Robert Magill to KC3EFD.

Moved: Ken, KC3BLE

Second: Dave, KC3BFO

Carried.

### **Treasurer's Report** (Brian-KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$5,740.54

Ending Balance: \$5,789.28

John, AB3LZ announced our 501C3 was approved, retroactive to the date of application (about 2 years ago). John asked for a motion to approve: Gary, W3GRD

Second: Karl, KC3DJY

Motion carried

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Repeater:**

The 135 repeater is back in service with the digital tone. Rod N3XG updated the ARCC with our new digital tone. This has opened an elaborate discussion with the repeater coordinators, who are being unreasonable with paperwork requirements and a laundry list of other issues with ARCC. We are going to have to go through this yet again when we get our Fusion repeater.

**Program:** Tonight is System Fusion with John AB3LZ and Dave KC3BFO. AE3T, Howard, is doing an EME presentation next month, and hands on will be a tour of the Lehigh County EOC.

### **Volunteer Examiners:**

#### **VE Report**

A last minute cancellation by the Hanover Elementary School forced the need to find another place for the February 20, 2015 test session. A meeting room at the Hanover Township Community Center was rented.

Ten tested and 9 passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Kenneth Kurtz - KC3EKA, T&G

Phil Benyo - KC3EKD, T

Brian Woolf - KC3EDB, T

Nick Mandell - KC3EKC, T

Cade Saugier - KC3EKE, T

Andy Koslap - KC3EKA, T

Taylor Shivell- KC3CKN, G

Rhett Saugier - KC3EKF, T

Andrew Houch KC3DQZ, G

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M), Don (N0VGA), Walt (KE3SP) and Mike (KC3BLF). The next test session will be on Friday March 20, 2015 at the Hanover Elementary School. Three are already scheduled to test on that date. The next session is Friday March 20, and there are 9 scheduled at this time. Brian is going to send Mark, AK3M the insurance document he needs for Bethlehem School District to use the school for testing.

**Club Station:** no report

**Old Business:** The First ARES event is the St. Luke's half marathon on Sunday April 26. The next event is Hanover Township First Strides 5K on June 6th.

**New Business:**

It came to the Boards' attention that Yaesu is offering their new Fusion repeater for \$500. It was decided to apply for this, and we were accepted. We are expecting delivery of this new repeater sometime in late April, and we will use the existing repeater for a backup. John, AB3LZ asked for approval to spend \$500.

Motion to approve expense: Rod, N3XG

Second: Scot, KB3YOT

Motion Carried.

Mark, AK3M asked about Field Day plans for this year. It will be in the same location as last year.

**Good of the Order:** Rod, N3XG, got a call from EPA EMS Council, who got a grant from the Terrorism Task Force. They recommended the Yaesu FT897, which is now discontinued. Rod told them about our club station plans, which eliminate the need for equipment for their people.

John, AB3LZ enrolled the club in an organization called Tech Soup, who are a non-profit that handle distribution of software at greatly reduced prices.

There was discussion on HF conditions and the solar flare activity.

**Sick Report:** Condolences were sent to Bruce Bobo, whose father passed away.

**New Member Applicants:** none

Motion to accept:

Second:

Carried

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 20:19

Moved: Scot, KB3YOT

Seconded: Dave, W3AMC

Carried



Minutes submitted by: Mike, KC3BLF

**\$\$\$ W3OI Finances \$\$\$**

**Balance ending February, 2015 - \$5,789.28**



# This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April</h1>			1 April Fool's Day <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div>	2	3	4 LZ Open 40m Sprint MS QSO Party SP DX Contest
			8 <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div>	9	10	11 JIDX CW Contest GA QSO Party
5  Easter	6 <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> Rod N3XG	7 <div>LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30</div>				
12 <div>Deadline to schedule test</div>	13 <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> Matthew KB3UZE	14	15 <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div>	16	17 <div>LVARC Test Session 6:30 pm</div> Hanover Elem. School	18 Holyland DX Contest ES Open HF Champ. Ontario QSO Party
19 ARRL Rookie Roundup	20 <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> Robin KB3GZV	21 <div>LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover</div>	22 <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div>	23	24	25 Helvetica Contest FL QSO Party
26  LVRRC Half Marathon	27 <div>ARES RACES Net 7:30</div> Dorian KB3GZW	28	29 <div>Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255</div>	30	<h1>2015</h1>	

**LVARC meeting - Tuesday April 7 (7:30 pm) - Tri - Clover FC**

**LVARC test session - Friday April 17 (6:30 pm) - Hanover Elem. Sch.**

## LVARC Activities/Events

### Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday April 6 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Tuesday April 7 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)  
Sunday April 12 --- Deadline to schedule for test session  
Monday April 13 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Friday April 17 --- LVARC Test Session - 6:30 pm  
Monday April 20 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
**Sunday April 26 --- LVRR Half Marathon**  
Monday April 27 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

2015

### LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)



At the February 20, 2015 test session, 10  
tested and 9 passed.

### CONGRATULATIONS to:

Kenneth Kurtz - T&G	Andy Koslap - T
Phil Benyo - T	Taylor Shivel (KC3CKN) - G
Brian Woolf - T	Rhett Saugier - T
Nick Mandell - T	Andrew Houch (KC3DQZ) - G
Cade Saugier - T	

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M),  
Don (N0VGA), Walt (KE3SP) and Mike (KC3BLF).

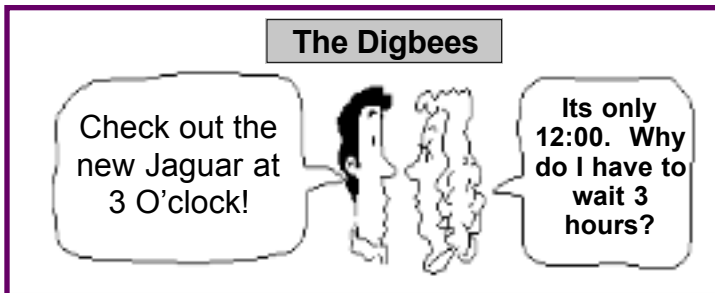
**LVARC 2015 Test Session Dates** --- Test sessions are held at  
the Hanover Elementary School (3890 Jacksonville Road ) in Bethlehem, Pa.,  
the 3rd Friday of the month at 6:30 pm. **REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY.**  
Contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com).



<b>March</b> --- March 20	<b>June</b> --- Testing at LVARC Field Day site <b>ONLY</b>
<b>April</b> --- April 17	<b>July</b> --- <b>NO TEST SESSION THIS MONTH.</b>
<b>May</b> --- May 15	<b>August</b> --- <b>TBA</b>

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](mailto: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!**





## LVARC/ARES 2015 Events



**April 26 --- LVRR/St. Luke's Half Marathon**

**June 6 --- First Strides/Hanover Township 5K**

**June date TBA --- Girls On the Run 5K**

**June 27 & 28 --- Field Day**

**July 25 --- LVARC Picnic**

**September 13 --- VIA Marathon**

**October 17 --- Women's 5K Classic**

**November --- D&L Rail Trail Half Marathon**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.**  
Mark your calendar and  
volunteer to help!

**Watch the VOX and listen to the Monday Night Net for details.**

★ ★ ★

**T**he first ARES event of 2015 will be the **LVRR/St. Luke's Half Marathon**. It will be held on **Sunday April 26**. The course runs through the city streets of Allentown. Communication support is essential. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.** If you have a few hours to help on that Sunday, contact Mark (AK3M) and volunteer your time and talent. Even if you are new to ARES and have never volunteered before, your help is welcome! Details will be announced at a meeting and on the Monday Night Net.

★ ★ ★





## ARRL Rookie Roundup - phone

The ARRL Rookie Roundup will be held on Sunday April 19, 2015. The ARRL website describes this event as: *Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August, and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while "Old Timers" make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event! Rookies.* If you are new to contesting, this is the contest for you!



<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>



**The current General question pool will expire on June 30, 2015.**



**READER SUBMISSION**

de Mark (AK3M)

The second ARES event for 2015 will be the **First Strides/Hanover Township 5K**. The date for this event is **Saturday June 6, 2015**. The event coordinator has contacted me and is again requesting communications support for this year. This is a short event and a wonderful opportunity for those new to ARES. If you can offer a few hours to help with this event, contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com).



**The LVARC's 147.135 repeater now requires Digital Coded Squelch. The frequency is 315.**



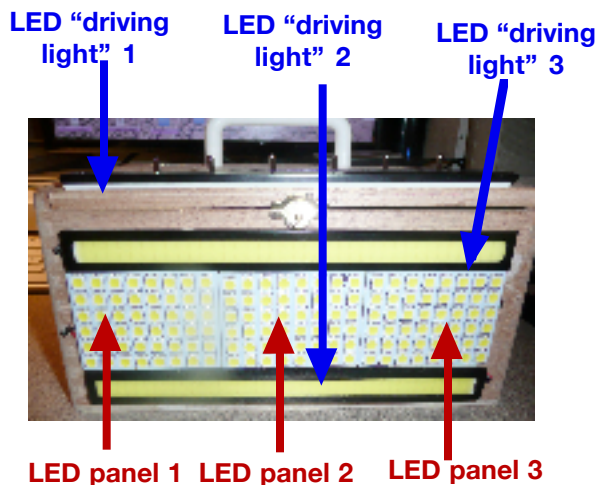
## 12 Volt Emergency Light Box

READER SUBMISSION

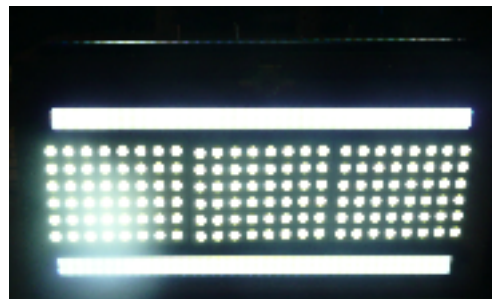
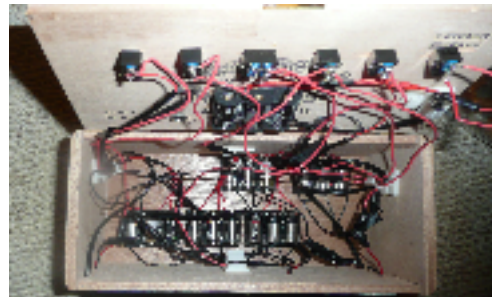
de Mark (AK3M)

Last month, in the March, 2015 VOX, I showed a picture of my \$1.00 wooden cigar box that I said I was going to use to make a 12v emergency light box. I had some 12v LED panels and 12v battery holders left over from previous projects, so I decided to make this box using my purchase of the cigar box from *Cigars International*. I said I would post a picture of this box when it was completed.

The box consists of three 12v LED exterior automotive “driving lights” and three 12v LED panels, each panel consisting of 48 LED’s. Each light panel is independent and can be turned on/off separately. Toggle switches that control the panel’s function, are located on the top of the box. Each panel is also powered by 3-A23 12v batteries connected in parallel. The total voltage to each panel is still 12 volts but will last 3 times as long as a single battery. Replacing the batteries are easy as the battery holders are mounted inside the box.



12V emergency light box with all 6 light panels on. It is so bright, it obscured the photo (right).



***A great portable lighting system for any power outage (all in a cigar box)!***



**June Already?** No, but according to an email from the ARRL (2/12/15), the **2015 Field Day packet is now on line**. To see this information, go to the ARRL website.

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>





From the ARRL store just in time for  
Spring/Summer LVARC ARES events!



### ARES T-Shirt Navy

Navy t-shirt silk screened with the **ARES** logo on front left chest and **Radio Communications** on back.

Item No. 1331-S - \$12.95



### ARES Polo Shirt Navy

Navy polo shirt embroidered with the **Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)** logo on front left chest.

Item No. 0006-S - \$21.95

## The LVARC's 501c3 Has Been Approved!



**YIPPEE!**



Finally, the LVARC received approval on their application for 501c3 tax exempt status. A **HUGE TNX** to all who worked on this project. It only took almost 2 years and the approval was granted in August, 2014 but the club only learned about it this month (February, 2015).



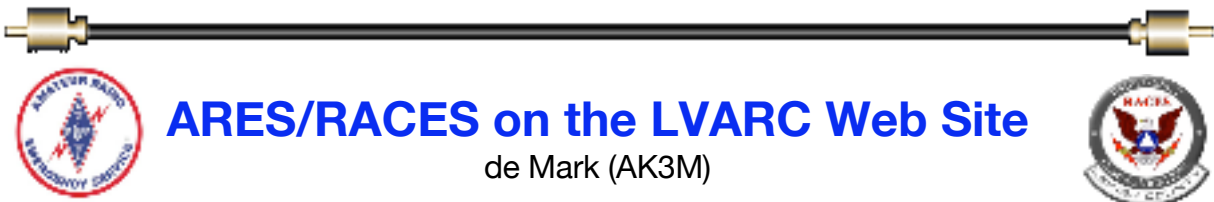
The American Legion Magazine ran a nice story on ham radio and their Legion ham radio club in the March issue. Here is a link to the article (my scanned version): <http://1drv.ms/1AXTgVr>

**READER SUBMISSION**


de  
Mike (KC3BLF)

## The LVARC Displays Test Information On TV!

The LVARC's licensing testing program information was submitted to RCN for airing on their *Valley Connection* notifications. **It must be effective as we had a record number testing on February 20 , 2015 and more expected!**




In 2009, the LVARC created an **ARES/RACES reference manual** specific to the LVARC. This document is available from the club's web site in a pdf format. It can be downloaded to your computer and read at your convenience.



### Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club

[http://www.w3oi.org/W3OI\\_ARES\\_RACES.pdf](http://www.w3oi.org/W3OI_ARES_RACES.pdf)

- Info Page -



Monday ARES/RACES/LVARC net at 7:30 PM local on the 146.94/146.94 (71.9 Hz) Repeater View the club's <a href="#">REPEATER GUIDELINES</a> (Text-only version)	
CLUB INFO	ARES/RACES INFO
• <a href="#">Member list &amp; pictures</a> (Join/leave <a href="#">online</a> or <a href="#">by mail</a> )	• ARES Net Control <a href="#">date register</a> and current <a href="#">call-up list</a> .
• General Meeting <a href="#">Dates</a> and recent <a href="#">Newsletters</a>	• The RACES registration <a href="#">form</a> .
• Directions to the Tri-Clover FRC Meeting Site ( <a href="#">map</a> )	• W3OI & EPA Dstar <a href="#">info</a>
• T-Shirts & More with Club Logo! Go to <a href="#">CafePress</a> and select your goodies...	• FEMA ACS Member <a href="#">Application</a> [details in the May '11 VOX]
•	• <b>LVARC ARES/RACES Manual - A PDF File (~32 MB)</b>

***"I don't mind going back to daylight saving time. With inflation, the hour will be the only thing I've saved all year."*** --- Victor Borge



## LVARC Members and Guests Enjoy Dinner!

### READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)

The LVARC held its annual "Mid-Winter" dinner at the Old Country Buffet on February 17, 2015. About 35 LVARC members and guests attended. **TNX to Phil (KB3HMK) for again arranging this event!** As usual, Phil arranged for us to have the private room in the back for our members. This made for easy and enjoyable conversation. Below, are pictures of the dinner.



LVARC 2015's  
Mid-Winter  
dinner at the Old  
Country Buffet.



February 17, 2015

Photos courtesy  
Mark (AK3M)



## New Hams In the Lehigh Valley

Those who tested at the February 20, 2015 test session, received their calls on February 26, 2015. **CONGRATULATIONS** to:

Kenneth Kurtz - KC3EJZ  
Andy Koslap - KC3EKA  
Brian Woolf - KC3EKB  
Nick Mandell - KC3EKC

Phil Benyo - KC3EKD  
Cade Saugier - KC3EKE  
Rhett Saugier - KC3EKF



*Welcome them to the hobby when you hear them on the air!*

## America's PrepareAthon! in Action

Twice a year, on April 30 and September 30, the America's PrepareAthon! campaign promotes national days of action, National PrepareAthon! Days, to bring attention to our progress toward creating a more resilient nation. The April 30 **National PrepareAthon! Day** may still be more than two months away, but communities are kicking off their local campaigns now.



**Source:** The FEMA website:  
[fema@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:fema@service.govdelivery.com)



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## 10 Ways to Participate in America's PrepareAthon!

Now that you've learned more about America's PrepareAthon! it's your turn to take action. For those who might think disaster preparedness is expensive, time consuming, or hard to do - think again! Here are 10 simple ways for you to participate in America's PrepareAthon! in 2015:

1. Sign up for local [alerts and warnings](#), download apps, and/or check access for [wireless emergency alerts](#);
2. Develop and test emergency [communications plans](#);
3. Assemble or update [emergency supplies](#);
4. Learn about local hazards and conduct a drill to practice emergency response actions;
5. Participate in a preparedness discussion, training, or class;
6. [Collect and safeguard critical documents](#);
7. Document property and obtain appropriate insurance for relevant hazards;
8. Make property improvements to reduce potential injury and property damage (mitigation);
9. Hold a scenario-based continuity of operations tabletop exercise for your organization; or
10. Plan with neighbors to help each other and share resources.

Remember to register your activities on the [America's PrepareAthon! website](#), which now features a more streamlined look and registration process.



**READER SUBMISSION**

de Mike (KC3BLF)



**No more paper licenses** in the mail automatically. You can still get one if you ask for it. **The important thing for the test, appears to be to include an email address** --- then you get an "official copy." You can however, print a reference copy for yourself. (see page 15).

## Print Your License - de Mark (AK3M)

On page 14, Mike (KC3BLF), reports that FCC **paper licenses will no longer be issued**. You CAN however, get a printed/hard copy of your license but you must print it yourself.

With information being shared electronically, this is understandable and not surprising but **how does one go about printing his license?**

TNX to Charlie (KC5EZZ) [http://www.w5qx.org/download\\_license.html](http://www.w5qx.org/download_license.html) who provides the answer. Use the following if you want to print your **Reference Copy** FCC issued ham license.

1. Go to <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>
2. Search for your call sign.
3. Click on your call sign
4. Click on the ADMIN tab
5. Click on "Authorization -- Licensee"
6. Your reference copy license will open in a PDF file for printing or saving.



## Link to Lehigh County RACES

**READER SUBMISSION**

de Mark (AK3M)

Please be advised that the application I use to create the VOX does not allow for text [html](#) links to connect to their source. You must **COPY** the URLs printed in the VOX and **PASTE** them into your browser.

The URL/ link to Lehigh County RACES printed in the March 2015 VOX, can be achieved by:

1. Opening your browser
2. Typing **Lehigh County E MA**
3. Selecting **Lehigh County Emergency Management**
4. Going to the **FORMS** tab