



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



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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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LVARC TEST SESSIONS

The LVARC test sessions are held the third Friday of every month (except June and July). **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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.





The August, 2015 LVARC meeting will be held on **August 4**, 2015 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 (DCS 315)
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 |
| March | | 153 | | 5 |
| April | | 132 | | 4 |
| May | | 94 | | 3 (Memorial Day) |
| June | | 179 | | 5 |

LVARC Picnic

The LVARC will be held on July 25. The location will be at Rt. 100 Park in Upper Macungie.



The General class question pool (Element 3) expired on June 30, 2015. When ordering and studying for the General test, be sure you have the current material.

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



Opening:

The regular meeting of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:32PM by Vice President Ballard.

There were a total of 22 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 1 guest.

Guests:: John KC3OK

The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Chuck Ballard, Brian Snyder, Mike Mandell, Paul Ryan, Rod Wolfe.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Moved: Steve, K2OPA

Second: Dave, KC3BFO

Carried

Treasurer's Report (Brian-KB3QHA)

Treasurer's report was read.

Motion to approve: Myles, KB3ZMA

Second: Rick, KC3EXO

Motion carried

Committee Reports

Repeater:

The 94 repeater still sounds good. Volume is still up since adjusted. The 135 repeater has no voice controller. The DStar stack has been stable. Chuck asked about some of the technical operation of the Fusion repeater, and we decided to test the automatic switching of digital to analog.

Program:

Tonight's program is foxhunting, and there will be a field activity with foxhunting in 2 weeks.

Volunteer Examiners:

There was no test at Hanover School in June. There were 3 tested and 3 passed at Field Day. Angelo Torres, Richard Weddigen and John Rutkecwicz passed Technician.

An August VE session is to be determined at this time.

ARES:

Volunteers are needed for 4 more ARES events in 2015. Next is the VIA Marathon on September 13 [Contact Mark (AK3M) if you can help].

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Communications:

There has not been a meeting of the committee due to schedule conflicts. We will try to have one in the next few weeks.

Club Station:

No report on club station. John, AB3LZ wanted to see if the beer cooler has been cleared out yet, and if not, John will write the Chief a letter.

Old Business:

Field Day went very well. Rod recapped the general events of Field Day, with the last minute substitute of the van with a big tent from Eastern PA EMS. The logs are still being compiled, but it appears we did better than some other years as far as contacts go. Club picnic July 25 Don, N0VGA volunteered to be the coordinator. Members are encouraged to let us know if they intend to come to the picnic. It will again be at the Upper Macungie Park on Rt 100 in the upper pavilion. Members and guests are welcome. Bring something to share (side, desert). Paul will send an email "survey monkey" to all members asking who is coming.

New Business:

Steve, K2OPA said DLARC has been approached by Boscov's in the Palmer Park Mall to teach a ham radio class twice a week for 4 weeks. DLARC apparently does not know if they can support this. Chuck asked Steve to talk to Mark, AK3M to see if any of the VE people might be interested. Chuck asked that anyone who is interested in RACES should have recently resubmitted the RACES form for Lehigh County.

Good of the Order:

HF activity on 20 and 40 meters was good because there were a couple contests going on. The topic of SkyWarn coordinator came up again. Anyone interested in being SkyWarn coordinator should contact Brian, KW3K.

Rod has been in contact with the District 2 Emergency Coordinator and Rod will be the lead contact in Lehigh County while Bruce, KB3FIH is temporarily under the weather.

Sick Report:

Carl, K3ATX and Bruce, KB3FIH are both doing well and both attended Field Day.

New Member Applicants:

James Minekime, KC3FBK, and John McCarty KC3OK

Moved: Rod, N3XG

Second: Steve, K2OPA

Motion carried

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14PM

Moved: Carl, AA3IX

Seconded: Myles, KB3ZMA

Carried

Minutes submitted by: Mike, KC3BLF

This Month In Ham Radio

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|----------|--------|---|
| <h1>August</h1> | | | | | | 1 10-10 Int. Summer SSB contest European HF champ. |
| 2 10-10 Int. Summer SSB contest European HF champ. | 3 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Paul N0KIA | 4 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30 | 5 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 6 | 7 | 8 MD-DC QSO party Kansas QSO party |
| 9 Kansas QSO party | 10 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark AK3M | 11 | 12 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 13 | 14 | 15 Hawaii QSO party N. America QSO party |
| 16 Hawaii QSO party N. America QSO party | 17 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Rod N3XG | 18 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover | 19 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 20 | 21 | 22 Ohio QSO party |
| 23 Ohio QSO party | 24 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Matt KB3UZE | 25 | 26 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 | 27 | 28 | 29 YO DX HF contest |
| 30 YO DX HF contest | 31 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark AK3M |  <h1 style="margin-left: 20px;">2015</h1> | | | | |

LVARC meeting - Tuesday August 4 (7:30 pm) - Tri - Clover FC

LVARC test session - TBA

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday August 3 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday August 4 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday August 10 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Monday August 17 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday August 18 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 pm - Tri Clover FC)
Monday August 24 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Monday August 31 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

2015

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 June 27 Field Day Walk-In test session, three tested and three passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Angelo Torres - Technician
Richard Weddigen - Technician
John Rutkiewicz - Technician

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M),
Don (N0VGA and Walt (N3XG).

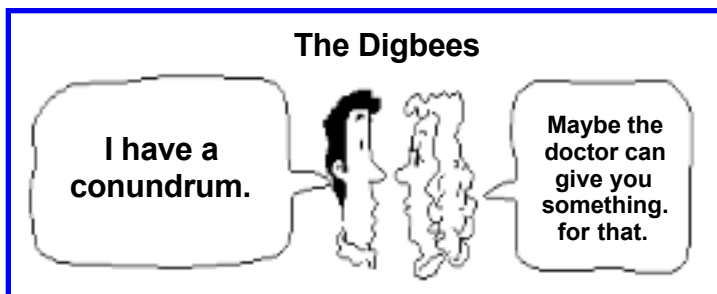
LVARC 2015 Test Session Dates --- Test sessions are held at the Hanover Elementary School (3890 Jacksonville Road) in Bethlehem, Pa., the **3rd Friday of the month at 6:30 pm. REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY.** Contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com.

July --- **NO** test session this month
August --- TBA
September --- Sept. 18

October --- Oct. 16
November --- Nov. 20
December --- Dec. 18



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!**



LVARC/ARES 2015 Events



July 25 --- LVARC Picnic
September 13 --- VIA Marathon
September 27 --- Harvest 5K
October 17 --- Women's 5K Classic
November 1 --- D&L Rail Trail Half Marathon



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

Watch the VOX, attend a meeting and listen to the Monday Night Net for details.



**The General question
 pool expired on June 30, 2015.**



**When ordering study material for the General exam, be
 sure you are getting and studying the updated material.**



The LVARC's new Yaesu Fusion repeater, 147.135 (DCS 315) is working great. The analog/digital repeater has been up and running for about a month and is working fine! After keying up the repeater. **WAIT A SECOND OR TWO BEFORE TALKING.** The repeater needs to know what mode (analog or digital) is being used.

Please be sure the LVARC's 2 meter **SIMPLEX** frequency is programmed in your HT's and mobile radios.

It may be used during a RACES or ARES event or if the 94 or 135 repeater fails.

That frequency is **147.420 MHz** (NO offset and NO PL).

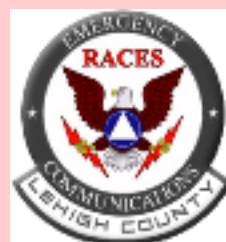
L.C. RACES Registration

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)

In order to update LC RACES membership and keep accurate records, if you have registered with Lehigh County RACES, please let Rod know.

Remember, you need BOTH ICS 100 AND ICS 700 to register with RACES. Print and complete the form on page 11 and U.S. mail to Rod (N3XG).



The ARRL Extra Class License Manual Now Available on Kindle -- from the ARRL

The ARRL has just released a digital edition of The ARRL Extra Class License Manual in Kindle format, in addition to the hard-copy manual. The Kindle edition from Amazon completes the suite of ARRL license manuals available in e-book format.

The LVARC Has FOUR More ARES/Community Events Scheduled for 2015. These include:

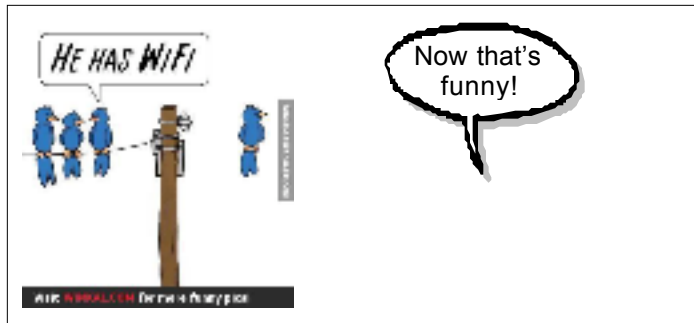


- (1) VIA / LVHN Marathon (Sept. 13)
- (2) Harvest 5K (Sept. 27)
- (3) Women's 5K Classic (Oct. 17)
- (4) D&L Rail Trail Half-Marathon (Nov. 1)



Mark your calendar and volunteer to help with any or all of the remaining events. To volunteer, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com.





The July VOX was published before all of the Hanover Township/First Strides 5K pictures were into the editor. Bob (WB3JSZ) offers his pictures from that event which was held on June 6, 2015. Below, are his submissions from that event.



Photos, courtesy of
Bob (WB3JSZ)

HELP NEEDED! About 20 operators are needed to provide communications support for the VIA Marathon. **The date of this event is Sunday September 13.** Don't wait until the last minute. If you can help, contact Mark now!





Lehigh County RACES Application Form



Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell #: _____

County: _____ License Class: _____

| | 160 | 80 | 40 | 20 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 220 | 440 |
|--------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|-----|-----|
| CW | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FM | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SSB | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mobile | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ICS course(s): ☐ ICS 100 ☐ ICS 700 (Check all that apply)

Other ICS and EmComm courses

~~Can your home operate without commercial power?~~ ☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, what bands? _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mail to:
Rodney J Wolfe, Jr
1134 4th St
Catasauqua, PA 18032



The LVARC/ARES/RACES Monday Night Net Welcomes New Net Control Operator!



TNX to Scott (KB3YOT) for volunteering as a new net control operator for the Monday Night Net! Scott's credentials make him an excellent candidate for this position. Scott holds an extra class license, has been a net control operator for an ARES event is a consistent volunteer for LVARC ARES events, is an ARRL certified VE, is an LVARC board member and has presented several times at LVARC meetings as well as the, "Hands On," meetings.

The Monday night net is proud to have Scott aboard as a net control operator! Welcome him when you hear him in his new position.



READER SUBMISSION de Dave (KC3BFO)



Reminder: The Mid Atlantic D-Star Net is held on every non holiday Monday at 8 PM Eastern time on D-Plus Reflector 20-A (There are a number of repeaters linked to this reflector including the W3OI B and C modules).

Also, there is a "Yaesu System Fusion Tech Net" held every Saturday night, in the CQ America Room, at 8 PM Eastern time.

For those without Wires- X access, the net is available via Echolink by connecting to node #8126 WA8KIM-R

Open to any properly licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Please drop in and say hello!

In addition to his Echolink stream, WA8KIM also has a really great website that includes the Wires-X weekly net archives. His site may be found by directing your web browser to <http://www.wa8kim.com>

Come join us in the world of System Fusion / Wires X.

Musings from Field Day 2015 with the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club

READER SUBMISSION

de Rod (N3XG)

If you stopped and asked anyone for a one-word description of Field Day 2015, you might expect everyone to say “wet”. Wet indeed! The rain that was scheduled to start Saturday morning around 11 am, decided to assist us with set up and came early, very early, around 7am. The rain came and never seemed to leave. It did come with varying degrees of intensity, along with 60 mph wind gusts and some prevailing winds that seemed to find even the most hidden dry spots.

Wet may come to everyone’s mind as a good description of Field Day, and I could not argue. I would also like to offer some other words and descriptions:

Cooperation – Our members worked together to solve problems during set up, operations, and take down that would otherwise have been difficult to overcome.

Support – Our field day was supported by our members, and many other seen and unseen partners and family members. We were greatly supported by family members that made sure we had warm, tasty food and snacks. Support came from outside agencies like South Whitehall Township for being our host year after year and providing an outstanding Field Day location.

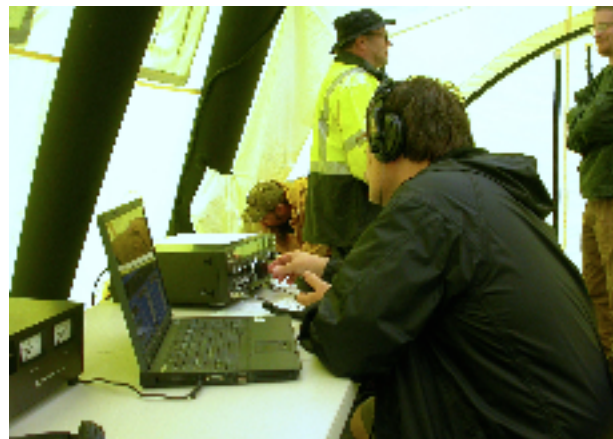
Partnership – Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency has always taken a huge role in our event and Director Scott Lindenmuth paid a person visit to see our club in action and received a personal demonstration on wireless data transmission of ICS forms using FL Digi. Lehigh County has always been an active partner in our Field Day events, but this year an unfortunate stumbling block actually enabled us to form additional partnerships. Early on Thursday before Field Day, the coordinator received news that the Lehigh County Command Post, which has been used for Field Day for over 5 years, was out of service and mechanically could not be utilized. Through additional contacts we were offered the use of an inflatable tent from Eastern PA EMS Council. The tent served as both an operating position but as shelter, warmth, and a place to get dry and enjoy fellowship, and another partnership was strengthened.

Perseverance – Despite poor weather, the antennas were setup and taken down under controlled conditions. The VE Team was able to test new candidates, and the radios had operators stationed at the ready. Even those that departed for dryer and warmer conditions at home returned for more!

Achievement – We set our goals as a club to operate Field Day. We achieved our goals through the cooperation of members, the support of families and allied agencies, the partnerships with our served organizations, and by persevering through lots of liquid sunshine. There were also those that came to their very first Field Day and achieved their first license.

When you reflect on Field Day 2015, think not of the weather, but think of those that viewed our efforts without bias, and be proud of our collective accomplishment through adversity. After all, isn’t Field Day supposed to test our mettle?





A Must Read Field Day Review!

READER SUBMISSION

de Rod (N3XG)



<http://hamhijinks.com/horrible-field-day-reported-local-ham-radio-operator/>

Straight Line Winds or Tornado?

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)

On Tuesday June 30, the area saw a very strong storm about 2:45 pm. Both Lehigh and Northampton Counties experienced terrific rain and winds. There were even reports of “rotation” in clouds, suggesting a tornado may have gone through the area.



Northampton County may have been the site of one of these “rotating winds.” N.C. scanner reports indicated that not only trees were broken and uprooted but also telephone poles had fallen blocking roadways and even landing on cars.

The picture shows my grandson’s 2-level swing set overturned despite its rather large size.

The following day, the NWS determined that there was NOT a tornado in the Lehigh Valley that day. Not sure you will convince those who had property damage and power outages!



“Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.” --- Rabindranath Tagore

New Hams!

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)

Those who tested at the June 27th Field Day site, received their calls on July 7, 2015. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Angelo Torres who is now **KC3FFB**, Richard Weddigen received the call **KC3FEZ** and John Rutkiewicz's call is **KC3FFA**.

WELCOME to the hobby!!!



**Mickey is NOT
A Ham!**

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)



We all know and love Mickey Mouse. Mickey and his friends have appealed to all of us as children and adults. The Disney company has provided us with many hours of entertainment from their parks as well as their movies/cartoons and their cruise line.

In the beginning of July, 2015, we took our children and grandson on the Disney Dream. It was a wonderful trip as well as a marvelous ship. One of the ports of call on the trip was Freeport, in the Bahamas (C6). "*Out of the country?*" "*An opportunity to use ham radio out of the U.S.?*" I called a travel agent and asked if I could use my VX-7 on the cruise. The law states that with permission of the master (captain), that is allowed. Well, Disney, has its own idea about amateurs being maritime mobile. **The result of my call revealed that no ham radios are allowed on the Disney ships.** That doesn't mean you cannot **take** your VHF radio but it **DOES** mean you cannot **operate** while on board the ship. VHF amateur radio frequencies are just below the marine frequencies on the RF spectrum so I can understand their caution but it also may be that they do not understand ham radio and it may be easier just to have a, "No ham radio," policy. No matter what their reason, if you travel aboard one of Disney's four cruise ships, leave you HT at home, or use it as a scanner only unless you get off the ship at a port.