



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

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

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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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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



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

Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The February, 2015 LVARC meeting will be held on **February 3, 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 - 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets/Mondays</u>
January	131	4
February	128	4
March	162	5
April	121	4
May	96	3 (Memorial Day)
June	157	5
July	134	4
August	120	4
September	169	5
October	134	4
November	136	4
December	159	5
2014 total	1,647	(137.25 average/ month)

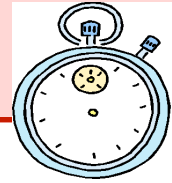


The General class (Element 3) Pool is effective July 1, 2011 and is valid until June 30, 2015. **You have until the end of June to take the General test using the current question pool and study guides.**

Quiz: Without looking it up, what significance is **KB3SYV**?
(Answer on page 9)



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



The meeting was called to order by President Bartos 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 23 members in attendance, with no guests or visitors. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: John – AB3LZ, Chuck-WB6CDY, Gary-W3GRD, Brian – KB3QHA, Paul – N0KIA, Rod – N3XG, Mike-KC3BLF

Guests: None

Corrections additions to the minutes:

There were no corrections nor additions to the December 2014 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as printed in the VOX:

Approved by: Chuck – WB6CDY
Second by: John- KB3VNS
Carried (Yes)

Treasurer's Report (Brian – KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$4950.50
Ending Balance: \$5572.67

Brian reported income of \$350.00 for the tower sale, donations of \$153.00 were included in the new balance. There is nothing new on the status of the 501C3 status as of today. Brian reminded all he is accepting dues for 2015. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report-

Approved by: Carl- AA3IX
Second by: Gary- W3GRD
Carried: (Yes)

Committee Reports:

Repeater: Rod (N3XG) reported continued low audio on the 94 repeater, and that the 135 repeater is a work-in-progress to try to remove the hum. Paul (N0KIA) is troubleshooting the problem currently. The DStar repeaters lost the gateway computer system, which Rod has replacements for and hopes to install shortly. The repeaters operate fine in local mode.

Program: Don (N0VGA) will present a program in February on solar cells/solar energy. The January program is on DStar and the January hands-on will continue with DStar using "D-Rats" software, hotspots, etc.

Volunteer Examiners: During the 2014 calendar year, the LVARC VE team held 7 test sessions, tested 34 people and earned \$245.00 for the LVARC.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Since its start in 2003, the LVARC VE team has held 120 test sessions, tested a total of 375 people and earned a total of \$2,129.00. These numbers do not reflect the new members acquired from having the test sessions.

There are 5 persons already scheduled to test on January 16th. The test in December was canceled due to medical emergency.

ARES Report: There were 9 events in 2014, and 2015 appears to be on track for a similar number.

Old Business:

Myles (KB3ZMA) was formally presented the Pres Schuler award by Rod (N3XG).

New Business:

Scott Altemose-KC3DYU applied for membership (and paid dues). Motion to accept as associate member: Chuck-WB6CDY, Seconded- Rod (N3XG). Motion carried.

John (AB3LZ) requested a motion to donate \$200 to the Tri Clover FD for use of their facilities. This represents an increase over past amounts because we have been given space for a club station.

A motion to donate \$200 to Tri Clover FD was made by: Chuck – WB6CDY.

Second by: Myles- KB3ZMA

Carried: (Yes)

John (AB3LZ) listed 2015 committees as follows:

Repeater- Rod (N3XG), Paul (N0KIA), Chuck (WB6CDY) and John (AB3LZ)

Club Station- Robin (KB3GZV), Hadrian (KB3VDB), and Mike (KC3BLF)

Rod (N3XG) requested a motion to reserve space at the Upper Macungie Park for the annual club summer picnic during the end of July. Primary date is July 25. A motion to make a reservation at the Upper Macungie Park and pay not more than \$300 was made by: Rod – N3XG

Second by: Doug-N3WGH

Carried: (Yes)

Good of the Order:

Chuck-WB6CDY brought up that for 2015, TurboTax software removed some features for tax returns from the “Deluxe” edition and moved them to the “Premiere” edition without notice.

John-AB3LZ suggested we add a regular topic on HF activity. General discussion followed on good 10 meter openings just after dark every night for a short period.

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2002hrs, (EST.)

Motion by: Chuck (WB6CDY)

Second by: Don (N0VGA)

In favor: Yes

Respectfully Submitted
KC3BLF, Secretary.

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

Balance ending December, 2014 - \$5,572.67



This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Rod - N3XG Groundhog Day	3 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	4 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	5	6	7 VT QSO party MN QSO party DE QSO party 10-10Winter contest SSB
8 North Amer. Sprint CW	9 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Matthew KB3UZE	10	11 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	12	13	14 Dutch PACC contest NH QSO party FISTS Winter sprint
15 Deadline to schedule test	16 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Robin KB3GZV	17 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	18 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	19	20 LVARC Test Session 6:30 pm Hanover Elem. Sch. 6:30 pm	21 ARRL Inter. DX contest CW REF contest SSB
22	23 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Dorian KB3GZW	24	25 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	26	27	28 UBA DX contest CW N. Amer. QSO party RTTY CQ 160m contest - SSB

LVARC meeting - Tuesday February 3 (7:30 pm) - Tri - Clover FC

LVARC test session - Friday February 20 (6:30 pm) - Hanover Elem. Sch.

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday February 2 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday February 3 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday February 9 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Sunday February 15 --- Deadline to schedule for test session
Monday February 16 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Friday February 20 --- LVARC Test Session - 6:30 pm
Monday February 23 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

2015

LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

The December 19, 2014 test session was canceled.



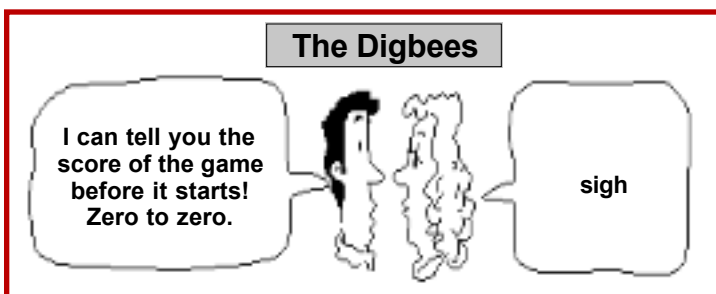
LVARC 2015 Test Session Dates --- Test sessions are held at the Hanover Elementary School (3890 Jacksonville Road) in Bethlehem, Pa., the 3rd Friday of the month at 6:30 pm. **REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY.** Contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com.

January --- January 16
February --- February 20
March --- March 20

April --- April 17
May --- May 15
June --- Testing at Field Day site **ONLY**



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!**



**Ground Hog Day
February 2**

**Valentine's Day
February 14**

SKYWARN COORDINATOR WANTED



Brian (KW3K), the current Skywarn coordinator for Lehigh and Northampton counties would like to vacate his position. He is searching for a replacement. If you have SkyWarn certification and would like to be the SkyWarn coordinator for Lehigh and Northampton counties, contact Brian (KW3K) at KW3K@kw3k.com. SkyWarn certification can be earned on line at:

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

2015 LVARC Dues Are Now Due

LVARC dues for 2015 are now being accepted. Dues have not changed in many years. 2015 dues are **\$17.00 for an individual** or **\$20.00** for a household/family. Dues can be paid to Brian (KB3QHA) (1) at a meeting, (2) via PayPal or (3) via U.S. mail. If paying by mail, send to:



**Brian Snyder
P.O. Box 3134
Easton, PA 18043**



*"Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late." - Don Halley*





2014 LVARC **ARES** & **VE** In Review

de Mark (AK3M)



During the 2014 year, the LVARC continued to provide communications support for community events (ARES) and administer ham radio tests!

ARES Program: The LVARC provided communications for **9** community (ARES) events in 2014!

VE Program: The LVARC VE team held **7** test sessions (including Field Day) in 2014, tested a total of **34** people and collected **\$245.00**.

A review of the LVARC VE program shows that since the program started in 2003, **119** test sessions were held, **375** people were tested and a total of **\$2,129.00** was earned for the LVARC VE program.

Quiz (from page 3) Without looking it up, what significance is **KB3SYV**? **It is the LVARC call using Rod's (N3XG) U.S. mailing address.**



Radio Shack --- In response to my January, 2015 VOX (p. 13) submission about Radio Shack not having the RF connectors I wanted, Larry (NR3R) offers the following:

A looming farewell--though not good riddance--to Radio Shack --- (From the Los Angeles Times - Dec. 1, 2014)



"Several generations of home electronics hobbyists, ham radio enthusiasts and computer nerds spent their growth-spurt years haunting their local Radio Shack stores. They can't be happy about the company's long slide toward irrelevance and its looming disappearance as a feature of the retail landscape."

To see the full article, go to:

<http://touch.latimes.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-82142460/>

READER SUBMISSION

de Larry (NR3R)

On the road with Digital Mobile Radio. (DMR/Mototrbo)

READER SUBMISSION

de Joe (WF2O)

For some time I have had the pleasure of working with Chris N3RPV on an APRS station at Big Rock, where some of the club repeaters are located. Chris offered room up there for WF2O-10, an APRS I-Gate that has been serving Eastern PA. Coverage is outstanding, and we average more than 25000 i-gated packets every month. While we were up at Big Rock, Chris showed me his DMR (Mototrbo) repeater, and explained some of the capabilities of the mode. The problem was the need to buy surplus used radios to use the system. Ebay was the place to look, but even used radios were quite expensive. Then Chris told me about Connect Systems and the inexpensive CS-700 UHF DMR radio, so I decided to take the plunge into Digital Mobil Radio.

I purchased two of the CS-700 units, the second for my son Dan, KB3YOR, and with Chris's help we programmed them for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and simplex. Programming the radios requires an inexpensive cable, free software, a unique serial number assigned to the ham who owns the radio, and what's called a 'code plug', that is, a configuration file that is loaded into the radio. Dan and I registered our calls with the DMR coordinating authority and got our serial numbers in a few hours. The serial numbers are entered into the 'code plug', and are transmitted every time the PTT is pressed. (This tends to discourage malicious interference.) That unique number is visible on the display of the CS-700 receiving radios, which can also display the call sign of the transmitting radio if the call sign is associated with the serial number in the 'code plug' of the receiving radio. The 'code plug' contains information about operational zones, call signs, talk groups, and repeaters available in a zone. As I understand it, 'zones' are geographical areas. Repeater can have more than one 'Talk group'. Talk groups help select whom you wish to talk with, such as 'local', 'regional', 'North America' or 'World Wide'. No frequency information is visible on the display, nor can frequencies be entered directly thru the keypad. (The CS-700 also operates in analog mode, but analog repeaters must be programmed into the 'code plug')

Area coverage seems to closely match typical analog HT coverage. We found audio quality to be good, but marginal digital signals are described as 'going R2D2' or 'pixilated'. This is an attempt to describe the weird noise that poorly decoded digital voice makes. Reviews of the CS-700 are generally favorable. I found Connect Systems customer service to be outstanding. Jerry Wanger, the owner of Connect Systems provides the radios to Hams at his cost. I had a minor display issue with my radio, and when I told Jerry about it, he shipped me a replacement that day and asked me to make sure I returned the defective unit with the return label he provided. Amplifiers for analog radios will not work with DMR radios. Special amps from the surplus market have been seen on Ebay, for very reasonable amounts. These amps have solid state T/R relays.

Soon after getting our radios I had a trip up to Montreal. Chris provided a code plug for my radio with Montreal repeaters added to it. I drove north up thru Watertown NY, and crossed into Canada at Thousand Islands, then drove East to Montreal. I was 33 kilometers west of Montreal when I turned the CS-700 on, (with a rubber duck antenna) and gave a call to KB3YOR on a North American call group. Dan answered immediately, which shocked me so much I was almost speechless. We were able to talk to each other the entire time I was in Montreal using that one repeater. Coverage with the rubber duck was 'full quieting' to about 20 kilometers south east of Montreal.

Last month I had a job in Waukegan Ill., and with a 'code plug' modified for the Chicago area, took the radio out there. Once again I was able to connect with friends in PA while I was close to Chicago. Coverage dropped off as I drove north from O'Hare Airport.

I am impressed with the ease of making these long distance connections on DMR. I have very little experience with D-Star, so I can't make a comparison. DMR coverage is still spotty, but it seems new repeaters are coming on line every week.

There is a learning curve with new technology, but I found the process very rewarding when I was able to talk to my son and friends so easily. DMR combined with APRS technology allows my family to watch my travels and occasionally have a chat with awesome voice quality. My position can usually be found by searching for WF2O-9 on <aprs.fi> .

My thanks to Chris N3RPV for providing the repeater, and his unfailing help with technical issues, and with the APRS i-gate. --- Joe, WF2O

DX Engineering takes over Bencher

de Larry (NR3R)



Tallmadge, OH (PRWEB) December 06,2014

READER SUBMISSION

For years, Amateur Radio operators have relied on Bencher Antennas and Butternut Antennas for both HF contesting and DXing. Now, the Skyhawk and Skylark antennas, as well as every Butternut antenna model, will be manufactured and sold exclusively by DX Engineering. DX Engineering also carries all the service, repair, and replacement parts required to keep these antennas in good operating condition.

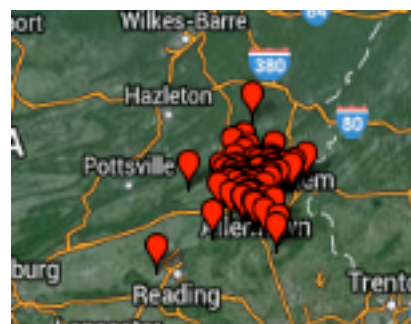
Read more: <http://www.virtual-strategy.com/2014/12/06/dx-engineering-acquires-bencher-skyhawk-and-skylark-antennas-plus-buttanut-antennas#ixzz3LQaGrIVx>



READER SUBMISSION

de Mike (KC3BLF)

LVARC Members Map! Mike (KC3BLF), entered all the LVARC member's postal addresses into **GPS Visualizer**. The map to the right, shows the result of where members live. After getting the address file from Mike, insert the file (.gpx) when asked to *choose a file*.



Contact Mike (KC3BLF) at mikemandell@hotmail.com and he will email you the file. Then go to

<http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/> and *choose the file*. **OR**

Mike has made an html version and you simply need to go to:

<file:///Users/markmiller/Desktop/20141210060121-33086-map.html> to see the map.

Lot's of work Mike but with great results! -- ed.



READER SUBMISSION

de Larry (NR3R)

Bob Heil to Receive Honorary Doctorate from University of Missouri St. Louis

<http://www.heilsound.com/pro/blog/bob-heil-to-receive-honorary-doctorate-from-university-of-missouri/>



READER SUBMISSION

Need to glue something? (*This to That*) de Larry (NR3R)



We all need to glue something at some time. This website (*This to That*) will ask you what kind of substances you want to glue together and then recommends the right kind of glue to use.

<http://m.wfmz.com/shulas-steakhouse-moving-from-saucon-valley-to-allentown/30146300>



The 2014 LVARC Holiday Party was held

on the “Hands On,” night (December 16) instead of the regular meeting night this year. The new schedule allowed for more time for food, awards presentations and general camaraderie.

Following the food and fellowship, was the presentation of awards. It was a special and moving night as Rod (N3XG) stepped down as President of the LVARC after many many successful years! Rod was presented with a beautiful plaque honoring his service to the LVARC. Rod’s farewell address included a complementary comment about each member who was present. Very nice job Rod! Rod’s service to the club will continue as he has a position on the Board of Governors for one year. ***TNX for your service to the club Rod!***

The LVARC will be in good hands because as of January, 2015, John Bartos (AB3LZ) will take over as president.

Awards included ham radio shirts, HT’s, UHF/VHF radios and more. The club did an excellent job of awarding members for their service to the club.

The ***Pres Schuler Award*** for outstanding service to the club was awarded to **Myles Bodish (KB3ZMA)**!

(see pictures on page 13)



Food (left)
(photo courtesy John (AB3LZ))



Food (right)
(photo courtesy John (AB3LZ))



And more food (left)
(photo courtesy John (AB3LZ))

**Robin (KB3GZV) and Rod (N3XG)
at the awards table (right)**
(photo courtesy John (AB3LZ))





AWARDS

Brian (KW3K) presents a plaque to Rod (N3XG) for his service to the LVARC! (left)
(photo courtesy John (AB3LZ))



Myles Bodish (KB3ZMA) is the 2014 Pres Schuler award recipient ! (right)
(photo courtesy John (AB3LZ))



The 2014 LVARC members - 45 years later

(photo courtesy John (AB3LZ))



TENTATIVE LVARC/ARES 2015 Events



April --- LVRR Half Marathon

June --- Hanover Township 5K --- "Girls On the Run" 5K

September --- VIA Marathon

October --- Women's 5K Classic

November --- D&L Rail Trail Half Marathon
Hanover Township 5K


*Mark your
calendar and
volunteer to help!*

Watch the VOX and listen to the Monday Night Net for specific dates.


ARRL EPA Section Nets

READER SUBMISSION

de Mike (KC3BLF)



ARRL EPA Section Nets
www.epa-arrl.org



EPA Emergency Phone & Traffic Net (EPAEPTN)

- 3917kHz, 6:00pm daily

EPA Echolink Traffic Net AA3RG (FN10tm)

- 146.640- PL 82.5, 8:00pm Thursday
- Echolink node AA3RG-R

Pennsylvania Traffic Net

- 3585kHz, 7:00pm and 10:00pm daily

NTSD 3RN MBO/WL2K RMS W3JY (FN20fa)

- Pactor center (kHz) 3591.9; 7100.4; 10140.9; 14095.9
- VHF Packet: 145.010

The days are getting longer and Spring will arrive on March 20! The LVARC will again provide communications support for many community events. **Your help will be needed.** New hams to ARES are encouraged to help! Details will be published in the VOX and announced on the Monday night net.



The *LVARC Mid-Winter dinner* will be held in February, 2015. Listen to the Monday Night Net or information at the meeting for further details.

