



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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Treasurer: **Brian Snyder - KB3QHA** (brian@teamsnyder.net)



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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 July, 2015 LVARC meeting will be held on **July 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 (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

Month

Number of Check-In's

Number of Nets/Mondays

January
February
March
April
May



132
128
153
132
94



4
4
5
4
3 (Memorial Day)

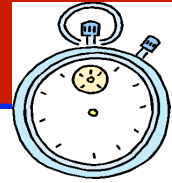


GOOD NEWS: The LVARC continues to grow!

Monday Night Net check-In numbers are up, membership is increasing, ARES activities continue to be well staffed by LVARC operators, our treasury comfortably supports club activities, those wanting to test remains steady and more! Visit the website, come to a meeting and/or help with an activity. **Get involved! with ham radio and the LVARC!**

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 (June 30) to take the General test using the current question pool and study guides.

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



Opening:

The regular meeting of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30PM on June 2 by President Bartos .

There were a total of 25 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, Mike Mandell, Paul Ryan, Gary Decker, Rod Wolfe, Scott Leichssenring

Approval of Minutes

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

Moved: Rod, N3XG

Second: Rex, KC1WE

Motion carried

Treasurer's Report (Brian-KB3QHA)

Treasurer's report was read.

Motion to approve: Don, N0VGA

Second: Rick, KC3EXO

Motion carried

Committee Reports

Repeater:

The DStar repeater is now open for users to link and unlink. Rod asked us to relink to 20A when done. He spent a long time with Service Electric on the phone issue. Paul found the Fusion repeater will not work with his controller, but it does not need one. The cat 300 controller should work. We may install it without a controller. Fusion will initially be set up in auto/auto mode. John gave a Fusion update. There are 399 Fusion repeaters listed in RepeaterBook.

Program:

Field Day is tonight's program. July presentation is fox hunting.

Volunteer Examiners:

On May 22, 2015, six tested and four passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Richard Pearce (KC3EXO) - General

Andy Koslap (KC3EKA) - General

Christopher Hagan - Technician

James Minekime - Technician

There will be walk-in testing from 2 to 4 on Saturday at the Field Day site.

ARES:

On Saturday May 9, 2015, three LVARC operators helped the Carbon ARC with communications support for the Blue Mountain Health System's 5K in Palmerton. TNX to LVARC members, Don (N0VGA), Mark (AK3M) and Rex (KC1WE) for their assistance!

The second LVARC ARES event of 2015 will be the Hanover Township/First Strides 5K. It will be held on Saturday June 6, 2015. It is already well staffed and Don (N0VGA) will be Net Control for that event.

John mentioned that most of our emergency events with Lehigh County have actually been ARES. John has blank RACES forms for all interested to fill out, even if already done. The current list is apparently missing.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Communications: No report

Club Station:

John talked to Mike from the fire company who was going to organize the room cleanout, which has not happened yet.

Old Business:

Rod may need a check for Mr. John (not sure we are getting it free this year or not). This may be about 100.00, plus another 100.00 for misc. supplies for Field Day.

Motion to approve 225.00 for field day.

Moved: Rex, KC1WE

Second: Doug, N3WGH

Motion carried

John mentioned we need someone to take charge of the club picnic. This person really just brings some common supplies which will be paid for by the club. Picnic is July 25. This opportunity remains available. Rod has raffle tickets. They are 5.00 each and we have 500 tickets

New Business:

There were a few new policies from the Board of Governors. Bereavement policy was read by John (see page 16).

John requested a vote to approve the spending of money under this policy as the case may arise.

Moved: Rod, N3XG

Second: Paul, N0KIA

Motion carried

Participation ticket policy was also formalized by the Board. John asked for a vote to authorize the club purchase of a prize.

Moved: Scott, KB3YOT

Second: Gary, W3GRD

Motion carried

Good of the Order:

Paul went over 50-50 prizes that are available.

John mentioned proper reporting procedures on our nets. The term "portable" is commonly misused (and not necessary). Just stating your call sign is sufficient.

Scott will be running a simplex net in about 3 weeks on a Monday night, probably a 2 meter net.

This will be an officially sanctioned club net.

John reported on the HF bands. 10 has been dead. Some talk on successful antennas including OCF80.

Sick Report: Carl Hoffmeyer (W3ATX) is home and looking forward to Field Day. Bruce Bobo (KB3FIH) appears to be improving.

New Member Applicants: No new applicants.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at [8:30PM]. --- Moved: Scott, KB3YOT

Seconded: Matthew, KB3UZE ---- Carried

Minutes submitted by: Mike, KC3BLF

This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 July 2015			1 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255 RAC Canada Day contest	2	3	4 Marconi Memorial HF contest  July 4
5 Venezuelan Ind. Day contest DARC 10-m Digital contest	6 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Dorian KB3GZW	7 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	8 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	9	10	11 FISTS Summer Sprint
12 IARU HF World Champ.	13 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff N3MFT	14	15 RSGB 80m SSB Champ. Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	16	17 LVARC Test Session 6:30 pm NO test session in July	18 CQ Worldwide VHF contest
19	20 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark AK3M	21 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover	22 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	23	24	25  LVARC picnic
26	27 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Brian KW3K	28	29 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	30	31	

LVARC meeting - Tuesday June 2 (7:30 pm) - Tri - Clover FC

LVARC test session - NO TEST SESSION THIS MONTH (July 2015)

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



Monday July 6 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday July 7 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)
Monday July 13 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Monday July 20 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)
Tuesday July 21 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 pm - Tri Clover FC)
Monday July 27 --- 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)



The May 15, 2015 test session was postponed to the following Friday.

At the May 22, 2015 test session,
6 tested and 4 passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Richard Pearce (KC3EXO) - General
Andy Koslap (KC3EKA) - General
Christopher Hagan - Technician
James Minekime - Technician

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.



June --- Testing at LVARC Field Day site **ONLY** September --- Sept. 18

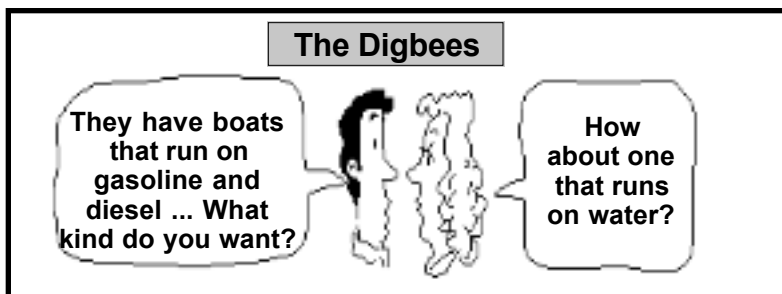
July --- **NO** test session this month

October --- Oct. 16

August --- TBA

November --- Nov. 20

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



June 27 & 28 --- Field Day

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! To volunteer,
contact Mark (AK3M)

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

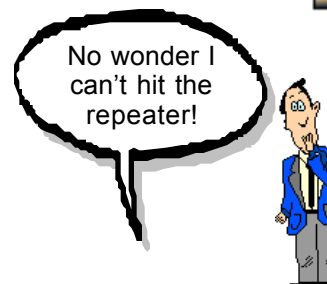


If you have moved and changed your address, don't forget to update your information with the FCC. You can use an **NCVEC 605** form found at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ncvec605-3.pdf>

Download, print this form and U.S. mail to the **ARRL VEC**, **NOT** the FCC.



In the Durango desert, in Mexico, there's a creepy spot called the "**Zone of Silence**." You can't pick up clear TV or radio signals. Locals say fireballs sometimes appear in the sky.



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

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

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



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



**Happy 239th
Birthday America!**



5K

On Saturday May 9, 2015, three LVARC operators helped the Carbon ARC with communications support for the **Blue Mountain Health System's 5K** in Palmerton. TNX to LVARC members, Don (N0VGA), Mark (AK3M) and Rex (KC1WE) for their assistance!

What two letter group means, "**and**" in CW?

- a. at
- b. de
- c. an
- d. es



READER SUBMISSION

(Answer on page 10)

de Mark (AK3M)



There will be **Walk-In License Testing** available at the LVARC Field Day site on **Saturday June 27** from **2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. If upgrading, please take (1) a **COPY** of your **ham** license, (2) **\$15.00 EXACT CASH** and (3) **you will also need to know your SS# or FRN.**



Directions to the LVARC 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.

Please remember that the railroad tracks are active and unguarded, so Stop, Look, and Listen.

What two letter group means “**and**” in CW?

Answer: **(d) --- “es”**

(see page 9)



ANSWER

The LVARC's 147.135 repeater now requires DCS 315

US FLAG FACT

The United States Flag is the third oldest of the National Standards of the world; older than the Union Jack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.

<http://www.usacitylink.com/usa/history-of-the-flag/>




Its hurricane/tropical storm season. When needed, the **Hurricane Watch Net** operates on 14.325 during the day and 7.268 at night.

<http://www.hwn.org/>





Vacation Tip:

Your HT can be lots of fun on a vacation. Not only can you talk to new people, 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 lounging on the beach!



Vacation Tip:

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



Amateur Radio Nets Crucial Link in Maritime Rescues

Amateur Radio played a crucial role in two recent at-sea rescues. On April 8, sailors Randy (VA3ORT) and Dawn (VA3PBT) Ortiz of Ontario, Canada, ran into heavy seas that led them to abandon their 42-foot sailing yacht *Nirvana Now* in a remote portion of the South Pacific while en route to the Marquesas. The Ortizes were able to summon help via the Pacific Seafarer's Net on **14.300 MHz**, and the North Carolina-based Continuum, skippered by Bob Jankowski, KJ4ZFP, and his wife Mona, was able to come to their rescue, some 1200 miles from the nearest landfall. (Source - the ARRL website).



<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-nets-crucial-link-in-maritime-rescues>



LC RACES --- If you have **BOTH ICS-100 AND ICS-700** and want to register with Lehigh County RACES, print the registration form on page 17 and mail to Rod (N3XG).



Tips to Make Communicating During a Disaster Easier

(From a FEMA email)

- (1) Identify a contact such as a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify that they are safe;
- (2) Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins (for a pay phone), or prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact;
- (3) Teach family members how to use text messaging. Text messages can often get around network disruptions when phone calls might not go through; and
- (4) Subscribe to local emergency alert services. Sign up through your local Office of Emergency Management.



Handie Talkie Headset (HTH) from Heil. -- \$28.00

READER SUBMISSION

de Larry (NR3R)

http://www.gigaparts.com/Product-Lines/Headsets_3/Heil-Handi-Talkie-HeadsetYaesu.html?gclid=Cj0KEQjw1duqBRDPILKsuJCUiuABEiQAxgHwJ2vN80xvqx31ruso9vllrpy45MIUULeRqGZcnNcHejAaAoiC8P8HAQ



READER SUBMISSION

de Larry (NR3R)

For those who have a **Yaesu FT817/ND** and want to improve the receive audio, this little inexpensive speaker mod replacement works great. Mouser AS05008MR4R



<http://www.mouser.com/ProductDetail/PUI-Audio/AS05008MR-4-R/?qs=%2fha2pyFadu9j9OBcEH34mLLUuksO8PFjEa7Z43A4N80ooBOq6Kozvw%3d%3d>



“Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.” --- Sam Keen



READER SUBMISSION de Mark (AK3M)



On June 6, 2015, **nine** LVARC ARES operators turned out to provide communications support for the ***First Strides 5K***, held in **Hanover Township (Northampton County)**. This marks the **second LVARC ARES event of 2015**.



Due to a prior engagement, I was unable to be in attendance for this event. ***Don (N0VGA) stepped up and did an excellent job as the Net Control operator in my absence despite some last minute event day complications.***

The 146.94 repeater was used as the primary repeater and a directed net was opened at 0848 and closed at 1002,

There was no emergency traffic during the event.

TNX to the following LVARC members who volunteered their time and talents for this event. They included, **Don (N0VGA), Kenny (KC3BLE), Mike (KC3BLF), Igor (KC3ASC), Frank (W3FTU), Don (W3DLH), Rex (KC1WE), Bob (WB3JSZ) and Jack (KC9DQV).**



photos, courtesy of Mike (KB3BLF)

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 17 and U.S. mail to Rod (N3XG).**



Those who tested at the May 22, 2105 test session, received their calls on Monday June 1, 2015 .



Congratulations to new hams **Christopher Hagan** who received the call **KD2IUH (N.J.)** and **James Minekime** who is now **KC3FBK** .



The LVARC Has **FOUR** More ARES/Community Events Scheduled for 2015.

They include:



- (1) VIA / LVHN Marathon (Sept. 13)
- (2) Harvest 5K (Sept. 27) -- **New event**
- (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.



"Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail."

All are welcome to attend the LVARC Field Day on June 27 and 28.

Directions to the LVARC Field Day site from Allentown

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



Please remember that the railroad tracks are active and unguarded, so Stop, Look, and Listen.

LVARC Picnic



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



READER SUBMISSION

de Phil (KB3HMK)

Cloud Cards ---- Cloud Cards are a collection of cards with pictures of weather related incidents. These cards are helpful

when identifying severe weather situations. There are 11 cards that describe the appearances of 10 cloud types and details about their related weather patterns

They are available at Dick's Sporting Goods locally or on line at <http://www.ustbrands.com/product/cloud-cards/> . The cost is about \$3.99.

"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." --- **Stephen Hawking**

Two New LVARC Policies

READER SUBMISSION

de John (AB3LZ)

Bereavement Condolence Policy

For the death of an active member, active member's spouse or active member's child the club will donate \$50 toward a donation to an organization of the family's choice or purchase a flower arrangement with a value of \$50 to be displayed at a calling hour or funeral. For the death of an inactive/past member or member's mother, father, brother or sister a condolence card will be sent to the member's family or the member. This policy can be temporarily augmented by a majority vote of the Board of Governors.

This policy is not intended to prevent or deter an individual member or a group of members from collecting funds for additional contributions or flowers. This policy allows for additional funds from an individual member or a group of members to be added to the club contribution. This policy has been approved by the Board of Governors of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Participation Ticket Drawing Policy

The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club will conduct a random awards drawing at the end of each calendar year at the December Club Christmas celebration meeting. Awards will consist of amateur radio gear purchased by and donated to the club. Tickets for the drawing will be awarded to club members for voluntary participation in club service events and for significant time contributions to club support activities. The following is a list of tickets earned for various activities:

- * Participation is an ARES event (i.e. race support staff): ----- 1 ticket per event
- * Acting as an event coordinator and organizer: ----- 2 tickets per event
- * Responding to a county emergency communication event --- 1 ticket per event
- * Acting as net control at the county EOC during and event: --- 2 tickets per event
- * Participating in a club work party: ----- 1 ticket per event
- * Active committee chair person (i.e. field day, club picnic, club station, etc.): --- 2 tickets per committee
- * Active member of a club committee: ----- 1 ticket per committee
- * Conducting a Club meeting presentation (meeting and hands-on night presentations are both eligible): ----- 1 ticket per presentation
- * Active participation as Net Control during a Monday Night Net: ----- 1 ticket per calendar year qtr.
- * Acting as Net Control for a club sponsored Simplex or Digital net: -- 1 ticket per net
- * Participation in Field Day Setup and Take Down: ----- 1 ticket per SU or TD
- * Making 10 or more Field Day contacts: ----- 1 ticket

Determination of active committees for the year will be made by the Board of Governors. Determination of active committee members for the year will be made by the committee chair persons.

Acceptance of donated items to the drawing is at the discretion of the Board of Governors. This policy has been approved by the Board of Governors of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club. This policy may be augmented or canceled by majority vote of the Board of Governors.



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 Gets New Repeater



The LVARC's 147.135 repeater has been replaced with a Yaesu System Fusion Repeater. The repeater is in the Auto/Auto mode. It will automatically receive and transmit in the FM analog mode as it always has. The DCS code of 315 is still required of FM analog. The repeater will automatically receive and transmit in the C4FM digital modes also. The CAT controller at this time is not in service at. A new interface cable is being fabricated. The repeater will only identify with morse code in the analog FM mode at this time.

The audio quality in FM analog is excellent. The digital modes also sound great. When keying up this repeater, please wait about two seconds before speaking. This allows the repeater sufficient time to switch to the appropriate mode. We hope you enjoy this new repeater.

73!!!

John Bartos (AB3LZ)



READER SUBMISSION

de John (AB3LZ)



Moving Forward ---- The LVARC continues to move forward. A new analog/digital repeater, continued member support for ARES events, a great Field Day site, continued attendance at VE test sessions, great talents at the administrative level, a "Hands On Night," meeting each month, increased membership, and much more!



You can help the LVARC continue to grow by offering your time and skill for an upcoming ARES event, help out at Field Day, send a submission to the VOX, present a program at a meeting, simply attend a meeting and becoming involved!