



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)

Webmaster- Paul Ryan (N0KIA) ----- (paul.f.ryan@gmail.com)

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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DST starts on March 8
 (turn clocks *ahead* 1 hour)
Spring arrives on March 20



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 March, 2015 LVARC meeting will be held on
March 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 - 2015

Month

Number of
Check-In's

Number of
Nets/Mondays

January



132



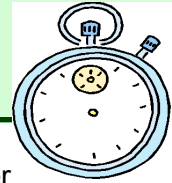
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Remember to send: (1) Your SkyWarn certification(s), (2) Your ICS 100 and ICS 700 certifications (if you haven't already), (3) any EmComm certifications you have and/or (4) Your Lehigh County RACES registration to me (Mark -- AK3M@rcn.com). I am keeping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

The General class (Element 3) Pool 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.

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



The regular meeting of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:33PM on Feb 3 by President Bartos .

There were a total of 24 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: John AB3LZ, Paul N0KIA, Rod N3XG, Mike KC3BLF, Scott KB3YOT, Robin KB3GZV (partial)

Approval of Minutes

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

Moved:N3XG Rod

Second:KB3ZMA

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Brian-KB3QHA)

Starting Balance: \$5,670.57

Ending Balance: \$5,740.54

Motion to approve: Don N0VGA

Second: Scot KB3YOT

Motion carried

Committee Reports

Repeater: Rod N3XG reported the Dstar repeater is back operational on the gateway. The 135 repeater is down to a single hum, which can be eliminated by going to digital tone squelch. We agreed to switch to digital and will announce to our club and W3OK when this goes live.

Discussion that over the past few weeks there has been a lot of kerchunking on the 94 repeater. John, AB3LZ went over repeater guidelines briefly and asked that anyone hearing anything inappropriate contact a board member.

Program: Program tonight is SOTA (Summits on the Air). Next month we will have a talk on EME (Moon Bounce). We have not heard back from Bob Famiglio for a proposed meeting on antenna siting issues.

Club Station: Robin reported he has not heard from the Fire Company member who is supposed to provide access to the building Robin has done a survey of the exterior of the building, Dorian is going to do electrical work, Hadrian will do the computer work. John (AB3LZ) said we are looking at an outline and time frame. Robin has given Rod (N3XG) a list of equipment we have.

Communication: new committee was formed, and members were asked to make any suggestions on the website or newsletter. Chuck WB6CDY, Scott KB3YOT, Mark AK3M and Paul N0KIA are on the committee.

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

(Minutes cont. from page 4)

Volunteer Examiners:

On January 16, 2015, 6 tested and 5 passed. They received their calls on Friday January 23, 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- (1) Richie Hartley -- Technician -- KC3EEZ
- (2) David Egolf -- Technician -- KC3EFA
- (3) Daniel Kisling -- Technician -- KC3EFB
- (4) Ron Kosman -- General -- KC3EFC
- (5) Robert Magill -- General -- KC3EFD

The next test session is scheduled for Friday February 20, 2015. Six are scheduled to test on that test session.

Old Business: Rex KC1WE is going to call the IRS again to see where our tax exempt status is. Rod N3XG reported the pavilion has been reserved for July 25 for the picnic.

New Business: Robert Magill, KC3AFD has applied for membership.

Motion to accept: Scot, KB3YOT

Second: Dave W3AMC

Motion carried.

The annual winter dinner is February 17 at the Olde Country Buffet at 6:30.

Our first 2015 ARES event is Sunday April 26th, and we are looking for volunteers.

Myles KB3ZMA asked for people to volunteer to handle simplex nets after the regular Monday club net.

Good of the Order: HF report--John AB3LZ thought it seemed quiet. Dave W3AMC thought 17 meter has been open to Europe.

Sick Report: no report

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at [8:11PM].

Moved: Scott KB3YOT

Seconded: Ken KC3BLE

Motion Carried

Minutes submitted by: Mike,

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

Balance ending February, 2015 - \$5,740.54



This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark AK3M	3 LVARC Meeting Tri-Clover 7:30	4 Dist. 2 RACES Net - 7:30 147.255	5	6	7 ARRL Inter. DX contest
8 DST begins. Turn clocks AHEAD 1 hr. DARC 10m digital contest	9 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Jeff N3MFT	10	11	12	13	14 AGCW QRP contest Idaho QSO party
15 Deadline to schedule test	16 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Brian KW3K	17 LVARC Activity Night Tri-Clover St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 LVARC Test Session 6:30 pm First day of Spring	21 Russian DX contest AGCW VHF/UHF contest
22	23 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Paul N0KIA	24	25	26	27	28 CQ WW WPX SSB contest
29	30 ARES RACES Net 7:30 Mark AK3M	31	March 2015			

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

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

LVARC Activities/Events

Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



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

2015

LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)



On January 16, 2015, 6 tested and 5 passed.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Robert Magill -- General
Daniel Kisling -- Technician
Ron Kosman -- General
David Egolf -- Technician
Richie Hartley -- 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.

February --- February 20

March --- March 20

April --- April 17

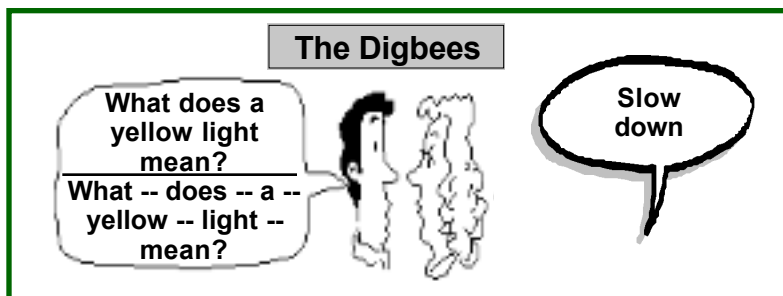
May --- May 15

June 27--- Testing at Field Day site **ONLY**

July --- **NO TEST SESSION THIS MONTH.**



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!**



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. **March is the last month to pay dues for 2015. After this month, you will have to be approved for membership again as if you are a new member.**

If paying by U.S. mail, send to:



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





TENTATIVE LVARC/ARES 2015 Events



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

June --- Hanover Township 5K

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

Mark your
calendar and
volunteer to help!

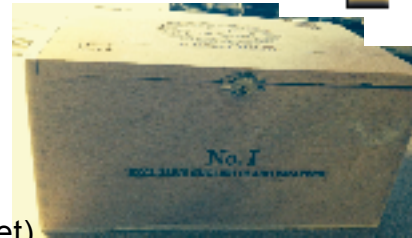
Watch the VOX and listen to the Monday Night Net for specific dates.



Cigar boxes

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark (AK3M)



Cigars International on route 191 (Linden Street) in Bethlehem, has a bin of used cigar boxes that make great construction or storage boxes. There are many sizes and made of both cardboard or wood. **ALL boxes are \$1.00 (no tax) regardless of size or composition.** I bought a very nice *hand made wooden* box with a bronze clasp and bronze hinges, measuring 8"x 5"x 4," that I plan to use for an emergency 12 volt "light box." These boxes can be painted or used, "as is." They can also be used for construction or storage of spare parts. For \$1.00, you can't go wrong! Visit often as the stock is frequently rotated. When completed, I will include a picture of my, "12 volt light box," in a future issue of the VOX.



If you are not, or know someone, who is not receiving the VOX via email, please send me your/their current email address so it can be added to my list. Mark (AK3M@rcn.com).



"Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer." --- Geoffrey B. Charlesworth



Remember, there ***IS*** a difference between ***RACES*** and ***ARES***

READER SUBMISSION de Mark (AK3M)



This comes up often, especially with Spring and Summer events nearing and new hams joining the LVARC all the time. With this in mind, it is a good time for a brief review.

RACES is administered at the county level and ARES is an ARRL sponsored organization. If you are not registered with Lehigh County RACES, you ***cannot*** participate in any events when the ***county*** solicits our help for communications support.

To be a RACES member and participate in RACES events, you must have passed **ICS 100 and ICS 700**. **NO** certifications are needed to participate in an ARES event.

To volunteer for an ARES event, you simply need to contact the LVARC ARES coordinator when an event is scheduled and the event staff requests communication support. These events are posted in the VOX and announced at meetings and on the Monday Night Net, as they are scheduled.

I have a list of those who have ICS certifications (provided you sent it to me) but NOT a list of those who are registered with Lehigh County as RACES members. If you have ICS certifications 100 and 700 and/or RACES registrations, let me know. I will develop a list of L.C. RACES members for 2015.

(1) To register for Lehigh County RACES, go to:

<http://ema.lehighcounty.org/Forms/RACESApplication/tabid/190/Default.aspx>

(2) To obtain ICS certification(s) online, go to:

<http://training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx>

REMEMBER: You need to have ICS 100 **AND** ICS 700 to complete the L.C. RACES registration. When you do register with L.C. RACES, let me know. If you have ICS 100 and ICS 700 certifications (and/or others), let me know that too (if you have not already done so).

New Baofeng HT Microphone with Built-In Antenna Connector

READER SUBMISSION

de Larry (NR3R)



\$15.00

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkIBPmUfIVA&feature=youtube_gdata

READER SUBMISSION

All Weather ARES Pen

de Mark (AK3M)

Order No. 6108 - \$13.95



All Weather ARES Notebook

Order No. 5580 - \$6.95

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/What-s-New/?page=4>

From the ARRL Store



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



**If we had facial recognition software in the 50's,
Lois lane would have known Clark Kent was
indeed Superman! We've come a long way!**



***"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." ---
Edmund Burke***

New Hams in the Lehigh Valley



Those who tested at the January 16, 2015 test session, received their calls on Friday January 23, 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- (1) Richie Hartley -- Technician -- KC3EEZ
- (2) David Egolf -- Technician -- KC3EFA
- (3) Daniel Kisling -- Technician -- KC3EFB
- (4) Ron Kosman -- General -- KC3EFC
- (5) Robert Magill -- General -- KC3EFD

Please welcome them to the hobby when you hear them on the air!

Mid Winter Dinner to be held at the Old Country Buffet on Tuesday February 17, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

★★
The first ARES event of 2015 will ★
be the **LVRRL/St. Luke's Half Marathon**.
It will be held on **Sunday April 26**.

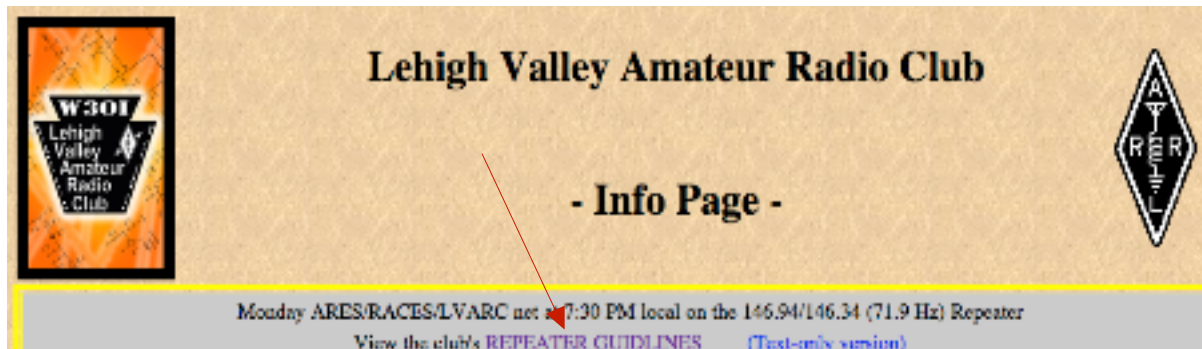
The course runs through the city streets of Allentown. Communication support is essential. **YOUR HELP IS**

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. ★



“Kerchunking” the Repeater Is NOT Good Practice (and is really illegal)

On the LVARC web site, are guidelines for repeater use. The specific reference to “kerchunking” the repeater is item #9 and is presented below.



9. Signal Reports and Kerchunking. *If you are unsure how well you are making it into the repeater, DO NOT kerchunk the repeater. Any time you key up the repeater, you should identify, even if you are just testing to see if you are making the machine. "[Callsign] test" is sufficient. Do not use the repeater as a "target" for tuning or aiming antennas, checking your transmitter power, etc. Use a dummy load where appropriate, or test on a simplex frequency. If you need someone to verify that you are making the repeater OK, ask for a signal report such as "This is [Callsign], looking for a signal report?"*



TIP from AAA: If you are ever in an accident, **NEVER** say, “I’m sorry!” Wait for the police to make their report. You **SHOULD** take pictures and exchange personal and insurance.



Spring is around the corner and that means ARES events are near! The LVARC provides communication support for many community events. Even if you are a new ham or new to ARES, your help is welcome and needed. When an event is scheduled, volunteer your time. Contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com.

